JOIN US FOR BIG CAT RESCUE'S 9TH ANNUAL FUR BALL OCTOBER 10TH, 2008 - IT'S FUR A GOOD CAUSE!

Big Cat Rescue will host its 9th annual Fur Ball on Friday night October 10th, 2008 at the A La Carte Event Pavilion from 6:30 PM until midnight. “Grrrrr-eat Fun” are the words that are most often used to describe the hugely successful sold out Fur Ball in past years. The fun starts in deciding what to wear and the seeing how other people dress. The attire is “Safari Costume Formal”, which includes traditional formal attire, animal and jungle prints, safari costume, or any mix in between. Be creative and have fun with it! Prizes will be awarded to best dressed! The fun has just begun! Thanks to our generous donors and vendors, this year’s ball is packed with activity and culinary delights. Beat out other bidders in the live auction for five spectacular custom created international trips including: African Adventure, Tigers in Thailand, British History, Paris Fashion, and England Golf, 30 days in the newly introduced Jaguar XF and the option to buy any Jaguar at dealer invoice from Jaguar of Tampa, 30 days in a zippy Saab convertible and similar purchase rights at Saab of Tampa, and the opportunity to actually drive a real NASCAR stock car on a real track! Or perhaps you may want to try your luck and win not one but TWO Rolex watches with a combined value of $8525, donated by AvantGold Jewelers. Dine on an exquisite traditional African gourmet dinner and sumptuous dessert created specifically for this themed event by chefs at the A La Carte Pavilion. But that’s not all. Drink complimentary wines provided by Toasted Head and 3 Blind Moose all evening. Cast your vote for the best big cat themed dessert by sampling finalists for the King of Feasts contest. Pourage away to the jungle beat in the drumming circle with Jana Broder. Save money big time and start your holiday shopping early at the Big Cat Bargains sale with hundreds of discounted restaurant certificates, art, home goods, and other great items. The combined value of the items in the Big Cat Bargains is over $50,000! Take home a keepsake photo of one of our cats by purchasing a sponsorship kit and have your contribution matched by Outback Steakhouse. Dance the night away to the groovy DeLeon Band. Get your game on at the DanMar Productions Wheel of Fortune casino table, where you could win a $1,000 gift certificate provided by AvantGold Jewelers. Do you need any more reasons to buy your tickets to the 2008 Fur Ball? Cough it up, it’s fur a good cause!
KING OF FEASTS SPONSORS

AMERICAN MOMENTUM BANK
Jaguar of Tampa
teasdale

LEOPARD SPONSORS

AvantGold
Cullman-Kayserky
Genesis Group
Saab of Tampa

COUGAR SPONSORS

Adventure Outfitters
BANK OF FLORIDA
Engel & Volkers
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TSE

RETURN TO AFRICA AT TAMPA’S WILDEST EVENT

Get ready to go wild at this African safari themed gala. The 2008 Fur Ball may be months away, but it will sneak up on you like a stealthy lion stalking its prey. Tickets are $150 each or sponsor a table for $1,500. This event has sold out in past years, so don’t miss your oppurr-tunity! Purchase tickets by calling 813-426-5948, by visiting our website bigcatrescue.org/furball.htm, or by using the order form on page 10.

2008 FUR BALL MENU

SALAD
Baby Spinach Salad with Tomatoes, Mandarin Oranges, Gorgonzola and White Balsamic Vinaigrette, A La Carte Homemade Rolls to Include Crisp Lavash

FISH ENTREE
Nitter Kibbeh Poached Cod, atop an Exotic Pilaf of Couscous with a Cardiumon Coconut Cream Sauce, with Honey Roasted Carrots and Fresh Lime, Garnished with Sweet Potato Strings

VEGETARIAN ENTREE
Tabbouleh served with Honey Roasted Carrots, Fried Hummus Cakes (too good to even describe) with Fresh Cucumber Raita, and Pilaf of Couscous Garnished with Pickled Red Onion.

DESSERT
“An African Huis Toe (hut)” Chocolate Tuille filled with Bittersweet Chocolate Mousse, “A Soetkoekie Roof” Sweet Wine and Spiced Cookie, Whip Cream, and Toasted Coconut with Fresh Slices of Star Fruit

NOW WIN TWO ROLEX WATCHES WORTH $8,500!!

Thanks to the generosity of Avant-Gold Jewelers, the prize for this year’s raffle has been increased to TWO Rolex watches! The men’s watch is an elegant Rolex Oyster Perpetual Airking stainless steel watch with white Roman numeral dial, oyster bracelet, and engine turned bezel (retail value $3675). The matching ladies’ watch is a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Watch, stainless steel with 18k white gold fluted bezel, silver Roman numeral dial and oyster bracelet (retail value $4,850).

Purchase tickets for your chance to win both of these beautiful watches. The drawing will be held at the 2008 Fur Ball. You do not have to be present to win. Enter as often as you like to put the odds in your favor. It’s Fur a Good Cause!

For complete details & rules visit us online at www.BigCatRescue.org/rolex.htm
1 ticket $20 or 7 tickets $100
To purchase tickets call 813-920-4130
use the order form on page 10
or fill out the form online at www.BigCatRescue.org/Rolex.htm
Your Discarded Ink Cartridges, Laser Toners and Cell Phones Can Save Discarded Big Cats

You can donate to Big Cat Rescue and help save the environment at the same time! At no cost to you or your organization, recycle your cell phones, ink jet & laser toner cartridges and make the world a greener place for all of us.

Big Cat Rescue works with a recycler, allowing you to help our environment by recycling that generates donations to Big Cat Rescue. For each item received, the vendor sends us a donation, typically from $2.50 to $4.00 on inkjet cartridges. Through the wonderful participation of many individual and business supporters, this program has generated over $40,000 to help care for the cats!

Recycling is very simple. Email us at ink@BigCatRescue.org with your postal address. We will have our vendor send you 50 postage prepaid mailing bags. As ink jet cartridges become empty, put them in a bag and drop it in the mail. This also works for used cell phones, chargers and accessories! If you have 25+ cartridges or the big laser toners, we supply prepaid FedEx labels you can put on any box and call to have FedEx pick up. If you need more than 50 bags, or need labels or boxes, just indicate how many in your email. The program has grown quickly because many supporters give bags to friends or family and encourage their workplaces and schools to support our program.

For school projects and organization participation please contact education@bigcatrescue.org.

Most inkjet cartridges are recyclable. The key is that (1) they cannot be "remanufactured" ones (like Office Depot or Staples branded cartridges) and (2) they must have a "print head".

If you send in a cartridge that is not recyclable we do not receive any funds, but at least your cartridge is disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

All laser toners, cell phones, chargers and accessories are accepted.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE AS WELL!

Did you know?
More than 54 million households, roughly 55% of the total population, own a home computer. The average consumer purchases 2-6 printer cartridges per year. More than 85% of used printer cartridges are simply tossed in the trash. Every 2 seconds a printer cartridge is thrown away in the United States alone. That’s 1,800 cartridges per minute, 108,000 per hour, almost 3 million per day! Recovering discarded printer cartridges for recycling would prevent more than 570,000 tons of plastics from entering the waste stream. Save the environment and save the big cats! Start recycling today!

BCR ADVOCAT CREATES INK DISPLAY TO HELP CATS

Big Cat Rescue supporter Dee took the ink recycle program to another level by setting up a display about the program at the Palisades Park Library in Palisades Park NJ, where she works as a Library Services Technician. The display includes bookmarks, BCR brochures, and books about the big cats as well as the recycling collection box. “In addition to gaining support for this program, another satisfying aspect of this display is when children take interest and ask questions about the cats,” Dee shares.

Coalition to Save Tigers

“If we can’t save the tiger from extinction, we can’t save anything!” was repeated in a myriad of ways in Washington, DC by conservation experts from around the world. Einstein’s definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over and expect a different result. That has been “conservation as usual” to use the slang bantered about at this two day event that has been formally described as, “The most important conservation initiative undertaken in the history of the world to conserve wild tigers.” What makes this initiative unlike all of the past programs is twofold. 39 major conservation groups, including Big Cat Rescue, have joined forces with one common goal: Save the tiger in the wild. There have been other joint efforts, but none this large and never before has an entity as powerful as the World Bank been a committed partner in saving wild places for wild animals. Harrison Ford, one of Hollywood’s hottest actors thanks to his latest Indiana Jones movie breaking records in theaters, is on the board of Conservation International and spoke at the June 9th launch. Also in attendance were our friend, the beautiful Bo Derek, who won the Wildlife Guardian Award at the Fur Ball last year, and Robert Duvall. HSUS brought Tiger Kids to the launch and this photo is from their participation as an ITC member. See these celebrities up close and purr-sonal in the most important roles of their lives in this video we shot and find out more about how the World Bank and the International Tiger Coalition plan to save the tiger by visiting this link: http://www.bigcatrescue.org/video/00206.htm

WATCH THE CATS ON YOUR COMPUTER - BCR WEB BLOGS

www.BigCatRescue.org
www.ChatBigCats.com
www.Myspace.com
www.youtube.com
www.Video.Google.com
www.Veoh.com

Taking over the world one screen at a time....
TIGERS ON THE MOVE AT BCR

It's like musical chairs but with Tigers! A few tigers at Big Cat Rescue have recently switched enclosures. Snorkel was relocated up next to Niki the lion and Bengali the tiger. He will be on the tour path now and Rescuers are sure that he will enjoy his new digs. Snorkel is very social and loves to snort and chuff at keepers when they clean his Cat-a-tat or when they are feeding him. Until today, Snorkel has resided in the "outback". The tigers that live in the outback are too far from the tour path for guests to visit, so Snorkel has not had the opportunity to meet the public since his arrival.

When Rescuers released Snorkel into his new pad, he excitedly toured the perimeter, checked out his swimming pond, jumped on top of his den to get a better view of his territory and then chowed down on some fresh grass growing in the enclosure. All the while Bengali followed Snorkel, watching his every move. Keepers dug out several large weeds that were growing in Snorkel's previous home and then loaded up Flavio into the tiger transport. What was old to Snorkel was brand new and fun for Flavio. He hopped right into the transport and moved just one Cat-a-tat over. All the new smells will keep him busy for quite a while.

Moving all these tigers around does have a purpose. Now two empty tiger enclosures could be joined together to make a double tiger enclosure. Cat-a-tat builder Vernon Stairs set to work on the project straight away and in just a week’s time the project was completed. The new extra large Cat-a-tat will be the future home for Trucha and Modnic. Until now these sisters shared an enclosure. The new enclosure will give them almost twice the room. At Big Cat Rescue there are a few empty enclosures that are set aside for projects such as these. This way as an enclosure needs to be maintained, repaired, replanted or whatever else, Keepers can relocate the resident feline to one of the empty Cat-a-tats.

BOSTON'S RESTAURANT "BIG CAT" NIGHT GENERATES $555.00 DONATION by Howard Baskin

Tony and Jana Regas, owners of Boston's Gourmet Pizza on Anderson Road in Tampa, have been consistent supporters of the sanctuary in many ways. Recently they proposed having a Big Cat Rescue Night at the restaurant where a portion of all the proceeds for the evening would be donated to the cats. A display table was set up inside the restaurant. Outside, our volunteers and interns, led by Cynthia Montayre, stationed themselves at the adjacent AMC Theatre for many hours handing out a flyer directing hungry exiting theatre-goers to the restaurant. The result was increased awareness for the sanctuary and a donation of $555.00. The photo shows Jana presenting the check while Shere Khan and China Doll look on wondering when it will be converted into food for them. For mouth-watering pizza and other casual dining delicacies please consider visiting our friends Tony and Jana at Boston's.

Tigers for the Cure - Big Cat Rescue Gives Back
by Honey Wayton

As a member of the Tampa Bay community, Big Cat Rescue always looks for ways to give back to the area that supports us so generously. This Halloween weekend we will be doing just that. From October 31-November 2 the Breast Cancer 3 Day will be taking place here in Tampa. This is a 60-mile walk over 3 days to help raise money to find a cure...you read it right, that's 20 miles a day! Four brave souls have taken on this challenge to represent Big Cat Rescue. Team Big Cat Rescue is made up of 3 Rescuers: Honey Wayton, Jamie Veronica, Erin Newman and Big Cat friend Katy Denches. Each member must raise $2,200 which goes to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund to help find a cure.

When my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in December of 2006 this became a cause dear to my heart. My mom is a survivor and I walk to honor her. Many other Big Cat Rescue family members have also been touched by this disease and we ALL walk to honor them. Our team has been training for the past 2 months and between the four of us we have walked over 500 Miles! There are 12 more weeks to train and many miles to walk, so we'll see you out there. Each day we get one step closer to a cure.

Please check out the day at www.the3day.org and look for Team Big Cat Rescue. You can keep up with our progress, make a donation, or find a CHEER station during the event to come and cheer us on. Thank you for your continued support. You make it possible for Big Cat Rescue to make a difference in the lives of cats and humans alike everyday.
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OF CAMP BIG CAT 2008

Camp Big Cat just concluded our most successful season ever. This summer, campers ages 8 to 15 were a regular sight on property sporting their lime green camp shirts and enthusiastic smiles. Our camp director, Coleen Kremer, certified teacher Erin Newman, and our fabulous summer interns (Lauren, Will B, Fran, Sara, Andrew, Rich, Erin, Jaydin) instructed and entertained the 108 campers who attended one or more of our six weekly sessions. We enjoyed many returning campers as well as several families who came from out of state, as far away as California!

2008 Big Cat Rescue Photo Contest

Enter the 2008 Photo Contest today! Come for a Photo Safari or a regular tour to get great Wildlife photos!

1 Grand Prize: Big Cat Keeper Tour including Photo Safari at Big Cat Rescue and Internet exposure at our web page: BigCatRescue.org/PhotoWinners.htm
3 First Prizes: 1 hour Photo Safari and website exposure
3 Second Prizes: Big Cat Rescue T-shirt and website exposure
3 Third Prizes: Tour Pass for Big Cat Rescue and website exposure

3 categories: Wildlife, Pets, & Landscape. Entry fee: $5.00 per image. Include this information: Category, Name, Address, Phone Number and Photo title. Enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope so that your work may be returned to you after the contest is over. Judging will be in January 2009, entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2008. Mail all entries and fees to: Big Cat Rescue attn: Photo Contest 12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625. You can also email your entry. Image must be 480 pixels on the longest side and 72 DPI and in JPG format to qualify. Be sure to state in your email the reason you are sending the photo. Email both the photo and your receipt of payment to Info@BigCatRescue.org. While we understand the value of your work and will do our best to take care of it during the interim, we will not be held responsible for loss or damage.

Shown above, last year's grand prize winner: "Orangutan" by Quayleen Donahue, Tampa, FL

ENDOWMENT FUND
HITS $52,421
CREATES $17,299
IN MATCHING FUNDS!
$97,579 LEFT TO GOAL

To ensure our ability to care for the cats into the future, we have begun an Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay (CF). Aside from making an endowment fund cost effective for a relatively small nonprofit, a very exciting part of the CF program is what they refer to as their “Challenge Grant”. Under this program, we choose a goal to reach over three years. If we reach 75% of the goal (and we will), a fund set up at the CF will put in the other 25%, which means a 33% match. So, for every $75 one of our donors contributes to the endowment, the CF fund will put in $25. We set a goal of $200,000, meaning when we raise $150,000, the CF fund will donate the remaining $50,000!

As of publication of the newsletter we have received $52,421 in donations ranging from $25 to $25,000. Each one helps. So, we are 1/3 of the way toward the $150,000 goal that triggers a check, please make it out to Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, put Big Cat Rescue Endowment in the memo section, and send it to us at PO Box 340189, Tampa, FL 33694-0189. If you donate online, please send an email indicating you would like your donation to go to the Endowment Fund to Finance@BigCatRescue.org. If you have any questions please email that same address or call us at 813-920-4130 and leave a message for Howard Baskin, Treasurer.

The best way for us to insure that we can take care of the cats in the future despite fluctuations in the economy is to develop an Endowment Fund whose earnings will be there in good times and bad. Your donations of any size to the Endowment Fund will help provide a secure future for these deserving creatures.

Chat Big Cats Online at www.ChatBigCats.com

People who love animals love to share their photos and stories. Now Big Cat Rescue has a Chat Big Cats community. Only animal lovers need apply. This site is for you and about you and it's free. You get unlimited storage space for your photos, videos and music. Post your own blogs, or join in our forums and contests. Check out this YouTube/MySpace styled community made up entirely of animal lovers. Watch some of the funny animal videos or maybe add a few of your own.

813.920.4130 - WWW.BIGCATRESCUE.ORG - FALL 2008 - THE BIG CAT TIMES - 5
For the Love of the Animals
by Diane Gustafson

For as long as I can remember I have loved all of the big cats. I am so entranced by them that when I found “Great Cats of Indiana Sanctuary and Rescue Facility” online, I was intrigued. This facility is located in Idaville, IN, a little over an hour from my home. It would be great to see big cats that were rescued from abusive situations, happy and well cared for. What I found could not be farther from the truth.

Great Cats of Indiana is a roadside zoo posing as a sanctuary. They have approximately 5 lions, 12 tigers, 7 cougars, 1 leopard, 3 bears, a pack of wolves, a bobcat and several alpacas and donkeys.

The conditions these animals are left to live in were deplorable. Most of the cages are covered in feces, urine, and some even had rotted meat, swarming with flies. All of the animals are filthy and matted to some degree. Most were sleeping in their feces, some out in the hot sun with no shade. Every enclosure was made of rotting broken wood with peeling paint, cracked and broken concrete foundations, as well as rust covered metal caging. Within one tiger enclosure, the concrete floor was partially flooded with standing water that had been sitting so long it was filled with bright green algae. When we asked about it, the young guide indicated that the drain was plugged and that the water was just like it would be in the cat's natural habitat.

As I was leaving the facility, I stopped by the cage of a lion named Chucky. His cage is nothing more than a metal box with an open front to it. I knelt down in front of his cage, and spoke to him: “I am so sorry, baby...I am so very sorry...”. I cry now as I write this as I did when I said it to him. I vowed then to try my best to get these animals a better life.

When I returned home, I immediately typed out exactly what I saw there. I didn’t want to forget a single detail. I didn’t know until much later the impact my letter would have. I sent this letter to all of the Indiana and U.S. senators and representatives, and our governor. I also sent it to the mayors of all of the surrounding cities. Over the next few weeks, I spent time everyday sending out my letter to whomever I thought should read it. I sent it to anyone who had posted about this facility on the internet, animal sanctuaries, animal welfare organizations including WWF, WSPCA, the Humane Society, and the ASPCA, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Monticello Board of Tourism, and the Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine, and all of the Indianapolis and Chicago newspapers and television stations received my letter.

One of the first recipients to respond to me was Carole Baskin at Big Cat Rescue. She provided me with invaluable information such as www.sanctuarystandards.com so I could see for myself how a sanctuary should be operating. She has been and continues to be a tremendous help to me in my crusade.

Pretty soon I started receiving e-mails from the people I had sent it to expressing their concern. There are many out there that would like to help, but whose hands are tied. A research assistant at CBS Chicago who was very interested in my story contacted me. He would continue to research for pertinent information until the story was shut down by CBS production because Great Cats of Indiana is not in the Chicago “market”.

A couple of weeks later, I received a phone call from Bridget Gross, Legislative Assistant to Senator Samuel Smith Jr. and Senator Jean Breaux. She provided me with a copy of a USDA Formal Complaint that had been filed against Great Cats of Indiana in August 2007 with transgressions dating back six years. She told me this was a federal matter because the owner had obtained his license through the USDA, not the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources. In other words this once helpful woman was now washing her hands of the matter. No one at any level of government office in the state of Indiana would hear my plea. This became quite disheartening, but I continued on.

Another woman from a small Indianapolis paper contacted me. She was interested in the story and spoke with the USDA Prosecuting Attorney who filed the formal complaint. A motion to go to hearing on this case was filed in October 2007. There are only three Administrative Law Judges and their docket is incredibly long. Since the animals at Great Cats of Indiana were not in any “immediate danger”, this case is towards the bottom of this docket.

One of my many contacts, Jonathan Kraft (Keepers of the Wild), who is a wealth of information told me that the USDA is slow to terminate these facilities because they do not want to incur the cost of housing these animals. Hearing this, I knew I needed to find homes for the animals. I started contacting animal sanctuaries and rescue facilities, to see if they could take at least a couple of the animals. Once again, the first to step up to the plate was Carole at Big Cat Rescue. After that one by one, I had sanctuaries contacting me telling me they would take some of the animals. I even found someone to take in the alpacas and donkeys. I was elated! This proved to me that my story had touched many hearts.

At this point, there is not much I can do to accelerate the U.S. legal system, so I have turned to changing our laws. The federal Animal Welfare Act sets forth only minimal requirements for animal care, and for the most part, only addresses basic husbandry issues. For example, according to the AWA, animals must be fed, watered, and sheltered yet space requirements only mandate that the animals be able to make “normal postural changes” (i.e. allow them enough room to stand up, lie down, and turn around). There is no requirement for grass, greenery or other natural vegetation. Even the requirement for water is open to interpretation: “water must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal.” Even when exhibitors are consistently found non-compliant during inspections, they are typically allowed time to make “improvements.” Great Cats is a classic example. Getting “real” sanctions imposed on animal abusers is exceedingly difficult. Even when horrific abuses are caught on tape it doesn’t mean an abuser will face meaningful repercussions or have their license revoked. The laws that govern these sanctuaries need to be revised. I have been in recent contact with one of my Indiana State Legislators that lives in my hometown. She has been fighting for animal rights, and was interested in my story. She has offered to take me with her to Indianapolis in the fall to sit in on a session.

I have a long way to go, but all of this has definitely been worthwhile. Someone told me that there are bigger matters out there than this. I agree there are some really pressing issues in the world right now. But I cannot help with the war in Iraq, the price of gasoline, or the economy. This, however, is something so close to home, I feel like I CAN make a difference...and you know what? I’m going to keep on doing everything I can do to give these animals a peaceful, healthy existence.

Please take a moment to sign the petition I have created to be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture in the hopes of expediting the hearing:

www.thepetitionsite.com/1/endthescruffingatgreatcatsofindiana

Thank You
FAREWELL TO DAISY & BUFFY - HOW WE REMEMBER THE CATS WHO HAVE PASSED by Howard Baskin

One of the saddest parts of operating a sanctuary is saying goodbye to the cats we get so attached to and pass on. Although the cats usually live to only 10-12 years old in the wild, they can live to be about 20 in our setting. A few live to be older, and, just like in a human population, we lose some earlier due to cancer or other natural causes. In the early days of the sanctuary many cats came to us very young. They are now senior citizens. Many of our rescues in recent years have been middle aged or older cats.

As a result, the average age of our population is rising. Of the 136 exotic cats who call Big Cat Rescue home at this writing, 119 of them are over the age of 10 (88%) and of those, 45 (33%) are over the age of 15. (That is 90 in cat years). The cats who have died in the last year have been 13 to 22 years old, with the exception of Kennedy the rehab baby bobcat who had been hit by a car and died before he was a year old from seizures. The average age rising means we have had to bid farewell to more of these beloved creatures in recent years. But with each passing we take solace in the fact that for whatever period of time they were with us we gave them the best quality of life we could.

Since the last Big Cat Times

HOPE THE BOBCAT - UPDATE

In our last issue we told you about Hope, a baby bobcat, who was found orphaned just a 15 minute drive from Big Cat Rescue on May 3rd. Big Cat Rescuer and rehaber Jamie Veronica had her work cut out for her. Hope was estimated to be about two weeks old when she arrived. She needed to be bottle fed every few hours around the clock. Big Cat Rescue put the word out to our friends in the domestic cat rescue community. Within hours a foster family was found thanks to Cat Call, Jack Talman, and Kathy Walvoord of St. Francis Animal Rescue. After several play sessions with the kittens, Momma Cat finally decided to accept Hope into her litter. Hope quickly grew attached to her new siblings, Indy and Maxwell. After nursing, the kittens would romp and play for hours before sacking out in a big pile of purring fur. The kittens were about a week or two older than Hope and at first they played a little rough. Hope didn’t seem to be discouraged by this and tried her best to keep up with them. Playing with the kittens was a very important part of Hope’s development. Through play she would learn hunting skills like stalking, chasing, pouncing, ambushing, and tackling. Over the next two months the family lived in the onsite cat hospital and had play sessions in an outdoor enclosure during the day. Gradually the family began to spend more and more time outside in the rehab enclosure until eventually they stayed outdoors full time and even over night. The whole family had a blast outside. They climbed trees, bounced through bushes, lounged in high platforms and chased each other almost non-stop around the large natural enclosure. Throughout this time Hope’s diet evolved from nursing, to eating ground turkey with a special blend of vitamins, to eating dead baby chicks and mice. A mother bobcat will bring small prey items that she has killed back to her den for her kittens. As the kittens mature and are more mobile and coordinated she will start bringing back injured prey which the kittens are encouraged to kill for themselves.

In July, Hope received her first live prey, a small mouse. Her wild instincts quickly took over as she hunted and captured the mouse. Her siblings helped to trigger this reaction from her as they sought after the mouse as well. It soon became apparent that Hope was ready to be separated from her domestic foster family. She was now more independent and would often sleep by herself way up on the highest platform in her enclosure. Luckily Rescuers have already found homes for each of the family members and they will each be going home with their new families shortly. How will Hope cope with the loss of her foster family? Will she continue to be successful with hunting live prey? When will she be ready to be released back into the wild? Find out these answers and more next time. If you can’t wait for the next issue, or if you missed out on the previous one, you can watch Hope’s life unfold in front of the camera. Ten podcasts featuring Hope and her family chronicle their life together.

Watch them at www.ChatBigCats.com

FOREVER REMEMBERED Big Cat Rescue now offers a permanent memorialization of your lost loved one. Every animal has a story to tell. You can keep the spirit of their message alive by remembering them in our Memorial Wall with an engraved marble marker that includes their photo, dates of birth and death, and your name as the person who knew and loved them best. These markers are 8 x 8 inch black marble (1/4 inch thick) with the photo of your beloved pet and text engraved by laser so it is permanent. For a donation of $1,000.00 you can have your pet’s marker placed atop the wall that winds along the tour path at Big Cat Rescue. Tens of thousands of animal lovers visit Big Cat Rescue each year and will see your tribute to your pet. You will be emailed a mock up of your plaque for approval before it is shipped to make sure you are happy with the way it looks. A duplicate of the marble marker will be sent to you as a keepsake. You will also be entitled to a one year online memorial for your pet that can be extended annually at your option. To remember your pet this way, please fill out the order form on page 10 and in the notes section tell us the pet’s name, breed or species, date of birth, date of death, and how you want your inscription to read. Inscription under pet’s photo may use two lines and up to 35 characters and spaces per line.
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. You can also upgrade your shipping to Priority for just $3 for your entire order. Remember the proceeds go to help care for the felines at Big Cat Rescue.

Hot Pink Logo Tank with Brown Trim S, M, L, XL $22.26
BCR Logo Fitted Tank Black, Pink, or Blue S, M, L, XL $19.05
Go Green Tree Tee in White S, M, L & XL $19.05
Go Green Button Tee in Sage S, M, L & XL $19.05
BCR Logo Men's Muscle Shirt Orange or Royal Blue S, M, L, XL $24.40
BCR Savannah Silhouette Tee Chestnut, Tan, Leaf or Blue S, M, L, XL, XXL & XXXL $24.40

Metal Magnets Choose Tiger, Cougar, Lioness, Lion, Snow Leopard, Black Leopard, Ocelot, serval, or Bobcat $5.14

Wood Box w/ BCR Logo w/ Dominoes $14.77 or w/ Playing Cards $24.19

Sticker $4.21

Mints in a Souvenir B&W Tin w/ BCR Logo $5.68

Rhinestone Tiger Fitted Tee, also available in Spaghetti Strap Fitted Tank, Black with Rhinestones Tee: S, M, L & XXL Tank: S, M, L & XL $21.19

Whom's The Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black or White S-XL $31.89

Haunting Eyes Tee Black with BCR Logo in White on Sleeve, African Lion or Ocelot (also in Bengal Tiger, Cougar, Snow Leopard or Siberian Tiger) S, M, L, XXL & XXXL $24.40

Photo Bumper Sticker $5.28
BCR Magnetic Car Ribbon $8.35
Photo License Frame $7.35
Lion Vanity Plate (or Tiger) $11.56

Big Cat Rescue - Tiger Art Poster 24"x36" $8.35

Multi-Tool Wood w/ Logo $17.28
(bottle opener, 2 knives, saw, phillips, flat-head, pliers and case)

Coasters featuring paintings of BCR Cats, set of four with stand $24.40

White BCR Photo Wrap Mug $13.70
Cheetah Coffee, 8 oz, teens or growl $11.56
Sheen Khan Shot Glass $7.82
Animal Print Logo Thermos $13.70

Logo Mousepads Lion, Tiger, or Big Cats of BCR $15.84
Mousepad, Precious the Bobcat, painting $15.84
Lion Computer Chamois $13.70
Mousepad, Nirvana the Ocelot, painting $15.84

LED squeeze light key chain $8.42
Bottle-opener, key chain $8.35
Pen $7.95 Lighter $8.35
Money Clip $8.35

Themed Monopoly Board Games Choose Animalopoly, Earthtopoly or Catopoly $26.54

Photo Magnets and Key Rings choose any species at BCR Magnet $5.68
Key Ring $5.21
Big Cat Trading Post Gifts & Fur Ball Attire Online

All of your favorite BCR merchandise is just a click away. You can also find purr-fect accessories for the Fur Ball. We have a new improved online store for all of your wildest needs. BigCatRescue.biz makes it easy to combine shipping, request gift wrap, and even has a comments section in the checkout so you can ensure your gifts receive the personal touch of a handwritten card.

Shop Amazon and Help the Big Cats

Shop Amazon through Big Cat Rescue's website and a portion of your purchase will be donated to care for the big cats. So what are you waiting for? Get online and start your holiday shopping early. From our home page select Shop from the side bar then click on Amazon Gift Shop. It's really that easy!

Your tour fees are a major 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. Reservations not required.
- Tour time is 9:00 AM Saturday, 1 hr
- $15.00 per child under 10 years
- $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, 1.5 hrs
Saturday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, & 1:30 PM, 1.5 hrs
Guided tour of the sanctuary. Admission is $25.00 per person. Reservations are not required. No children under 10 years of age.

Feeding Tour

Friday and Saturday at dusk. During this tour, you will follow along with two big cat keepers. As you observe the big cats being fed, you will also learn about the cats’ nutritional needs in captivity. Admission is $50.00 per person. No children under 10 years of age. Call for reservations 813-426-5948

Big Cat Keeper Tour

This tour takes you behind the scenes where you will enjoy making enrichment (treats and food puzzles) for the animals. After which you will follow along and watch as the keepers hand out the enrichment you made to the cats. You will also observe special operator training sessions with the big cats. $100.00 per person. The 2 hour Keeper Tour is offered every Saturday as well as the last Friday of the month at 2 PM. No children under 10 years of age. Call for reservations 813-426-5948

Wild Eyes At Night Tour

Night Tours are the best way to see the animals come alive at night! As you journey through the 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. No children under 10 years of age. Call for reservations 813-426-5948

Big Cat Rescue also offers -

WILD WEDDINGS, PRIVATE PARTIES,
VOLUNTEER & INTERNS
AND GIFT CERTIFICATES are available for all of our programs and make the perfect gift for that person who has everything!

NOTICE: Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change.
GIVE A GRRR-EAT GIFT AND SPONSOR A WILD CHILD

Looking for a unique gift for the special someone who has everything? All of Big Cat Rescue's animals are available for "adoption" and with each sponsorship kit you receive an 8x10 photo, special species information packet, purr-sonal stories of the cats at the sanctuary and wildly fun personalized address labels and certificate of "adoption".

Featured "Joseph's Pride" Sponsorship Kit.
Sponsor all of our newly rescued big cats for only $50!

SPONSORSHIP KIT $25 DONATION!
Choose Your Species! Lion, Tiger, Cougar, Black Leopard, Golden Leopard, Bobcat, Ocelot, Snow Leopard, Canadian Lynx, Siberian Lynx, Serval, White Serval, Caracal, Sand Cat, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, Geoffroy Cat. Fill out the order form on page 10.

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The Lizard King meets the Python Bill

Exotic animals are the currency of an underworld as dangerous and lucrative as the drug trade. National Geographic writer Bryan Christy chronicles the rise and fall of a lizard kingpin and the federal agent who pursued him in his latest true life novel, “The Lizard King.” The Van Nostrands’ Strictly Reptiles, an import-export business in Florida, was a multimillion-dollar smuggling operation. The Van Nostrands imported exotic animals of all shapes and sizes, usually concealed in the suitcases or clothing of the mules (ie: smugglers) and sold them to well-known zoos, collectors and pet stores. They exploited loopholes in the international treaty on endangered-species trade and paid off corrupt officials. In the early 1990s, Fish and Wildlife Services agent Chip Bepler set his sights on Mike Van Nostrand. After Bepler’s years of surveillance and hard work, Mike Van Nostrand only served 5 months in prison, his export license was revoked only temporarily, and today Strictly Reptiles is still flooding markets around the country with exotics.

Last year 1,628 of you helped Big Cat Rescue push for a new law in Florida called the Python Bill. It was the first time ever that there was any accountability required for the possession of constrictor snakes. Prior to this bill any child could walk into a pet store and buy a snake the size of a candy cane that would reach 8-10 feet in the first couple of years. The new law went into effect January 2008 thanks to those of you who took the time to write your lawmakers asking for better laws to protect the environment by restricting the dangerous reptile trade. Big Cat Rescue had made the Python bill a priority because it also required that those who exhibit dangerous Class I animals, (lions, tigers, bears, etc.) post a $10,000 bond. Never before was there any requirement for financial accountability in the event of an injury caused by owners of big cats. “The Lizard King” is both entertaining and an excellent expose on the criminal activities you can help us prevent.

BIG CAT RESCUE HITS THE BIG TIME

Big Cat Rescue’s own Scott Lope has recently been featured in several current and upcoming shows. This has been great exposure for BCR to a worldwide audience.

Top Secret Discovery Channel Project

Photo by Scott Lope

Big Cat Rescue’s Director of Operations, Scott Lope, was recently asked to journey to South Africa to be the on-camera animal expert for a new Discovery Channel show about lions. Although we cannot reveal any details about the top-secret contents of the as-yet untitled show, we can tell you that Scott got closer to wild African Lions than he ever expected. Scott says the experience was incredible and gave him a new appreciation for the power and strength of lions. Keep an eye on the website for more details, we will post the air dates and times for the show as soon as they are announced.

Monster Quest

Season two of the History Channel’s “Monster Quest” recently aired an episode entitled “The Beast of Exmoor” about the sightings of large black felines in the British Isles. The show featured BCR’s own Scott Lope as one of the cat experts investigating the sightings. In the freezing rain, Scott trudged through the English countryside setting camera traps and interviewing eye witnesses who claimed to have seen the big cats. The show is airing as part of the current season of “Monster Quest” and is also available for download on iTunes. Scott also appeared on the big cat episode of season one, which is currently available on DVD. After filming the show, Scott was able to travel throughout the U.K., visiting friends as well as former BCR interns. His first stop was to see Amy Norris at the Woburn Safari Park where Amy is a big cat caretaker. Amy and another BCR intern Laura Witheyman gave Scott an incredible tour of the facility. Next stop was a primate sanctuary called Monkey World where yet another former intern, Claudia Perryman, is now employed as a keeper. A trip to the Isle of Wight Zoo and Tiger Sanctuary followed where Scott got to see Rambo, a tiger that was living in a backyard in FL, and had just recently been given a new life at the Tiger Sanctuary. A visit with long-time Big Cat Rescue volunteer Daphne Butters in London concluded Scott’s whirlwind visit to the U.K.

Untamed and Uncut

Big Cat Rescuer Scott Lope found himself in front of the camera for a third time this summer filming two episodes of a new Animal Planet series called Untamed and Uncut. The filming occurred between his adventures in Europe and Africa. This program is currently in heavy rotation on Animal Planet and Scott is featured on the episodes about lions and leopards.

Khan and China Go Wild for Special Enrichment