SWEET SIXTEEN & NEVER BEEN KISSED - SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY AND “KISS” A BIG CAT

Big Cat Rescue is celebrating its sixteen year anniversary of saving big cats. Hundreds of big cats have been rescued thanks to all of you generous supporters out there. More than 100 wild cats residing on the 45-acre sanctuary have been rescued from a multitude of circumstances. Some used to be pets, but became unwanted when their natural instincts surfaced. Some were forced to perform and entertain the paying public. Some were used in laboratory testing and were experimented on. Some were awaiting slaughter for the fur trade. Some were abandoned and left starving when their owners went out of business. Some were “extra” or “surplus” and discarded by the zoo industry. Some outgrew their usefulness when they grew too big to be used for photo opportunities. Some were bred “for conservation”, when in fact there are no programs in existence today to release cats into the wild that were born in captivity. No matter where they came from or how they were treated they have all found sanctuary and are living the good life thanks to you. They do not have to fit into the mold of a pet. They no longer have to perform stupid tricks. They do not have to fear being tested upon. They are free to keep their coats, which look better on them than on any human. They are fed healthy diets and no longer suffer the pangs of hunger. Not a single one is considered “extra” or “surplus”; they are all treasured and treated as if they were the very last of their kind. None of them have to pay their keep.

Big Cat Rescue was founded sixteen years ago this month and to celebrate our anniversary we are going to celebrate the sixteen species of wild cat that reside at the sanctuary. Starting with this issue we will spotlight one of the sixteen species and share the purrr-sonal story of one of the big cats living on Easy Street. Since the Big Cat Times is a quarterly publication we will only be featuring four of the cats in the next four issues. In order to see all sixteen cats, sign up for our monthly E-zine at CatLaws.com. You can help us to continue to provide the very best care for all of the big cats by “Kissing” the featured feline. Make a $10 donation to “Kiss a Big Cat” and as our gift of thanks we will send you a commemorative glossy 8x10 photo of the featured feline like the one shown here. On the photo it will read “(Your Name) Kissed Windsong the Bobcat”. This donation will go directly towards the care of all of the cats living at Big Cat Rescue. Species Spotlight on page 16
On each chair a free gift was waiting. Square One Publishers donated 700 copies of their book, Losing Paradise so that each guest could have a copy.

Doors opened early as guests just couldn’t wait to get the party started and an hour later, after lots of free Toasted Head & Three Blind Moose wines, the wild looking crowd, in all of their great Safari Costume Formal attire, had started to let their hair down.

The superb audio visual crew from AVSS commented that of all the events they do, they are most impressed by how engaged our supporters are. It starts with the attire and costume contests. From animal print accessories to the wild face painting offered by Cat Camp the whole room took on a fantasy form of half human – half big cat. From the sophisticated to the full lion suit, along with temptress lion tamer, there was a look for every one. Photographer Matt Nassiff of Joe Photo Tampa captured priceless images of the guests as they posed for the camera.

Thanks to our awesome Fur Ball committee and an outpouring of generosity from the public our Big Cat Sale, silent and live auction netted over $100,000! Shoppers applauded the fact that there was a range of animal themed items for every budget. When every dollar you spend is saving a big cat’s life, you can find something for everybody on your gift list. From a $10.00 gift basket to a $10,000.00 trip there was something for everyone. Top cat donors included Tom Mitchell, who bid $8,000 for an African safari; Michael Jamison won the Thailand trip for $7,500; and Lance and Karyn Ringhaver paid $2,350 to drive a new Jaguar XF for one month. One $10,000 Paris trip bidder said she’s never done anything like that before, but did because it is “Fur a Good Cause” as our motto goes.
There was cake for everyone too as Cakes on the Dot, Cakes Plus and A Piece of Cake vied for the coveted King of Feasts Award. Cakes Plus won with a cake sculpture of The Tree of Life As It Should Be. The King of Feasts competition was sponsored by Engel & Voelkers. The crowd their votes on taste as well as a contest of form.

Taste and style prevail when A La Carte is in the kitchen. The gourmet dinner was based on traditional African recipes. The desserts are always hand crafted to compliment our theme and this year resembled a little African hut and a starry sky.

No matter where you were in the ballroom you could see the gigantic rotating slide shows that featured our benefactors and helped tell the story of the cats at Big Cat Rescue. People new to our mission reported again and again how important it was to them to know who they were supporting and having the cats images and stories surround them was reassurance that they were helping a great cause.

Those who have come to know and love the cats of the sanctuary wanted to be sure that no cat was left behind and eagerly sought out their favorite cats to purchase their sponsor kits. Outback Steakhouse generously matched each sponsor kit donation.

It is that same commitment to protecting these precious creatures that drew several celebrities and politicians to the Fur Ball. Fox 13’s Cynthia Smoot (our host MC) Russell Rhodes, Mrs. Tampa Carrie Mobley, State Representative Kevin Ambler, and candidates Kevin Beckner and Phyllis Busansky. A number of other celebrities couldn’t be there in person, but wanted to insure that our event was a success and sent autographed items. Cher, Cindy Crawford, Tony Dungy, Derrick Brooks, James Wilder and Cadillac Williams all sent autographed items. The last living Ace, General Ritchie, about whom the movie Top Gun was centered, offered a visit with him in a F-104 as part of one of our live auction items. Our own up and coming star of Animal Planet and Discovery Channel, Scott Lope, auctioned himself off twice raising $2,800.00 for the cats as bidders competed for a private tour of the refuge with Scott.

If it wasn’t enough to own something donated by the stars, Jeff and Brigitte Ajluni donated club seats for the Bucs designed to make you feel like a celebrity yourself. Brigitte’s spectacular costumes always make her a finalist in the costume contest and this year’s Cat Burglar was no exception. The top winner is chosen by chance, in a draw from a deck of cards, and this year’s winner was Roger Hopper of New Port Richey who came as a Big Game Safari Photographer.

This year’s event was to raise funds for the continued care of Joseph’s Pride, a group of 2 lions and 2 tigers rescued last year in Ohio. Their story was woven into every aspect of the event, with the climax coming in Jamie Veronica’s video set to the song Pretty Amazing Grace. Seeing these cats rescued from a life of horrific confinement and them enjoying their new lush environments at Big Cat Rescue touches hearts and inspires us all to do everything we can to protect them.

We could hardly make our way across the room without being surrounded by happy party goers who wanted to say how much fun they were having, how much they love Big Cat Rescue and how they will continue to tell others about the great work and great people. Some said it was their first experience with Big Cat Rescue and they couldn’t wait to tell their friends. Some were returning for their sixth year. Some said they had come in from as far away as Maryland, Virginia and New York just to attend the Fur Ball.

So many guests commented on how wonderful the Fur Ball was. As one donor said, “There are events, and there are great events,” and lifting his hand up the next level to as high as he could reach, he concluded “and then there is the Big Cat Rescue Fur Ball, in a class all by itself, way up at the very top!”

The Volunteer of the Year Award is Big Cat Rescue’s most prestigious award. It is also the hardest award to bestow as we have the best volunteers in the world and so many of them deserve our highest honors and praise. This year’s winner was Becky Gagliardo. She has been cleaning cages and giving tours for 9 and a half years, she has put in over 5,500 hours volunteering, she has a full time job, but faithfully comes out at night to help feed the animals, she is a great role model for new volunteers and interns and she never tires of finding new ways to enrich the lives of the animals at the sanctuary.

The DeLeon Band was rocking right up until midnight and, as tired as all of the volunteers were, we were moving to the beat as we packed up the room around the last of the patrons who were making the most of the dance floor.

The awareness generated by the six Cox Radio Stations, Fox 13, the Maddux Report and the Tampa Tribune is priceless exposure. The good will fostered by American Momentum Bank, Jaguar of Tampa and Teasdale Worldwide and Avant-Golde are enough to make us tearfully grateful. Seeing hundreds of our friends and supporters under one roof is enough to make it all worthwhile. It was a great time for all and we can’t wait to do it again next year!
JUST A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME AND A STAMP ARE ALL IT WILL TAKE TO HELP US SAVE THOUSANDS OF BIG CATS THAT ARE SUFFERING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

It takes years for an issue to move from an idea to a law at USDA but they are asking for our input and we only have until December 22, 2008 to respond. Please cut out the letter below, sign your name and print your full name and address at the bottom and mail to USDA at this address:

Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8
4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Docket No. APHIS-2006-0159

The State of Florida has a disaster plan requirement that is a good starting point.
www.floridaconservation.org/permits/Docs/CWIDisasterPlan.pdf

Big Cat Rescue has documented much needed requirements online at

Both are incorporated by reference in my comments.

This is only the bare minimum however and like any plan is only as good as its implementation. The solution is to end the private possession and trade of exotic cats.

Web site resources on dealing with emergencies involving exotic cats that I would recommend:

http://www.bigcatrescue.org/emergency.htm
http://www.bigcatrescue.org/zzBCRmanual/ANIMALEMERGENCY.htm

Contingency plans should be submitted along with USDA renewals and if found lacking, the USDA license should not be renewed. The disaster that causes hundreds of exotic cats (mostly tigers) to be killed and displaced each year is the lack of financial planning for the life of the animal.

Zoos breed and discard the big cats. Circus acts discard their big cats when they mature and will not perform. Hundreds of big cats are bred for photo booths and petting sessions and discarded when they grow up. Pseudo sanctuaries and hoarders collect big cats to gain public sympathy and support, but the support rarely is sufficient for the next year’s care, so more animals are “rescued” in a reverse pyramid scheme that ultimately collapses. Pet owners buy exotic cats from USDA facilities and yet are almost never willing to provide lifetime care to the animals they buy.

No exotic cat should be taken from his or her primary enclosure, or off site except for the purpose of a scheduled veterinary visit or in the transfer to another licensed facility. No contact should be allowed between the public and any exotic cat. Cages should be built so that they can be safely cleaned. Leashes are for pets, not wild animals.

The solution is to end the breeding and trade of exotic cats. Circus acts that use big cats have already been banned in other countries and it is time they are banned here as well. The public doesn’t want to see it. USDA shouldn’t be using tax payer dollars to allow it.

All humane issues aside, there just is no way to safely contain a dangerous exotic animal and no legitimate reason to be doing so in the first place. Please use this critical time to gather useful information on ways to phase out exotics held captive. Existing animals should be micro-chipped, an accurate census entered into a public database and the animals cared for until they die of old age, but they should not be bred or replaced. It is about time the Animal Welfare Act actually gave the animals some relief from antiquated practices.

Signature: ______________________  ______________________  2008
First Name                                      Last Name

Please Print Full Name & Mailing Address:

Name: _____________________________________________________________
Street: ____________________________________  City: ______________  ST: __________  Zip: __________

HELP US HELP OTHERS LIKE THEM
THEY WERE ABANDONED PETS
THE ROADSIDE FACILITY HE LIVED IN WENT OUT OF BUSINESS
HE WAS DISCARDED ZOO "SURPLUS"
HE WAS FORCED TO PERFORM
HE WAS CHAINED DOWN SO PAYING CUSTOMERS HAVE THEIR PHOTO TAKEN BESIDE HIM
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.

**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 website 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 at right, last year’s 1st Place Winners for each category:
1st Place Wildlife “Snow Leopard and Cub” by Gilbert Butler, Folsom, CA
1st Place Pets “Sitting Pretty for the Camera” by Teri Cooper, Tampa, FL
1st Place Landscapes “Oak Trees in Infrared” by Quayleen Donahue, Tampa, FL

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**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.

**Play Games & More Online**

Hundreds of themed Thanksgiving and Holiday games, puzzles, letters to Santa and more: http://www.bigcatrescue.org/game/gamesholidayfun.htm For even more wild fun visit www.BigCatFun.com

**Watch the Cats on Your Computer - BCR Web Blogs**

BigCatRescue.org/ChatBigCats.htm

BigCatRescue.org/Podcats.htm

**Taking over the world one screen at a time...**
SEASON'S GREEN-INGS - How to reduce waste and give “green gifts” during this holiday season

GIFT WRAP - Wrapping paper is one of the most wasteful elements of the holiday season. Sure, you want the identity of your gift to remain a mystery. So try these clever alternatives to traditional giftwrap; Scarves, old posters and maps, pages from a child’s coloring book taped together, fabric scraps, pictures from magazines, Sunday comic pages, or a present in a present (for example, jewelry in a wooden box, cookies in a reusable tin or cookie jar, barbecue grill utensils or picnic supplies in a tablecloth). If you still find a need for regular gift wrap, make sure it is made from recycled paper.

HOLIDAY PARTIES - Whether you're hosting one or you're attending one this season, there are several ways to reduce party waste.
1. Buy baking goods & snack food in bulk or large volumes.
2. Use reusable tableware; if you don’t have enough, ask to borrow reusable tableware from friends or family.
3. Cut up last year’s holiday cards and use as place cards.
4. Use outdated calendars taped together to make a unique New Year’s tablecloth.
5. Place easily identifiable recycling containers at your celebration so guests can recycle their cans, bottles, etc.
6. Point out the ways your party demonstrates waste reduction and recycling, and SPREAD THE WORD.

GREENER GIFT IDEAS
1. Look for gifts that are unpackaged or minimally packaged, without unnecessary plastic wrap or cardboard backing.
2. Buy durable gifts with long-term warranties.
3. Purchase holiday cards made from recycled paper or make a giant edible cookie holiday card; add a greeting with icing.
4. Help someone recycle – give a can crusher, a set of recycling bins or a recycling cart.
5. Season tickets to a sporting event, membership to a museum or nonprofit organization or tickets to a theme park or the movies.
6. Give a house plant or even better give a garden! Seeds, gloves, tools, etc.
7. Personalized “coupons,” such as a night off from dish duty, a foot massage, baby sitting services etc.
8. Make a donation to a charity in someone’s name.
9. Not sure what to get someone? How about a gift certificate? That way, you know the gift will be kept.

OTHER TIPS TO MAKE THE HOLIDAY SEASON EARTH FRIENDLY:
1. Give rechargeable batteries with electronics, a great gift idea that keeps giving even after the holidays.
2. Take a sturdy canvas bag along during your holiday shopping to eliminate the need for wasteful plastic shopping bags.
3. After the holidays, save packing material, wrapping and tissue paper for reuse.
4. Recycle your tree! Some communities make discarded holiday trees into mulch for use in community parks. Call your county for more information.

GRRR-EAT GIFT IDEAS
Go Green Tree Tee in White
5, M, L & XL $19.05
Go Green Button Tee in Sage
5, M, L & XL $19.05

KIDS 4 CATS
One teenage supporter is changing minds half a world away. When a professor in Hong Kong saw a video on YouTube created by our young friend Marissa he asked if he could use it in his class to teach English through debate of popular topics. Marissa says, “If I can do something like this, you can too! You can do so many things to help animals - create videos like I have, tell everyone you know about why owning exotics is wrong, and always support places that are also trying to spread the word, like Big Cat Rescue. No matter who you are, or where you are from, you can make a difference - both for the cats at Big Cat Rescue, and other cats worldwide!” Watch her video at: http://www.bigcatrescue.org/video/00220.htm

GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA
Big Cat Rescue has a full slate of fun educational activities planned in collaboration with our Girl Scout Council. We have special events planned monthly to benefit the scouts. There will be three special Girl Scout Family Tours offered throughout the year, as well as three “hands on” workshop sessions learning the principles of Enrichment and Operant Conditioning. To learn more check the web site for the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida at www.gswcf.org/calendar.aspx, or contact our Ed Dept at 813-323-3265, education@bigcatrescue.org.

HELP KIDS & BIG CATS
We are all feeling the effects of the troubled economy in our businesses and our personal lives. Unfortunately, in hard times it is often the innocent that suffer the most. Our local public schools are facing sharp budget cuts and all programs beyond core curriculum are on the block. We have already seen a drastic decline in schools visiting the sanctuary compared to prior years. Do you remember the fun and excitement of leaving school for the day and boarding the big yellow bus to a much anticipated adventure?

You probably still can recall some of what you learned on those special outings. Field trips are important learning experiences, inspiring kids toward careers in science, biology, ecology and conservation. At Big Cat Rescue students enjoy learning science in a special way, made memorable by the feelings of actually meeting these magnificent animals up close and in person. For many schools the biggest obstacle now is the cost of transportation. Here’s where you can help! The average bus trip to visit the cats costs about two hundred dollars. By contributing to our “bus fund” your donation can benefit as many as 60 children at one time! Here is another way that our generous supporters make a difference. The children are our future, and the cats have lots to teach them. Help us make sure they can continue to get here to benefit from this unique outdoor learning experience and help the cats at the same time!
Zoo Nebraska was ordered to close in 1990 because of its inadequate cages, but the late Johnny Carson, an animal lover, donated the funds to build a new enclosure for their chimpanzees. In 2005 three of the four chimps were shot to death when they escaped. Zoo Nebraska’s chronic failure to maintain minimum safety standards, caging requirements, and husbandry practices established by the federal USDA’s Animal Welfare Act resulted in 130 citations issued in 16 inspection reports between May 2000 and November 2006. Twenty seven were categorized as repeat non-compliances. Even though the zoo was clearly not in compliance, with even the most minimal requirements, their USDA license was reissued every year until 2006.

Finally USDA refused to reissue their license and demanded that Zoo Nebraska find a suitable home for their six overcrowded big cats. The zoo has been closed to the public for the last three years, has run out of money and is relying on donations of dry dog food to feed their many wolves, coyotes and hoof stock, but big cats won’t eat dog food. The situation is dire and these great cats need your help.

Each big cat will cost us approximately $7,500 per year and these cats are between two and six years old, so multiply that figure by about 15 to know how much it will cost us to take on one big cat for his or her lifetime. This comes at a time when the economy is the worst it has been since our inception. We won’t take in more cats than we can afford to give a lifetime of care because it wouldn’t be fair to our other 134 exotic cats.

We need your help if we are to rescue any of these tigers. Four cats have been placed in facilities across the country, but the last two remain and are in need of a home. Help us rescue them and give them the care they deserve.

- $5000 Feed a Tiger for a Year 24”x24” Sign
- $2500 Feed a Tiger for 6 Months 18”x18” Sign
- $1250 Feed a Tiger for 3 Months 12”x12” Sign
- $500 Feed a Tiger for 1 month 8”x8” Sign

Your sign will be displayed on the rescued tiger’s Cat-a-tat for the duration of your sponsorship. The sign displays the tiger’s name and photo as well your name.

**BIG CAT TV**

Brighthouse Channel 340: If you live in the Tampa bay area, look for Big Cat Rescue videos on Brighthouse Channel 340 in the Pet Performances section. Some of your favorite videos, like Hope the bobcat, are playing there right now. Fill your living room with your favorite big cats and Big Cat Rescuers.

**OUT OF THE OLD - INTO THE NEW** In an ongoing effort to continuously maintain and refurbish our existing enclosures, Big Cat Rescuers shift the cats from their old Cat-a-tats into newly refinished and upgraded enclosures. The latest of the moves came when several older Cat-a-tats were remodeled. The wire was painted with rust proofing paint, new plants were brought in, fresh tree branches for climbing were installed and fill dirt was added to some of the low lying areas. The lucky cats to get new digs included: Mac the cougar, who was the last to join the “cougar area” where all of BCR’s cougars reside, Indian Summer the bobcat, who loves her privacy so she was moved to an enclosure thick with palmetto bushes and Cybil the serval was moved into a sunnier location. Even some “non-cats” got recent upgrades with Papa Bear the Coati Mundi being relocated to a much more forested enclosure and Baby Cakes the genet moving into a much larger and grassier enclosure complete with tunnels and a rock wall with ledges to lounge upon. Now that all their old cages are empty let the work continue...

**HOW LONG IS TOO LONG FOR A TIGER TO SUFFER?**

In our previous issues we told you about Hope, a baby bobcat, who was found orphaned just a 15 minute drive from Big Cat Rescue on May 3rd. Hope was estimated to be about two weeks old when she arrived. She was still nursing so Big Cat Rescue found a domestic cat foster family for her. She was cared for and bonded to her new foster family and Big Cat Rescuers kept their contact with her to the bare minimum in hopes that she would remain fearful of humans so that one day she could be released back into the wild. Hope was quickly accepted into her foster family and the group transitioned from living inside of the onsite cat hospital to outdoors full-time in the rehab enclosure. Upon their move outside, the family found many things to keep themselves entertained, climbing trees and romping in bushes all day long. They were the perfect family, that was until Hope started to outgrow her siblings. The time to separate the family had come. Thankfully Momma Cat, Maxwell and Indy all found great homes and are now living it up in the lap of luxury. They are all famous cats after having been costars of more than a dozen pod-cats that chronicled Hope’s saga. At first Hope was lonely and called out for her lost family throughout the day. But like any wild animal she soon adapted and has taken on the role of solitary bobcat with a fur-ocious swagger. She has also developed the quite the skills when it comes to hunting. She is fed a live prey diet now that at the moment consists of just rats, but will soon also include rabbits and turkey. The rats are fed to her through a tunnel system where Keepers can drop the rat into the end of the tunnel and leave. From there the rat must travel through fifty feet of tunnels that eventually exit into the rehab enclosure. Since the rat can travel at it’s own pace, Hope must be ever on the alert surveying her territory for prey. This specialized feeding system also helps separate the association of humans and food. Hope has also recently noticed Ace, another rehab bobcat, who lives next door. The two are often spotted lying at the sides of their enclosures near one another. Hope will live out the remainder of her rehabilitation in her spacious rehab enclosure and she will be fed a diet of live prey every day so that she can fine tune her skills. Her release date has been set for April of 2009. Releasing her in the spring time will gently ease her into a life in the wild. The weather will be mild, there will be more cover to conceal herself with the new growth and there will be an abundance of new born prey that have not completely developed the skills of concealment and eluding predators. Stay tuned to see how Hope progresses over the next five months and how she copes with her first winter. You can watch Hope’s life story unfold from the day she arrived at Big Cat Rescue at www.ChatBigCats.com
THE BIG CAT TRADING POST - SHOPPING GUIDE

Gift that keep on giving this holiday season. By purchasing the gifts on these pages not only will you be giving a truly unique gift, but the proceeds help us care for all of the big cats living at Big Cat Rescue. Order these gift items using the order form on page 12. 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.

Stocking stuffers - stocking stuffers - stocking stuffers - stocking stuffers - stocking stuffers

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

Grassroots Creations Beaded Figure & Key Rings
Key Rings - Rainbow Lion, Lion, Chameleon, or Dragon Fly $8.42 each
Figure - 4” Lion or Tiger $20.12 each

Photo Magnets and Key Rings Choose Any Species at BCR: Lion, Tiger, White Tiger, Leopard, Black Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cougar, Bobcat, Siberian Lynx, Canada Lynx, Serval, Ocelot, Caracal, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Geoffroy Cat, Sand Cat
Magnet $5.68 or Key Ring $5.21

Photo Buttons Choose Ocelot, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Serval or Lion $3.14 each

Handpainted Acrylic Lion or Tiger Key Ring $6.21

Photo Luggage Tags Choose Tiger, Black Leopard, White Tiger, Lion, Cougar or Snow Leopard $4.75 each

Leopard or Tiger Plush with BCR Logo Tee $11.56

Leopard or Tiger Plush with BCR Logo $13.77

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

Leopard Print Tote w/ Wooden Handle $17.98

Tote Bags with Embroidered BCR Logo, Bag Folds Into Smaller Bag
Black Tote $32.96
Leopard Print Tote $29.75

Gray Cinch Tote with Embroidered BCR Logo in Blue $29.75

BCR Waist Bag $17.98

Khaki Green Field Bag Embroidered BCR Logo $29.75

Leopard Print Tote w/ Wooden Handle $17.98

Lighten Tote w/ BCR Logo $20.12

Leopard Print Tote w/ BCR Logo $29.75

Jungle Jam Puzzle 399 pc. 17”x26” $15.84

Really Wild Bingo Includes Electronic Caller That Names Animals and Plays Their Sounds $15.84

Wood Box w/ BCR Logo Alone $13.77

Wood Box w/ BCR Logo w/ Dominoes $14.77

Wood Box w/ BCR $10.49

Scramble Square Puzzle. Easy to Play, but Hard to Solve. Rocky Mtn Wildlife, Cats, or Squirrels $10.63

Themed Monopoly Board Games Choose Animalopoly, Earthopoly, or Catopoly $26.54 Each

Jigsaw Puzzles Circle Biodiversity Puzzle 800 pc. 19”x34” $17.98

Jungle Jam Puzzle 399 pc. 17”x26” $15.84

Really Wild Bingo Includes Electronic Caller That Names Animals and Plays Their Sounds $15.84

Wood Box w/ BCR Logo $10.49

Wooden Solitaire Peg Game w/ BCR Logo $14.77

Wood Box w/ BCR Logo w/ Dominoes $14.77
BIG CAT clothing & accessories

**BCR Logo Fitted Tank**
- Black, Pink, or Blue
  - S, M, L, XL: $19.05

**BCR Savannah Silhouette Tee**
- Chestnut, Tan, Leaf or Blue
  - S, M, L, XL, XXL, & XXXL: $24.40

**NEW ITEM!**
**Moisture Wicking Logo Tee**
with Cats of BCR Image on Back,
- Choose: Khan & China, Lynx, Cougars, Leopards, Cam & Zabu, or The Small Cats
  - S, M, L: $35.10

**Animal Tracks Sleepwear**
- Nightgown, 1 Size: $21.19
- Boxer: S, M, L, XL: $15.84
- Pants: S, M, L, XL: $21.19

**Gray Life Guard Tee**
- Navy Image

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

**Haunting Eyes Tee, Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve**
- African Lion or Ocelot
  - S, M, L, XL, & XXL: $24.40

**Top Cat Tee, Black w/ Logo on Sleeve**
- S, M, L, XL, XXL & XXXL: $24.40

**Big Cat Paws Socks**
- Size 6-9
  - Choose Lion, Tiger, or Leopard: $10.49

**Animal Print Socks**
- Size 6-9
  - Choose Tiger or Leopard: $10.49

**Animal Print Headband w/ Scarf**
- Choose Zebra, Leopard, or Snow Leopard: $7.28

**Adjustable Cap, Navy**
- $24.40

**Flex-Fit Cap, Olive or Pink**
- $24.40

**Baseball Cap, Logo, Black**
- $17.98

**Visor, Logo, Adjustable, Khaki**
- $15.84

**The Pride Rules Tee**
- Tan with Logo on Sleeve
  - S, M, L & XL: $24.40

**BCR Logo Mens Muscle Shirt**
- Orange, Royal Blue, or Black
  - S, M, L: $19.05

**BCR Logo Mens Muscle Shirt**
- Orange, Royal Blue, or Black
  - S, M, L: $19.05

**Hot Pink Logo Tank with Brown Logo & Trim**
  - S, M, L, XL: $22.26

**Animal Tracks Sleepwear**
- Nightgown, 1 Size: $21.19
- Boxer: S, M, L, XL: $15.84
- Pants: S, M, L, XL: $21.19

**Moisture Wicking Logo Tee**
with Cats of BCR Image on Back,
- Choose: Khan & China, Lynx, Cougars, Leopards, Cam & Zabu, or The Small Cats
  - S, M, L: $35.10

**WHERE’S THE PRIDE ZABU**
- White Tiger Tee
  - Black or White: S-XL: $31.89

**Animal Print Headband w/ Scarf**
- Choose Zebra, Leopard, or Snow Leopard: $7.28

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

**BCR Savannah Silhouette Longsleeve Tee**
- Prairie Dust or Indigo
  - S, M, L, XL, XXL & XXXL: $24.40

**The Snow Leopard Trust**
**Wool Beanies and Scarves**
- Beanies, Marroon, Navy, or Natural: $20.26
- Scarf, Natural: $20.26
BIG CAT RESCUE KID TEES - BIG CAT RESCUE KID TEES - BIG CAT RESCUE KID TEES

- Tiger Kids Tee
  - Lime Green or Orange
  - XS, S, M & L $13.70

- Four Big Cat Portrait Kids Tee, Orange Tie Dye
  - w/ Logo on Back
  - S, M, L & XL $16.91

- Mother & Cubs Kids Tee, Purple Tie Dye
  - w/ Logo on Back
  - S, M, L & XL $16.91

- "I'm A Tiger" Kids Tee
  - Gray w/ BCR on Front
  - XS, S, M & L $16.91

- Leopard & Cub Kids Tee, Blue Tie Dye
  - w/ Logo on Back
  - S, M, L & XL $16.91

BIG CAT TOYS & GAMES - BIG CAT TOYS & GAMES - BIG CAT TOYS & GAMES - BIG CAT TOYS & GAMES

- 12" Plush Tory Tiger or Lory Leopard $13.70
- African Animal Action Figure Set
  Also Available: Asian or Rainforest $15.84
- Magnet Puzzles Each w/ 12" Magnetic Surface and Educational Poster. Choose Animal w/ 26 Magnets, Endangered Species w/ 18 Magnets, or Coloring Zoo w/ 14 Magnets & Markers $19.05 each
- Travel Around The World 10" travel case with world map, stickers, and either tiger or lion flopsie $17.98

BIG CAT STUFFED ANIMALS - BIG CAT STUFFED ANIMALS - BIG CAT STUFFED ANIMALS

- 12" Snow Leopard Cuddlekin $15.84
- 5" Snow Leopard Itsy Bitsy $8.35
- "Luther" Bobcat Flopsie $13.70
- 12" Nature Baby Cougar $13.70
- 14" Nature Baby Cougar $13.70
- "Leonardo" Lion $13.70
- "Leonardo" Lion $13.70
- 11" Fuzzy Fella Leopard or Tiger $13.70
- 12" Plush Tory Tiger or Lory Leopard $13.70

- Magnetic Clingers Choose Cougar, Lion, Lynx, or Tiger $8.42
- "Pully Pals. Choose Leopard or Lion, w/ Logo Bandana $14.77
- Itsy Bitsy Plush Key Ring, Snow Leopard $6.28
- "Lusaka" Leopard $22.26
- "Ebon" Black Leopard $22.26
- 6" Flopsie Babies Choose Leopard, Lioness, Tiger or Black Leopard $13.70
- Travel Around The World 10" travel case with world map, stickers, and either tiger or lion flopsie $17.98
Round Back Pillow
Choose Tiger or Leopard $10.56

Beach Towels w/ embroidered BCR logo, Tiger, Leopard Hug, Black Leopard, or 2 Leopards $19.05

The Big Cat Picture, 60 min. video about exotic cats in the wild and those at BCR. Covers 19 species
DVD $24.40 VHS $7.28

Handpainted BCR Mousepads Choose Tiger, Cougar, Caracal, Two Tigers, Serval, Cougar Cubs, or Siberian Lynx $15.84

What Animals Teach Us by Mary Hessler Key Ph.D
Life lessons from our pets $13.70

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. $15.84

Losing Paradise by Paul G. Irwin A Chilling Look at the Mounting Signs of Disaster & What We Can Do $17.98

What Animals Teach Us by Mary Hessler Key Ph.D
Life lessons from our pets $13.70

The Ultimate Guide to Big Cat Rescue, features a B&W photo of every cat living at the sanctuary, their bio & species information $23.40

Handpainted BCR Coasters Choose any 4: Tiger, Cougar Babies, Cougar Adults, Ocelot, Black Leopard, Snow Leopard, Bobcat, Serval, Sand Cat, Lion, Leopard, Two Tigers, or Lynx $23.40 Set of 4 with Stand

Armani the Leopard Journal with BCR Logo on Cover $13.70

Jaguar Coffees Choose Whole Bean: Jaguar, Cheetah or Mystic Tiger or Choose Ground: Mtn. Cougar or Lion Blend $12.63

BCR Magnetic Car Ribbon $8.35

Vehicle Vanity Plates Choose Snow Leopard, Tiger Smile, Tiger, Leopard, Lion or Snow Leopard $11.56

Wild Activity Books
Choose African Wildlife, Australian Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Wildlife or Dinosaurs. Books Include: Fun Educational Games & Cool Activities for Kids of All Ages. $9.49

The Tiniest Tiger by Joanne McGonagle Follow the Adventure of a Kitten as it Meets the Big Cats $13.70

Cats that Roar Note Cards Set of 20 cards $15.84

The Tiger Card is Shere Khan

The Tiniest Tiger by Joanne McGonagle Follow the Adventure of a Kitten as it Meets the Big Cats $13.70

Wooden Gifts with BCR logo burned into the wood

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

BCR Logo Lip Balm Choose Peppermint, Citrus or Vanilla $3.63

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

Golf Club Cover $25.47 BCR Golf Ball $6.28

Photo License Frame Featuring the BCR Cats & Logo $7.35

Ornaments $11.10 ea. Wool Toy Mouse $8.35 ea.

Snow Leopard Trust Wool Plush 21” $23.33
Yaki-Sac $9.42

Snow Leopard Trust Tote $24.54

Long Legged Tiger w/ Logo Bandana $21.26
Bobcat w/ Logo Tee $17.98

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

BCR Patch $5.28 BCR Pin $5.28

BCR Golf Ball $6.28

Golf Club Cover $25.47
THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM

Date: ____________________________

Billing Address
Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City ______________________________________ Zip __________

Day Time Phone ____________________________ Evening Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Recipient Address (if different than Billing) Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City ______________________________________ Zip __________

Day Time Phone ____________________________ Evening Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Description Qty Size Price Each Total
KISS WINDSONG 8X10 GLOSSY PHOTO $10.00

Yes! I would like to make a donation to obtain the Birdies 20% Match (SEE NOTE) $ ____________________________

Yes! I would like to make a donation towards the kids busing funds $ ____________________________

I want to join the automatic giving program, please charge my card each month $ ____________________________

Yes, I would like to make a receipt for tax purposes

Method of Payment
Check Money Order
Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Number ____________________________
Exp. Date MMYY ____________________________

Yes, I would like priority shipping for an additional charge of $3.00 $ ____________________________

Grand Total $ ____________________________

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

Brief message to say: _______________________________________________________________

Special Comment, Request, Personalizations or Questions: _______________________________________________________________

Automatic Giving Program
Big Cat Rescue makes it easy and convenient to donate monthly with no worry. You can do this either by credit card or by direct debit to a checking account for as little as $5/month. For credit card donations, just fill in the highlighted line on the order form above and provide your credit card information. For checking account direct debit visit www.bigcatrescue.org/AutoPay.htm, email finance@bigcatrescue.org, or leave a message for Howard at 813-920-4130. This is a G-R-R-eat way to spread out your donations and provide steady support that is so meaningful for the cats.

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 Comment, Request, Personalizations or Questions: _______________________________________________________________

WILD WEDDINGS, PRIVATE PARTIES, VOLUNTEER & INTERN 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.

Now You Can Do All of Your Holiday Shopping from the Comfort of Your Own Home

All of your favorite BCR merchandise is just a click away. You can find purr-fect gifts for everyone. 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 hand written card.

In This Tough Economy You Can Help At No Extra Cost!

The difficult economy has many people cutting back on discretionary expenses. One great way to still help is to do it through the purchases you still do decide to make. If you are still sending gift cards or making purchases of the many items sold on Amazon, you can help the cats without spending a penny more than you were planning to. On our website select “shop” and then click on Amazon.

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 everyday 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 -

**NOTICE:** Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change.
FOREVER REMEMBERED

One of the hardest parts of operating a sanctuary is saying goodbye to the cats that we have grown so attached to when they pass on. Each and every cat has not only touched our lives, but yours as well. On this page, we will celebrate the lives of those we have lost in recent times.

Auroara Female Tiger 1996-2008

Chuffing is usually associated with being a happy tiger greeting, but tigers also chuff when they are scared and looking for reassurance. Auroara chuffed more than any tiger I have ever known and most of the time she was happily chuffing as she would approach a keeper or a tour. She seemed to love people and just couldn’t get enough attention. Everyone was her friend. She was probably one of the happiest cats at the sanctuary. Being gloriously happy in a cage is not the sign of being at peace with her lot in life as much as being a symptom of her mental retardation due to the inbreeding that produced her. You could see the inbreeding in Auroara’s every feature; she was lame in the hips, cross eyed, she drooled, she was uncoordinated and she was prone to seizures. She was a tiny thing, only a few weeks old when she arrived at the sanctuary and has only been treated with love and kindness, but she was a fearful little tiger. She was bred by those in the business of taking big cats to schools, carnivals, fairs and parking lots. It was at their facility that I saw some of the most grotesquely deformed tigers because of their inbreeding to create a white coat color.

We made a lot of stupid mistakes up until 1997 and most of what I am about to tell you are things I would never do now that I know better. Auroara was raised with Jumanji and Black Majik the black leopards, but even though she was bigger than they were there were two of them and that arrangement didn’t last long. Living in my bedroom didn’t last long either for the three as they quickly outgrew the space. When they were big enough to stay outside in their cat-a-tats all night the leopards were happy to do so. Auroara wasn’t afraid of the dark, but she was afraid of thunder. She was terrified of stormy weather, unlike all of our other tigers who seem to think it is the gods doing a light show for them. I kept trying to help her work through the fear, often sitting out in the rain with her, but just as often as not would give in and both of us would climb into bed, sopping wet and exhausted from the ordeal. She came to love the hair dryer (for obvious reasons) and reveled in having the wind in her face. I could turn a floor fan on and she would sit there, nose into the wind, for hours. She loved to swim too, if you could call that swimming. It looked more like drowning, but as long as she wasn’t in over her head, she seemed to really enjoy thrashing about in the lake. She did get in over her head once and sunk like a stone. I dove in after her and reaching the bottom of the lake pushed up hard with my legs to get us both back up to the surface. She wrapped her paws around me, holding on as tight as she could. My arms were pinned to my side and she outweighed me by a good bit. Pound for pound tigers are 12 times stronger than a person. I couldn’t free my arms to swim with her and we sunk again. Each time we would sink to the bottom of the hole I would bend my knees to push up as hard as I could back to the surface hopping and gasping each time we broke the surface until I was able to get us back on the shore. We laid there in the sand, and in between gasps for air, Auroara chuffed continuously for assurance. I promised to never take her swimming outside of her shallow section of the lake again.

Last week as I was doing my walkabout I saw Auroara walking down to the lake, wailing at the top of her voice. That was something I had not heard her do in many years. When I called to her she turned and trotted up chuffing frantically. Something was up, but I didn’t know what. She looked fine but she didn’t eat that night or the next night. I thought this may be the onslaught of another of her epileptic episodes and the next day she was sleeping most of the day. While sitting with her I noticed what had looked like a fold in her skin was actually a lump. When she would lay in just the right position I could see that it was about the size of a grapefruit, cut in half. Dr. Wynn biopsied the lump and then began the days of fretting over whether or not it would be cancer. The sample went in on a Friday and the results came in the following Tuesday. Over the weekend we tried everything to get her to eat. She would get up and drink on her own and when it rained she would heave herself to her feet to go in her den. Her pain was obvious, despite being given medication to ease it. All the while though, she chuffed. Others were hopeful that she would be okay, because she was chuffing. She was happy, right? I hoped so too, but I knew how often Auroara would chuff when she was unsure...when she needed reassurance that all would be okay. Her lab reports confirmed our worst fears. Auroara had an untreatable form of cancer that affects the blood vessels and causes them to rupture throughout the body, causing internal bleeding. The mass on her side, was just the first and most obvious. It would only get worse from here and we decided to end her suffering as soon as we knew there was nothing more we could do for her. Making that call usually falls to me and I do so based upon the advice of our vets, but I am usually not involved in the sad process from that point forward. Unless the cat in question is one who particularly needs me, the staff finds it easier to do their job without my crying. Auroara’s chuffing told me that she needed me to be there. It reinforced what I know to be true about the dedication of those who never get out of this dreadful procedure. Dr. Wynn, Scott Lope and Jamie Veronica are almost always the ones who have to do what is most merciful and yet most gut wrenching. They have to stuff down their emotions and stay clear-headed and strong through ending the lives of the animals they love. What greater love is there than this?

When I feel the wind in my face, or hear the thunder roar I will always think of Auroara. It will be a reminder to me to be fearless for the cats so that we can end the abuse.

- Carole Baskin CEO of Big Cat Rescue
**SHADOW Male Cougar**
8/1/1993 - 10/2/2008

Shadow came to Big Cat Rescue with his companion, Sugar. He was a product of the pet trade and came here on 8/2/98. Their owner had become ill and, when Shadow and Sugar knocked out a window of his mobile home in an attempt to escape, he decided that he could no longer care for them.

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**SHILOH Male Bobcat**
1/1/1989 - 10/14/2008

Shiloh came to Big Cat Rescue along with Indian Summer. Their former owner was a cat breeder in Davie, Florida who decided that she wanted to redo her garden and the cats were in the way.

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**MOCHA Female Bearcat**
1999 - 8/28/2008

Mocha the Bearcat, or Binturong was born to a elderly pair who had lived together for several years with out producing any cubs. Then one day a surprise: Mocha. She loved to climb high up in the trees.

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**20% MATCH FOR LIMITED TIME!**
$45,530 SUBMITTED - $29,470 MORE NEEDED

The Transitions Championship PGA tournament held at Innisbrook Resort in March 2009 has a wonderful matching donation program for qualifying nonprofits like Big Cat Rescue known as “Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities”. Each donation sent to their 501c3 nonprofit on behalf of Big Cat Rescue is returned to us WITH A 20% ADDITIONAL DONATION ADDED. For example, your $100 donation generates $120 for the cats! Minimum donation is $10. Birdies will allow us to submit up to $75,000 to the program, generating matching funds of $15,000 at 20%. Thanks to the generous donors below we have already submitted $45,530.

**Reitzel Foundation - Plante Moran Trust $25,000**
**Berwind Corporation $10,000**
**Sprottino Foundation $5,000**
**Bank of Florida $2,500**
**Adventure Outfitters $1,500**
**Deborah Albert M.D. $1,000**
**R. J. Fisher Trust $300**
**Paul & Nicki Lyford $125**
**Jennifer Jones $100**
**Dorothy Mitchell $50**
**R. J. Fisher Trust $300**
**Stacy Avila $25**
**Theodore H. Mallach $10**

**TOTAL $45,530**

We have $29,470 to go to take full advantage of these matching funds. The full $15,000 match would feed three of our big cats for a year. Every donation helps. If you are contemplating a year end donation, this is a great way to leverage it to have more impact. In addition, there is a contest to see who can guess how many total birdies will be scored by all of the players added up. In past years this has been 1000-1300. Proceeds will go to support the two lions and two tigers we call Joseph’s Pride, rescued from Ohio where they had been defanged and used for photo opportunities.

**IMPORTANT:** If you would like to donate by check, it must be made out to: TRANSITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP. Just cut out the form below, fill in the blanks including your guess on how many birdies, and mail it to Big Cat Rescue, 12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625. To donate by credit card, you can either fill in the form and mail it to the same address, or you can donate online at www.BigCatRescue.org/Birdies.htm.

**THANKS FOR HELPING US OBTAIN THESE MATCHING FUNDS!**

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**YEAR END DONATIONS CAN LOWER YOUR 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.

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**BIRDIES FOR TAMPA CHARITIES** - You can get your donation matched by 20% with this program.

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**WALL FUND** - Make a donation to this fund to help us replace our chain link perimeter fences with a solid concrete wall. An $100 donation will build one linear foot of wall. Donors will be listed on a sign in order of the number of feet they have sponsored. On the order form on page 12 please 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).

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**MEMBERSHIPS** - Join as a member of Big Cat Rescue and receive a special packet for each membership level.

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

- Animal Lover $30
- Forest Friend $50
- Wildlife Protector $150
- Habitat Defender $500
- Explorer $1,000
- Pride $5,000
- King of the Jungle $10,000

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BOBCAT - LYNX RUFUS

Common Name: Bobcat
Genus: Felinae (Lynx)
Species: rufus
Sub-Species: L.r. escuinapae--Mexican bobcat

Misc.: This cat is named for its short tail. The bobcat has only 28 teeth compared to a domestic cat that has 30 teeth.

Size and Appearance: The bobcat is a medium sized cat with a ruff of fur around the sides of the face. They weigh between 13-30 pounds, stand 21 inches high and are 30-50 inches long. The bobcats in the North tend to be larger than those in the South. Their coat color varies and has been recorded in shades of light gray, yellowish-brown, buff-brown, and reddish-brown. They are always spotted to some extent, with some patterned only on the undersides, and others having spots on the sides and chest back too. The southern bobcats seem to have a more spotted coat, with the spots being much smaller than the northern cats. Both melanistic and albinistic bobcats have been reported, but the melanistic ones have only occurred in Florida. They are often confused with their larger feline cousin the lynx, but can be easily distinguished by their tail tips. Being black all the way around, the tail of the lynx looks as though it was dipped in an inkwell, whereas the bobcat’s tail appears to have been painted black on top and white on the bottom.

Habitat: Boreal and coniferous mixed forests, hardwood forest, coastal swamps, desert and scrub land.

Distribution: United States and Southern Canada.

Reproduction and Offspring: After a gestation of approximately 50-70 days, females produce a litter of 1-8 kittens, with the average being 2-3. They weigh 9.75-12 ounces at birth and will open their eyes at around 6 days. They are weaned between 3-4 months of age, and reach sexual maturity around 12 months for females, and 24 months for males. In the wild, bobcats live 12-13 years, and in captivity, they have lived over 23.

Social System and Communication: Solitary. Male territories will overlap that of many females, and even to some extent another male’s, but female territories are exclusive. Males and females only come together at the breeding season, which is December to April.

Hunting and Diet: The four species of lynx are the foremost predators of hares and rabbits. Where rabbits are few, bobcats live on a diet of rodents and birds. They are also significant predators of white-tailed deer in some areas.

Principal Threats: This little cat was the most heavily harvested and traded member of the cat family for the past 20 years. In the 1970’s, when CITES went into effect and the pelts of the Appendix 1 cats became illegal and unobtainable, the price offered to trappers for a bobcat pelt went from $20.00 to $600.00. This also caused the number of bobcats killed annually to rise from 10,000 to over 90,000 by the 1980s. Thankfully, the interest in bobcat pelts today is declining due to international awareness of the cruel methods of trapping and due to prohibitions against the trade of animals trapped using these methods. Bobcats also battle the ever growing human population and its destruction of all habitat in its path. According to 2001 statistics provided from actual sales of hunting permits, over 40,000 bobcats are still being killed each year. This figure does not include all the bobcats killed by hunters who do not buy licenses nor report their kills.

Less than 6% of our population are hunters but they kill over 100 million animals each year for sport.

Felid TAG 2000 recommendation: Bobcat (Lynx rufus). Many bobcats are present in zoos in numbers that are deleterious to other RCP species. Although the TAG recognizes that bobcats have an important role in regional theme exhibits, it is suggested that AZA holders help reduce the North American population from more than 125 individuals to 0. For zoogeographic exhibits, the TAG suggests that institutions consider exhibiting Canadian lynx, rather than bobcats. If theme dictates bobcat exhibition, animals should be acquired from other AZA institutions or from sanctuary or rescue organizations. No breeding is recommended. At the Annual AZA Conference (September 1999), the bobcat was recommended for Phase-Out due to commonality in nature.

How rare is this cat? The International Species Information Service lists 265 living in captivity worldwide that are registered with accredited zoos and sanctuaries, 35 of which live at Big Cat Rescue.

Big Cat Rescue’s Family of Bobcats: Most of our bobcats were rescues from fur farms. The deal our Co-Founder made with the three U.S. fur farms we discovered was that he would pay top dollar for every cat and kitten they had, as long as the fur farmer would agree to never buy and breed cats again for slaughter. This came at a time when public opinion was against the fur industry. Many of these animals were purchased at auctions where the unscrupulous owners were dumping the cats with no concern about their welfare. There is much controversy over whether we did the right thing by paying the ransom for these cats. We still accept many unwanted cats each year, but do not pay for them and typically require that their owner surrender their license, in an attempt to keep people from trading in their cats each year for a newer, cuter cub. We have to turn away many cats each year due to a lack of space and funds and the lack of regulation of the exotic pet trade.

WINDSONG Female Northern Bobcat Born 4/30/92
On November 5, 1992 Windsong was discovered at the Woods and Waters Auction, an annual auction of exotic animals attended by breeders and dealers. She was six months old, on a leash, and being held by her owner in a room full of noisy people and animals. She was obviously terrified. Her owner said she had been his wife’s pet that she didn’t want any more and he was here to get rid of her. She immediately stole the heart of BCR’s Founder, who decided to purchase the bobcat. Windsong taught her more about wild animals than she had ever known, in a very short time. She shattered all of her preconceptions about the emotional nature of wild cats. It had been rumored that if a wildcat was bottle raised that it would bond to its caretaker. The following spring, she drove to Minnesota to pick up two bobcats, two Canadian lynx, and two Siberian lynx to bottle raise. When the breeder turned out to be a fur farmer she came home with all 56 cats! We have since learned that bobcats make awful pets. As much as we love each and every one of ours, they all bite and they all spray. Watching these cats and how they interact with one another and with their environment it has become undeniable evident that these cats do not belong in captivity. Big Cat Rescue was started because of one single cat, Windsong.

Clockwise from top left: Precious, Windstar northern bobcat & Anasazie southern bobcat show coat and size differences, Windsong, Moses & Ana playing, Running Bear yawning