A LION PRIDE OF A DIFFERENT STRIPE

It took the combined efforts of USDA, undercover agents and concerned citizens seven years to shut down Diana McCourt and her Siberian Tiger Foundation. It wasn’t until her landlords; Donnalynn and Christian Laver were able to evict her from the property that Knox County was able to seize the six cats that had been used for years as props in a “tiger training” scheme.

Even though McCourt lost her USDA license to operate the tiger-tamer camp in 2000, and permanently in 2006, she still continued to charge people to come into her backyard in Gambier, OH and pet the adult lions and tigers. The cats would often be chained down so that people could touch them or have their photos made with the cats. To make the cats more pliable McCourt had their teeth and claws removed. (Joseph still has his canine teeth) Despite the abusive violations to their bodies and mobility, the USDA investigation included eight allegations of attacks on visitors in an 8 month period.

In August McCourt had been evicted and Knox County was awarded custody of the four tigers and two lions. Dean Vickers, the State Director for the Ohio branch of the HSUS contacted Big Cat Rescue and asked if we could take the cats, but six more big cats would increase our annual budget by $45,000.00.

When Sarabi, our lioness died, her half acre enclosure was opened up to Nikita’s so that Nikita our only other lioness could have the run of both half acre enclosures. This large enclosure has an open roof and is only suitable for lions because they don’t climb, or very old, declawed tigers, who would be unable to climb. Taking on two lions, age 9 and 13, who have a 20 year life expectancy means a cost of $15,000.00 annually and $150,000.00 in the long run. Lions often end up in canned hunts, especially males who are coveted as wall trophies, so we felt certain our donors would help us rescue these two cats. Our board convened and agreed that the lions would be rescued as soon as we could make travel arrangements for them.

Calling with the good news, that at least the lions would be spared, we were told by the landlord, who has been caring for the cats since evicting McCourt, that the male tiger, Nikita, would be heartbroken that his best friend in the world, Joseph the lion, would be leaving. As the conversation unfolded it appears that for the last 13 years, two tigers and two lions have shared a cage. (Joseph only coming along in the past 9 yrs) Instead of being elated for the lions, we now felt sick that they would be sepa-
it if at all possible.

On Oct. 19th Big Cat Rescue’s President Jamie Veronica, VP Cathy Mayeski, Operations Manager Scott Lope and Veterinarian Dr. Liz Wynn, DVM flew to Columbus, OH to rendezvous with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) staff and a driver and vet tech from the Animal Sanctuary of the United States (ASUS) at the Columbus Zoo at 6 am on the morning of the 20th. From there the entourage drove an hour to the Gambier, OH facility and met with the property owner and the Knox County Animal Control Officer, Rich Reed who had been granted possession of the six cats. Within just a few hours all of the cats were safely shifted from their lock outs into transport cages and loaded up and on their way to Florida where they arrived at 6 am the morning of the 21st. The very tired Big Cat Rescue team and several volunteers, who met at the sanctuary in the wee hours of the morning, unloaded Nikita, Simba, Sasha and Joseph into their new enclosure. This spacious pad is a little more than half an acre of lake side living with high grass; several cave like dens and hills from which they can survey their new kingdom. Upon their release into the enclosure they were a little scared from the long trip and the strange new sights and sounds. As each cat was released into the enclosure they would quickly sink away disappearing into the grasses. One by one curiosity got the better of them. Nikita, who was frightened, probably due to his poor vision, made a beeline for one of the dens and held up there until the volunteers had all left. Sasha decided to check out the lock outs and after a long drink of water she laid down in one of them and took in the sights and watched as the other cats were unloaded. Simba was ready to investigate and took turns in between chuffing at nearby volunteers and sniffing everything in her new home. Joseph bolted into the cage and checked out the large cave den before making his way over to be by Sasha’s side. All of the cats have since become familiar with their new home and have become much more relaxed they are also starting to warm up to the BCR Keepers.

In the very beginning we knew that the rescue would cost us $34,000.00 and after making a plea to our supporters 238 of you responded right away. As of October 22nd $23,028.00 has been raised to save these four cats. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Animal Sanctuary of the United States (ASUS) agreed to help rescue the last two cats and IFAW paid to transport all six cats to their final destinations. That saved us $4,000.00! We are now only $6,972.00 short of what this rescue will cost us. Thank you everyone who has helped so far!

Will you help provide for Joseph, Sasha, Nikita and Simba? You can make a tax deductible donation to the Joseph’s Pride Rescue by using the order form on page 10, by calling our main office at 813-920-4130 or at our secure online site http://bigcatrescue.org/rescueonline.htm

On this page of our website you can also watch a short video or see a photo slideshow about the recent rescue of Joseph’s Pride. Should there be any surplus in the donations made to this rescue they will be used for the continued care of the cats.

From top left: 3 of 4 cats that were housed in a fenced yard, Joseph the Lion by fence, Nikita the Tiger inside a barn, all 4 cats loaded up into transports the day of the rescue, BCR Rescuers get their first look at the new cats as the transport trailer doors are opened, BCR Rescuers shifting Simba from the transport cage into her new home, Joseph and Sasha the Lions enjoying their new cave den, Nikita the Tiger lounging in a cave den, Sasha takes in the view from atop a large dirt hill constructed on the top of the den.
YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP RESCUE JOSEPH’S PRIDE CAN COUNT FOR TWICE AS MUCH. READ HOW.

In May Caleb Carr was one of the top two donors to help us rescue the four tigers, TJ, Bella, Trucha and Modnic. He donated $5,000.00 as soon as the plea for help went out and because of his quick response we were able to respond immediately. After helping us to save the tigers he wanted to do more and donated another $10,000.00 to re-furbishing the pools for all of the cats.

Caleb is a celebrated American novelist, screenwriter and a military historian. Some of his books include The Alienist, The Angel of Darkness, Casing the Promised Land, Killing Time, The Italian Secretary, and the nonfiction books The Devil Soldier and The Lessons of Terror. Many of his novels are set in Victorian times; The Italian Secretary was an authorized Sherlock Holmes mystery.

Carr has once again stepped forward to help big cats in need and has put forth an offer to Big Cat Rescue and our supporters. He will match dollar for dollar up to $5,000 that will be raised through this issue of the Big Cat Times. So make your contribution count for twice as much by making a donation towards the rescue of Joseph’s Pride using the order form on page 10. Photos from top: TJ Tiger in his pool, Joseph the Lion, Caleb Carr

BIG CAT RESCUE WINS BEST OF TAMPA BAY AWARD

Big Cat Rescue was featured in a recent edition of Tampa Bay Parenting when Buccaneer Chris Simms visited the sanctuary as part of his Wild Adventures Program back in June. In the same issue there was a poll to name the very best that Tampa has to offer. We’ve believed all along that we are giving families the most unique educational day trip destination in the area, but it was you who proved the point most clearly. We won the Tampa Bay Parenting Best of Tampa Award! We’re proud to be among the categories that won “Best of Tampa Bay”. We won in the Best Family Outing category. We would like to thank all of the families who visit the sanctuary each year and all those who voted Big Cat Rescue Best of Tampa Bay!

Fur-ocious Fun With Words

Here are some gr-r-reat feline words that two BCR sup-purr-ters, Shellie & Ben Roney, emailed to us for fun, but it also gave us an idea. Submit your wildest cat words and your name will be entered into a drawing to win a tour for four at Big Cat Rescue. The deadline to submit your entry is December 31, 2007. Good luck and get creative!

“Cat”astrophe - when your cat isn’t able to jump up high enough to get on a top shelf, tries to grab a hold of something to pull it’s way up and pulls a plant down instead.

“Purr”entheses - when you are lying in bed and have a cat on either side of you purring.

Under”fe”line - when your cat sits on your work.

WINNER DONATES ROLEX BACK TO BCR! WIN IT FOR YOUR VALENTINE?

By Howard Baskin

Tony Pellegrini does not wear a watch. But when he learned about our raffle of the elegant Rolex watch donated by AvantGold Jewelers he bought $200 worth of tickets and told his wife Jacqui “we are going to win this.” And when the drawing was held at 10 p.m. at the Fur Ball October 12, sure enough, it was his name that was called out. I was at the back of the ballroom checking on something when I heard the announcement that he had donated it back to the sanctuary. My head snapped toward the stage because I was sure I had misunderstood. Then I heard it repeated. Subsequently the Pellegrinis visited the sanctuary and are pictured here with Bella, one of the four recently rescued tigers that the Fur Ball raised funds to support.

This wonderful act of generosity gives us the opportunity to raffle the watch a second time to raise more funds to support the cats. So tickets are on sale again in the gift shop, online, and at AvantGold Jewelers, the terrific folks who donated the watch in the first place. And when better to have the drawing than just before Valentine’s Day, so some lucky winner can either wear or it make it a Valentine’s Day present? The watch is a Men’s Rolex Oyster Perpetual Airking stainless steel with white roman numeral dial, oyster bracelet, engine turned bezel. The retail price $3675. If a lady’s watch is preferred, the value can be applied toward one. Raffle tickets are available for a suggested donation of $20/ticket, or best value 7 tickets for $100. For details and raffle rules see www.BigCatRescue.org/Rolex.htm.

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.

BCR VAN GETS WILD THANKS TO ESG PRINTING

Thanks to the generosity of Lindy and everyone else at ESG Printing the Big Cat Rescue van has a wild new look. A custom van wrap was designed using photos of our very own cats. Cameron, Zabu, Simba, Sarabi, Adonis, Hercules, Hal, Sarmoti and several others are now being seen all over town. Every where we go it gets tons of compliments. Thanks so much for making this very generous and creative contribution towards spreading the word about Big Cat Rescue. ESG Printing does it all; vehicle wraps, digital banners, tradeshow displays, Billboards, brochures, business cards, mousepads, mugs and more. Check them out at ESGPrinting.com
In just 4 weeks 4 bobcats found themselves pushed out of their homes by rampant development and in need of rescue.

In August, a baby bobcat was found by residents in their back yard. The emaciated and apparently orphaned cub was discovered by the family dog. Neighbors were reported to have been shooting at a bobcat nearby for harassing their livestock. On Monday August 13th, Rescuers Jamie Veronica and Justin Boorstein drove to Dade City to pick up this young bobcat. The bobcat was a male and appeared to be between 6-10 weeks old. He would spend the next two weeks under strict quarantine within the onsite West Boensch Cat Hospital. During his first week under close supervision it became apparent that there was something wrong with this little guy, named Will for his undying will to pull through. Will would sit close to a wall and stare blankly into it for hours. As he walked around the room he would step high with his front paws and if he came to an obstacle or wall he would run right into it. He would walk without aim or purpose endlessly around the room. At feeding time, he would smell his dinner, but would have an extremely difficult time locating the food even if he was standing directly on it. Will also had no natural fear of humans and when picked up he would go limp. This was highly abnormal as a bobcat his age should be all teeth and claws when approached. He appeared to have not only visual problems but was overall mentally dull. Over the next few weeks, Will was evaluated by several animal neurologists and an eye specialist. The collective diagnosis was that Will had some form of brain damage either from a trauma to the head or a congenital defect. His eyes were perfectly normal and reacted to stimuli exactly how they should, however there was brain damage that would not allow him to process the information that he would see. So when he walked towards a wall he would see it, but he would not make the connection in his brain that when he got to the wall he would need to stop or he would run into it. However, just as a blind domestic cat can memorize the layout of their house and the furniture within it, Will has been able to memorize his surroundings and rarely bumps into things any more. Some of his other symptoms have since subsided; he no longer roams aimlessly, he has gotten better at finding his food when it is placed in his enclosure, and he is much more active and coordinated then when he first arrived. All of these improvements aside, it is believed that he may not fully recover or be able to survive on his own in the wild. This is truly heartbreaking to consider, Will is a wild bobcat and deserves a free life, however, if this does turn out to be the case, he will be provided a permanent home at Big Cat Rescue.

Three days later on August 16th, Big Cat Rescue received a call from an employee at a nearby business park regarding a bobcat that was found that morning laying on the front steps of the office building. Worried that the bobcat was sick or injured BCR staff advised the concerned citizen not to go near the animal. Once again Rescuers piled into the Big Cat Rescue van nets and carriers in tow. Scott Lope and Jamie Veronica arrived on the scene, and not just any scene, it appeared to be a crime scene. Office managers had taped off the area in which the bobcat had found cover amidst a small garden of philodendrons at the main entrance of the building with bright yellow tape emblazoned with the warning not to enter. Scott and Jamie quietly approached the small patch of ornamental foliage with great caution. They tried to ignore the group of fifty or more onlookers that had gathered in the parking lot and tried even harder to dismiss the hundreds of eyes staring down from every window of the six story building. This was intimidating to say the least, but they were professional and held it together. When the bobcat was first approached it darted from the landscaped area and trotted across the parking lot and into the parking garage. Rescuers followed close behind, but avoided chasing the animal as it would definitely run out into nearby traffic. Scott and Jamie closed in from either direction and just as the bobcat made a dash through a hedge at the end of the garage Scott sprang forward catching the bobcat in his net. Rescuers then transferred the cat into a carrier and proceeded back to the sanctuary. Upon initial inspection of the cat it was determined that this female bobcat was elderly and approximately more than eight years old, which is close to the end of the line for wild bobcats. Her teeth were yellowed and worn down, her claws were shredded, and her eyes had that familiar filmy look to them that the rest of our geriatric populations has. In order to have survived to this age in such a developed part of town she had to have been a very successful hunter and extremely skilled at blending in unnoticed. She was appropriately named Ace. This bobcat had been completely surrounded by industrial parks, the airport, and the new highway exchange all of which had wiped out the remaining woods she used to call home. As is procedure, she was placed on strict quarantine and blood was drawn to test for infectious diseases. She had no injuries, other than being emaciated, so she was moved into our onsite rehab enclosure. Over the last few months, she has thrived; she is a very capable hunter and catches rats or rabbits that are provided to her every night. Rescuers had high hopes for her return to the wilds of Florida. That was until her blood test results came back with unfavorable news. Ace tested positive for FIV, Feline Infectious Virus, which is the equivalent to human AIDS. This virus is transmitted through bodily fluids, but can also be passed on from mother to cub at birth. Sometimes these tests can read a false positive, so the only option now is to wait six months and retest. If Ace is indeed positive for the virus, she would not be able to be released back into the wild and risk infecting a healthy population of bobcats. Until just recently, there was not much hope, however, new information has been uncovered that there are actually known populations of infected bobcats. If this is the case, Ace could be released into one of these areas. At this time we are still gathering details on this option and will plan on retesting Ace in six months if it is not possible to release her into one of these populations. A bobcat with FIV can live a full and natural life so every effort will be made to give Ace a second chance to claim her birthright of freedom.

Three weeks later yet another baby bobcat call came in. This young male bobcat was captured by office security inside the confines of a tennis court at another nearby business park. This bobcat appeared to be eight to ten weeks old. When Rescuers first laid eyes on him they new immediately that something was wrong. He had an baseball sized swelling
on his side and was missing his right eye. He was taken to Ehrlich Animal Hospital where Senior Keeper, Dr. Wynn examined him. After a short examination, it was determined that surgery was the only option. The swelling on his side was actually a hernia in his abdominal wall. The swelling was the contents of his intestines and other internal organs that had spilled out of the muscular area and were rubbing away at the inner lining of his skin. The hole in his abdominal wall was circular and smooth, leading Dr. Wynn to believe that it may not have been the result of trauma, but rather a congenital defect. This theory was further proven with the discovery that he had not lost his right eye to trauma either, but likely never had one in the first place. Both defects occurring on the same side of his body further justifies this conclusion. The area where he was found is completely surrounded by development in West Tampa, but bobcats are often reported there and last year one was found as roadkill. This small pocket of cats may be so inbred that it is reproducing genetically unsound offspring. Over the next few weeks, this very lucky bobcat healed beautifully and was given the name Chance. Rescuers were now faced with a deadline. There was only one rehab enclosure onsite and Ace was currently residing there. So while Chance healed in the West Boensch Cat Hospital for two weeks, staff, volunteers, and interns got to work to build another rehab enclosure. This was not an easy task. First a bobcat sized enclosure, like those of our resident bobcats, had to be constructed in our rehab zone of the sanctuary. With Ace close by, the entire construction had to be done in silence so as not to frighten this wild bobcat. Once erected, the entire enclosure including the roof had to be covered in chicken wire. This wire would be necessary in order to keep live prey like rats from escaping the confines of the enclosure. Next brush, branches, logs, and den boxes were added to the space to provide several hiding spaces not only for Chance, but also for live prey to make hunting his dinner each night a challenge. Lastly, a rat tunnel system, like the one that is built onto Ace’s enclosure, was designed and constructed. This tunnel system is made of pvc piping that is three inches in diameter. A good distance from the enclosure is the beginning of the rat tunnel. Here there is a pvc container with a screw off lid, where a rat can be dropped into. From the container the pvc pipe runs along the ground the entire way to the rehab enclosure. At this point there is a “T” joint and two separate pipes go out in opposite directions and eventually turn towards the enclosure. This way, when a rat is dropped into the tunnel system it will travel towards the enclosure and then have a choice to either go right or left and then eventually end up in one side or the other of the rehab enclosure. The rat tunnel system is very useful in training rehab bobcats, because it helps to sever the connection that the bobcat could have between humans and food. When the rat is dropped into the tunnel container it could take five minutes to an hour to make its way into the enclosure. The exact location that the rat will emerge into is random depending on whether the rat chose to go right or go left. Once in the enclosure, there are many hiding places for the rat to utilize in an attempt to elude the bobcat including the tunnel system itself. All of these factors keep the bobcat alert and ready for anything. In the end, however, the bobcat always wins and captures his supper. Just to make sure that the bobcat is successful video cameras are often set up to record the bobcats’ activity and to evaluate its rehab progress and health. Chance is doing great, he has completely healed from his surgery and he has become quite the skilled hunter. He is still young and will continue to participate in the rehab program until he is about a year old. While he does manage to catch his own food he does not have the maturity or the instincts to survive completely on his own yet. In the wild, he would be close to his mother until about a year of age. This is when his natural instincts to mark his own territory would really kick in. We are very excited that he is doing so well and that he will be given a second chance at being a wild and free bobcat.

Four weeks later we received yet another call about a bobcat. This time from the Spacecoast! Rescuers Carole Baskin and Jamie Veronica loaded into the Big Cat Rescue truck and started their journey across the state. This bobcat was in the care of a veterinarian who explained over the phone that a concerned citizen had witnessed the bobcat being hit by a car as it attempted to cross a busy road near the bridge that connects Merritt Island to the Florida mainland. This man quickly pulled over and picked up the unconscious cub and then pulled into the first animal clinic he saw. The bobcat was unresponsive and had blood dripping from its nose. The veterinary staff did not believe that he would survive the night. But he did. Barely regaining consciousness the cub showed no sign of being able to see or hear and he struggled desperately to walk. Once rescuers arrived and saw first hand the bobcat’s condition the outlook seemed grim. The young male bobcat appeared to be about six to eight weeks old. He was very emaciated and dehydrated. He was so weak that he could barely sit up and quickly surrendered to his weakened muscles and slid slowly down towards the floor until he lay in a very unnatural looking position. His head hung down and his eyes were pinched shut, he was not in good shape at all. The doctor described earlier how the cub had walked into wall and would get stuck in the corner of the room. Rescuers gathered up the bobcat and hit the road for the four hour drive back to Tampa. The long ride back provided much time to ponder over a name for this young cub. After much thought, Kennedy was decided upon for two reasons. First and most obvious because of the close proximity to the Kennedy Space Center and secondly in hopes that this bobcat would inspire a country to take a second look at the ways of the world and its effects on the environment and its inhabitants just as another Kennedy had once inspired a nation. Big Cat Rescue is receiving more and more calls about displaced wildlife and the sole cause is over development and inadequate wildlife management programs. Will it take the bobcat being added to the endangered species list for people to begin to care about how their influence on wild places affects so many living creatures? Once they arrived at Big Cat Rescue, they were met by Senior Keeper and veterinarian Dr. Wynn. She examined the weak cub and administered fluids. Kennedy had no outward injuries and it was soon determined that there were no internal injuries as well. At just four pounds, the most pressing matter was to get him to eat as much high calorie food as possible. At this age he should weigh seven or eight pounds, which is nearly, double his current weight. The next few weeks proved a true test of patience. It seems that Kennedy had suffered brain damage as a result of being struck by the car. Whether or not he would recover from this damage only time would tell. Until then, rescuers had to care for him in a very special way. At his age, Kennedy would be eating small prey animals that his mother would catch and give to him. However, he had reverted to a baby’s state of mind and knew only how to nurse. So a mixture of high calorie prepared wet food and the nutritionally balanced ground meat diet that is fed to our resident cats was blended with water to create a meat shake that was fed to him with large syringes. Kennedy quickly caught on and began to nurse the formula from the syringes. His appetite Photos opposite page clockwise from top left: Will laying down in a carrier in the cat hospital, Ace present day in rehab cage, Ace being examined her first day in cat hospital, Chance in surgery recovery cage, Will in rehab cage. Photos this page clockwise from top left: Chance in surgery, Kennedy in cat hospital, Kennedy plays with toy, Chance present day in rehab cage.
grew and he dutifully consumed three meals a day. As his strength was returned, Kennedy became more mobile and started to get up and move about on his own. This movement only further confirmed the severity of his brain damage as the only thing he could do is walk in very tight circles from which he never deviated. This circling pattern seemed to be uncontrollable. His refusal to eat in any other manner than by nursing a syringe also applied to drinking water. He would not drink water from a bowl, so Rescuers either had to get him to drink water from the syringe or administer fluids daily. For a while it seemed as though Kennedy would grow up to be a full grown bobcat that would need to be fed with a syringe for the rest of his life. That was until gradually each day his circling became less and less and his alertness improved. Soon Kennedy made a huge leap forward and began eating solid foods and his head shake off of a plate and even lapped up some water from a bowl. In an effort to encourage this first step when Jamie fed him one afternoon she did not assist Kennedy into a nursing pose, but rather waited until he found the syringe on his own. When he found the syringe, she slowly let the formula drip out the end of which caused him to start licking. Slowly and with much patience the syringe was gradually lowered as Kennedy licked at the end until it was on a plate where he continued to lap up the formula directly from the plate instead of the syringe. This was major progress and the same technique was used to encourage him to drink from a bowl. As the days passed, Kennedy really got the hang of it and is now eating a special formulated ground diet out of a bowl all on his own. Along with this progress Kennedy started to show a more playful side. After eating he loves to spend a little bit of time chasing after a woolly toy on a rope. This playtime is also a great time for Rescuers to observe his progress with his vision and mobility. Kennedy has improved in leaps and bounds, however he seems to have limited vision on his right side, perhaps a result of being struck by the car. We are hopeful that he will make a full recovery however during his intensive care that he required his first few weeks here he may have become to acclimatized to humans. Kennedy’s progress will be monitored closely over the next few months. If however he does not recover from this brain damage, he will have a permanent home here at Big Cat Rescue and may even be introduced to Will if the time comes.

When bobcats are rescued from the wild it is always the intention of Big Cat Rescuers to give them every possible opportunity to live free once more. No cat should have to spend his life in a cage. Most of the 100+ big cats at Big Cat Rescue are not candidates for release because they are not of wild lineage or native to Florida. Bobcat rehabilitation is expensive. The food alone costs about $25 per week and medical expenses can add up quickly. Arthur Patterson an employee of the business park where Ace was found set up a literature rack with a donation jar in the lobby of the office building and so far has collected $50 to donate towards her care. We would like to thank Arthur and the other employees who made contributions to this effort. The time and expense of rehabilitating a bobcat is well worth it when you get to open the crate door and watch as another lucky bobcat leaps and bounds towards freedom.

We are very pleased to announce that all of the plaques in the last issue of the Big Cat Times have now been sponsored and these cats will not be permanently remembered on our Memorial Wall.

MEMORIAL WALL NEARLY COMPLETE!

The following two plaques are the last available for sponsorship at this time. The donation is $250.

AVERY SPECIAL GARDEN

Big Cat Rescue Keeper, Babs Riddle put her Garden Magician talent to work and designed a beautiful memorial garden surrounding the Big Cat Memorial Wall. The entire area surrounding the wall is now beautifully landscaped and provides a tranquil place for staff, volunteers, interns and guests to reflect on the lives of the cats that have passed on. Two life size marble lions invite visitors to walk the shady path that meanders through lush tropical foliage and along the Memorial Wall. Along the path benches provide a quite resting place. Babs enlisted the help of volunteers and interns to transform this space and worked her magic with landscaping supply stores and plant nurseries getting nearly everything for the memorial garden donated. The memorial garden is a wonderful addition to the sanctuary and is an excellent way to honor and forever remember the big cats.

A SAD FAREWELL

When bobcats are rescued from the wild it is always the intention of Big Cat Rescuers to give them every possible opportunity to live free once more. No cat should have to spend his life in a cage. Most of the 100+ big cats at Big Cat Rescue are not candidates for release because they are not of wild lineage or native to Florida. Bobcat rehabilitation is expensive. The food alone costs about $25 per week and medical expenses can add up quickly. Arthur Patterson an employee of the business park where Ace was found set up a literature rack with a donation jar in the lobby of the office building and so far has collected $50 to donate towards her care. We would like to thank Arthur and the other employees who made contributions to this effort. The time and expense of rehabilitating a bobcat is well worth it when you get to open the crate door and watch as another lucky bobcat leaps and bounds towards freedom.
NOTABLE VISITS

Home Shopping Network Volunteers. In what has now become a recurring event that we love, volunteers from HSN came to the sanctuary again on September 14 to help prepare the back three acres for the first section of wall to be installed soon. They removed three dump trailer loads of invasive Brazilian Pepper plants from the north border in their morning of hot, hard labor. Pictured here are in alphabetical order are Desiree Castro, Craig Donah, Susan Hassell, Jessica Jenkins, Anthony Jones, James McGlon, Jennifer O’Driscoll, Ellen Sassani, Jennifer Weber, Krystal Whitney. HSN also donated over $1000 of fabulous items to the Fur Ball Sale, helping us set a new record there. Groups are planned again for November and December.

Gerda Ameristeel Volunteers. Gerda Ameristeel has been one of our most consistent long time corporate supporters, having donated a truck, made cash donations, and regularly sent volunteers to help with projects over the years. Thirty one employees, including Chairman Phil Casey, came out on October 27 for a morning of hard labor. They cleared the last sections of vines out of the fence by the south 3 acres and removed four large dump trailer loads of Brazilian Peppers and other unwanted foliage from the dirt supply that we draw from to build cages. Participants alphabetically included Deborah Armes, Michael Barnett, Marianne Bordori, Michael Brawley, Virginia Butler, Phil Casey, Paul Clayton, Joaquim Costaves, Vinienss De Souza, Amanda Glover, Cintia Hartmann, Lance Hill, Lisa Johnson, Pat Jones, Lori Keck, Ricky Keck, Theresa Knecht, Sandi Laidlaw, Linda Mayward, Dawn McFee, Greg McFee, Gustavo Milza-rek, Carla Noachong, Sherry Piano, Elizabeth Pippin, Amy Powell, Camilla So-lovery, Jennifer Stevenson, Shirley Williams, Ron Woerner, Mary Woerner.

Ed and Laura Waller. We were delighted to have the Wallers as our guests as the sanctuary this quarter. Laura is a prominent financial adviser who has appeared on local television business programs and is regularly quoted in the local and national print media. Ed is a shareholder in the prestigious Fowler & White law firm focusing on class action law suits. Among many other distinctions has served a the Chair of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Professionalism. They are pictured here with Sarmoti, one of the tigers retired from the circus.

BIG CAT VIDEOS ONLINE

 Every week another new and exciting podcast is uploaded for all to enjoy. From species spotlights to special events at the rescue you’ll find it on one of these great hosting sites. Tune in for a wild time!

www.BigCatRescue.org/blog
www.Myspace.com/ibigcatrescue
www.youtube.com/profile/user=BigCatRescue
*OR Search “Big Cat Rescue” on www.VIDEO.GOOGLE.COM

Taking over the world one screen at a time!

SAVE THE BIG CATS

Big Cats spanning the entire country have found refuge at Big Cat Rescue.

See for yourself by visiting us online.

Albertson’s Donation Program Changed - Donate to Big Cat Rescue by Shopping

IF YOU WERE IN THE OLD PROGRAM IT NO LONGER WORKS SO PLEASE READ THIS!

Albertson’s has a much improved new program for donating to a non profit by shopping there in certain states (WY,CO,NE,AZ,NM,TX,FL,LA) They issue a bar code that is for Big Cat Rescue. When you shop at the store, they scan the code. On the first $50,000 spent by our supporters per quarter they send us 1%. On everything over that they donate 5%! This could become a major source of funding if enough of our supporters participate.

An image of the bar code is below and we are hoping it will be clear enough to cut out and scan but have no way to know before you receive this. You can print out a clear image from www.bigcatrescue.org/print/Albertsons.jpg. Or, for a durable and convenient small plastic card that fits on your key ring, just email us at Albertsons@BigCatRescue.org and include your regular mail address and we will send you. If you would like some to give to friends, family or co-workers just tell us how many. Please spread the word! You could become a major source of funds to support the cats AT NO COST TO YOU OR THOSE YOU TELL!

ALBERTSON’S DONATION PROGRAM CHANGED - DONATE TO BIG CAT RESCUE BY SHOPPING

COMMITTEE PARTNERS

This card is the property of Albertson’s LLC. Big Cat Rescue Corp.

813.920.4130 - www.BIGCATRESCUE.ORG - WINTER 2007 - THE BIG CAT TIMES - 7
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.

- Mens Tee, Tan, Logo S, M, L, XXL: $13.70
- Womens Fitted Scoop, Sky, Logo S, M, L, XL: $13.70
- Mens Ringer in Green, Logo Size S, M, L, XXL: $13.70
- Womens Fitted Tank, Black, Logo, Size S, M, L: $13.70
- Lifeguard, Planet Earth Tee BCR GPS Coordinates, Grey, BCR on back S, M, L, XL: $21.19
- Embroidered Logo Denim Long Sleeve, Womens or Mens, S, M, L, XL, XXL: $35.10
- B&W BCR Vinyl Sticker $4.21
- Logo Patch $5.28
- Big Cat Rescue Enamel Pin $5.28
- Logo Waist Bag $16.98
- Tiger Surprise Kids Tee Logo, Orange S, M, L, XL: $16.91
- Tiger Pull Kids Tee Logo Blue S, M, L, XL: $16.91
- Green Field Bag, w/ logo $28.75
- Mens Tee, Tan, Logo S, M, L, XXL: $13.70
- Womens Fitted Scoop, Sky, Logo S, M, L, XL: $13.70
- Mens Ringer in Green, Logo Size S, M, L, XXL: $13.70
- Womens Fitted Tank, Black, Logo, Size S, M, L: $13.70
- Lifeguard, Planet Earth Tee BCR GPS Coordinates, Grey, BCR on back S, M, L, XL: $21.19
- Embroidered Logo Denim Long Sleeve, Womens or Mens, S, M, L, XL, XXL: $35.10
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- Tiger Pull Kids Tee Logo Blue S, M, L, XL: $16.91
- Green Field Bag, w/ logo $28.75
- Logo Patch $5.28
- Big Cat Rescue Enamel Pin $5.28
- Logo Waist Bag $16.98

- Photo Luggage Tag, Tiger, Lion, Sand $4.75
- Animal Print Logo Luggage Tag $6.82
- Rhinestone Tiger Tank Fitted S, M, L $17.98
- Adjustable Cap, Navy $24.40
- Flex-Fit Cap, Olive or Pink $24.40
- Baseball Cap, Logo, Khaki/Black $17.98
- Visor, Logo, Adjustable $24.40
- B&W BCR Vinyl Sticker $4.21
- Photo Collage License Frame $6.35
- Photo Collage Bumper Sticker $5.28
- Lion Vanity Plate, also Tiger $11.56
- BCR Magnetic Car Ribbon $8.35
- White BCR Cats Photo Wrap Mug $13.70
- Cheetah Blend Coffee, 8 oz. beans or ground $11.56
- Shere Khan Photo Wrap Shot Glass $6.82
- Shifting Animal Print Logo Thermos $13.70
- Coasters featuring paintings of BCR Cats, set of four with stand $20.12
- The Big Cat Picture, 60 min. video about exotic cats in the wild and those living at BCR. Covers 19 species of cat DVD $24.40
- VHS $7.28
- Animalopoly Board Game $26.54
- Itsy Bitsy Plush Lion Key Ring, also available in Tiger and Snow Leopard $6.28
- Photo Magnets and Key Rings choose any species at BCR Magnet $3.14
- Key Ring $4.21
- Hand Crafted Photo Frame, Holds 4x6 photo, with handpainted Leopard spots, made in Kenya $19.05
- Wood Frame, holds 4x6 photo, with handpainted Leopard spots, made in Kenya $19.05
- 3”x3” Metal Ocelot Crossing Sign, Nirvana $6.21
- Photo Magnets and Key Rings choose any species at BCR Magnet $3.14
- Key Ring $4.21

Pocket Guides $6.35
Fold up laminated field guides. Choose from Animal Tracks, Butterflies & Moths, Reptiles & Amphibians, Florida Wildlife, Birds of Prey, or Night Sky

- Lion Computer Chamois $13.70
- Mousepad, Cloe the Snow Leopard, painting $15.84
- Mousepad, BCR Cougar Cubs, painting $15.84
- Logo Mousepads Lion, Tiger, or Big Cats of BCR $15.84

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- 3”x3” Metal Ocelot Crossing Sign, Nirvana $6.21
### 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 Purfect addition to any true feline lovers collection. The crazy cat lady action figure is also one of BCR’s top selling items **$12.63**

### Paint and Play Asian Animal Set

**$15.84**

1. Large Plush Animal Set - 10 3” toys **$19.05**
2. Jungimals, Tiger or Lion, BCR Logo **$11.56**

### Leopard Print Enamel Shoe Photo Holder

**$15.84**

### Wooden Animal Dominoe Set

**$8.42**

### African Animal Action Figure Set

**$15.84**

### BCR Photo Buttons

- Serval, Ocelot, Lion, Snow Leopard, Tiger, Leopard **$3.14 each**

### Pocket Sized Flip Books, Tiger, Giraffe, Jellyfish, Mtn. Lion, and Elephant

Learn about each and watch them in action. **$4.75 each**

### African Animal Action Figure Set

**$15.84**

### Wooden Animal Dominoe Set

**$8.42**

### Black Market by Ben Davies

Endangered species trade in Asia **$29.75**

### Adventure Vacations for Animal Lovers by Stephanie Odko

Nature getaways for Chinese medicine **$32.96**

### Thought to Exist in the Wild by Jensen and Tweedy-Holmes

Awakening from the nightmare of zoos **$31.89**

### Entrepreneurial Cat by Mary Hessler Key PhD

13 lessons on business life from a cat **$13.70**

### Empty Cages by Tom Regan

Facing the challenge of animal rights **$29.75**

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### Catalog Page Snippets

1. 12” Snow Leopard Cuddlekin **$15.84**
2. 11” Lion Fuzzy Fella **$13.70**
3. Wild Clingers, Bobcat, Snow Leopard, Tiger, & Lion have magnets in their paws to cling with **$8.42**
4. 12” Tiger Leopard Cuddlekin **$15.84**

2. 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 Purfect addition to any true feline lovers collection. The crazy cat lady action figure is also one of BCR’s top selling items **$12.63**

3. Paint and Play Asian Animal Set **$15.84**

4. Leopard Print Enamel Shoe Photo Holder **$15.84**

5. Wooden Animal Dominoe Set **$8.42**

6. African Animal Action Figure Set **$15.84**

7. BCR Photo Buttons

- Serval, Ocelot, Lion, Snow Leopard, Tiger, Leopard **$3.14 each**

8. Pocket Sized Flip Books, Tiger, Giraffe, Jellyfish, Mtn. Lion, and Elephant. Learn about each and watch them in action. **$4.75 each**

9. 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

10. 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

11. 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

12. 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

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### 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

16 cats, 16 artists, 16 months. Every page brings a whole new experience in this tribute to the featured felines of Tampa, Florida’s Big Cat Rescue. **$15.84**

### 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

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### 2008 Big Cat Rescue Calendar - A Year in Cats

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### Thought to Exist in the Wild by Jensen and Tweedy-Holmes

Awakening from the nightmare of zoos **$31.89**

### Entrepreneurial Cat by Mary Hessler Key PhD

13 lessons on business life from a cat **$13.70**

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### Cat-opoly Board Game

**$26.54**

1. Lion Sportsbottle, 10 oz **$6.28**
2. Velvet Art Lion Paint Kit **$3.14**
3. Inflatable Globe with Animals **$4.21**
4. BCR Tiger Striped Lanyard **$6.35**
5. Cuddlekin Lynx 12” **$12**
6. Fuzzy Fella Tiger 11” **$13.70**
7. Plumpee Lion 9” **$13.70**
8. Cougar Nature Baby 12” **$13.70**
9. Aurora Lexi Leopard 6” **$13.70**
10. Flopsie Tiger Trent 12” **$13.70**
11. Wild Adventures Leopard 8” **$8.35**
Haunting Eyes Siberian Tiger
S-XXXL $24.40

Haunting Eyes Cougar S-XXXL
$24.40

Haunting Eyes Snow Leopard
S-XXXL $24.40

Womens Photo Tanks with Nairobi Serval or Anasazie Bobcat S - XL
$19.12

Art Deco Takoma the Bobcat Tee S-XL $17.98

Where’s The Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black or White S-XL $31.89

Womens Black Tee, Rhinestone Tiger & BCR Tampa, FL S-XXL $19.05

Pink Womens Polo, Embroidered BCR Logo, S-XL $43.66

Blue Polo, Embroidered BCR Logo S-XL $47.94

Yellow Lion Lazy One Boxers $13.70
Orange Tiger Lazy One Boxers $13.70
Animal Tracks Boxers $13.70

Socks listed left to right:
Kitten Socks, Child $6.80
Lion Socks, Child $6.80
Tiger Socks, Child $6.80
Snow Leopard Socks Adult $6.80
Cougar Socks, Adult $7.80

Adventure Planet Leopard Pillow $7.81

Set of 5 Handpainted Wooden Big Cat Nesting Dolls $19.05

Tote Bags with Embroidered BCR Logo, bag folds up to smaller version (A)
Black Tote $32.96
Leopard Print Tote $29.75

Burlap Lion Tote $19.05

Drawstring Bag with Embroidered BCR Logo and shoulder straps $29.75

Black Longsleeve Tee Tiger Stripe Design $24.40

Satin Leopard Printed Wine Bottle Bag with drawstring cord $5.14

Wooden Beaded Bracelets, Choose Brown, Natural, or Forest Green $5.21 each

Paws for the Cause Jewelry, Glass Beads with Leopard Print Bracelet $35.10
Earrings $11.56
Necklace $77.90

10 - THE BIG CAT TIMES - WINTER 2007 - WWW.BIGCATRESCUE.ORG - 813.920.4130
SUPPORT CONSERVATION PROJECTS FOR SNOW LEOPARDS AND JAGUARS WITH THESE GREAT ITEMS

The Snow Leopard Trust - These items are hand made in Mongolia from wool. The proceeds from the sale of these items helps to conserve Snow Leopards in the wild through the work of the SLT.

1. Longsleeve SLT Tee Grey or Green S-XL $24.40
2. Set of 4 Embroidered Napkins $19.05
3. Wool Mouse Cat Toy $7.35
4. Camel Wool Scarf $22.26
5. Wool Cap, Red, Tan, or Blue $22.26
6. Sheep Felt Snow Leopard Plush $30.75
7. Eye Glass Case $11.56
8. Wool Snow Leopard Ornament $10.49
9. Wool Snow Leopard Trust Purse $24.40
10. Wool Snow Leopard Paw Pillow $26.54

Project: Jaguar Conservation - These crafts are hand made in Guyana, South America. All profit from the sale of these items will go towards funding Big Cat Rescue’s ongoing conservation efforts for the Jaguar and other small cats of South America. Currently we are working to secure 32,000 acres which will be designated protected forest.

1. Wai Wai Tribal Seed Necklace with Parrot $26.68
2. Makushi Balata (rubber) Family in Canoe 9" $34.10
3. Makushi Balata (rubber) Monkey, Tortois, or Parrot 3" $18.05 ea
4. Makushi Balata (rubber) Cheetah, Jaguar, or Puma 6" $18.05 ea
5. S. American Woven Reed Purse 9" $24.40
6. S. American Woven Reed Purse 9" $24.40
7. Fuzzy Fella Leopard 11" $13.70
8. Wooden Tiger Puzzle $6.28 or Wooden Leopard Puzzle $4.67
9. Big Cat Costume, mask, gloves, & tail choose Lion, Black Leopard or Tiger $22.26
10. Flopsie Luther 12" $13.70

RARE ITEMS - VERY LIMITED SUPPLY

1. Wai Wai Tribal Seed Necklace with Parrot $26.68
2. Makushi Balata (rubber) Family in Canoe 9" $34.10
3. Makushi Balata (rubber) Monkey, Tortois, or Parrot 3" $18.05 ea
4. Makushi Balata (rubber) Cheetah, Jaguar, or Puma 6" $18.05 ea
5. S. American Woven Reed Purse 9" $24.40

Big Cat Rescue Logo Playing Cards
Red Logo Deck or Gold Logo Deck $7.42

Beach Towels with embroidered BCR logo, Tiger, Leopard Hug, Black Leopard, or 2 Leopards $19.05
Date: ______________

## THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM  
**Winter 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
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**Grand Total $**

### Method of Payment

- [ ] Check
- [ ] Money Order
- [ ] Visa
- [ ] MasterCard
- [ ] American Express
- [ ] Discover

Card Number: ____________________________

Exp. Date MMYY: ________________________

**Signature: ____________________________**

**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 make a donation towards the Joseph’s Pride Rescue $**

**Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes**

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

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

**Brief message to say: _________________________________________________________________**

**Shopping really does make a difference.**

Last year Big Cat Rescue raised 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.

**SPECIAL NOTICE -**

Tour prices as of April 15, 2007

- **Adult Tour (age 10+):** $25
- **Family Tour 9am Saturday:**
  - Adults (age 10+): $25
  - Children under 10: $15
  - Night Tour: $30

Your tour fees are our largest source of revenue to support the cats. Thanks for visiting and caring!

### Kids Tour

Big Cat Rescue 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. The tour is given on a child’s educational level.

- **Tour Time is 9:00 AM Saturday**
  - $15.00 per child under 10 years (price subject to change)
  - $25 per child 10 years & over and per adult

Children must be accompanied by adult guardian.

### Day Tours

Monday - Friday 9 AM & at 3 PM

Saturday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, & 1:30 PM

Tours are guided and take 1 1/2 - 2 hrs. Admission is $25.00 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. 813.920.4130

### 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! $50.00 per person. Call for 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! Photo: Dances by Avi Narula
DONATIONS
Reitzel Foundation $50
Lee Ebs Charitable Fund $10,000
Gerdau Ameristeel $1,000
Veronica Silvani $1,000
Kathleen Slaven $50
Mark Price Foundation $50
Kirk & Aileen Davis $350
Bill Rapp $250
Virginia Brown $250
Atessa Haynes $250
Julie Fisher $200
Alice & Vincent Luce $150
Michael Oak Desings $150
Barbara Aster $100
Benjamin Gordon $100
Bruce & Sandy Mack $100
Deborah Bennett $100
Deborah Oswald $100
Eileen Springer $100
John Prawlackio $100
Joyce Palmquist $100
Kathryn Moore $100
Kathy & Sam Moore $100
Leslie Bevis $100
Leslie Mc Nairy $100
Michelle Lewis $100
Minnie Werstein $100
O R Totius $100
Roger Peters $100
Sarah Burgarth $100
Top Notch Homes $100
William Evans & Virginia Schenebenker $100
Willy Hinze $100
Emma Petoa $80
Karen Brown $80
Kathryn Williams $80
Nancy Hearon $80
Deborah Wade $75
T M Rodriguez $75
Holly Wille $72
Kerry Ressler $70
Robert Woods $60
Angela Poore $55
Alexandra Malouf $50
Brett Mitchell $50
Carolee Bendle $50
Carolyn Johnson Sigl $50
Christopher Watkins $50
Dean Kleinrat $50
Denise Nichols $50
Eleanor Willner $50
James Skovron $50
Janet Hume $50
Janice Willock $50
Jennifer Lafleur $50
Joan Kimball $50
Kenneth Hiltz $50
Korean Mack $50
L Marshall $50
Linda Horstman $50
Marjorie Long $50
Maryanne Faulkner $50
Michael Bernatovich $50
Phyllis File $50
Rae Ellen Francis
James Attorney at Law $50
Rachael Haines $50
Robert Schroeder $50
Robert Torsberg $50
Ruth Roberts $50
Sandra Johnson $50
Sarah & John $50
Sandra White $25
Sue Mulry $25
Sylvia Smith $100
Saber Tiger $100
Sandra Layman $250
Sandy Blackmon $80
Sandy Rhoades & Heather Blakey $80
Sandra Gotta $80
Evelyn West $160
Sponsorship Kit $25 Donation!

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 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 just how your donation is used, and 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 an experience personalized Certificate, and most importantly your registration card that when returned will entitle you to personalized address labels and your Sponsor Certificate.

Sponsorship Kit Key $25 Donation!

Choose Your Species!

Lion, Tiger, Cougar, Black Leopard, Bobcat, Golden Leopard, Ocelot, Jaguar, Snow Leopard, Canadian Lynx, Siberian Lynx, Serval, White Serval, Caracal, Sand Cat, Fishing Jaguar, Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, Geoffroy Cat Fill out the order form on page 12
Join us for Winter Camp at Big Cat Rescue !!!!!

Our first ever Winter Camp in December 2006 was a huge success! It was an opportunity for the campers to see the cats during colder weather. The campers enjoyed learning about animal behavior, habitat and adaptations while visiting some of our 150 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, creating 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 Winter Camp 2008 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. Spots are limited so please call 813-323-3265 to make a reservation or to ask questions.

Wednesday, January 2nd, Thursday, January 3rd & Friday January 4th 2008
9:30 am to 4:00 pm Daily - Ages 10-15 - $135 per child

We Put the Cat in FCAT

We now offer F-Cat Science lessons for grades 3 through 12 on our Teachers Resource page. This page will help you find the information quickly that you need to captivate the interest of your students. Big Cat Rescue’s web site is more than 10,500 files of information about big cats in the wild and in captivity. We offer a huge array of articles on conservation, preservation and compassionate living. Our games are designed to familiarize children with the exotic cat species to spark an interest in much larger global matters. Kids learn best by doing and have a remarkable ability to gather and store information if they are having fun. Big Cat Rescue’s web site is designed to make learning fun. Visit our online resource guide at: http://www.bigcatrescue.org/teachersresource.htm

Talking to Legislators: An Empowering Experience
- by Sharon Beach, BCR Volunteer

During the last weekend in July, I had the good fortune of joining Big Cat Rescue founder Carole Baskin, Howard Baskin, and volunteer Susan Mitchell in Washington D.C. for the third annual Taking Action for Animals Conference. Each year the conference is presented by several animal protection organizations and includes lectures, workshops, and exhibits that provide knowledge, skills, and tools to help us speak out for animals more efficiently and more powerfully. This year the theme was farm animals and some of the organizations involved were The Humane Society, Farm Sanctuary, Compassion in World Farming, and many others.

There was still plenty of opportunity to speak out for wildlife, however, and one of the most empowering aspects of the conference was its culmination in the form of “lobby day.” After a weekend of gathering loads of information, on Sunday evening representatives from The Humane Society prepped participants for going to Capitol Hill to discuss animal welfare issues with members of Congress. They even set up appointments for us or gave us the info on the staff members we should talk to in our legislator’s office.

After such great preparation, I felt ready to do something I have never done before, which was to walk into my representative’s office and ask him to co-sponsor bills that protect animals. Gus Bilirakis is the Representative in the House for my district (9) and I spoke with one of his staff members. I simply explained why Haley’s Act and the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act are so important to me and why I think they are probably important to other Florida voters.

I was a little nervous at first, but I really couldn’t believe how easy it was. During the preparation, they had explained that the most important things to remember are that you are a constituent, which means you have power and your opinions matter, and to simply speak from the heart. Once I really understood this, I felt much more comfortable.

I encourage everyone to try this at least once. You can visit your rep’s office here in Florida and you can call and write to them. Remember, you don’t have to have a PhD in ecology and you don’t have to know every aspect of an issue, although it certainly helps to do some homework. You are a policymaker’s constituent if you live in his/her district (whether or not you voted for that particular person) and it is part of his/her job to listen to you. Take advantage of that power and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

If you would like more information on the conference or on lobbying go to www.takingactionforanimals.com, or the Citizen Lobbyist Center at www.hsus.org.

YEAR END DONATIONS CAN TO LOWER TAXES

If you itemize deductions, donations to non profits like Big Cat Rescue can lower your taxes. The result is that “Uncle Sam” pays for part of your donation. Donations in any amount are helpful, and there are numerous ways to donate, some mentioned below.

In addition to general donations and our Sponsorship and Membership Kits, below are three specific ways to donate with name recognition on the sanctuary property:

THE WALL FUND - $80 per foot: Development is closing in around the sanctuary. The 38 acres next to us is under contract to become hundreds of townhouses. It is critical for the protection of the cats that we replace our chain link fence with a high, solid wall. A donation of $80 buys one linear foot of wall. Donors will be recognized on a permanent sign in order of the number of feet donated. The entire perimeter is almost 7000 feet. So, we have a long way to go, but we are on our way.

To donated towards the wall use the order form on page 12, enter “Wall Project” as the item, indicate how many feet, and how you would like your recognition line to read if other than your name as it appears on the form (maximum 50 letters and spaces).

ENCLOSURE DONOR SIGN - $500: The enclosures last about seven years and then have to be replaced. This is an ongoing project and expense. To help cover these expenses, a donation of $500 is honored with a cage sign like the one pictured here indicating you have helped provide the “cat-a-tat” for the cat of your choice. The sign stays up for one year and can be renewed, or multiple years can be donated at one time. This is a wonderful way to assist with one of our largest expenses.

DONATE STOCK: When you donate stock that has risen in value, the deduction is based on the current value. For details of the Big Cat Rescue account to transfer to, email finance@BigCatRescue.org.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP FINANCIALLY NOT INVOLVING CURRENT DONATIONS

Current donations are not the only way you can help financially. Whether you can donate now or not, below are ways that cost nothing now, or use expenses you already incur, to help the cats.

RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES: If you use an inkjet or laser printer at home or office, or have old cell phones, please visit www.BigCatRescue.org/ink.htm or email ink@BigCatRescue.org. We will send you postage prepaid bags or prepaid Fedex labels, and each item you recycle in this way generates a donation to the sanctuary. We now have over 1000 individuals and businesses participating and generating thousands of dollars to support the cats, while at the same time helping the environment.

BOOK TRAVEL THROUGH OUR PORTAL: Our travel website is a portal to Priceline, Hotels.com and other online travel services, and also offers great cruises and other trips. The rates are the same as on those sites, but if you enter through our site a portion of your booking is donated to the cats. Visit www.BigCatRescue.org/travel.htm for more details and the link to our portal.
2007 Fur Ball A Gr-r-rand Success!

The Fur Ball is quickly becoming one of the most anticipated and talked about charity events in the Bay area. The event sold out well in advance and had attendance of 700.

It seems that every year the Fur Ball just keeps getting better and better. This year the décor was at another level compared to previous years. The centerpiece of the Great Hall was an exotic flower arrangement made completely of daisy like flowers in the shape of a life-size lounging tiger. This one of a kind masterpiece was designed, created and donated by Heather Bay & The Rose Garden. At the end of the hall, a tribal drum circle awaits. In the Ballroom orange and gold silky fabrics billowed overhead towards large black crystal chandeliers. Splashes of fiery orange light washed the walls in tiger stripes. The ballroom was a sea of tables draped in orange and black tiger striped linens with coordinating chair covers and ties and an exotic tropical centerpiece of bromeliads was the crown jewel of every table. At the front of the ballroom stood the main stage that was bordered by a row of giant plush tigers and flanked on either side by oversized screens that showcased a continuing loop of wild cat photos and sponsor logos as well as provided a canvas for which to premiere two special films produced specifically for the evening. In the back of the Ballroom a wall of giant display boards showcased an 8x10 photo of every cat residing at the sanctuary. The tropical jungle and tiger themed flowed throughout the entire building and set the mood for an exotic evening.

Fur Ball guests were not lacking for things to do as the event buzzed with activity in every nook. In the Great Hall guests got a little wild and joined in the tribal drumming circle with Jana Broder of Drum Magic. The rhythmic beat of twenty drums echoed through the building providing the purr-rect background melody. Guests got to peer into what the future holds with mystical readings by Clang in the Oval Entry. In the back of the Ballroom a silent auction spread out over four tables that included beautiful artworks, luxurious vacations, sought after sports tickets and unique high end gifts. Opposite the silent auction was the Big Cat Rescue Station that made a bold statement with a wall of big cat photos each representing a feline living at the sanctuary. These photos were sold as sponsorships with the goal of the night to have every cat at BCR sponsored. An array Big Cat Rescue gift items were also available for purchase as well as commemorative 2007 Fur Ball posters featuring the four newly rescued tigers, TJ, Bella, Modnic, and Trucha. Nearby another table was outfitted with a display board that brought to light the tiger farming issue in China. Two animal activists, Cassie Pepin and Jordan Weiss, collected more than 200 signatures of concerned guests on a petition to ban this practice. Just beyond this area our King of Feasts competitors exhibited their confection sculptures and handed out tasty samples of their decadent delights. Guests got to sample several different cakes and then were asked to vote on the best cake design and tastiest cake. Cakes on the Dot created an amazing Lion and cub sculpted completely out of cake and icing and were later named the 2007 King of Feasts. The competition was fierce with Chantilly Cakes and their amazing Snow Leopard also sculpted from cake and icing. This regal cat poised purr-rectly in front of a snowy mountain backdrop. The competition was the first of its kind and will definitely be a part of next year’s Fur Ball. Just around the corner from the King of Feasts competitors Hollowtree Images set up a portrait booth available for guests to have their photo taken. Throughout the entire building at every bar specialty drinks such as the Long Lion Iced Tea, Roaring Rum & Coke, Felis Margarita, and the Tiger-tini were provided by Future Brands LLC, Red Bull, Pepin, and Black Swan Legal Counsel. In the hallway on the other side of the ballroom Pepin Distributing Company handed out complimentary specialty beers while volunteers served complimentary wines by Papio and Champagne by Freixenet. This hallway led straight into the Big Cat Bargain Room which was overflowing with hundreds of great gift items all marked down to a special bargain price. Artwork, gift baskets, restaurant certificates, signed memorabilia, home décor, and much more was available for purchase on the spot. Guests had a grand time hunting for great deals and by the end of the night the tables were picked clean. Also in the bargain room was the Wheel of Fortune table provided by Dan Mar Productions. Here guests were given a chance to win a $1,000 gift card for AvantGold. Nearby J.C. Newman Cigar Company provided cigars for purchase for guests to puff on the patio. As the guests enjoyed the evening’s activities a few that were particularly clever with their
Barbara Frank is a Senior Keeper at BCR and has dedicated more than 1,000 hours of service over the past year. She volunteers five days a week. In addition to her Keeper duties that include; cleaning, feeding and guiding tours, Barbara also gives orientation classes to new volunteers, trains volunteers and interns onsite, is a key member of the enrichment committee, and is the Big Cat wedding planner! Big Cat Rescue is honored to present this award to such a dedicated and inspiring member of our team.

thank everyone involved for making this event a huge success including; Big Cat Bargain donors, Silent & Live Auction donors, drink donors, guests, company sponsors, table sponsors, king of feasts competitors, entertainment providers, and of course all of the volunteers. A very special thank you also goes to Teasdale Worldwide for helping to make this the best Fur Ball yet! Big Cat Rescue would also like to encourage our readers to thank our corporate sponsors with their patronage. To read more about this year’s Fur Ball, to watch the Fur Ball videos, and for tons of photos check out our website at BigCatRescue.org/2007FurBall.htm

Photos clockwise from top right; Howard Baskin, Bo Derek, & Carole Baskin, Mary Hessler Key, Tiger flower arrangement, BCR Volunteer Committee: Jen, Brian, Cathy, Jamie, & Scott, BCR Senior Keeper Liz & Brian, masked guests, guests dancing to the Wholly Cats, Charles Scott & guest speak to the crowd about her work and her experience visiting the cats at Big Cat Rescue. As the dessert was served auctioneer Wade West broke into a high energy call to guests to reach deep into their pockets for some of the amazing live auction items. These included exotic vacations, 30 days in a new Jaguar, Bucs tickets and more. Several guests answered this call and in doing so made this year’s live auction the most successful to date! The evening ended with live music by the Wholly Cats and several guests shredding up the dance floor.

Estimated profit from this year’s Fur Ball is over $120,000! Big Cat Rescue would like to