THE NEWEST ARRIVAL AT BIG CAT RESCUE IS AN AFRICAN SERVAL

An African Serval was limping along in the Arizona desert until she collapsed alongside a road. She had almost completely given up the will to live. She was probably a pet or perhaps used in the hybrid breeding scheme that has become all the rage where Servals are bred to domestic house cats to produce Savannah Cat hybrids. The domestic cats are often killed in the process. The kittens sell for thousands of dollars, but when they mature they typically spray and bite and make awful pets. The hybrids are usually discarded by the time they are two or three years old.

This Serval was obviously abandoned and was placed by authorities at the Tucson Wildlife Center, a non-profit sanctuary dedicated to native wildlife. Lisa Bates-Lininger the founding president of the Tucson Wildlife Center said, “She was dehydrated and tired and just ready to give up. She may have died that night, but luckily we got her in time. We got her emergency treatment, fluids for shock, and she was also missing a rear leg.”

Despite 18 media posts including TV news in Tucson and a post on Craig’s list looking for the owner no one admits to having abandoned this Serval to die in the desert. Thanks to some of our very generous supporters the serval was flown to her new permanent home at Big Cat Rescue where she is recovering well. Servals can live into their late teens and proper care costs thousands of dollars each year. Her new 1,200 square foot Cat-a-tat had to be specially modified to accommodate her three legged hopping. It seems that she only recently lost her leg as she has a very difficult time keeping her balance. We are writing vets in the Tucson area to find out if any of them know what tragedy caused her to lose a limb and to see if there is any way to prosecute those who exposed her to such danger.

This female serval needs a name. You can submit your favorite name to the “Name that Serval” contest for $1 per entry. You may enter as often as you like. Fill out the order form on page 15 to enter and be sure to print clearly. For more details and a video of our newest rescue visit us online at: http://bit.ly/45ou2u or BigCatRescue.org/2009ServalRescue.htm


THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE BIG CAT TIMES!

We tremendously enjoy keeping those who care about the cats informed about our most recent rescues like this Serval and about what happens at the sanctuary like Freckles’ surgery. But as we implement new software to manage the mail list, we would like to limit the Big Cat Times mail list to those who wish to receive it. If you would like to continue to receive the Big Cat Times by regular mail, please either email us at BigCatTimes@BigCatRescue.org or cut out your address in the box to the left and mail it to us using the enclosed envelope. Alternatively, the Big Cat Times is also now available in a very cool online format where the pages actually turn on your computer screen. You can see this issue at: http://www.BigCatRescue.org/000news/BCT/2009BigCatTimes4.htm

If you would like to receive that version instead of the paper one, which gets it to you sooner, please let us know at the email address above.
2009 FUR BALL
MASK-GRRR-ADE
A ROARING SUCCESS!

There were nearly 600 supporters at the 10th annual Fur Ball and they all came out in big ways to show their love of the big cats.

The 2009 Fur Ball netted over $90,000! This is a huge accomplishment given the current state of the economy and was a wonderful surprise and will really help the big cats.

Guests were in awe as they were transported to a beautiful jungle setting thanks to the decor and creative talents of the A La Carte staff.

Celebrity host Cynthia Smoot from Fox 13 and Big Cat Rescue’s Scott Lope spoke of recent rescues and the great work being accomplished by staff and volunteers.

Thanks to the efforts of several volunteers the silent auction was a smashing success with over 371 items donated.

Guests enjoyed complimentary wines and champagne all evening thanks to the generous donation by Barefoot Wines & Bubbly.

The costume contest was a favorite activity of the evening and the winner was especially surprised when he drew the high card.

The drumming circle got really wild. Guests pounded away, while others danced.

The DeLeon Band kept the wild crowd moving and grooving all night. So much so, that they had to tell all of the partiers to “go home” at midnight as the dance floor was still hopping!

Fur Ball volunteers could hardly make their way across the room without being surrounded by party goers who wanted to say how much fun they were having, how much they loved Big Cat Rescue and all the great work the sanctuary does.
Brigitte Ajluni never fails to impress with her creative costumes year after year. And unfortunately she has yet to draw the high card in the costume contest. This year’s costume was especially memorable. Brigitte created a dress using big cat T-shirts! Great job Brigitte!
FRECKLES THE LIGER NEEDED A TOOTH FAIRY

AND THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORTERS SHE GOT ONE

On October 21st Rescuers gathered in the early morning hours to prepare for Freckle’s tooth surgery. The cat hospital was prepped and cleaned, the transport cage was ready to roll and the tranquilizing darts were loaded and in hand. After being darted, Freckles fell sound asleep in her

Cat-a-tat. She was then transported in a wheeled cage to the West Boensch Cat Hospital onsite. Before lifting her onto the operating table, Rescuers weighed the massive liger to find she weighs 430 pounds! The large cat barely fit on the operating table. She was intubated and put on anesthesia by Dr. Liz Wynn DVM and monitored by tech specialist Ashley Joyce VSN of Ehrlich Animal Hospital. The surgery was performed by Dr. Michael Peak DVM and his assistant Connie Kostoff CVT of Tampa Bay Veterinarian Dentistry. The entire procedure lasted a few hours and focused on her four canine teeth, all of which she had broken off at her previous home. In the end, three of the teeth were repaired and one was extracted. Rescuers are relieved that Freckles has had this much needed surgery and have high hopes that she will be feeling much better now.

BE EXTRAORDINARY

Exciting News! Last month Big Cat Rescue launched a profile on The Extraordinaries new micro-volunteering platform, as part of their fall pilot program. The Extraordinaries is one of the hottest new community engagement tools to emerge this year – and they are big supporters of Big Cat Rescue. Using an iPhone app (other platforms soon) you can now report animal abuse instantly when you see it or help by tagging images in the database.

To get started, download The Extraordinaries iphone app at:
http://download.BeExtra.org
(Blackberry and a desktop widget coming soon!) See each screen and how it works here before you buy:
http://www.BigCatRescue.org/BeExtra.htm or watch our cool cat video that shows the App in action at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPXp_yAFTWg

So what are you waiting for? Start being Extraordinary today!
Big Cat Rescue is celebrating more than 16 years of rescuing big cats and you can help us celebrate by blowing a kiss to your favorite big cat. The cats that have been celebrated so far are; bobcat, snow leopard, sand cat, leopard, tiger, jungle cat, cougar, serval, black leopard, ocelot, lion, and white tiger. The species spotlight for November is Dances with Wolves the Canada lynx on page 12. Make a $10 donation to “kiss a big cat” and you will receive a glossy 8x10 photo of the big cat spotlighted. “Kiss” your favorites or collect them all. Order on page 15.

**BIG CATS ON THE MOVE**

Some of Big Cat Rescue’s big cats have been moved around recently. Adonis and Bagheera the black leopards were moved into an enclosure on the lakeside. This new home is quite different than their last. They have moved from their shady oak and palmetto forest to a grassy, palm tree dotted lakeside cat-a-tat. They seem to be enjoying the change in scenery and have adjusted well to their new neighbors, the tigers. They even have a swimming pool, though neither of them have tried it out yet.

Jade and Armani the African leopards, once neighbors to Adonis and Bagheera, have also moved into a Cat-a-tat on the tour path near the cougars. While these four leopards were moved so that renovations could be made to their enclosures, the moves also provide an exciting enrichment to the big cats. The new sights, sounds, and smells are keeping these leopards very busy.

Tonga the white serval was the most recent cat to find himself in new surroundings. Tonga was moved into a lake front enclosure. This inquisitive serval will have plenty of things to keep him entertained in his new pad, including two ponds with waterfalls. Tonga’s old enclosure will be refurbished and connected to its neighboring enclosure to provide double the space for Katmandu and Kanawha the Siberian lynx couple.

**TIGERS RUNNING LOOSE ON THE STREETS OF TAMPA**

Tampa motorists might have been doing a “double-take” recently thanks to a newly formed partnership between Big Cat Rescue and Rolling Thunder Bike Ads. LLC. Shawn Campbell, President of Rolling Thunder Bike Ads and his team of riders recently began navigating their mountain bikes along the streets of Tampa while being “chased” by the Tigers of Big Cat Rescue. Luckily for everyone, the Rolling Thunder Bike team was actually being “chased” by life size Tiger banners being towed behind their bikes while the real Tigers remained safely at Big Cat Rescue. Big Cat Rescue would like to thank Rolling Thunder Bike Ads for donating their time and talents in support of the magnificent animals who call Big Cat Rescue home via this new mobile advertising campaign.

**SAD FAREWELL TO SOME MAGNIFICENT BIG CATS**

Big Cat Rescue was founded 17 years ago and many of the felines that call the sanctuary home are now elderly. It is with great sadness that we must say goodbye to these beautiful big cats. Anastasia the Siberian lynx was rescued from a fur farm, she passed in her sleep, a very old lynx. Aquarius the fishing cat was rescued from a broker who had neglected her resulting in severe malnutrition. She surrendered to kidney failure. Sultan the ocelot was doomed to a life in captivity and passed away suddenly due to organ failure. Lola the black leopard was once a pet who’s owner decided he no longer wanted her or his three cougars. All of them came to live at Big Cat Rescue in 1994. Lola too lost her fight against breast cancer. While it is with heavy hearts that we must say farewell to these four big cats, we can take pride in the wonderful lives they were given at Big Cat Rescue thanks to our supporters and our caring volunteers. Sponsor a Forever Remembered Plaque for $500 on page 15.

**SWEET 16 & NEVER BEEN KISSED**

People who love animals love to share their photos and stories. Now Big Cat Rescue has a Chat Big Cats community. Unlimited storage space for your photos, videos and music. Post your own blogs, or join in our forums and contests.

A one-time charge of $5 will be added to your mobile phone bill. Standard messaging rates and additional fees may apply. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. Full disclosure at: http://commons.m/t

US Subscribers only

1198 Members and Counting

Keep up to date with everything at Big Cat Rescue by watching our weekly pod-cats. Visit our YouTube chanel for a wild time!

Chat Big Cats Online at www.ChatBigCats.com

BigCatTV.com

Big Cat Rescue is celebrating more than 16 years of rescuing big cats and you can help us celebrate by blowing a kiss to your favorite big cat. The cats that have been celebrated so far are; bobcat, snow leopard, sand cat, leopard, tiger, jungle cat, cougar, serval, black leopard, ocelot, lion, and white tiger. The species spotlight for November is Dances with Wolves the Canada lynx on page 12. Make a $10 donation to “kiss a big cat” and you will receive a glossy 8x10 photo of the big cat spotlighted. “Kiss” your favorites or collect them all. Order on page 15.
Scout Events ’09–’10

These events are open to all girl and boy scouts and are held at Big Cat Rescue. Pre-registration & Pre-payment is required. No Refunds. Space is limited. Contact 813-323-3265 or kids@bigcatrescue.org to register. Don’t miss out!!

Family Sanctuary Tour 11/21/09
Meet some of the 100+ big cats that call our sanctuary home. Hear their amazing stories along with fun and interesting facts about each species. Scouts & Families, min. age 5 yrs old, $15/person, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

Happy Cats Enrichment 3/20/10
Are you cut out to be an animal keeper? Find out as you learn how to make enrichment (Big Cat toys) and tour Big Cat Rescue in this small group workshop. Watch the cats respond to the different types of enrichment. Scouts 8-17, $20/person, 12:30 to 2:00 PM

Family Sanctuary Tour 4/24/10
Meet some of the 100+ big cats that call our sanctuary home. Hear their amazing stories along with fun and interesting facts about each species. Scouts & Families, min. age 5 yrs old, $15/person, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

In addition to these special events we also offer private group tours for scout troops any time through the year. This can be reserved for a min.of 10 and a max. of 60 people (min. age of 5 years old). Group discounts are available on M-F; there is no discounting offered on Saturdays. Call or email for details.

The Big Cat Rescue Theme Song

Thanks to the musical talents of Terez Hartmann the big cats now have a theme song called Beautiful, Wild, and Free. This song will be available for purchase very soon, however, to listen to the song and read the lyrics visit our site at

bigcatrescue.org/bigcatmusic.htm

The Body Shop Foundation Supports the Cats

Big Cat Rescue will now be able to greatly enhance the security of our cats thanks to the generous support of The Body Shop Foundation of the United Kingdom. We are delighted to be the recipients of a grant for $10,000 dollars (£6290.24) to be used to install automatic backup generators to power our food storage freezers and well pumps for power outages and emergencies. Now, regardless of the conditions, we will be able to guarantee food and water for the cats! This is not only a critical issue for our residents; it will also bring peace of mind to our dedicated staff and volunteers, knowing that we can provide the necessities for the animals in our care even when the winds blow. The Body Shop Foundation is the philanthropic arm of The Body Shop International. This far sighted Foundation supports innovative projects across the world to promote social and environmental change with a focus on Animal Welfare, Human Rights and Environmental Protection. (http://thebodyshopfoundation.org) Their aim is to: support organizations at the forefront of social & environmental change, groups with little hope of conventional funding, and projects working to increase public awareness. We were nominated to the Foundation by Stephanie Upton, store manager of our local Body Shop at Citrus Park Town Center Mall (www.thebodyshop-usa.com). The majority of applications come from projects nominated by staff, so without Stephanie’s enthusiasm for our cause this grant would not have been possible. The Body Shop believes “there is only one way to beautiful, nature’s way.” For years they always “strive to protect this beautiful planet and the people who depend on it”; not because it’s fashionable but because, to their values “it’s the only way”. We are proud to be partnered with such a responsible, value driven organization and are enormously grateful for the receipt of this award. Our sincere thank you on behalf of the cats!

Donations Made Through Employer Payroll Deduction or Employer Matching Programs

We would like to thank those of you who donate through payroll deduction plans managed by employers outside the CFC program and through company matching programs. We are working to develop this list manually and enter it into our new database software. If you donate in this way and are not on the list, we apologize and ask you to email Chelsea at info@bigcatrescue.org with the details so we can add your name and company. Thank you for supporting the cats in this way!

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Lesley Granik
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WELLS FARGO
Jo Dervrich
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
THE PURR-FECT COUPLE - By Barbara Frank

So, where did you spend your honeymoon? Acapulco, Costa Rico, Tahiti? For animal lovers Regina and Brian Turgeon the decision was easy - Big Cat Rescue! These newlyweds have always wanted to come and see our amazing sanctuary. What better time then on their honeymoon!

Regina and Brian were married in Chicopee, Mass. on September 5. To make this time in their lives extra special they journeyed to Tampa and Big Cat Rescue. The couple went all out and scheduled all the fantastic tours that are available. They enjoyed a Photo Tour, Day Tour, Keeper Tour, Night Tour, Feeding Tour and the best of all was a Private Tour with our Director of Operations Scott Lope. Both agreed that “meeting Scott was their most memorable moment”.

Regina said that their favorite cat on the tour was Hercules the Snow Leopard. “Being so close to this magnificent cat that is an Endangered Species was indescribable”. “In fact, being so close to all these animals was truly beyond words”. Both Regina and Brian agreed “that out of all we have seen and done on this trip, visiting Big Cat Rescue was absolutely the highlight”.

Big Cat Rescue wishes Regina and Brian a wonderful future together and invites them to return on their anniversary.

DECREASE IN TIGER POPULATIONS
A SHOCKING REMINDER

A shocking decline in the Russian Federation’s wild tiger population highlights the importance of eliminating trade in and demand for tiger parts, the International Tiger Coalition (ITC) said today. The alliance of 40 organizations worldwide, which includes Big Cat Rescue, issued the statement upon news that Siberian tigers may have suffered a serious drop in numbers over the past four years.

New census figures indicate that tiger populations in the Russian Far East, which in 2005 numbered nearly 500, have declined significantly due to poaching of tigers for their skins, bones and meat as well as poaching of tiger prey and habitat degradation. The seriousness of the news was underscored the day before, when a young male tiger was found dead in the region with two bullets in his head.

“Russia’s tigers have been a stand-out success story,” said Judy Mills, the ITC’s moderator. “This apparent sudden, marked decline should act

as a reminder of why regional efforts must be strengthened in response to increasingly sophisticated criminal networks.”

The ITC recommends concerted bilateral law enforcement between the Russian Federation and China to address illegal cross-border wildlife trade, especially in tigers, as an immediate first step. Furthermore, the ITC encourages countries to remind potential consumers that tiger trade is illegal and destroy existing stockpiles of tiger parts and products, as their existence raises expectations of a future resumption of trade.

A meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal at the end of this month will bring together 13 of 14 tiger range countries, including the Russian Federation, to discuss how to reverse the precipitous decline in all wild tiger populations. The meeting is the first step in preparations for a summit of heads of tiger range states next year to mark the 2010 Year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar. Without urgent action, the ITC warns, there may not be wild tigers when the Year of the Tiger comes around again in 12 years.

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Go to: www.BigCatLuxeGifts.com

Need more info? email: BigCatLuxe@BarbaraKrai.com or call 813.891.9999
Visit www.BarbaraKrai.com for complete Interior Design Services
BRED TO DEATH - By Carole Baskin

With one final breath she lifted out of the cancer ridden body that had once been Trucha the tigress. She had literally been bred to death. In the wild she would have had cubs once every three or four years as she spent the time in between raising her family and teaching them all about what it means to be a tiger. In captivity tigers are bred two to four times a year because there is a huge demand for cute, cuddly cubs.

Breeder's, like the notorious Robert Baudy of Savage Kingdom, who used Trucha until he lost his USDA license, will purposely inbreed their cats to try and produce the white coat color that accompanies the genetic defect. The cubs can only be used for petting sessions, photo ops and other pay-to-play schemes for a month or two before they are too big to handle. Many die from the rough handling, being dropped, and being starved and having diarrhea induced to keep them small. Meanwhile their mothers are already pregnant with the next litter of cubs to be exploited.

Trucha had just taken her last breath, but I felt like the weight on my chest was such that I would never again be able to breathe. I suspect that those who stood with me, Dr. Wynn, Scott, Cathy and Chris were all experiencing some similar form of grief as we eased Trucha out of her captive existence to whatever lays in store for her next. No matter what that is, it has to be better than the lousy hand she was dealt this time around.

Imagine being born in some tiny, filthy jail cell and then ripped from your mother at the age of only two weeks. The only one who would ever care about you, your mother, calls your name, moaning for the return of her cubs, but you are put into a metal cage in the breeder’s house. He is a slovenly sort and uses the lure of playing with baby tiger cubs to get young girls into his home. They will do just about anything to be the one who gets to feed you that bottle of cold, putrid liquid that bears no resemblance to the warm milk of your mother.

The young girls are often outcasts who do not have strong family or social ties and are subject to the bad influences so prevalent in big cat owners. They are often drunk or high on drugs when they come to care for you. They have no real training and your needs go untended due to neglect and ignorance. As soon as your eyes are opened you are subjected to hours upon hours of flashing light bulbs as you are handed from one laughing, giggling person to the next. You scream for your mother. You scream for it to stop, but no one hears your cries. Those who would rescue you have no legal recourse to liberate you from your tormentors. Those in charge of insuring your welfare are never there for you.

You have grown too big in just 3 or 4 months to be used this way. Your mother has already produced another litter of cubs, who are being pulled from her to start the process over. Your eyes have been so badly damaged that you only see shadows. You jump at everything and your world darkens in around you. Maybe it is better that you can’t see what is going to happen to you next.

You are relegated to some small, concrete and steel cell where you will be fed roting flesh of whatever is cheapest; road kill, sick cows; the meat that cannot be sold. Your water bowl will be green with algae or swimming with mosquito larvae if it has water at all. The temperatures at both extremes will challenge your will to live because all you may have is a leaky box for shelter. You will be thrust in with other inmates, including your own litter mates, in the hopes that you will breed young. Your incestuous breeding is exactly what the breeder wants because that will get him more white cubs and the white cubs fetch more money.

You become the tiger version of a puppy mill. Your days of boredom, neglect and abuse turn into months and then years. Somewhere, far, far away tigers like you are roaming hundreds of miles. They are choosing their own mates, raising their own young and they are the most respected individuals in the forest. You have never known a single day of freedom, but you are hard wired to expect it. Every day is just one more reminder that you are a prisoner.

Most of the estimated 5000 tigers in the US will live and die in these same miserable conditions. You were one of the lucky ones. When Savage Kingdom was shut down the zoos, circus acts and backyard breeders only wanted the white tigers. They left you and three other golden tigers behind to die. The government agencies that regulate the trade in tigers either didn’t know, or didn’t care that you were slowly starving to death. By the time Big Cat Rescue learned of your plight, Bella the tigress was almost dead. The rest of you weren’t far behind. You had just about given up hope.

After 14 years of being bred to death, you found a true sanctuary; one that doesn’t breed and doesn’t allow “accidental” breeding either, which is the way that pseudo sanctuaries explain how they have cute little money-making cubs every year. In your last two years you had the best of everything that money could buy, but money couldn’t buy back your health. The cancer was inoperable and had spread throughout your entire mammary system. The one thing Big Cat Rescue couldn’t give you was your freedom, but they did give you the freedom to make many of your own decisions.

When you decided that you didn’t like living with Modnic any more, after 14 years of being forced to, you got your own private space, your own mountain cave den and your own ball and pool. As long as you were letting your rescuers know that you had a healthy appetite for life you were given supportive care, but when the disease had begun to erode the little joys you found in eating, playing, swimming and chuffing, you knew they would be there for you to ease the transition.

Today, when you closed your eyes for the last time, it was in the respectful presence of just a handful of the many people who had come to know and love you. Your tragic life was an inspiration to thousands of people who came to know you over the Internet. All that you endured was finally brought out into the light and while there was no justice for you, it was still a huge stride for your kind. On the very day that you died, a major supermarket chain pulled their sponsorship of a fair that was using a live tiger act - a sign that our society is evolving.

Your suffering was not in vain. You could shut your eyes and say your job here on earth was done.
PAVE THE WAY

Plans to pave the paths around the Trading Post Gift Shop are underway. Be honored on the walk of fame and have your name permanently engraved on a special brick paver. Your donation will get this project rolling. There will be two paver sizes, 4x8 for $100 that will include donor name and 8x8 for $200 that will include donor name or logo. Personalized memorial bricks make a great gift for any occasion, such as Christmas, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, employee or boss appreciation, pet appreciation, or for that person who has everything. It is permanent recognition of that special someone. Order on page 15.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - By Barbara Frank

Volunteer: to do charitable or helpful work without receiving pay for it.

This is the definition of volunteer. What the definition does not include is passion, commitment, loyalty and an absolute love for what you do. This is the definition of a Big Cat Rescue Volunteer.

We have over 100 people who volunteer in different capacities. They clean Cat-a-tats, landscape, paint, give tours, help in our gift shop, write letters to help change laws, educate the public about animals in the wild and in captivity, – all this, while keeping our guests comfortable and happy. We would like you to meet some of our volunteers who commit their time and energy to Big Cat Rescue. How many married couples do you know, who share the same passion and volunteer together? Meet Our Married Volunteers

Back row- Matt, Jenn, Howie, Carole, Rod, Heather, Steve, Barb Front-Darren, Jen, Denny, Susan, Jeff, Colleen, Beth-Ann, Rich, Marie, Joel

They all agreed that their decision to volunteer at Big Cat Rescue was easy. They share a love for animals.

Jenn and Matt – “We get to go home and not complain about work, but talk about our day with the cats.”

Barb and Steve – “Sometimes life takes us in different directions, and this brings us together.”

Rod and Heather – “Both of us felt we could give back to a place that made our wedding so perfect.”

Rod and Heather were married at Big Cat Rescue. For info on weddings email Weddings@BigCatRescue.org

To learn more about volunteering email Training@BigCatRescue.org

GET A COOL BIG CAT RESCUE CREDIT CARD & $50 WILL BE DONATED TO THE BIG CATS WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR 1ST PURCHASE

During this holiday season, Capital One Card Lab Connect will give Big Cat Rescue $50 for every new account that’s approved and makes their first purchase between October 15 and December 31, 2009—that’s double the normal $25 bonus! It’s an easy way to help the cats by doing what you normally do during the holidays, shop! SEE BELOW!
COLLIER COUNTY — A case of a Florida panther found dead in an orange grove east of Ave Maria has been turned over to federal investigators.

The death of the endangered wildcat is the second in the past month that has confounded panther biologists and follows on the discovery in April of a panther shot and killed in Hendry County. A $15,000 reward has been offered for information about that shooting, which also is under investigation by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

An estimated 100 to 120 panthers are left in the wild, an increase from as few as 30 in the 1980s, but habitat loss remains a barrier to their recovery, scientists say. So far this year, 14 panthers have been killed, three of them by other panthers. Nine have been struck and killed by vehicles.

The panther found in the orange grove Sept. 15 was an uncollared 2-year-old male, according to the monthly newsletter of the Friends of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. “There seems to be a lot of mystery about it,” Florida Wildlife Federation field representative Nancy Payton said.

In another incident earlier this month, a panther was found floating dead in the Turner River in Big Cypress National Preserve, less than a half mile south of U.S. 41 East. A state veterinarian concluded the cause of that panther’s death was blunt force trauma to the abdomen but it could not be attributed to a vehicle strike, Onorato said. The carcass did not have the telltale signs of a vehicle strike, including fur torn off or a cracked skull or broken spine from a collision, he said. Onorato theorized that the injury could have been sustained when the panther jumped from a tree or was taking down prey.

The cause of death is unknown, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist Dave Onorato said. Onorato said he could not comment further because of the federal investigation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could not be reached for comment.

A canoe guide for the Ivey House in Everglades City discovered the panther Oct. 9 floating in about 17 inches of water, according to a National Park Service report. The panther was an uncollared female, estimated at between 3 and 4 years old, and had been dead for about two days, according to the report. Investigators found no signs of alligators or another panther, no sign of a struggle in surrounding vegetation and no clear path from the carcass to uplands, the report states. Law enforcement officers found a possible blood spot on the westbound lanes of U.S. 41 and took samples for analysis, the report states.

The discovery of the panther in the river is fueling calls for new measures to protect Florida panthers along U.S. 41 at Turner River. Since 1984, eight Florida panthers have been struck by vehicles along the same stretch of U.S. 41 near Turner River, six of them since 2004.

A proposal for a wildlife crossing has met with opposition from preserve users upset about fencing limiting their access and from an Indian tribe with a sacred cultural site nearby. Environmental groups are pushing for more immediate steps, including a lower daytime speed limit, stepped up enforcement and research into roadside systems to alert drivers to wildlife. "We need something there right now," said Elizabeth Fleming, Florida representative for Defenders of Wildlife.

Because Florida panthers had not been documented in Georgia in years, it was initially thought that this animal might have escaped or have been intentionally released from captivity. With the genetic confirmation that the animal is a Florida panther, it is possible that this animal traveled from south Florida to Georgia.

"We have had evidence (road kill) of Florida panthers as far north as the Florida panhandle," said Tim Breault, Director of Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Young males, in an attempt to develop their own territory, will often wander far from their home range. We think this may have been the case in this situation."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement is investigating this incident since the Florida panther is a federally protected endangered species.

“Finding a Florida panther that far from southwest Florida is out of the ordinary, but male panthers, particularly younger ones, can travel great distances,” said Paul Souza, Field Supervisor of the South Florida Ecological Services Office. “While it’s unusual for panthers to be seen that far north, it is not impossible for a young male to travel so far.”

The Florida panther (Puma concolor coryi) is the last subspecies of Puma (also known as mountain lion, cougar, puma, or catamount) still surviving in the eastern United States. Historically occurring throughout the southeastern United States, an estimated 100 to 120 panthers are found in south Florida, in less than 5% of their historic range.
BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS

Edward Roeder $1,000
Tracy Treadway $1,000
Cathy Tipton c/o Emerson Charitable Trust $1,000
Lynn Russell c/o Aspen Community Foundation $1,000
Pamela Olson Koonts $910
Jenifer & Jared Burkardt $500
Vernon & Barbara Stairs $250
Mark & Michele Miller $300
Pamela Olson Koonts $910
Cathy Tipton c/o Emerson Lawrenee & Pamela Trissel
Genevieve Alexander $200
Ann & Margo Miller $500
Keith & Judy Barraclough
Kirk & Aileen Davis $350
Michele Marziano $200
Endowment Fund $750
Patricia Miller $200
Micheal Neblock $150
Labyrinth Press Company Inc
Pattie Quinn-Bennett $105
SEASON’S GREENINGS - Top Green Holidays Tips

Trim the Tree - For some families, chopping a fresh fir from the Christmas tree farm is as much as annual tradition as hanging stockings or baking cookies. The benefits of real trees are countless; real trees provide oxygen to the air and habitats for animals, plus, in some cases, can be replanted after the holidays. Plastic trees, on the other hand, are often made of PVC—the reasons to avoid PVC are too numerous to list here—and the carbon footprint of their production is massive.

Lighten Up - Lower your electricity bill by using energy-efficient outdoor LED lights, which pull almost 90 percent less power and are several hundred times brighter than traditional lights; your wallet, and your neighbors, will thank you.

Share the Love - While sending holiday cards may be the simplest and least time-consuming way to wish all your friends and family a happy season, the paper, envelopes, and postage can wallop your budget and your loved ones’ recycling bins. Send an eco-friendly email card instead.

Check it Twice - Lighten your load by choosing presents like concert tickets, spa services, restaurant vouchers, or weekend getaways. And if none of these will satisfy your hard-to-please crowd, at least look for items that don’t come in miles of plastic packaging. Like Big Cat Rescue screensavers!

Wrap It Up - Use magazine pages or newspapers for wrapping paper or paper bags or scrap paper decorated with non-toxic paint for an even more personal touch. Better yet, find a gift that can double as wrapping—a messenger bag for a computer, towels for a collection of kitchen goodies, a washcloth to decorated with non-toxic paint for an even more personal touch. Better yet, find a gift that can double as wrapping—a messenger bag for a computer, towels for a collection of kitchen goodies, a washcloth to
THE BIG CAT TRADING POST - SHOPPING GUIDE

Gifts that keep on giving. 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 15. 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. For luxury cat themed gift items visit BigCatLuxeGifts.com

WILD GIFTS

- Photo Magnets and Key Rings
  Choose Any Species at BCR Magnet $5.68 or Key Ring $5.21

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

- Magnetic Clingers
  Choose Cougar, Lion, Lynx, or Tiger $8.42

- Bumper Sticker $5.21

- BCR Ribbon $8.35

- BCR Patch $5.28

- BCR Sticker $4.21

- BCR Pin $5.28

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

- Grassroots Beaded Figurines & Key Rings
  3.5” Lion or Tiger $20.12 9” Lion $24.40
  12” Lion $50.00
  Key Rings - Rainbow or Natural Lion $8.42

- Leopard Print Wine Sack $5.68

- BCR Laser Engraved Wooden Wine Cork $7.42

- BCR Carabiners
  Gold, black, or blue $6.21

- Orange BCR Sports Bottle 18 oz. $8.35

- White BCR Photo Wrap Mug $13.70

- Cheetah Coffee, 8 oz, beans or ground $11.56

- Shere Khan Shot Glass $7.82

- Animal Print Logo Thermos $13.70

- Bumper Sticker $5.21

- BCR Sticker $4.21

- BCR Ribbon $8.35

- BCR Patch $5.28

- BCR Pin $5.28

- Golf Club Cover $25.47

- BCR Golf Ball $6.28

- Extra Large Eco-Grocery Bag
  with Big Cat Rescue Recycle Logo on Front 13” Wide by 10” Deep by 15” Tall
  Black with White Logo $13.70

- New Item
  Plush Flip Cell Phone Cover, Choose Lion or Tiger $10.56

- New Item
  Mini Sticker Books, Choose Big Cats or Tigers $4.28

- New Item
  Travel Around The World 10” travel case with world map, stickers, choose tiger or lion flopsie $17.98

- New Item
  As You Flip the Pages You Will Get a 3 Dimensional Look Inside a Bengal Tiger $21.80

- Encyclopedia Sticker Book
  Over 600 Stickers $19.60

- Ultimate Domestic Cat Sticker Book $12.63

- Soft & Cuddly 20” Snow Leopard Plush $25.00

- 5” Diecast Metal Animal Explorer Truck $17.98

- 12” Trent Tiger $13.70

- 12” Bobcat $13.70

- 12” Luther Leopard $13.70

- BIG CAT TV, 6 Podcasts per Disc, Choose Vol 1, 2, or 3 $7.35 each

- Encyclopedia Sticker Book Over 600 Stickers $19.60

- African Animal Action Figure Set
  Also Available: Asian or Rainforest $15.84

- Themed Monopoly
  Choose Animalopoly, Earthopoly, or Catopoly $28.54

- Magnetic Clingers Choose Cougar, Lion, Lynx, or Tiger $8.42

- Travel Around The World 10” travel case with world map, stickers, choose tiger or lion flopsie $17.98

- Tubby Wubby the Lion 12” Plush Toy $13.70

- Grassroots Beaded Figurines & Key Rings
  3.5” Lion or Tiger $20.12 9” Lion $24.40
  12” Lion $50.00
  Key Rings - Rainbow or Natural Lion $8.42

- Leopard Print Wine Sack $5.68

- BCR Laser Engraved Wooden Wine Cork $7.42

- BCR Carabiners
  Gold, black, or blue $6.21

- Orange BCR Sports Bottle 18 oz. $8.35

- White BCR Photo Wrap Mug $13.70

- Cheetah Coffee, 8 oz, beans or ground $11.56

- Shere Khan Shot Glass $7.82

- Animal Print Logo Thermos $13.70

- Bumper Sticker $5.21

- BCR Sticker $4.21

- BCR Ribbon $8.35

- BCR Patch $5.28

- BCR Pin $5.28

- Golf Club Cover $25.47

- BCR Golf Ball $6.28

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- New Item
  As You Flip the Pages You Will Get a 3 Dimensional Look Inside a Bengal Tiger $21.80

- Encyclopedia Sticker Book Over 600 Stickers $19.60

- Ultimate Domestic Cat Sticker Book $12.63

- Soft & Cuddly 20” Snow Leopard Plush $25.00

- 5” Diecast Metal Animal Explorer Truck $17.98

- 12” Trent Tiger $13.70

- 12” Bobcat $13.70

- 12” Luther Leopard $13.70

12  THE BIG CAT TIMES - HOLIDAY 2009 - WWW.BIGCATREScue.ORG - 813.920.4130 - FOLLOW US AT HTTP://TWITTER.COM/BigCatRescue
**The Big Cat Times - Holiday 2009 - www.BigCatRescue.ORG - 813.920.4130 - Follow us at http://Twitter.com/BigCatRescue**

**Clothing & Accessories**

**NEW ITEM**
Tan BCR Rhinestone Fitted Junior Tee, Lettuce Edging
S, M, L, XL $24.40

**NEW ITEM**
Lavender BCR Rhinestone Ladies Tee
S, M, XL $24.40
XXL $25.40

**NEW ITEM**
White and Navy Junior Tee
S, M, L, XL $19.05

**NEW ITEM**
Haunting Eyes Tee, Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve,
African Lion, Ocelot, Bengal Tiger, Cougar, Snow Leopard or Siberian Tiger
S, M, L, XL $18.05
2X or 3X $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
Rhinestone Tiger Fitted Tee, also available in Spaghetti Strap Fitted Tank.
Black Tee: S, M, L, XL & XXL $24.40
Tank: S, M, L & XXL $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
Where’s the Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee or Black $31.89

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

**Clothing & Accessories**

**NEW ITEM**
Where's the Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black or White
S, M, L $31.89

**NEW ITEM**
Moisture Wicking Logo Tee
Cats of BCR Image on Back, Choose: Khan & China, Lynx, Cougars, Leopards, Carn & Zabu
S, M, L $35.10

**NEW ITEM**
Visor, Logo, Adjustable, Khaki
$15.84

**NEW ITEM**
Adjustable Cap, Navy
$24.40

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

**NEW ITEM**
Baseball Cap, Logo, Black
$17.98

**NEW ITEM**
BROWN BCR TEE PINK IMAGE
S, M, L, XL & XXL $19.05

**NEW ITEM**
Gray Life Guard Tee, Navy Image
BCR on Back S, M, L, XL & XXL $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
BCR Logo Muscle Shirt
Orange, Blue, or Black
S, M, L, XL $19.05

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

**NEW ITEM**
Haunting Eyes Tee, Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve,
African Lion, Ocelot, Bengal Tiger, Cougar, Snow Leopard or Siberian Tiger
S, M, L, XL $18.05
2X or 3X $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
Rhinestone Tiger Fitted Tee, also available in Spaghetti Strap Fitted Tank.
Black Tee: S, M, L, XL & XXL $24.40
Tank: S, M, L & XXL $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
Where’s the Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black or White
S, M, L $31.89

**NEW ITEM**
Visor, Logo, Adjustable, Khaki
$15.84

**NEW ITEM**
Adjustable Cap, Navy
$24.40

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

**NEW ITEM**
Baseball Cap, Logo, Black
$17.98

**NEW ITEM**
Paws Off Kids Tee Blue
BCR on Front
XS, S, M, L $16.91

**NEW ITEM**
Power Nap Lion Infant Tee Red
Big Cat Rescue on Front
6 mo., 12 mo., 18 mo. $13.77

**NEW ITEM**
L is for Lion Toddler Tee Blue
2T, 3T, 4T $13.77
Big Cat Rescue on Front

**NEW ITEM**
Tiger Kids Tee
Lime Green or Orange
XS, S, M & L $13.70

**NEW ITEM**
BCR Logo Waist Bag Green
$16.98

**NEW ITEM**
BCR Logo
Dog Bandana
Choose Blue, Black, or Maroon $6.28

**NEW ITEM**
Cooling Neck Bandana
Leopard or Kitty Cat $6.90

**NEW ITEM**
Shorty Socks
Choose Leopard or Tiger Medium $9.49

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

**NEW ITEM**
Orange/White Tiger Baby Creeper BCR on Front
XS, S, M & L $13.70

**NEW ITEM**
Cooling Neck Bandana
Leopard or Kitty Cat $6.90

**NEW ITEM**
Gray Cinch Tote with Embroidered BCR Logo in Blue $29.75

**NEW ITEM**
Jinja Jewelry
Asst Colors
Fair Trade
Paper Bead Jewelry Made in Africa
Bracelet $17.05
Necklace $38.45

**NEW ITEM**
Where’s the Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black $31.89

**NEW ITEM**
Visitor’s Guide
$1.00

**NEW ITEM**
Power Nap Lion Infant Tee Red
Big Cat Rescue on Front
6 mo., 12 mo., 18 mo. $13.77
Big Cat Rescue on Front

**NEW ITEM**
L is for Lion Toddler Tee Blue
2T, 3T, 4T $13.77
Big Cat Rescue on Front

**NEW ITEM**
Where’s the Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black or White
S, M, L $31.89

**NEW ITEM**
Visor, Logo, Adjustable, Khaki
$15.84
Adjustable Cap, Navy
$24.40

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

**NEW ITEM**
Baseball Cap, Logo, Black
$17.98

**NEW ITEM**
BROWN BCR TEE PINK IMAGE
S, M, L, XL & XXL $19.05

**NEW ITEM**
Gray Life Guard Tee, Navy Image
BCR on Back S, M, L, XL & XXL $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
BCR Logo Muscle Shirt
Orange, Blue, or Black
S, M, L, XL $19.05

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

**NEW ITEM**
Haunting Eyes Tee, Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve,
African Lion, Ocelot, Bengal Tiger, Cougar, Snow Leopard or Siberian Tiger
S, M, L, XL $18.05
2X or 3X $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
Rhinestone Tiger Fitted Tee, also available in Spaghetti Strap Fitted Tank.
Black Tee: S, M, L, XL & XXL $24.40
Tank: S, M, L & XXL $21.19

**NEW ITEM**
Where’s the Pride Zabu White Tiger Tee Black or White
S, M, L $31.89

**NEW ITEM**
Visor, Logo, Adjustable, Khaki
$15.84
Adjustable Cap, Navy
$24.40

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

**NEW ITEM**
Baseball Cap, Logo, Black
$17.98

**NEW ITEM**
Paws Off Kids Tee Blue
BCR on Front
XS, S, M & L $16.91

**NEW ITEM**
Power Nap Lion Infant Tee Red
Big Cat Rescue on Front
6 mo., 12 mo., 18 mo. $13.77

**NEW ITEM**
L is for Lion Toddler Tee Blue
2T, 3T, 4T $13.77
Big Cat Rescue on Front

**NEW ITEM**
Tiger Kids Tee
Lime Green or Orange
XS, S, M & L $13.70

**NEW ITEM**
BCR Logo Waist Bag Green
$16.98

**NEW ITEM**
BCR Logo
Dog Bandana
Choose Blue, Black, or Maroon $6.28

**NEW ITEM**
Cooling Neck Bandana
Leopard or Kitty Cat $6.90

**NEW ITEM**
Shorty Socks
Choose Leopard or Tiger Medium $9.49

**NEW ITEM**
Mother & Cubs Kids Tee
Purple Tie Dye w/ Logo on Back
S, M, L & XL $16.91
Check out these great new items that are available in the Trading Post Gift Shop. Big Cat Rescue offers several ways to shop; The Big Cat Times, our online store, and our onsite store. The Trading Post gift shop is now open to the public Monday-Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM & Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM.

Adorable Palm Brush Animals - Fair Trade Item

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12&quot; Lion Sitting</td>
<td></td>
<td>$26.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>12&quot; Tiger</td>
<td></td>
<td>$24.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&quot; Lion Laying</td>
<td></td>
<td>$26.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10&quot; Siamese Standing</td>
<td></td>
<td>$29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9&quot; Siamese Laying</td>
<td></td>
<td>$18.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7&quot; Marmalade Pounce</td>
<td></td>
<td>$14.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot; Kitty Ornaments Cats</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.56 each lion or tiger $ 11.63 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose: Calico, Siamese, Black, Lion, Marmalade, or Tiger</td>
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Etched & Burned Gourd Ornaments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5&quot; Lion</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5&quot; Africa Scene</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5&quot; Tiger</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5&quot; Etched &amp; Burned Gourd Trinket Bowls</td>
<td>Choose Tiger or Lion</td>
<td>$15.91</td>
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Gift Items with Metal BCR Logo

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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5x5&quot; Frame with Lion Scene &amp; Snow Globe</td>
<td>$16.91</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&quot; Magnets Choose Lion or Tiger</td>
<td>$6.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5&quot; Mini Snow Globe Ornament Choose Lion or Tiger</td>
<td>$10.49</td>
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Big Cat Rescue Ribbon/Tiger Tee

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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue S, M, L, XL</td>
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<td>$24.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>2X or 3X $26.54</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>White S, M, L, XL</td>
<td></td>
<td>$19.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>2X $21.19</td>
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</table>

Haunting Eyes Sand Cat Tee with BCR Logo on Sleeve, Black S, M, L, XL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$19.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>2X or 3X $26.54</td>
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Big Cat Rescue Watch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Band with Tiger Photo</td>
<td></td>
<td>$28.75</td>
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BCR Towel Clip, Clip your Towel to Your Beach Chair so it doesn’t fly away! Clip $5.00

Tiger Towel $5.00

Big Cat Rescue Fidel Cap

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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embroidered with BCR &amp; Running Cat Choose Black or Khaki $20.12</td>
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</table>

12" Calico Standing $22.26

16" Siamese Standing $29.75

9" Siamese Laying $18.05

7" Marmalade Pounce $14.77

4" Kitty Ornaments Cats $10.56 each Lion or Tiger $ 11.63 each Choose: Calico, Siamese, Black, Lion, Marmalade, or Tiger

Etched & Burned Gourd Ornaments

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Size</th>
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</thead>
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<td>$12.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5&quot; Tiger</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5&quot; Etched &amp; Burned Gourd Trinket Bowls Choose Tiger or Lion $15.91</td>
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**SPECIAL ALERT:** If you would like to continue to receive the Big Cat Times by regular mail, please either email us at: BigCatTimes@BigCatRescue.org or cut out your address on the front page of the Big Cat Times and mail it to us using the enclosed envelope. Please mark if there are any address corrections that should be made. **THANK YOU.**

### THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM  Holiday 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
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**NOTE:** Fill out blue shaded box at bottom of form

- Yes, I would like to make a donation towards the care of the cats $  
- Yes, I would like to receive a receipt for tax purposes $  
- Yes, I would like to receive a receipt for tax purposes Grand Total $

---

**Method of Payment**

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

**Exp. Date MMYY**

**Signature**

---

**Date:** ____________________________

**Billing Address**

**Name**

**Address**

City           St          Zip

**Day Time Phone**

**Evening Phone**

**Email**

**Recipient Address (if different than Billing)**

**Name**

**Address**

City           St          Zip

**Day Time Phone**

**Evening Phone**

**Email**

This is a gift, please make card to: ____________________________

Brief message to say: ________________________________________________________________

**AUTOMATIC GIVING PROGRAM - JOIN THE SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY**

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 813-926-4130. This is a G-R-R-eat way to spread out your donations and provide steady support that is so meaningful for the cats.

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**Special Comment, Request, or Question:**

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**SPECIAL ALERT:** If you would like to continue to receive the Big Cat Times by regular mail, please either email us at: BigCatTimes@BigCatRescue.org or cut out your address on the front page of the Big Cat Times and mail it to us using the enclosed envelope. Please mark if there are any address corrections that should be made. **THANK YOU.**

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**YOUR TOUR ADMISSIONS ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE TO SUPPORT THE CATS. THANKS FOR VISITING AND CARING!**

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**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.

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**Day Tours**

Monday - Friday 9 AM & 1 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.

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**Feeding Tour**

Friday and Saturday at dusk. During this tour you will follow along with 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. For reservations 813-426-5948

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**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 that you will follow along and watch as the keepers hand out the enrichment you made to the cats. You will also observe special operand 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. For reservations 813-426-5948

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**Wild Eyes At Night Tour**

Night Tours are the best way to see the animals come alive! 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. For reservations 813-426-5948

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**Also offered - WEDDINGS, PARTIES, VOLUNTEER & INTERN PROGRAMS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES**

Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change.
**Common Name:** Canada Lynx  
**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Chordata (Vertebrata)  
**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Carnivora  
**Family:** Felidae  
**Genus:** Felinae (Lynx)  
**Species:** canadensis

**Misc.:** The debate continues whether or not the Canada lynx is in fact a separate species from the Eurasian (a.k.a. Siberian or Iberian) lynx, or merely a subspecies. Experts are evenly divided on this subject, but for now, it remains a separate species based on its marked adaptive differences for prey capture. The name lynx comes from the Greek word “to shine,” and may be in reference to the reflective ability of the cat’s eyes.

**Sub-species:** L.c. subsolanus – found in Newfoundland.

**Size and Appearance:** The Canada lynx is considerably smaller than its Eurasian counterpart, approximately half the size. Its fur is usually white tipped, giving it a frosted appearance, and is only indistinctly spotted. The coat color ranges from a reddish-brown to gray, and also occurs in a rare “blue-lynx” which is the result of a genetic mutation. They have a flared facial ruff, black ear tufts, and long hind legs with a short tail. Their large, wide-spreading feet are covered in fur, which act like snowshoes, and are effective in supporting the cat’s weight on the snow. They are often confused with their smaller feline cousins the bobcat, but can be easily distinguished by their tail tips. The tail of the lynx looks as though it was dipped in an inkwell, being black all the way around, whereas the Bobcat’s tail appears to have been painted black on top and white on the bottom.

**Habitat:** These lynx are found in the broad boreal forest belt of North America.

**Distribution:** Canada, Alaska, and the northern contiguous United States.

**Reproduction and Offspring:** After a gestation of approximately 63-70 days, females produce a litter of 1-8 kittens, with the average varying depending on the abundance of prey. They weigh 7-7.5 ounces at birth and will open their eyes at around 10-17 days, and begin to walk between 24 and 30 days of age. They are weaned between 3-5 months of age, and reach sexual maturity around 23 months. The number of offspring is directly related to the abundance of prey, as is the age of sexual maturity. When prey is very abundant, females will breed as early as 10 months. In the wild, Canada lynx have lived up to 15 years, and in captivity, up to 21.

**Social System and Communication:** Solitary, except for females with offspring, or siblings who have just separated from their mothers who may travel and hunt together for several months before separating.

**Hunting and Diet:** Unlike any other cat, the Canada lynx depends almost exclusively on the snowshoe hare. No other predator has such a strong cyclic prey base to which it has become uniquely adapted – both behaviorally and physiologically. The snowshoe hare population peaks every 10 years, and with it, do the lynx population. When the hare population decreases, so does the lynx population. While lynx will change their prey base when hares are low to include small rodents, ground birds, and small ungulates, the overall lynx population is still synchronous with the hare population.

**Principal Threats:** Trapping continues to be one of the greatest threats for the lynx, and as lynx are easily trapped. When done during times of low numbers, it makes recovery of the population extremely difficult. As it is with every other feline population, lynx too face habitat loss due to destruction by humans. However bleak this sounds, the outlook for the Canada lynx is better and more promising than it is for many of the other feline species. Humans kill over 11 million rabbits each year according to statistics provided from hunting license sales and kill reports. The snowshoe hare is the primary staple of the Canada lynx, but due to over hunting of hares, lynx’ food supply is diminished. Hunters only comprise 6% of our population, but they kill over 100 million animals each year for sport.

**Status:** CITES: Appendix II  
IUCN: Least Concern  
US populations are small and threatened. Lynx were reintroduced apparently unsuccessfully in northern New York state in the late 1980s, and more recently, apparently successfully, in Colorado.

**How rare is this cat?** The International Species Information Service lists 68 in captivity worldwide that are registered with accredited zoos and sanctuaries, 1 of which lives at Big Cat Rescue.

**DANCES WITH WOLVES**  
**Female Canada Lynx**  
**Born 7/16/91**

Dances With Wolves had been bottle raised and released to someone who expected her to bond with him. His cats do commercials and ads and she was not inclined to do either. Living at Big Cat Rescue now, she can do what comes naturally to her. Dances is secretive and prefers to keep to herself, however, she always comes out to greet her favorite Keepers. She will slowly saunter over and perch herself on top of her hill to watch what is going on around her, all the while acting as if she could care less - typical feline behavior.

*Photo A by Julie Hanan. Photo B by LaWanna Jones.*

**CHECK THIS OUT!** This month's Kiss a Cat is Dances with Wolves and for a $10 donation you can get this beautiful 8x10 color photo of her. The bottom of the photo reads:  
"(Your Name) Kissed Dances with Wolves the Canada Lynx".  
"Kiss" Dances today with your $10 donation on page 15.