UNWANTED COUGAR NOW HAS A HOME

RHODE ISLAND WOMAN GIVES UP 13-YEAR-OLD PET COUGAR

Article by Willow Hecht

Marilyn Loppi had been searching for a home for her husband’s pet cougar for several months. Thirteen year old Narla, a 90-pound cougar, had been living in a cage in the Loppis’ Rhode Island backyard since she was a kitten. But when Marilyn’s husband Robert passed away in May 2009, Loppi decided she no longer wanted the cat. Robert Loppi had a permit for the cat, which he had gotten from a friend. It was legal in 1997 for private citizens in Rhode Island to own exotic cats, but authorities say they would not issue such a permit now, except to a zoo or other accredited facility.

Unable to find a facility that would accept the cat, Loppi finally contacted Big Cat Rescue who agreed to take the cougar if Loppi surrendered her exotic pet license. Loppi lured Narla into a carrier with shrimp, and the staff from Big Cat Rescue came early in the morning of January 7th to take her back to Florida.

Narla was one of the few lucky discarded pets to end up at a good home, most are not so lucky, and are euthanized or end up in bad places, which is one reason that a growing number of states have passed bans on private ownership and we are working so hard with our supporters to make this the case throughout the entire country.

Narla is currently in a large outdoor habitat with palmetto bushes, trees, and a rock den. She has settled right in and enthusiastically greets keepers with a cougar chirp.

Cougars, also called mountain lions, pumas, catamounts, and panthers, are the largest cats in North America and can weigh up to 200 lbs. They are hunted for sport in many states, and are scarce in the Midwest and eastern United States. In Florida, the panther teeters on the brink of extinction, with only 100 cats remaining. The cats are tawny brown in color, built for running and jumping, and highly elusive in the wild. They are the largest of the purring cats.

Narla photo above by Chris Poole

WIN A ROLEX FOR YOUR DAD FOR FATHER’S DAY... OR KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF

Rolex Explorer I Valued at $5050

Raffle tickets are $20 each, or for the best deal, get 10 tickets for $100. Enter as often as you like. Only 500 tickets will be sold so chances of winning are GRRR-EAT!

The drawing will be held on June 14th or when 500 tickets have been sold whichever comes first!

Order tickets on page 10
RAMBO'S EXTREME CAT-A-TAT MAKEOVER - JUNGLE CAT EDITION

Rambo came to Big Cat Rescue in 1999. He was bred for the pet trade. His owner had sent him to live with her daughter who died unexpectedly. His primary care giver became the 12-year-old granddaughter. She and her relatives agreed that they did not want to see Rambo exploited as part of a hybridization breeding plan for profit and asked if he could come live at Big Cat Rescue. Here he has a 900-square-foot cat-a-tat with tunnels, grasses, hills, bushes, trees and flowers. He is very talkative and loves to carry on conversations with his keepers.

In our continuing efforts to enrich the lives of all the cats here at Big Cat Rescue, Rambo recently enjoyed being the recipient of an extreme cat-a-tat makeover. Hard working Big Cat Keepers constructed a jungle gym of platforms and ramps, refurbished the existing dens, and dotted the enclosure with toys and spices. Thanks to the efforts of Doug Carlson, Julie Hanan, Kaylee Mapel, Marie Schoubert, Mary Lou Geis, Rosie Emdey, Shiloh Grant and other Big Cat Rescuers Rambo is enjoying every single bit of his new and improved cat-a-tat. He now has a room with a much better view, thanks to all who helped make this possible. Whether you’re one of those manning the gift shop or assisting with tours or working in animal care or admin or outreach or securing our donations, it takes so many to provide great homes like this for our cats. As Rambo would say, “MWOW!”

SWEET 16 & NEVER BEEN KISSED

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, lioness, white serval, caracal and white tiger. The species spotlight for March is Trick E the leopard cat 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 10.

NOTABLE VISITS

A Wickedly Wonderful Day for the Cats! On Tuesday, February 9th, Donna Vivino and the company of WICKED visited Big Cat Rescue for a private tour of the sanctuary. The cast and production company of Wicked have a long-standing reputation for supporting non-profit animal welfare organizations in the communities in which the musical is being performed. In WICKED, Donna Vivino plays Elphaba, who crusades to save the rights of animals. So in a perfect confluence of themes, the touring company which was performing in Tampa visited Big Cat Rescue in support of the 100+ magnificent animals that call the sanctuary home. “We were very excited to partner together with the cast of WICKED” said Jeff Kremer, Big Cat Rescue’s Director of Donor Appreciation. “The sanctuary envisions a world where the animals we share it with are treated with compassion and respect, just as Elphaba does in the play…making life better for animals who didn’t get a fair chance in life.” During their visit, Donna Vivino and colleagues were presented with a Ceramic Plaque as well as “Cat-A-Tat” sign in recognition of their support of the sanctuary’s animals as well as those around the world.

Big Cat Rescue was delighted to welcome the Weintraub family to the sanctuary in January. Steve and Julie, President/Vice President are the owners of the Gold and Diamond Source in Clearwater, Florida. While located in the Tampa Bay area, the Gold & Diamond Source is a company that over 100,000 customers worldwide have come to know and trust. The Weintraub’s are also renowned for their long-standing support of animal and human welfare organizations around the world. Steve, Julie and Steven Jr., Gold Specialist for their company, are pictured above in front of Nikita, one of the sanctuary’s male tigers.

The sanctuary was also excited to welcome Marvin Boone (AKA Marvelous Marvin) and his lovely wife Pam for a private tour in January. Marvin moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1977 and has served as Program Director and on-air radio host for such stations as Mix96, WHBO AM 1040, and 970 WFLA during his storied career. He is now the morning host and Music Director for Spring Hill’s True Oldies 106.3 WJQB. Marvin continues to be a popular mobile deejay and has a band called “The Stumbling Troubadours”. Marvin and his wife are well known and respected for their support of animal welfare organizations throughout the community. Marvin and Pam are pictured at right in front of Shere Khan, the sanctuary’s largest tiger, taking a cat-nap.
SAVING THE LEOPARD IN THE WILD
Article by Julie Hanan

Big Cat Rescue was recently contacted by the Sr. Program Officer of World Wildlife Fund’s Asian Species Conservation Program asking for assistance with a major initiative in tiger conservation. In mid-December, WWF began their 5-month program “Tiger Conservation in the Cambodian Eastern Plains.” This 4.5 million acre area of Cambodia, once termed “the Serengeti of Asia,” possesses a globally outstanding landscape for biodiversity and is one of the highest priority tiger conservation areas in the world. It provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity to save the tiger, along with a host of other species including the Asian elephant, Eld’s deer, wild water buffalo, gaur, banteng, leopard and dhole. The first step of this project is to complete an occupancy survey of this vast, remote area.

Big Cat Rescue’s Asian leopards will play an important role in this plan. Over the course of a few weeks, dogs were trained to recognize large carnivore scat (fecal material) by a team at the Univ. of Washington’s Center for Conservation Biology. Having tracked grizzlies and brown bears in Canada, these energetic detection dogs have undergone intensive training and now have rewarding careers in conservation research (more info: http://depts.washington.edu/conserv/conservation_canines_program.html).

In order for these dogs to do an effective job in Cambodia, one of the first things they needed was Asian leopard scat for training purposes. Senior Keepers Julie Hanan and Marie Schoubert gladly volunteered to collect scat samples at Big Cat Rescue from Asian leopard participants for this program; Reno, Cheetaro, Jumanji, Sundari, Nyla, Simba, and Sabre. A week’s worth of scat samples were collected, bagged, identified and shipped on dry ice overnight to Washington where the two dogs being deployed to Cambodia were being trained. After the dogs arrived in Cambodia, they were trained further on locally collected scats so they got used to the smell of natural scats from these species.

When asked why she volunteered for this project, Marie Schoubert explained that she often hears people frustrated saying that the more they fight and try to help nature and the animals, the less difference they see. But her attitude is that we can never give up. Her passion for animal conservation is so strong that she helps any way she can, whether it be by volunteering countless hours at Big Cat Rescue, by using her voice (she is fluent in many different languages), by signing petitions, etc. When she heard about this project, she knew that this would be just one more way she, and the leopards of Big Cat Rescue, could help make a huge difference.

Marie and Julie both share Big Cat Rescue’s vision - a world where the animals we share it with are treated with respect and caring and where habitat is preserved to ensure the indefinite future survival of these wonderful gifts of nature. Though the Asian leopards at Big Cat Rescue are captive, the help they have provided through this program to their “cousins” in the wild may prove crucial to the preservation of big cats worldwide. This is just another example of Big Cat Rescue’s global impact by our volunteers who care and are committed so deeply to our mission.

If you go to “Conservation Canines” on FaceBook, you’ll be able to see some amazing pictures of these dogs in action around the world. Please become a FaceBook FAN of “Conservation Canines” so you can stay up-to-date on their progress.

Clockwise from top left: Reno the leopard, Scoobie and Sadie the Conservation Canines

PERMANENT ENGRAVED PAVER TO HONOR YOUR FATHER ON FATHER’S DAY?

The project to pave the walkways around our Trading Post with rich looking engraved bricks is under way and makes a great Father’s Day gift for the dad who has everything. It is also a great gift for any other occasion, a way to create a permanent memorial for a family member or beloved pet who has passed on, or just something to do for yourself. The laser engraving actually changes the brick color to create the letters deep into the brick and will never wear off. We will be happy to send you a photo of your brick once installed. There are two sizes, 4x8 for a donation of $100 and 8x8 for a $200 donation. A great way to support the cats and create a memory for yourself of someone else. You can order on page 10, by calling the Director of Donor Appreciation Jeff Kremer at 813-373-9033 or by going online at:
http://www.bigcatrescue.biz/servlet/the-786/Pave-the-Way-with/Detail

BIG CAT RESCUE’S YOUNG ADULT EXPEDITION !!!

THE BIG CAT OPPORTUNITY YOU’VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

Have you always dreamed of a career in animal care? Are you passionate about conservation? Have you wondered what it’s like to work in this field?

Young adults ages 16-18 can explore their interests and learn from our Keepers, Staff and experts in person. Join us in small workshop formats designed to give a real taste of life in the animal care and conservation world. Two different session topics will be offered with “So, You Want to Be An Animal Keeper?” and “Modern Conservationist” on the agenda for this summer season. (Call or email for topic schedule)

Young Adult Expedition is offered for three day sessions held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with the bonus option to attend our Keeper and Feeding Tours (a $150 value at no additional cost). Tuition is only $300 a session per participant. Class size is limited so register now!

Session Dates: July 22 - 24 or August 5 - 7, 2010
Young Adult Schedule 9:30 AM - 4 PM Thurs. & Fri., 8:30 AM – 2 PM Sat Bonus Option! Participants who complete the program are invited to stay for the Keeper Tour & Feeding Tour Sat. 2 - 6 PM

To Register: Contact Beth Kamhi, ED Director at (813) 323-3265, education@bigcatrescue.org
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
BOBCAT RESCUE

A call came in at 6:15 am from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s department: A bus driver named Mary who drives for Independent Day School saw a bobcat in the middle of Linebaugh Avenue near Nixon Road. Big Cat Rescuers, Chris Poole and Carole Baskin, raced to the scene with nets and carriers.

By the time they arrived dawn was breaking and Chris spotted the bobcat laying on the curb, with her head up, watching oncoming traffic whizz past her just inches away. Carole pulled the van up to block traffic, turned on the flashers and the two of them circled the van towards the bobcat. The bobcat stood and glanced around at her options. Either run towards traffic or across an empty field. Much to both of their amazement the bobcat sprinted across the field on three legs.

The bobcat ran like mad across the field, took a hard right, jumped into a creek to throw her pursuers off the track and then dashed off through the heavy undergrowth.

Carole and Chris didn’t see her come out the other side of the creek. The temperature was 52 degrees and the water was bone chillingly cold. Chris and Carole beat the bushes around a large retention pond, and Chris discovered a recent bird kill. There was a well worn path that led to the area from the road, so it was clear that this bobcat has made this trek across 6 lanes of traffic for a long time.

After circling the lake twice Carole was about to suggest they go back to the sanctuary and gather humane traps and a bigger search force, when Chris called out that he found the bobcat. She had crawled under a pad of reeds next to the pond. When they tried to net her she took off into the water again, Chris dove in after her and managed to net her. For that he got to name her: Bellona.

She was then transported to Ehrlich Animal Hospital where Dr. Wynn met them. X-rays showed that her left rear leg was broken in such a way that traditional pinning would not be sufficient to repair the damage. Dr. Wynn called Florida Veterinary Specialists to ask if they could get her in for major surgery.

This $3,895 surgery was performed 11/30/09 by Dr. Mark Levy and he did all of the repairs internally so there is nothing external for her to gnaw at and re-injure herself. Her tail was broken, completely separated and de-gloved so it was amputated. The bobcat appears to be a healthy, young female with a good prognosis of surviving. After returning from Florida Veterinary Specialists, she spent some recovery time in the West Boensch Cat Hospital at the sanctuary. She is recovering well and is now living in the bobcat rehab enclosure.

She is recovering well and is now living in the bobcat rehab enclosure. The real question now will be if her leg can heal sufficiently for her to again run free.

DONATE TO HER CARE:
http://www.bigcatrescue.biz/servlet/the-832/Rehab-Bobcat-Donation/Detail

Left to right: Surgery at FVS, Bellona in rehab cage, the rehab enclosure

GRR-REETING CARDS

Do you like to help the cats? Do you like to send cards and gifts to friends, family, and business contacts? Would you like to send cards and gifts, and help the cats all at the same time? Big Cat Rescue proudly uses Send Out Cards to send thank you notes and other greetings cards to supporters of the sanctuary. With Send Out Cards, you can pick a card from over 15,000 greeting cards (including the cats from BCR), type your message, and press send… and that is it!. Send Out Cards will then print, stuff, stamp, and mail out your real greeting card in the mail all for about a buck including postage!

To learn more about this program go to:
www.sendoutcards.com/bigcatrescue

Send a card for free and tour the website with no obligation. For more info contact Kathleen Slaven at (813) 215-8528
WINNER NAMES NEWLY RESCUED SERVAL

Thanks to everyone who participated in the “Name that Serval” contest we were able to raise more than $500 for her care. Lucky winners, John and Elaine Robinson, chose the name Desiree for the 3 legged serval that was rescued from the Arizona desert.

SUMMER’S COMING AND THE EARLY BIRDS GET THE BEST DEALS!

Registration for Big Cat Summer Camp 2010 is about to open as we once again prepare to welcome campers on a learning adventure to remember! Children between the ages of 8 and 15 are invited to discover our great outdoors with over 100 big cats of every size, color and personality. While participating in educational activities campers delight in meeting lions, tigers, leopards and other felines while enjoying outdoor exploration on the 45 acre campus at Big Cat Rescue. Interactive learning opportunities include diet preparation, scavenger hunts and keeper demonstrations of feedings and behavioral training with the cats.

Class size is limited to ensure a quality experience for each camper, so register soon while space is available. Camps are designed and overseen by certified teachers. This summer camp opportunity is only $195.00 per camper for each 4-day session. (Early Bird registration completed by 5/28/10 is $180.00 per session)

Summer Camp Schedule:
Mon. thru Thurs. 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM Daily

FOR AGES 6-11:
For ages 12-15: June 14-17, June 21-24, July 12-15
FOR AGES 12-15
June 14-17, June 21-24, July 12-15, July 19-22, July 26-29 and Aug. 2-5

To Register: Contact Beth Kamhi, ED Director at: (813) 323-3265, education@bigcatrescue.org

SECTION 2 OF WALL COMPLETED AFTER OLD FENCE TOPPLES - FUNDS NEEDED FOR NEXT SECTION BEFORE IT GOES TOO!

After paint balls were shot at our leopards through the perimeter fence a few years ago we began a long term project to build a solid perimeter wall. Donations of $100 buy one foot of wall. Our plan was to build the wall as funds were raised. The first 1000 feet was built in late 2008 after we had raised over $100,000 from contributions by many donors.

The 660 foot section that was the next priority is not visible to the public. It is also in an area where we could not get a crane. So, we found a different technology. We used panels that have a tough aluminum exterior and are filled with very dense foam and are hurricane rated. These are installed similarly to the precast concrete we used before, with posts sunk in concrete and the panels then slipped into place. The difference is they can be done by hand without the crane. In addition, since this section is not visible to the public, with the help of vendor Rhino Wall Systems we were able to get “scratch and dent” product that has no structural defect but cannot be used in visible areas, so it was less expensive.

We had not yet raised enough to cover the $33,000 cost of this next section when suddenly it became an urgent necessity. The old chain link perimeter fence had rusted to a point where it fell over! So we contracted for the work and were going to have to fund part of it from reserves when Debra and Harry Stonecipher came to the rescue with a large donation that allowed us to fund the wall without reserves. This generous donation also allowed us to complete the purchase of a generator to keep our food freezers running if we lost power in a hurricane so the cats would not starve, hurricane proof our gift shop so our staff would have a safe haven in a storm, start the fund to build the next section of wall, and fund some of the field trips we do for children from Title I schools and injured veterans from the nearby hospital who do not have financial resources to visit the sanctuary.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who donated and particularly to the Stoneciphers for allowing us to complete this section without dipping into reserves. We will publish the complete list of wall donors again soon.

Meantime, the rest of the old chain link fence is the same age as the section that fell over, so we are very much in need of donations to continue the work. You can donate on the Order Form in this issue or online at:

http://tiny.cc/P80Bj or by calling Jeff Kremer at 813-373-9033

LEOPARD UNDERGOES EYE SURGERY

Bagheera had been having trouble with her eye and Dr. Tammy Mitchell from FVS, who is an eye surgeon, said the eye was causing a lot of pressure and surely a lot of pain. She said the eye would have to be removed. Given her advanced age we were concerned that the anesthesia would kill her, but Dr. Mitchell was extremely fast and Bagheera was only out a short while. Bagheera recovered nicely after the surgery.
Sad Farewell to Some Magnificent Big Cats

Big Cat Rescue was founded 17 years ago and 74 of our sanctuary residents are now over the age of 15 (90+ in cat years). It is with great sadness that we must say goodbye to these beautiful big cats. Five cats at the sanctuary had to be euthanized, which is always a painful decision for us, and one passed from heart failure.

ZZa ZZa the ocelot passed away in her sleep. A necropsy found her cause of death to be a perforation of the intestines which could have been caused by a bone or a stick that she ingested.

Hercules the snow leopard was surplus from the Snow Leopard Species Survival Plan. His genes were over represented. He came to Big Cat Rescue as a cub in 1997. He recently fell ill and was rushed to Ehrlich Animal Hospital where it was discovered that his labored breathing was due to squamous cell carcinoma, an aggressive cancer in his mouth and throat that had rapidly overtaken his entire air way. It was wrapped around the esophagus and would not have been operable. The loss of Hercules was very sudden and unexpected for Rescuers.

Shanghai the leopard cat was rescued from a breeder who used him for producing bengal cats. He came to Big Cat Rescue in 1996. He had received numerous injuries as a result of the conditions from which he came. He was missing an ear and he was partially crippled. His condition recently worsened when he lost his sight due to hypertension. As his condition worsened his quality of life became poor.

Adonis was a declawed pet that became unwanted when his owners moved to a new house and no longer had room for him. He and his mate Bagheera were rescued in 1995. When Adonis recently fell ill he was taken in for x-rays. It was discovered that he had liver cancer that had progressed to the point that at the age of 20 there was no chance that he could be treated and recover.

Taran the jungle cat was rescued in the Spring of 1995. His owner had purchased him for the purpose of breeding hybrids, but Taran hated domestic cats and so became worthless to his owner. Taran had been struggling with renal failure and treated almost continually over the past year for upper respiratory infections. His ability to move had steadily diminished by advanced arthritis. X-rays indicated he had fractured his leg and his bones and joints were far gone and arthritic. At the age of 16 he was our oldest Jungle Cat.

Cha Cha came to the sanctuary in 1999. She was the product of the pet trade. Heart failure took this little jungle cat’s life.

To sponsor a Forever Remembered plaque in honor of one of these great cats go online to: http://www.bigcatrescue.biz/servlet/the-788/Forever-Remembered/detail

You can give more without spending more by turning your everyday spending into meaningful donations with a customized Big Cat Rescue Capital One® credit card. Share your passion and donate to Big Cat Rescue with your everyday purchases. We’ve partnered with Capital One® Card Lab Connect to bring you our newest fundraising program, which helps us earn money doing what you do every day! Just carry one of our custom credit cards (it comes with a competitive rate and no annual fee), and 1% of purchases made with the card will be donated to Big Cat Rescue. Not only will you be donating to the cats with each purchase you make, you’ll be helping to spread the word when people see your wildly unique card, designed specifically for Big Cat Rescue. Three custom cards are currently available featuring Cameron the lion, Cheetaro the leopard, and Shere Khan & China Doll the tigers! What a great way to share the cats’ stories every time you pull out your credit card. Sharing your passion and your support is easy and automatic. Apply today!

https://www.cardlabconnect.com/Big Cat Rescue

Credit approval required. Terms and conditions apply. Offered by Capital One Bank (USA)
BIG CAT RESCUE’S SCOTT LOPE IS NAMED ANIMAL PLANET’S “2009 HERO OF THE YEAR”

Scott Lope, Director of Operations at Big Cat Rescue, is the 2009 Animal Planet Hero of the Year! He’s spent more than 10 years caring for the 100+ cats here at the sanctuary and is a hero to them and all of us, and now the world has acknowledged him for his countless hours of dedication. His award came with a $10,000 donation from Animal Planet and Fresh Step to Scott’s favorite charity, which he designated as Big Cat Rescue. Part of the contest was based on which contestant got the most votes online. Thanks to our wonderful supporters who took time to vote, Scott was victorious. He was one of 10 finalists that had been chosen from 7000 nominees. We celebrated Scott’s win at Whiskey Joe’s on Ben T. Davis Beach and gave out awards to many of our wonderful volunteers, including the Founder’s Award to Julie Hanan and the Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Lou Geis. Thanks again to everyone that voted Scott “Hero of the Year”!

FUR BALL AUCTION WINNERS TOUR AND DINE WITH “HERO OF THE YEAR”

One of the great auction prizes at the 2009 Fur Ball was a private tour by Animal Planet Hero of the Year Scott Lope for four people followed by dinner with Scott at Whiskey Joe’s restaurant on the Causeway with its great cuisine and water view. Pictured here are Janet August, Sue Green, Karyn Ringhaver and Alyce McCathran at the restaurant. “What a wonderful evening with Hero of the Year Scott Lope” Karyn emailed afterwards. “What a great guy to be around. He’s just full of all this goodness he wants to do for the animals. I have great admiration for him.”

GREAT FOOD...GREAT FUN….GREAT CAUSE!

On Thursday January 28th, Michael Stewart, owner of 717 South, one of Tampa Bay’s most exclusive restaurants hosted the Big Cat Rescue celebrity bartender fundraiser. The sanctuary’s very own Scott Lope, Animal Planet’s 2009 Hero of the Year was joined by Jack Harris (970 WFLA Radio), Mike Connell (Tampa Bay Rowdies soccer fame) and Adria Bernstein (Artist and founder of Witty Wocks) in support of the magnificent animals who call Big Cat Rescue home. Scott, Jack, Mike and Adria tended bar to an adoring crowd with all tips collected going to support the sanctuary’s efforts. Photo by: John Kantor left to right: Jack Harris, Adria Bernstein, Scott Lope, Mike Connell.

A BIG CAT CHRISTMAS - A special thank you to Gallio Family Christmas Trees, Target, and Mike’s Trees for donating trees to all the big cats at Big Cat Rescue.
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 10. S & H within the United States as well as tax has already been included in the price. You can also upgrade your shipping to Priority for just $3 for your entire order. For luxury cat themed gift items visit BigCatLuxeGifts.com.

WILD GIFTS

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

TOYS & GAMES

Themed Monopoly Board Games Choose Animalopoly, Earthopoly, or Catopoly $28.54

Magnetic Closers Choose Cougar, Lion, Lynx, or Tiger $8.42

Wild Gifts

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

Super Soft & Cuddly 20" Snow Leopard Plush $25.00

Tubby Wubby the Lion 12" Plush Toy $13.70

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

Ultimate Domestic Cat Sticker Book $12.63

Encyclopedia Sticker Book Over 800 Stickers $19.60

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

6" Wild Piggy Banks Choose Orange Leopard Purple Tiger Pink Leopard or Green Tiger Each Comes with a Cute Gift Box $13.70 each

8" The Big Cat Times - Spring 2010 - Info@BigCatRescue.org - 813.920.4130 - Follow Us At http://Twitter.com/BigCatRescue
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<td><strong>Paws Off Kids Tee Blue Big Cat Rescue on Front XS, S, M &amp; L $16.91</strong></td>
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Snow Leopard Trust Gift Items
Handmade, Fair Trade

3” Wool Mice Cat Toy $7.35 each
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Address ____________________________________________
City           St          Zip ______________________________
Day Time Phone _______________________________________
Evening Phone _______________________________________
Email ______________________________________________

RECIPIENT ADDRESS (different than billing)
Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City           St          Zip ______________________________

* NOTE: Fill out blue shaded box at bottom of form

METHOD OF PAYMENT
☐ Check  ☐ Money Order
☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number ____________________________________________
Exp. Date MMYY ___________________________ Signature ____________

This is a gift, please make card TO: ______________________________________________
FROM: ______________________________________________

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 813-426-4130. 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 59-3330485. Our Florida registration number is CH-11498. 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, or Question:

* Personalizations (How you want your name to appear): ______________________________________________

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.

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

Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change.
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<th>Name</th>
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**THANK YOU EVERYONE!**
LEOPARD CAT  
**PRIONAILURUS BENGALENSIS**

**Common Name:** Leopard Cat  
**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Chordata (Vertebrata)  
**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Carnivora  
**Family:** Felidae  
**Genus:** Felinae (Prionailurus)  
**Species:** bengalensis

**Misc.:** This cat has been the subject of long debate as to its taxonomic status. There are numerous subspecies that some feel should be classified as individual species in their own right, and other species some feel should be classified as subspecies of the leopard cat.

**Subspecies:**  
- P. b. bengalensis - India, southeast Asia, China Taiwan  
- P. b. sumatranus - Sumatra  
- P. b. javanensis - Java and Bali  
- P. b. borneoensis - Borneo  
- P. b. trevelyani - Pakistan  
- *Amur*  
- *Tshushima*  

**Size and Appearance:**  
Weighing in at 6-15 pounds and reaching lengths of 35-38 inches, this is the most common cat of Southern Asia. It is similar in overall size and shape to the domestic cat, but it has longer legs. Its coat has a great deal of variation in color throughout its range, and tends to be yellowish-brown in the tropics and grayish-brown in the northern part of its range. The coat is dotted with black spots, sometimes solid and sometimes rosettes. The tail is banded with dark rings towards its buff colored tip. The ears are dark with central white spots. Sumatra cats are smaller with fewer markings; Java and Bali cats are duller; Borneo cats are brighter and redder; Pakistan cats are grayer; Manchuria cats are much larger than the other subspecies with much thicker fur, grayer in color and less spotting; and Philippines cats are the smallest.

**Habitat:** Woodlands, forests, and scrub at all altitudes (as long as snow isn’t deeper than 4 inches).

**Distribution:** India, southern and eastern Asia including Indonesia and the Philippines. The Tshushima, or Amur lives in the Tshushima Islands.

**Reproduction and Offspring:** In the northern part of its range, breeding occurs once per year, usually in February/March. In the tropics, mating takes place year round. Gestation is 65-70 days, after which females produce a litter of 2-4 kittens. At birth, the newborns weigh approximately 2.75 ounces, and will gain about 11 grams per day. Their eyes will normally be open by the 10th day. They reach sexual maturity around 18 months. In captivity, they have lived up to 15 years, but tend to lose their teeth at 8-10 years.

**Social System and Communication:** These cats are nocturnal, and during the day they spend their time in dens that may be hollow trees, cavities under roots, or caves. They spend time out during the day in areas where there are no humans. The leopard cat is solitary, except during breeding season.

**Hunting and Diet:** Primarily nocturnal, they hunt both on the ground and in the trees. The primary diet consists of rodents, young ungulates, hares, birds, reptiles, insects, eels, fish, and occasionally carrion.

**Principal Threats:** The primary threats facing the leopard cat are deforestation and commercial exploitation (in the past, as many as 400,000 pelts taken per year). This was also the most recent exotic cat to be used by man in a quest for a new breed of cat. The leopard cat crossed with the domestic cat has produced a now-recognized new breed of domestic: the Bengal cat. This has removed potential breeding cats from conservation programs and has diminished the gene pool for helping to save the pure leopard cat.

**Status:** CITES: Appendix I  
IUCN: Least Concern

**Felid TAG recommendation:**  
Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). Leopard cats from various geographic origins were commonly imported into this country during the 1960s and early 1970s. The public donated most leopard cats in zoos. With the end of leopard cat harvesting by the fur industry, this species has become more common in nature. This, combined with the small, mixed population in zoos is the reason that this species is not recommended for support in North America. Several species of cats are naturally rare and, although not legally endangered, have never been available for zoos or other holders. Other species are native to remote areas and highly regulated because of endangered status. The Felid TAG does not support future acquisition.

**How rare is this cat?**  
The International Species Information Service lists 144 in captivity worldwide that are registered with accredited zoos and sanctuaries, 2 of which live at Big Cat Rescue.

**CHECK THIS OUT!** This month’s Kiss a Cat is Trick E. for a $10 donation you can get this beautiful 8x10 color photo of him. The bottom of the photo reads:  
“(Your Name) Kissed Trick E. the Leopard Cat”  
“Kiss” Trick E. today with your $10 donation on page 10.