RESCUE OF FREDDY AND SASSY THE COUGARS  By Carole Baskin

If only they could speak to us in a language that we understand. Then we might know the horrors they have survived and be more inclined to protect others from enduring their fate. We hope that the story of Freddy and Sassy will inspire you to help these two cougars as well as to do all you can to end the trade in exotic cats.

Back in the 90s, farmers Al and Kathy Abel decided to start a breeding facility called Cougar Bluff Enterprises. They set up cages in their back yard in Elizabethtown, IL and filled them with a couple of cougars (Freddy & Sassy) a lion cub named Simba, some wolves and wolf hybrids. It was their plan to breed and sell and be surrounded by the kinds of wild animals they loved. The more they saw of what breeders and dealers were doing to animals, like the former owner who had beaten Sassy with a shovel, the more they realized that there was just no good reason to be breeding and selling exotics, so they never bred the big cats.

Having raised Simba the lion from a cub, they may have been complacent about the dangers of such interactions. Simba wasn’t even full grown before killing Al Abel. On that tragic day, Feb. 12, 2004, Kathy Abel came home to find the lion on the front porch of their home, her dog dead in the yard and no sign of her husband. Sheriff’s deputies arrived on the scene as dark was closing in and the lion was on the edge of the 277,000 ac Shawnee National Forest. Kathy could not locate darts for her dart gun and the deputies were ordered to shoot Simba the lion rather than risk him killing someone in the park. It wasn’t until after Simba, body riddled by bullets, lay dying that Kathy discovered her husband dead on the floor of Simba’s cage. It had only taken one bite to the leg to cause him to bleed to death.

Fast forward six years and on Nov. 8, 2010 Chris Poole, of Big Cat Rescue came across a Facebook post saying that Kathy Abel had killed herself and left two cougars and an array of other domestic pets and farm animals with no one for miles around to care for them.

We responded right away that we would come get the two cougars, Freddy and Sassy. It took a long nine days to get the health certificate and import permit and to wait until after Kathy’s funeral before we would be allowed to arrive on the scene. Meanwhile, Robin Parks, Field Volunteer for the Mountain Lion Foundation, had coordinated with Kathy’s sister Kimberly Rapp and a local rehabber, Bev Shofstall, to insure that the cats were being fed and cared for.

Above: Close up of Freddy, Sassy pictured in tiny backyard cage in Illinois. Right: Sassy enjoying his new spacious enclosure in sunny Florida.
Sad Farewell to Four Great Cats

By Jamie Veronica

Big Cat Rescue was founded 18 years ago and 79 of our 100+ 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 four wonderful felines.

Shasta arrived at Big Cat Rescue with Peaches, another serval. She had been retired from breeding. She had an amazing metabolism and could eat as much as a cougar without gaining weight. She was discovered to have a rare form of Discoid Lupus for which she received medication the rest of her life. Though Shasta was up in years, she still found the energy to be quite playful. She would take an enrichment tube and bat it around, stirring up leaves and pine needles in a frenzy to keep up with it. In October Shasta had not been eating well, so we took her in to see our vet, Dr. Wynn. After 2 hours of surgery, an inoperable cancerous tumor was found. At 18 years of age, we decided the only option was to help her slip into that next realm while still under anesthesia.

Bagheera came to Big Cat Rescue from Oklahoma in 1995 with Adonnis, another black leopard. They were both declawed and being kept as pets. Their owners then moved and didn’t have room for either of them at their new location. Adonnis and Bagheera were able to spend their days together in a very large cat-a-tat built especially for them as a contest prize won by Julie Hanan, a Big Cat Rescue volunteer. Sadly, Bagheera was left without Adonnis when he passed away in January of 2010. Her health continued to fail and she succumbed to renal failure. We said a tearful goodbye to her as she joined Adonnis over the rainbow bridge, finally free, after living 21 years in captivity.

Cachanga was imported, along with his mate Cachinga, from a miserable little zoo in Africa in February, 1995. They had a wonderful bond and, after Cachanga was neutered, lived together for many years here at Big Cat Rescue. Although Cachanga spent most of his life around people he never fully trusted humans. He was just another sad story of a big cat condemned to live his entire life in a cage instead of roaming freely in the wild where he was meant to be. Sadly, Cachanga passed away on December 15, 2010 from kidney failure. We will miss his feisty spirit always.

Rain was orphaned, along with her brother and sister, Storm and Midnight, when a hunter took the life of her mother. Luckily the three kittens, who were just barely two weeks old, found a temporary home at Big Cat Rescue. The sanctuary would be only a temporary home because these three kittens would be trained for release back into the wild giving them a second chance at the freedom they deserve. Unfortunately Rain passed away as a result of a variety of health deficiencies just a few months after the passing of her brother Storm due to a heart defect. Midnight remains strong and will carry on the spirit of her lost siblings when she is released this coming Spring.

To write your legislator visit: www.CatLaws.com

To donate visit: http://www.bigcatrescue.biz/servlet/the-Donations/ Categories

For PayPal send to: CustomerService@BigCatRescue.org

Above: Freddy in Illinois, Sassy at BCR, Freddy lounging and playing in his pool at BCR

To do this rescue the 14 year old and very frail cougar, could make it another day. Rescuers made the trip in record time but arrived well after dark. They coordinated with Kimberly Rapp to pick up the cats at first light on the morning of the 18th.

This is where YOU come in.

These cats have witnessed things that no one should ever have to see. It is only through your help that we can make sure their last years are the best years of their lives. Your voice in letters to your lawmakers asking for a ban on the private possession of big cats is what will stop the future breeding, trading and discarding of big cats that led to this sad situation. Your donations are what make it possible for us to commit to an emergency rescue like this.

Big Cat Rescuers; President Jamie Veronica Murdock, Operations Manager Gale Ingham and Chris Poole hit the road on Nov. 17th driving straight through the night to Cave In Rock, IL, which was the nearest lodge to the cougars. While en-route, Bev the rehabber emailed asking us to hurry as she wasn’t sure Freddy, the 14 year old and very frail cougar, could make it another day. Rescuers made the trip in record time but arrived well after dark. They coordinated with Kimberly Rapp to pick up the cats at first light on the morning of the 18th.

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A ROARING THANK YOU TO OUR SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS!
By Howard Baskin

Our “Sustaining Donor Society” is the way we recognize those donors who make automatic regular donations. This is one of the most helpful ways to donate because it is funding we know we can plan on arriving on a regular basis. Started only a few years ago, the Society has now grown to 163 supporters whose donations add up to over $65,000 per year! Thanks so much to all of you!

Automated donations can be made by secure direct debit to your checking account by emailing Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org, by credit card by emailing Honey.Wayton@BigCatRescue.org or calling 813-920-4130, online through your PayPal account by selecting Big Cat Rescue as the recipient.

SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS!

Abigail & Daniel P. Reingold
Alison Owens
Amanda Albertson
Ana Cruz
Andrew Boncek
Angelica Turner
Anita Rallo
Anna Price
Anthony & Mary Urso
Arthur Haines
Audra C. Webb
Benjamin Coomer
Bess Glenn

Brandy Cumming-Krebs
Brenda Nixon
Bruce Newborough
Caleb Carr
Carol Trokanski
Carol-Ann Myers
Carole Zuckerman
Charles & Christine Rocks
Cheryl & Paul Breltz
Cheryl Cromwell
Christina Farah

Cindy & John Glessner
Claire Mooers
Clifton Amos
Clyde Sharpley
Colby Cox
Daniel Pursel
Darla Haines
Darlene Tschikner
David Brooks
David Nugent
Dawn Freeman
Dawn Mazzarella
Diana Wise Compton
Diane Freeman
Diane Gibson
Diane M. Kastel
Donna Fontaine

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Dr. F. Alleson
Edward & Carol Collins
Edward & Royce Roeder
Elizabeth Springer
Elizabeth Thiel
Elyssa Bernard
Elyssa Bernard
Eric Mitchell
Eric Willis
Felicia Gardella
Florence Colomb
Frances Cruz
Gabriella Jones
Guy Martin

Haywood Turner III
Heather Weber
Hollace & Gordon
Hannah
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Jack Lono
James Akin
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Janice & Donald Rose
Jennifer A. Schang
Jennifer Miller
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Jim Perdun
Jim Reed
Joselynn Ivanoff
Joyce Brady
Judith D. Hajar
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Judy Kane
Judy Cresnutt
Karen Healey
Kelly Cruickshank
Kerry Beth Gilbert
Kimberly Loughlin
Kirk & Aileen Davis
Lani Walker
Laura Davis
Laura Davis
Laura Oconner
Laura Sherwood
Leonora Siverson
Leslie Crowell
Linda Boder
Linda Denning
Linda Stephonoff
Linda Tripp
Lisa Morgan
Lisa Nance
Lynette Sillon
M Diane Hodgson
Madeline & Sandra Miller
Marcia Weidemann
Margaret & Donald Hutton
Marianne Bonetati
Maribeth Higgins
Marilyn Salazar
Marsha Hassan
Mary Lee Kingsley
Marylouise Hawken
Meagan Gaskell
Melinda Mclane
Michael Neblock
Michelle & Scott Chamberlin
Monique Mcgee
Morgan Smith
Nancy & John Leclerc
Nancy Rodgers
Nicki Lyford
Nicole Babyak
Pamela & David Anderson
Pamela Olson Koonts
Pamela Young
Patricia & Lon Wojtowicz
Pattie Quinn-Bennett
Peter Albin
Pierre & Sharon Roseman
Randi & Constance Bergstrom
Rebecca Lawrence
Robert & Mary Mann
Robert Mitchell
Robyn Porter
Roger & Rebecca Nagle
Sally Eadie
Sara Sinclair
Scott Ewing
Sean Harris
Sharyn Fox
Sheila Campbell
Sheri Ranson
Sole Maritimes
Stacie Carpenter
Stephanie Rogers
Steve Carter
Steven Harrison
Susan Richardson
Susanne Perla
Ten Mcieish
Thomas & Barbara Linton
Todd Miller
Tom Garrison
Tracey Palmer
Tyna & Scott Haynes
Valerie Avalia
Victor Yannotta
Waltraut Insalaco
Wendy Smith
William & Mary Dwinnell
William Evans
William Konopaska
William Tamiso

You can help us change the way people treat big cats by texting the word “TIGER” to 20222

A one-time charge of $10 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.mts.com US Subscribers only Mobile Giving Foundation
The “Fur Ball” started 11 years ago as a small barbecue at the sanctuary. It became a gala at A La Carte 8 years ago. Since then, it has grown dramatically and built a reputation as the most truly FUN event in town. In 2010 we heard over and over again from repeat attendees that the ball was the best ever. In addition to being a fun time for our supporters and a significant fundraiser, the publicity associated with the ball has been a significant contributor to building awareness of the sanctuary and its mission.

Most organizations that put on a gala the size and complexity of the Fur Ball are much bigger and usually have a “Development Department” with people devoted to events. We do not. Big Cat Rescue operates with very few staff who work extraordinarily long hours. This keeps our fundraising and administrative costs as a percentage of total expenses very low, something many of our donors appreciate. It also has earned us the coveted “Four Star” rating at Charity Navigator, the most widely recognized source of nonprofit evaluation.

The Fur Ball, for all of its benefits, takes an enormous amount of our limited management time to put on. In 2011 we want to focus much more of our time on our “advocacy” work, i.e. educating the public, stopping the abusers and changing the laws. The only way we can make time for that is to take a break from the Fur Ball.

We are, however, putting on a celebrity golf tournament with the help of an experienced individual who has volunteered to manage the event and participation by one of our local sports teams. Details will be posted on our website and appear in the next issue of the Big Cat Times. Our last golf tournament, in 2005, sold out quickly. If you would like to receive updates by email, please let us know by emailing Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org

**THANKS TO OUR LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS** By Howard Baskin

The number of people who have so kindly remembered the cats in their estate planning and become part of our Legacy Society continues to grow. We would like to thank the people listed below for providing for the cats in this way. In addition to the condolences we have expressed at the time of their passing, we would like to again express our sympathy to the family and friends of Thomas Daly, Terry Nordblom and Robert C. Williams, all of whom passed away in 2010 and have helped provide for the cats with their generous bequests.

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<tr>
<th>Anonymous (4)</th>
<th>Amy Davis</th>
<th>William Kuni</th>
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<tr>
<td>Candace Barbara</td>
<td>Lynne Daub</td>
<td>David H. Lytle</td>
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<td>Carole Baskin</td>
<td>Dorothy Edwards</td>
<td>Jean Matusinska</td>
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<td>Howard Baskin</td>
<td>Fran Ezer</td>
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<td>Ebe Bower</td>
<td>Ian Ira Fischer</td>
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<td>Marie Collart</td>
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<td>Joan &amp; Richard Czech</td>
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<td>Robert C. Williams (D)</td>
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This list is maintained manually. If you have provided for the cats in your estate planning and are not listed here, please accept our apologies, and contact Finance@BigCatRescue.org so we can update the list. Thank you!

**MODGLIN 100% MATCHING GRANT FUNDS PURCHASE OF 10 ACRES FOR BCR**

$128,640 Submitted so far for match - $71,360 to go! Please help fund 3000 feet of protective perimeter wall.

**By Howard Baskin**

On December 31, 2010 we closed on the purchase of ten acres of property on the west side of the sanctuary. During the real estate boom a few years ago, this parcel, along with about 30 other acres on our west side, was under an option contract to become 400 townhomes at 9 units per acre. The prospect of three story townhomes being built only a few feet from our perimeter looking down at the cats was scary! When the real estate market turned, the developer did not exercise the option. The ten acres was then listed at $1.1 million, far beyond our capacity. As the market deteriorated the price kept coming down.

What we are hoping to do in 2011 is construct the solid wall along the pink and green portions of the perimeter in the diagram, a total of 3015 linear feet. Wall donations of $100 and above will be acknowledged on a permanent sign at the sanctuary. If you submit a donation for the match on Razoo.com and would like to have it be applied to the wall, please just type “wall fund” in the Dedication field in Razoo. If you donate by sending in the order form in this newsletter, just check both the Modglin Match and the Wall boxes. Thanks for helping protect the cats from intruders!

By Howard Baskin
THE MEANING OF A “MITZVAH”  
By Beth Kamhi

The Judaic term of Mitzvah has many meanings. In popular use it refers to a selfless moral deed. It is considered to be an act of human kindness, and the action transcends all religions. In fact, it transcends species as well.

One young out-of-state supporter, Benjy Robinov, is working on a yearlong Bar Mitzvah Project fundraiser for BCR. Benjy and his family have created beautiful hand-painted water bottles that they are selling in support of the sanctuary’s efforts. This boy’s Bar Mitzvah project has raised over $800 to date with both sales by the family as well as in our gift shop. We expect this effort will bring in a very significant amount as we approach his October 2011 Bar Mitzvah.

Our thanks and best wishes to Benjy and family. On behalf of the cats we wish him Mazal Tov and heartfelt thanks on this stellar entry into adulthood.

COOL CATS FOR SUMMER

Here we are in the cool days of winter, yet beginning February 25th, 2011 we will open registration for our annual Big Cat Rescue Summer Camp. Kids ages 8-15 and young adults 16-18 can join in for one wild time at Big Cat Rescue this summer! This unique opportunity comes around just once a year for children to enjoy behind the scenes activities, having fun and learning at the same time. Young adults considering careers in biology, conservation or animal care have a chance to experience a working sanctuary and test the water for their future pathways at our Young Adult Expedition.

Comments from previous campers say it all: “The first day of camp she talked all night not just about the fun she had, but about what she learned” and “My child loved it more than I ever thought he would!” Young adults report: “I have grown to love the outdoors and now want to be a Conservation Activist and major in Environmental Sciences at University of Central Florida…I would use the knowledge gained to its full capacity and put it towards my efforts in saving our planet!”

Camp typically fills to capacity so don’t miss out! To register keep an eye on our website or contact Beth Kamhi at education@bigcatrescue.org or 813-323-3265.

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL  
By Beth Kamhi

School age supporters of Big Cat Rescue are a never ending source of inspiration and the kids and advisors of the Deer Park Elementary Student Council have gone above and beyond for the cats. They chose Big Cat Rescue to support in their first fundraiser of the year. Our volunteer, Nanci Spires, presented at the school on October 29th, teaching the 39 students, ages 9-11 of the council. The kids learned all about what we do, and were really excited about the fundraiser they then had coming up in early November. With the support of the PTA and their volunteer parent advisor, Ms. Deborah Reeves, the student council hosted a movie night, with sales of color changing cups at the soft drink concession. Cup sales were brisk with the profits donated to Big Cat Rescue, and all visitors learning about our cats and our cause.

In mid-December a small group from the council came to the sanctuary to present their generous donation. They were hosted by Jeff Kremer, Director of Donor Appreciation. The kids were thrilled to learn that their efforts were doubled with the matching grant offered in memory of William and Lois Modglin. Then in January, 41 students and adults came for a field trip tour to celebrate!

In the words of Jessica T, their Student Council Publicist, “We have had a very busy month at Student Council! Our leader, Mrs. Reeves, and our Presidents visited Big Cat Rescue to deliver our generous donation to them. Then, on January 26th we all got to go there for a Field Trip! We learned so much about the animals’ behaviors and habitats. We were so proud to see a plaque with our school’s name that was on display. Big Cat Rescue holds an educational and fun summer camp that elementary age kids can attend! For more information on that visit www.bigcatrescue.org and tell them you are from Deer Park Elementary School.”

Thanks there Jessica, we couldn’t have said it better ourselves!
THE BIG CAT TRADING POST - GIFT 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

Big Cat Rescue Magnets Choose Snow Leopard, Lioness, Bobcat, Tiger, Black Leopard, Serval, Logo, or Ocelot $3.14 each

Big Cat Rescue Enamel Big Cat Bookmarks Choose Tiger, Lion, or Black Leopard $4.21 each

7" Aurora Babies Choose Nemara the Leopard, Leo the Lioness, Terrance the Tiger, or Lil Lehi the Bobcat $9.49 each

Toy Veterinarian Kit Kit includes: Stethoscope, syringe, Band-Aids, tongs, medicine bottle, blood pressure pump, and other toy medical items! $10.56

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

Logo Frisbee, Black, Green, Blue, Yellow, or Red $5.21 each

Leopard Print Clicky Pen. Get a new message scrolled across pen with each click. $4.00

Big Cat Rescue Tiger Shoe Laces $9.49

Logo Plush Purse with Stuffed Toy - Black Purse with Tiger or Pink Purse with Black Leopard $14.84 each

Logo Plush Purse with Stuffed Toy - Black Purse with Tiger or Pink Purse with Black Leopard $14.84 each

Wild Neck Pillow Choose Leopard or Tiger $13.70

BCR Logo Sunglasses Case Choose Red, Yellow, Lime, or Orange $9.49

BCR Stainless Steel Water Bottle $16.91

12" Lion Sitting $26.54
12" Tiger $24.40
12" Lion Laying $26.54

Logo Frisbee, Black, Green, Blue, Yellow, or Red $5.21 each

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

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

Golf Club Cover $25.47
BCR Golf Ball $6.28

BCR Logo Sunglasses Case Choose Red, Yellow, Lime, or Orange $9.49

BCR Stainless Steel Water Bottle $16.91

12" Lion Sitting $26.54
12" Tiger $24.40
12" Lion Laying $26.54

Big Cat Rescue Vanity Plates Choose Saber - Black Leopard, Hal - Cougar, Cloe - Snow Leopard, Joseph - Lion, Shere Khan - Tiger, Freckles - Liger, Windstar - Bobcat, Genie - Sand Cat, Simba - Leopard, or China Doll - Tigress (not shown) $10.56 each

Big Cat Rescue Magnets Choose Snow Leopard, Lioness, Bobcat, Tiger, Black Leopard, Serval, Logo, or Ocelot $3.14 each

Big Cat Rescue Photo Wrap Mug $13.70

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

Golf Club Cover $25.47
BCR Golf Ball $6.28

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

Theme Monopoly Board Game $28.54

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Theme Monopoly Board Game $28.54
Haunting Eyes Tee  Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve, Bengal or Siberian Tiger, Snow Leopard, or Sand Cat  S, M, L, XL $24.40

2X or 3X $26.54

BCR Papyrus Tee Red or Aqua Ladies Tee  S, M, L, XL $19.05

XXL $21.19

BCR Baseball Tee Gray & Black  S, M, L, XL $24.40

XXL $26.54

Haunting Eyes Tee  Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve, Bengal or Siberian Tiger, Snow Leopard, or Sand Cat  S, M, L, XL $24.40

2X or 3X $26.54

BCR Papyrus Tee Red or Aqua Ladies Tee  S, M, L, XL $19.05

XXL $21.19

Property of BCR Tee Available in Green or Blue with Red & White Lettering  S, M, L, XL $24.40

XXL $26.54

Property of BCR Tee Available in Marron or Gray  S, M, L, XL $41.52

XXL $44.73

Pullover Logo Hoodie  Brown S, M, L, XL $44.73

XXL $46.87

Big Cat Rescue Fidel Cap Embroidered with BCR & Running Cat Choose Black or Khaki $20.12

Big Cat Rescue Cadet Cap Embroidered Big Cat Rescue text  Choose Blue or Pink $20.18

BCR Papryus T ee Red or Aqua Ladies T ee  S, M, L, XL $19.05

XXL $21.19

Rhinestone Tiger Fitted T ee in Black or Snow Leopard Fitted T ee in Black  S, M, L, XL $24.40

XXL $26.54

Rhinestone Tiger Fitted T ee in Black or Snow Leopard Fitted T ee in Black  S, M, L, XL $24.40

XXL $26.54

Big Cat Rescue Embroidered Adams Cap Choose Navy with Khaki Logo or White with Blue Logo $22.40

Fleece Beanie with Logo Choose Navy or Black $25.61

Fleece Scarf with Logo Choose Navy or Black $28.75

White and Navy Junior T ee  S, M, L, XL $24.40

Blue Polo with Navy Trim and Embroidered Logo  S, M, L, XL $40.45

XXL $43.66

Brown BCR Tiger Tee, Pink Image  S, M, L, XL $24.40

XXL $26.54

Yellow Ladies Polo with Navy Trim and Embroidered Logo  S, M, L, XL $39.45

BCR Logo Sock Black Tiger Medium $9.49

Gray Cats Medium $9.49

Lion March Sock Medium $9.49

Tiger Facts Sock Medium $9.49

Shorty Sock Tiger Medium $9.49

Shorty Sock Leopard Medium $9.49

Shorty Sock Pink Medium $9.49

Shorty Sock Recycled Tiger Medium $9.49

BCR Logo Sock Brown Tiger Medium $9.49

BCR Logo Sock White Lion Medium $9.49
$218,964 In Memory of William & Lois Modlin
$20,000 Cyrus & Joanne Spurino
$15,536 H. William Kunii
$10,000 Alexis Brown
$9,500 Arcene Hoffer
$8,000 Little Family Foundation
$7,050 Sole Marittimi
$5,000 David & Cheryl Hawkins
$5,000 Dyer Family Foundation
$3,120 The Richard L Levin Family Foundation
$3,000 Susan Ross
$3,000 Lawrence & Pamela Trissel
$2,000 Panther International, LLC
$1,500 Lillian Giraldo
$1,300 Carl & Betty Schino
$1,100 Lynn & Stuart Lang
$1,050 Pamela Olson Koonts & Benjamin Koonts
$1,000 Vicki Alberts
$1,000 Cindy Andras
$1,000 Jacqueline & Demetrious Bagley
$1,000 Dan Baruzzi
$1,000 Jordan Berlin
$1,000 Karan & William Beynon
$1,000 Derek Browning
$1,000 Mary Cerniglia-Moshier
$1,000 Robert & Susan Cochran
$1,000 Brant Cooper
$1,000 Loryanna Dimiao
$1,000 Lori Galperin
$1,000 Lisa Goldman
$1,000 Craig Hall
$1,000 Alessa Huss
$1,000 Denise Luhman
$1,000 Valerie Martin
$1,000 Nancy Mellen
$1,000 Annn Newsom
$1,000 Alisa Plazonja
$1,000 Don & Penelope Pray
$1,000 Patricia Stephans
$1,000 Rachel Strickland
$1,000 Lodewijk Voge
$1,000 Mary Yang
$1,000 Florida Pest Management Association
$1,000 Howard & Maxine Bernstein Family Foundation
$1,000 Lynn Russell Advised Fund at Aspen Community Foundation
$1,000 The Manny & Ruth Cohen Foundation
$921 Tracy Homer
$957 Sharon Sherley
$869 The Moon Under Water

Mansion House Hotel Inc.
$800 Daria Kiselica
$750 Edward & Roycie Roeder
$750 Heather Rorer & Jeffrey Wheeler
$750 Benji Robinov
$750 Laurin Copen
$600 Steven Carter
$600 Nicky Lyford
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$500 Jody Underhill
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$500 Nicky Wurster
$500 Yuen
$500 everGREEN landscape architects, Inc.

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THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Spring 2011

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ORDER DATE: __________________________

BILLING ADDRESS

Name
Address
City St Zip
Day Time Phone
Evening Phone
Email

RECIPIENT ADDRESS (different than Billing)

Name
Address
City St Zip
Day Time Phone
Evening Phone
Email

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

☐ Please match my donation with the Modgil Match Offer

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

☐ Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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

Credit Card Number: __________________________
Exp. Date MMYY: __________________________
Signature: __________________________

Yes! I would like to make a donation: $ 

SPONSOR A PAVE THE WAY BRICK* 4x8 $100.00

SPONSOR A PAVE THE WAY BRICK* 8x8 $100.00

SPONSOR PERIMETER WALL* 1 Foot $100.00

This is a gift, please make card TO: _________________________ FROM: __________________________

Brief message to say: ______________________________________________________________________

BIG CAT RESCUE TOUR TIMES

KIDS TOUR
Tour Times: Saturday & Sunday 9 AM
Children of all ages and their parents can learn about the big cats on this guided tour of the sanctuary.
This tour is given on a child’s educational level. Reservations not required. Tour is 1 hr. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: $15 per child under 10 years $25 per child 10 years & older and per adult.

DAY TOUR
Tour Times: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 3 PM  
Sat & Sun 10 AM & 1 PM
Guided tour of the sanctuary. Learn about the big cats and the threats they face both in the wild as well as in captivity. Hear their personal stories of how they were rescued. Tour is 1.5 hrs. No children under 10 years of age. Reservations are not required. Admission: $25 per person.

FEEDING TOUR
Tour Times: Wed, Fri, Sat 4:30 PM  
(Reservations Required)
Follow a keeper as they feed the big cats. Observe the big cats eating and learn about their nutritional needs in captivity. Tour is 1 hr. No children under 10 years of age. For reservations 813-426-5948. Admission: $50 per person.

BIG CAT KEEPER TOUR
Tour Times: Fri & Sat 2 PM  
(Reservations Required)
This tour takes you behind the scenes. Enjoy making enrichment (treats and food puzzles) for the big cats and watch as the keepers hand out the enrichment you made. You will also observe operant training sessions with the big cats. Tour is 2 hrs. No children under 10 years of age. For reservations 813-426-5948. Admission: $100 per person.

WILD EYES AT NIGHT TOUR
Tour Times: Last Friday of the month  
(Reservations Required)
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! Tour is 1.5 hrs. No children under 10 years of age. For reservations 813-426-5948. Admission: $50 per person.

Also offered - WEDDINGS, PARTIES, VOLUNTEER & INTERN 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 changes.

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 email finance@bigcatrescue.org, or leave a message for Howard at 813-920-4130.

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

Big Cat Rescue is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. FED 59-3330495. Our Florida registration number is CH-11409. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-HELP-FLA TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Big Cat Rescue does not utilize the services of professional solicitors so 100% of all contributions go directly to Big Cat Rescue Corp.
WILD BOBCAT GETS SECOND CHANCE AT A WILD LIFE - By Jamie Veronica

On December 28th Rescuers received a familiar call. A bobcat had been hit by a car...again.

Nici and Skip Haerter were driving down the highway and noticed a bobcat laying in the grass. Excited, they pulled off the road to get a better look at this elusive creature that was on display in the middle of the day. When they approached they noticed something was terribly wrong. The bobcat tried to flee, but could not use his back legs. The distraught cat lovers decided to capture the bobcat and get him the help he needed. Skip took a blanket and draped it over the cat and then scruffed the wild feline and managed to wrestle him into the back of their SUV.

This is when they called Big Cat Rescue. The Haerters reported that they had picked up an injured bobcat and that it was in the back of their car and asked if we could come and pick up the bobcat. Unfortunately they were a two and a half hour drive north of the sanctuary in Mt. Plymouth. We asked if it would be possible to put the cat into a pet carrier while it was still in shock and they enlisted the help of a neighbor and friend named Lorie who happened to have an extra carrier. In honor of Nici’s husband’s valiant effort not only to capture a wild bobcat from the roadside, but also to secure the ferocious feline safely in the carrier, we decided to name the bobcat after his rescuer, Skip.

Big Cat Rescue’s President and resident wildlife rehabber made the 5-hour round trip to pick up Skip the bobcat. Upon her return, Skip was rushed to Ehrlich Animal Hospital where Dr. Danielson sedated and examined the skinny and broken little bobcat. X-rays were taken of his legs and abdomen and a sonogram was performed. He had definitely broken bones and it was feared that he may have internal bleeding. The radiographs showed the worse. His pelvis was disjointed from the spine on one side and badly crushed on the other.

Dr. Hay took the case and Skip was taken in for surgery on December 31, New Years Eve. The entire surgery took several hours. The disjointed pelvis was reattatched using a long bolt and, after removing the loose bits of bone, the crushed side of the pelvis was shortened and fastened together using two plates. The bolt and plates will remain in Skip permanently. Eight weeks after surgery Skip will be taken back in to have a second set of x-rays taken to see how he is healing and to help us determine whether or not he will be a candidate for release back into the wild.

Skip has been recovering onsite in the West Boensch Cat Hospital in small quarters to encourage him to rest and give his pelvis the best possible chance of healing. A web cam was installed so that his keepers could log in and keep an eye on the little bobcat. This live feed was then shared with followers on our website as well as on Facebook allowing anyone to tune in to see how Skip was doing. The streaming video went viral and Skip has had more than 85,000 views. His die hard fans call themselves the Skipaholics and even set up their own fan page just for Skip. Some of his generous supporters have donated large fleece dog beds so that he can recover in luxurious comfort. Skip’s story has made headlines and has been featured on local news channels as well. With all of these great people watching over Skip and sending him positive vibes he is surely on the road to recovery.

You can watch Skip live at www.ustream.tv/channel/bigcathospital

Above: Dr. Callum Hay and Trent Maddox repairing Skip’s pelvis

PROJECT: PAVe THE WAY HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

The project to pave the walkways around our Trading Post with rich looking engraved bricks is under way and makes a great gift for the purr-son in your life who has everything. The laser engraving changes the brick color to create the letters deep into the brick and will never wear off. There are two sizes, 4x8 for a donation of $100 and 8x8 for a donation of $200. What a great way to support the cats and create a memory for yourself of someone else. You can order on page 10, or online at: http://tiny.cc/k8ey0

VALENTINES DAY ENRICHMENT FOR THE BIG CATS

From top left; Zabu & Cam get a box of meats, Jade & Armani get a giant heart, Cameron, Jade, China gets a Valentine’s card, Jade & Armani...again.
Ocelot Goes to the Dentist

Big Cat Keepers noticed that Nirvana the ocelot had a swollen cheek. Turns out she had a few bad teeth. She was taken to Ehrlich Animal Hospital where volunteer vet Dr. Wynn extracted five bad teeth including her top two canines! One canine is pictured in the radiograph above. The wide canal in the center of the tooth should be just a thin hairline. This tooth was completely rotting from the inside out. Unfortunately bad teeth are a common occurrence in exotic cats that were once pets. Individuals that try to keep these animals as pets do not always have the best resources or knowledge on how to care for them properly. In the end it is always the cat that suffers. This was not Nirvana’s first trip to the dentist. Now with so few teeth left she will have to be kept on a soft food diet for the rest of her life.

Keepers Have Keen Eyes

Big Cat Keepers noticed that Bobby Blue Rose, an 18-year-old bobcat, was not acting her usual self. She wasn’t very hungry and she appeared to be bloated. She was taken in to the vet for diagnostics. Dr. Wynn found that her abdomen was full of fluids. Blood work taken during the visit looked good, but we are awaiting lab results on a sample of the aspirated fluids. We hope to know more about her condition soon. She is pictured here napping peacefully in the cat hospital.

Leaping Lynx

Apollo and Zeus the Siberian lynx have switched enclosures with Sierra the bobcat. Sierra’s previous enclosure was a lot more spacious and will provide ample space for the two brothers. Apollo and Zeus have settled right in and have been seen romping and chasing one another playfully in their more spacious pad. They posed purr-fectly in the photo here, each perched on a den directly behind their name sign. Sierra also scored in that her new home came complete with an extra large platform. She loves the platform and spends most of her day lounging atop it enjoying the cool breezes coming in off the lake.

Lithotripsy Saves Leopard

You may remember a while back we told you the story of Cloe the snow leopard who had a severe kidney infection and large kidney stones. The best option to save her kidney function was to consider lithotripsy. Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) is a procedure used to shatter simple stones in the kidney or upper urinary tract. Ultrasonic waves are passed through the body until they strike the dense stones. Pulses of sonic waves pulverize the stones, which are then more easily passed through the ureter and out of the body in the urine. Cloe was the first snow leopard on record to have had this procedure done and we eagerly awaited the months of recovery to discover if it was a success. Cloe’s follow up visit to Ehrlich Animal Hospital went well. She has gained another 8 pounds since her lithotripsy last May (a total of almost 20 pounds since she first got sick in March of 2010). Her kidney values are still a little elevated, but her kidney stones are completely gone!!! She still has a stent (tube) in her ureter to keep the urine flowing well from her kidney to her bladder. Since she has a predilection to form stones, the stent may be left in place indefinitely (in people they remove the stents, but in animals they usually leave them). We are absolutely thrilled that the lithotripsy procedure was a success and are ever grateful to the staff, volunteers, supporters, and volunteer vets and medical technicians that made it all possible.

Chat about the Big Cats at www.ChatBigCats.com

Unlimited storage space for your photos, videos and music. Post your own blogs, or join in our forums and contests.

www.BigCatTV.com

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