Three Tigers Find “Fur-Ever” Home at Big Cat Rescue

The Big Cat Times

HOLIDAY 2011

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Tiger Trio Rescued From Texas

We are very excited to announce the rescue of three very special tigers; Amanda, Andre & Arthur.

The economic crunch has been felt nationwide by all and charities are no exception. In fact it is non-profits that are often affected first. When money becomes tight and every dollar counts, donating to a charity is the first budget cut for many individuals. These difficult financial times struck Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) in Texas so hard that they were forced to declare bankruptcy and close their doors for good. WAO was then faced with the challenge of finding homes for the hundreds of animals that resided on the grounds, including bears, primates, and big cats, while at the same time continuing to fund the feeding and care for the animals for the many months it would take to place this many animals. A grant obtained by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries (GFAS) and funding generously provided by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) kept the animals alive while these two organizations worked feverishly to help the WAO staff find new homes for the animals.

Meanwhile Big Cat Rescue was visited by a special person that had a very special request. This person believed he and his wife knew some of the tigers in Texas that were in need of a home. They had met the cats nearly 15 years earlier, when they were cubs, at another facility in New Jersey. They knew the Texas sanctuary had rescued more than 20 tigers from the New Jersey facility in 2003, but they did not know if the cubs they had once known were still living.

They had a few old photographs of the cubs and asked if we could identify whether or not any of the tigers in Texas were the same cats. It just so happened that Big Cat Rescuers, Jamie Veronica, Gale Ingham, and Honey Wayton, were making their way across the country to transport Abel the cougar to his new home in Nevada. On their way back to Tampa they stopped and took photographs of 7 tigers at the Texas sanctuary. These
Tiger Trio Rescued from Texas Continued

7 tigers were the last of the group of tigers rescued from New Jersey. The remaining 4. These 7 tigers had lived together, in 2 separate groups, for most of their lives therefore it was important to the couple that the cats go to places where they could remain in these bonded groups.

On September 27th Big Cat Rescuers Jamie Veronica, Gale Ingham, Jeff Kremer, and Chris Poole traveled to Texas to load the tigers into a transport trailer provided by supporters Laura and JT of Loving Friends Transport. Jamie and Gale then escorted Amanda, Andre and Arthur back to Tampa, a trip that took just over 20 hours. All 3 tigers traveled in style. Each had their own transport cage with soft hay, sturdy water bowls, and a giant bone to keep them occupied. The transport trailer in which they rode was air-conditioned and outfitted with cameras so the tigers could be monitored in the main cab. The group arrived the next day and were greeted with the excited buzz of the media and fellow Rescuers.

Four adjacent enclosures, one of which was also expanded with a large addition, were connected together to give Amanda, Andre and Arthur plenty of room to roam. Each enclosure has a large rock den, elevated platforms, and a pool giving these lucky tigers plenty of places to hang out and lots of fun things to do.

Moving to a new home after living in the same enclosure for several years can be quite stressful and so understandably these tigers were a bit shy upon their arrival. However after spending most of their time in their dens during their first few weeks with us they are starting to feel more comfortable and are beginning to explore during the daylight hours. Amanda and Andre are both very shy and are taking it slow when it comes to meeting the volunteers. Arthur is the most outgoing of the trio and made friends with his keepers after only a few days. He loves his platforms and is often seen lounging way up high soaking in the scenery afforded by his lake side enclosure.

To see a video showing the preparation it took to rescue these tigers visit our Big Cat TV YouTube channel:
http://youtu.be/tNk2m_TKymY

Cover: Jamie Veronica and Gale Ingham load Andre into the transport trailer, cub & adult photo comparison of Arthur, Jennifer Flutt, Jamie & Gale releasing Andre into his new enclosure, Arthur checks out his platforms built by the Enrichment Committee, Arthur proudly carries his plastic tire toy around his enclosure.

SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE SNOW LEOPARD TRUST

Siri Okamoto, Development Director for the Snow Leopard Trust, paid a special visit to Big Cat Rescue recently. The reason for her visit was two-fold; to share the latest in snow leopard conservation and to pick the brains of staff who are responsible for Big Cat Rescue’s social media strategies. Siri gave a wonderful presentation to Big Cat Rescuers during which she discussed SLT’s current conservation programs, followed by an engaging question and answer session. After the presentation she met with BCR Founder & CEO Carole Baskin, President Jamie Veronica, and Donor Development Director, Jeff Kremer to brainstorm ways for the Snow Leopard Trust to beef up their social media campaign to spread the word about snow leopard conservation.

The SLT has been selected as one of 12 finalists in the 2011 BBC World Challenge! If the SLT wins, a $20,000 dollar prize will be awarded towards snow leopard conservation. The SLT will also be featured in Newsweek and on BBC World News, which is great publicity for such a worthwhile cause!

The BBC World Challenge wants to honor programs that show innovation without creating a cost to the earth. SLT’s Snow Leopard Enterprises helps herding families in Mongolia make and sell beautiful crafts, and in return, these families commit to protecting snow leopards and their habitat.

Voting ends on November 11th

Vote for the Snow Leopard Trust in the BBC World Challenge online at: http://tinyurl.com/3jc7c2x

Snow Leopard Trust Gifts - Order using form on page 10

- Wool Yarn - Color Varies $18.05 each
- Wool Knit Cap Tan, Design Varies $20.26
- Wool Knit Scarf Tan, Design Varies $20.26
- Wool Yarn $7.35 each
- Wool Leopard $35.10
- Wool Knit Cap $20.26
- Wool Leopard Coaster Set of 4 $16.98
- Wool Snow Leopard $25.54
- Wool Leopard Wool Ornament $9.49
- Wool Coaster Set of 4 $16.98
- Wool Yarn - Color Varies $8.42 each
- Wool Knit Cap $20.26
- Wool Leopard $35.10
- Wool Snow Leopard $25.54
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SAD FAREWELL TO 2 GREAT CATS

Big Cat Rescue was founded 19 years ago and 69 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 wonderful felines. The decision to euthanize a cat does not come easy. However in the case of these cats, it was the most humane option.

DES-PURR-ADO

DES-PURR-ADO was a neutered hybrid bobcat who lived with his roommate Little Dove nearly his entire life here at Big Cat Rescue. Des-Purr-ado was always very outgoing towards his keepers and loved the attention he received from them. A clown at heart, his goofy and fun-loving ways brought smiles to all those that had the pleasure of meeting him.

1996 - 2011

His soft, fluffy, beautifully patterned coat served as a reminder of why these hybrids are so valued by the fur industry and why it is so important that we continue our fight to free those, like Despurrado, from the horror of fur farms. As if on cue, he would often come out from his favorite napping spot in the tall grasses at the approach of an educational tour and roll over on his back to show off his spotted belly as the tour guides explained the reality of fur farms. He did his job well, making an impression they’d never forget and inspiring so many to fight on behalf of those trapped and bred for fur.

Earlier this year Despurrado’s health began to fail. He was diagnosed with kidney disease, which is not curable, as well as hyperthyroidism, for which he was being treated with medication. However, the combination of these two illnesses finally overcame him. Despurrado lived a very long, well cared for life at Big Cat Rescue and will be missed by so many keepers who grew to love him. But none will miss him as much as Little Dove, his lifelong companion.

ESMERELDA

ESMERELDA, a serval, came to Big Cat Rescue in April of 1995 at the age of 3 with her mate, Medicine Man. Their previous owner gave them up because of 3 with her mate, Medicine Man. Their previous owner gave them up because of their disability. Due to her partial blindness, she can only hunt small prey like the Sri Lankan Jungle Fowl. At the moment she doesn’t seem severely malnourished, but they were afraid that she might also easily fall prey to illegal poachers because of her disability.

1992 - 2011

Esmerelda has been a long time favorite as she posed with such enthusiasm, as if to say, “Look at me! I’m gorgeous!” When keepers or guests approached her enclosure, she’d prance over to say hello with a chirp and a thundering purr. Esmerelda was also one of the most playful cats; taking even the smallest opportunity to play with anything - her boomer ball, her toy mouse, or her favorite cardboard box. She was such a joy to watch.

Esmerelda was also one of the most productive subjects. She was very active and willing to do the most interesting behavior, making her the perfect subject for research. Her behavior was always fascinating to watch.

Esmerelda was also one of the most photogenic cats. She was always on the hunt for attention and would pose for the camera whenever she saw it. She was so photogenic that she was often used as a model for Big Cat Rescue’s feline calendar.

Esmerelda was also one of the most popular cats. She was always one of the first cats to be adopted from the sanctuary and was never without an interested adopter. She was also one of the most photogenic cats. She was always on the hunt for attention and would pose for the camera whenever she saw it. She was so photogenic that she was often used as a model for Big Cat Rescue’s feline calendar.
$25,000 GRANT AWARDED TO BCR FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

It costs over $250,000 to feed all of the big cats living here at Big Cat Rescue each year. Considering the average lifespan of an individual cat is 15-20 years, the cost of food alone is a huge commitment. With that in mind we decided to open an agency endowment with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay several years ago. Since opening the endowment, we have participated in two Challenge Grants. The way these work is we set a financial goal and once donations from our supporters reach 75% of the goal, the Community Foundation matching grant fund puts the remaining 25% into our Endowment Fund. Our most recent goal was $100,000. Thanks to the many of you who donated toward it, we reached the $75,000 mark in record time and recently were presented with a matching grant check for $25,000. Commenting on how quickly we achieved the goal in both programs, David Fisher, President and CEO of the Community Foundation, said “Big Cat Rescue is setting the pace in Hillsborough County.”

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL NAMES BIG CAT RESCUE BEST IN THE BIZ IN TWO CATEGORIES

The Tampa Bay Business Journal has just announced the winners of their very first Best in the Biz: Readers Choice Awards. We are so excited to share that we placed first in two categories; Favorite Black-Tie Event for the Fur Ball and Favorite Retreat/Team-Building Venue. We also placed second in Favorite Fundraising Event. Nominations were received from all across the TBJ’s seven-county coverage area. A survey containing 56 categories and more than 750 businesses was posted on the Best in the Biz: Readers’ Choice website. Nearly 6,000 individuals participated in the survey.

We would like to send our sincerest thanks to all those who voted Big Cat Rescue – Best in the Biz!
The Elephant in the Living Room is a documentary film about the controversial American subculture of raising the most dangerous animals in the world as common household pets. Director Michael Webber follows the journey of two men at the heart of the issue. One Tim Harrison, Big Cat Rescue’s Guardian Angel Award winner, a man whose mission is to protect exotic animals and the public. The other is Terry Brumfield, a man who keeps his two pet African lions in a broken down horse trailer after one escaped his cage and began chasing cars on the highway.

The film has received more than 12 awards including the 2011 Genesis Award. It has also been rated the #1 Most Watched Documentary on iTunes, Amazon, Sony Playstation, and Xbox.

Purchase the Elephant in the Living Room on DVD in our online gift shop or using the order form on page 10.

$17.05 includes shipping

You can also help spread the word about this ground-breaking film by liking the film on Facebook at:

http://tinyurl.com/3k5z2bs

Visit the Official Website at theelephantinthelivingroom.com

PUT AN END TO ILLEGAL TIGER TRADE IN NJ

Are you a resident of New Jersey? Do you love tigers? A new bill has been introduced by state legislators that would create a captive tiger registration system. This bill will be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection in order to ensure that captive tigers in New Jersey do not fall into the illegal tiger trade. The information obtained through the registration system would include the owner’s contact information, location of where the tiger is housed, birth date, weight, and sex of the tiger, a description of its unique markings, a color photograph, and a hair sample from the tiger sufficient to meet any future need for DNA analysis. The bill also requires that all tigers be micro-chipped and upon its death the tiger must be submitted to an approved facility to remove the micro-chip and dispose of the remains in a manner that will not permit any part of the tiger to make its way into the illegal trade. Above photo is Nikita the tiger at the facility he was rescued from in OH. Substandard caging such as this is common place in the private trade of tigers.

PROTECT BIG CATS FROM CANNED HUNTS

On June 20, Animal Planet Investigates: Captive Hunting Exposed aired, revealing appalling undercover footage from an HSUS investigation into captive hunts. This investigation aired just as a bill was introduced in Congress, The Sportsmanship in Hunting Act (H.R. 2210), that cracks down on these facilities and also bans remote-controlled hunting over the Internet. Captive hunts are privately owned ranches where customers pay a fee to shoot semi-tame exotic mammals—even endangered species—for trophies. Some of these operations even offer “no kill, no pay” guarantees—eliminating any sportsmanship from the practice. Many places that allow this sort of “hunting” prohibit the killing of big cats, such as Florida. But, despite the law, big cats have been found at these facilities. Big cats end up being killed in cages or fenced areas by the game farm’s most trusted clients.

Your legislators need to know that you support these bills. Visit CatLaws.com to show your support for S.3061 to protect tigers from ending up in the illegal trade and H.R. 2210 to protect big cats from being killed for sport in tiny cages.

BIG CAT RESCUE SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Big Cat Rescue reaches out to help the community in a variety of ways. Each year we offer a dozen or more free educational field trips or outreach presentations to organizations that do not have the funds for such programs. We have provided 20 of these complimentary tours so far this year. We have also developed a sliding cost scale for others that are on a tight budget. Groups that have received a complimentary group tour in 2011 include; YMCA, Children at Risk, Little Cats Rescue, a school for those with dyslexia, Creative Clay which helps the disabled find themselves in art, VA seniors, and orphanage homes. In addition to these Big Cat Rescue Founder and CEO Carole Baskin has led group tours for the Ethics class taught by Jason Sears at Eckerd College and for the Animal Law students taught by Jennifer Dietz, Esq. at Stetson. Carole also spoke to Dr. Frank Hamilton’s class at Eckerd College on the power of social marketing for a cause. Frank and his wife Linda operate Animal Coalition of Tampa, a low cost spay and neuter facility. Big Cat Rescue was a long time assistant to their work to spay and neuter feral cats before they were able to start a facility of their own and still provides free tour passes to all of their high level donors at their Stride for Strays fundraiser. For group tour info visit: http://bigcatrescue.org/visit-the-cats/field-trips/
**Golf Club**

$25.47

**BCR Golf Ball**

$6.28

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**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

### Gift Guide Items

- **Animal Print Logo Thermos** $13.70
- **BCR Stainless Steel Water Bottle** $16.91
- **BCR Stencil 15 oz. Mug Choose Orange or Blue** $13.70
- **BCR Golf Club Cover** $25.47
- **BCR Golf Ball** $6.28
- **Skip the FL Bobcat Mug** $15.84
- **BCR Logo Enamel Bookmarks Choose Tiger, Lion, or Black Leopard** $4.21 each
- **BCR Golf Towel Navy or Hunter** $21.19
- **Wood BCR Lighter** $7.35
- **12" Sitting Lion** $26.54
- **12" Tiger** $24.40
- **Big Cat Rescue Magnets Choose Snow Leopard, Lioness, Bobcat, Genie, Sand Cat, Simba - Leopard, or China Dr**ress (not shown) $10.56 each
- **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 Dr**ress (not shown) $10.56 each
- **Big Cat Rescue 16 oz. Mug Choose Yellow or White** $13.70
- **Animal Print Logo Golf Club** $25.47
- **BCR Golf Ball** $6.28
- **Gourd Ornament Choose Collage, Lion, or Tiger** $10.56 each
- **Big Cat Rescue 15 oz. Mug Choose Orange or Blue** $13.70
- **Leopard Print Clicky Pen. Get a new message scrolled across pen with each click.** $4.00
- **Logo Plush Purse with Stuffed Tiger or Lion** $14.84 each
- **Logo Plush Purse with Stuffed Toy - Black Purse with Tiger or Pink Purse with Black Leopard** $14.84 each
- **Skip-aholic Bobcat Photo Necklace** $45.00
- **Frisbee, Black, Green, Blue, Yellow, or Red** $5.21 each
- **Carabiner Key Ring Choose Gold, Black, Blue or Purple** $5.21 each
- **BCR Oval Sticker** $4.21
- **Big Cat Rescue Ribbon Magnet** $13.70
- **Leopard Print Clicky Pen. Get a new message scrolled across pen with each click.** $4.00
- **Logo Frisbee, Black, Green, Blue, Yellow, or Red** $5.21 each
- **Toy Veterinarian Kit includes: Stethoscope, syringe, medicine bottle, blood pressure pump, etc.** $10.56
- **Tiger Flip Book - As You Flip the Pages Get a 3 Dimensional Look Inside a Bengal Tiger** $21.80
- **Big & Busy Interactive Book 10 pages, ages 5+** $13.77
- **Ultimate Cat Sticker Book, Includes Stickers** $18.49
- **400 Reusable Animal Sticker Book** $11.63
- **Ultimate Cat Sticker Book, Includes Stickers** $11.63
- **Big & Busy Interactive Book 10 pages, ages 5+** $13.77
- **Ultimate Cat Sticker Book, Includes Stickers** $11.63
- **Logo Plush Purse with Stuffed Toy - Black Purse with Tiger or Pink Purse with Black Leopard** $14.84 each
- **Extra Large Eco-Grocery Bag with Big Cat Rescue Recycle Logo on Front 13" W by 10" D by 15" H** $13.70
- **4" Handmade Beaded Tiger or Lion** $18.12 each
- **10" Plush Snow Leopard by KMI** $13.70
- **EcoDome Set of 4 Plastic Cats Choose Lion or Tiger** $14.84 each
- **Big Cats - An Amazing Animal Discovery Book, Includes Stickers** $10.49
- **Big Cat Rescue Magnets Choose Snow Leopard, Lioness, Bobcat, Tiger, Black Leopard, Serval, Logo, or Ocelot** $3.14 each
- **7" Aurora Babies Choose Nemara the Leopard, Leo the Lioness, Terrance the Tiger, or Li Lehi the Bobcat** $9.49 each
- **Animal Print Logos** $8.35
- **BCR Stainless Steel Water Bottle** $16.91
- **Skip-aholic Bobcat Photo Necklace** $45.00
- **1" L is For Lion Pin** $9.56
- **1" Tiger Pin** $7.35
- **Tiger Face Pin 1"** $11.70
- **Photo Necklace Choose any species** $45.00
- **BCR Camp Fire 16 oz. Mug Choose Yellow or White** $13.70
- **12" Sitting Snow Leopard by KMI** $13.70
- **Thermos** $13.70
- **12" Sitting Tiger** $26.54
- **12" Sitting Bobcat** $24.40
- **Extra Large Eco-Grocery Bag with Big Cat Rescue Recycle Logo on Front 13" W by 10" D by 15" H** $13.70
- **400 Reusable Animal Sticker Book** $11.63
- **Ultimate Cat Sticker Book, Includes Stickers** $11.63
- **Carabiner Key Ring Choose Gold, Black, Blue or Purple** $5.21 each
- **Logo Sunglasses Case Choose Red, Yellow, Lime, or Orange** $9.49 each
PHANTOM FUR BALL
TO RAISE FUNDS TO CARE FOR THE BIG CATS

We made the decision not to hold our annual Fur Ball this year so that we could focus our attention on stopping the abuses the big cats face at their root. Through legislation. And the decision is paying off. Our campaign to educate malls and other venues about the abuse that goes on behind the scenes when they allow tiger cub petting exhibits has resulted in dozens of venues agreeing not to host such exploitive displays. We are suing the most notorious cub betting exploiters in federal court and we and other animal advocate groups are working on major change in regulations and the law to stop the abuse of captive tigers.

This does not mean, however, that we do not desperately need the funds that are usually generated from the event. In fact, we were hit with an unexpected financial curve ball this year when the manufacturer of the main diet we feed the cats, Natural Balance, announced an increase in the cost of their product from about $1 per pound to a little over $3. The rising cost of beef was unavoidable and they had no choice but to increase their prices. We purchase approximately 65,000 lbs. of food annually, meaning an unbudgeted increase in the cost of care at roughly $130,000!

Each year the proceeds from the Fur Ball go towards the care of the cats that we rescue. Last year’s Fur Ball netted over $80,000 in donations. From excellent vet care, to a nutritious diet, to toys and enrichment, these donations ensure that the more than 100 cats residing at the sanctuary enjoy the best life possible.

This year we are launching our first ever Phantom Fur Ball. We will miss seeing you at what guests tell us, and now the Tampa Bay Business Journal: Best in the Biz Awards confirms, is to the most fun event of the year. But, instead of purchasing tickets to the ball and buying live and silent auction items this year, we are hoping you will help us continue the work to stop tiger cub abuse by making a donation. Knowing that there are enough funds to properly care for the cats is allowing us to devote resources to stopping the cub petting exhibits that can save thousands of tigers from being bred for cub petting displays and then, when too old to pet, spending the rest of their lives in small chain link prison cells or possibly killed for their parts.

We have set a goal of $30,000 that will enable us continue to provide the very best care to some amazing cats including; Andre, Arthur, & Amanda the tigers, Max the bobcat, and Kricket, Doodles, Santino, Zoul, Zouletta, & Zimba the servals, all of whom were rescued this year. Thanks to more than 200 donors we are almost half way to reaching our goal.

You can make a world of difference by contributing any dollar amount using the order form on page 10 or by visiting us online at:

http://www.razoo.com/story/3tigers

You can also show your support of the Phantom Fur Ball in style, visit our CafePress store online (link below) and check out more than 40 items featuring the Phantom Fur Ball artwork. 30% of each item purchased goes directly to the cats at Big Cat Rescue. Phantom Fur Ball Merchandise is only available online at:

http://tinyurl.com/3cbrojn
BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS

$33,000 Friend of Big Cat Rescue
$v25,000 Cyrus & Joanne Spurlino
$v10,200 Arlene Hoffer
$v8,000 Little Family Foundation
$v7,500 Leslie L. Alexander Foundation, Inc.
$v3,600 Anonymous
$v1,450 Sole Riley Maritimi
$v1,400 Laura Moreno
$v1,050 Pamela Olson & Benjamin Koonts
$v1,010 Coral Hilby
$v1,000 Lynn Russell
$v1,000 Debra Parsons-Drake
$v500 Cassandra Hammond
$v250 Anthony & Joseph Crowell
$v250 Michael Meyer
$v200 Edward & Carol Collins
$v150 Gerri & John Shaw
$v150 Freda Remmers
$v150 Joseph Ross
$v150 Marjorie Samuelson
$v150 David & Tamara Schneider
$v150 William & Anne Seals
$v150 Terry & Paul Seemann
$v150 Robert & Chin Sekac
$v100 Heath Seville
$v100 Touriya & Hung Siekof
$v100 James Skovron
$v100 Gloria Slaughter
$v100 Christi & Kevin Smith
$v100 Timothy Snider
$v100 Jason Sosinski
$v100 Lois Stange
$v100 Lorelei Stierlen
$v100 Cynthia Stoner
$v100 A. Kevin & Dawn Stoppello
$v100 Kathleen Strickland
$v100 Karen & Rod Swigan
$v100 Linard Thoeny
$v100 Kim Thorndtsson
$v100 Anita & Kenneth Tod
$v100 Carol & Richard Toppel
$v100 Michele Ulmer
$v100 Ulrike Vassiliou
$v100 Michele Vatalaro
$v100 Ashley Verzoyt
$v100 Eric Weigle
$v100 Mary Ann Westover
$v100 Ron & Susan Williams
$v100 Tanya Williams
$v100 Michele Wood
$v100 Michelle Wool
$v100 Peter & Adrienne Yoshihara
$v100 Addie Zwicker-Jones

$250 Patricia & Lon Wojtowicz
$v220 Kristen Wilhelm
$v200 Candace Barbara
$v200 Douglas Bartton
$v200 Michelle & Scott Chamberlin
$v200 Rudolf & Rudy Dankwot
$v200 Beverly Ford
$v200 Harriette Frank
$v200 Gerd & Richard Franta
$v200 Cindy French
$v200 Armada Games
$v200 Beverly Geiger
$v200 Debbie Hooper-Lee
$v200 Roelima Martinez
$v200 Earl McDaniel
$v200 Norm & Joan Oyen
$v200 Colleen Plant
$v200 Walter & Darlene Ratlai
$v200 Sylvia Smith
$v200 Marsha Woemer
$v200 Jean & Edward Zegadlo
$v180 M. Diane Hodson
$v180 Betty Stark
$v170 Allison Cashman
$v160 Jacqueline Tepper-Robinob
$v150 Mark Bailey
$v150 Karen Bell
$v150 Richard & Debbie Boensch
$v150 Edward & Carol Collins
$v150 Brandy Cuming-Krebs
$v150 Christina Farah
$v150 Barbara Ganschow
$v150 Michael & Juliane Green
$v150 Hollace & Gordon Hannaway
$v150 Steven & Anne Harrison
$v150 Marion Hellthaler
$v150 Sam & Ivan Iverson
$v150 Carolyn Kiss
$v150 Jordan Knab
$v150 Maureen Mabry
$v150 Michele Marziano
$v150 Anna Price
$v150 Paul Wentworth
$v150 Lisa Williams
$v150 Melissa Black
$v130 Gloria Cox
$v130 Julie Smith
$v125 Dawn Douglas
$v125 Monica Lyon
$v125 Michele Manos
$v125 Margaret Momusu
$v125 Karen Ozenet
$v125 Angelika Pontynen
$v120 Denise & Dick Reynolds
$v120 David Brooks
$v120 Kevin Olson
$v120 Donna Reisinger
$v120 Mary Louise Hawkew
$v110 Theresa Grand
$v110 Clyde Sharpley
$v105 Pattie Quinn-Bennett
$v100 Ballen & Company, Inc.
$v100 Greater New Port Richey Junior Chamber of Commerce
$v100 People First of UPARC
$v100 Tampa Bay Fin Club
$v100 Robert Ahrdtn
$v100 Kathleen Andrews & J.V. Andrews
$v100 Jean Austin & Cloyd Austin
$v100 Frieda Bachowski
$v100 Barbara Balmenti
$v100 Sandra Barbee
$v100 Sandra Barnes
$v100 Rich & Beth Ann Bluder
$v100 Gordon & Jo Anne Borek
$v100 Angela Bosdeck
$v100 Brenna Bourlands
$v100 Jean Burns
$v100 Anja Burse
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$v100 Leighton Carr
$v100 Madeleine Carter
$v100 Luwana Cabyaby
$v100 Melanie Cerveny
$v100 Claudia Chang
$v100 Heather & Michael Chaykowski
$v100 Lezli & Ian Clark
$v100 Randell Clark
$v100 Dawn Danko
$v100 Matthew Danmark
$v100 Lori Diamond
$v100 Brian Douglas
$v100 Shahon Dower
$v100 Joe Dulley
$v100 Jan Dusel
$v100 Ginger Donnan
$v100 Elizabeth Eriksen
$v100 Suzanne Ewanowski
$v100 Maryann & Robert Faust
$v100 Pilar Fierro
$v100 Christina Fitzgerald
$v100 Elizabeth Galle
$v100 Anita Ghosh
$v100 Linda Gibson
$v100 Marci Girard-Emerson
$v100 Robert Glowacki
$v100 Jeannette Goebel
$v100 Carol Good
$v100 Marianne Hall
$v100 Kathryn Hall
$v100 Marissa Hansen
$v100 Ed & RoseMarie Harrison
$v100 Justin Hill
$v100 David & Kristin Hockstra
$v100 Laena Hopman
$v100 F. Scott Humphrey
$v100 Anne Inda
$v100 Christopher Johnson

$250 Vincent Ross
$v250 Claire Moors
$v250 Andrew & Julie Morris
$v250 Jwan Petitjean
$v250 Diana & Mohan Rao
$v250 Peggy & Murat Shekem
$v250 Neil Smith
$v250 Shirley Yuen
$v247 Kylie Moshabel, Annie Doss, & Jessica Parlin
$v245 Sindhu Mathew
$v240 Larry Moore
$v200 Starla Trivillino
$v200 Kirk & Aileen Davis
$v200 Creative Horizon Inc.
$v200 Petco Foundation
$v200 Annarosa Berman
$v200 Christina Bond
$v200 Valerie Eickenberg
$v200 Diane Freeman
$v200 Arlene Hazzleg
$v200 Suzanne & Alan Lucas
$v200 R. Gordon Machemer
$v200 Kathryn Sapankevych
$v200 Vivian Yap
$v195 Alissa & Nick Moulder
$v195 Michael Appelmann
$v195 Ken & Darla Beam
$v195 Mark Cater
$v195 Jan Cioci
$v195 Christina Cynotis
$v195 Amy Davis
$v195 Joanna Deluca
$v195 Lisa Distefano
$v195 Ronald Dudley
$v195 Jo Ann & Jon Froge
$v195 Linda & William Gewiss
$v195 Jill Haley
$v195 Elizabeth Longley
$v195 William & Meda Maxwell
$v195 Dan & Melissa McCarne
$v195 Glynnis McPhee
$v195 Richard & Pat Miller
$v195 Diana Rankin
$v195 Susan Reed
$v195 Tedford Rose
$v195 Peter Rosenstei
Hundreds of free big cat E-cards, holiday games, screensavers, and more await you at our site: www.BigCatFun.com

**THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM HOLIDAY 2011**

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**RECIPIENT ADDRESS (fill out if different than Billing)**

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**BILLING ADDRESS**

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**Evening Phone**

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**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

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

**Signature**

**EXP. DATE: MMYY**

**Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes**

**Grand Total**

**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 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.

**SPONSOR A PAVE THE WAY BRICK**

- 4x8 $100.00
- 8x8 $200.00
- 1 Foot $100.00

**WEDDINGS, PARTIES, SCHOOL & SCOUT EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS, VOLUNTEER & INTERN PROGRAMS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES**

- Nutritional needs in captivity
- Tour is 1 hr. Children under 10 years of age. For reservations 813-426-5948. Admission: $29 per person.

**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: $19 per child under 10 years $29 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: $29 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: $55 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: $110 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: $55 per person.

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

Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change. Visit us online for the most current tour information.
ON THE RIGHT TRACK TO SAVING TIGERS IN THE WILD

Conservation is very important to Big Cat Rescue and that is why we take every opportunity we can to assist with programs focused on preserving the wild cats of the world. From contributing to conservation efforts in honor of our 100+ volunteers, to gathering scat samples from our leopards for the purpose of training research dogs to track big cats in the wild, to using our global reach to facilitate change, Big Cat Rescue has provided support to programs from the jungles of South America to the mountain tops of the Himalayas.

Our most recent call to action was from an organization called WildTrack. WildTrack was started in 2004 by Zoe Jewell and Sky Alibhai, a veterinarian and wildlife biologist who had been working for several years in Africa monitoring black and white rhino. They were joined early in their research career by Peter Law, an Australian mathematician and tracker. While monitoring black rhino in Zimbabwe in the early 1990’s they collected data to show that invasive monitoring techniques, such as radio-telemetry, and close observation, were negatively impacting female fertility, and began to develop a footprint identification technique. After much interest from researchers around the world who needed a cost-effective and non-invasive approach to wildlife monitoring, they established WildTrack.

WildTrack has developed a non-invasive Footprint Identification Technique (FIT) which can identify endangered animals at the species, individual, age-class and sex levels. Animals have unique feet, in the same way that humans have unique fingerprints.

There are two main stages in the FIT procedure. The first is capturing images of footprints which are then mapped to create a geometric profile that will serve as data. The second is analyzing the data for the purpose of classification.

In order to develop a database sophisticated enough to be able to analyze images of tiger tracks in the wild and determine the individual, age, and sex of the tiger, WildTrack was in need of a large amount of data. Ideally they needed images of tracks made by 30 individual tigers for which they had access to all of this information. So far they had 20 individuals in their database and so they asked us to step up, or rather, our tigers to step up.

Jewell and Alibhai visited Big Cat Rescue several weeks ago to demonstrate the proper technique for capturing tracks made by our tigers and for photographing the tracks in a uniform way that would be compliant with the FIT software.

Before their visit Big Cat Rescue’s Roar Reserve wines visit: www.wildTrack.org

Big Cat Rescue’s Roar Reserve wines are sure to get the conversation started at all of your holiday get togethers this season. The Roar Reserve wines are available for purchase through Benefit Wines. Six unique and delicious wines include; Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc and are imported from LaFortuna Vineyards in Lontue Valley, Chile. These vegan friendly wines are produced using certified organic grapes by a fair trade certified vineyard.

Each wine bottle label features one of the big cats living at the sanctuary and $7 from the sale of each bottle (retail price is $19.99 per bottle) is donated to Big Cat Rescue.

To purchase Big Cat Rescue’s Roar Reserve wines visit: www.benefitwines.com/bigcat

Lights. Camera. Action: Help support our wild cousins and have graciously provided more than enough tracks and Alex is not far behind. To read more about the many programs that WildTrack is currently working visit their website at: www.WildTrack.org.

Photos: Bengali, track made by TJ, Carole Baskin packing sand path, Gale Ingham luring Alex across the sand with Jennifer Flatt and Barbara Frank, Jamie Veronica photographs tracks with Jewell and Alibhai

ENTER TO WIN 2 TICKETS TO A TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS GAME

Enter to win a pair of Club Seat tickets to a Bucs Game! These club seats are valued at $590 per pair and ticket holders enjoy benefits such as an exclusive separate entrance, padded seats, and access to the Club Lounge! A winner will be chosen 3 days before each scheduled game, there are three remaining games in the raffle. All non-winning tickets will roll over and be entered into the next drawing. For instance, if you purchase 5 tickets, and are selected as a winner, your 4 remaining tickets will be entered automatically into the next drawing. Raffle tickets are 1 for $5, or for a better deal, 10 for $20. Get your raffle tickets today its “FUR” a good cause! Visit http://tinyurl.com/3m8w7fr to see the official rules and to purchase raffle tickets online. You can also purchase raffle tickets using the order form on page 10. Remaining games are:

- Texans Sunday Nov 13
- Panthers Sunday Dec 4
- & Cowboys Saturday Dec 17

from each clawed tiger at the sanctuary. These images will then be submitted to the database along with the age and sex of each individual cat. The more data that is added to FIT database the smarter the program becomes. So far TJ and Bengali seemed eager to help their wild cousins and have graciously provided more than enough tracks and Alex is not far behind. To read more about the many programs that WildTrack is currently working visit their website at: www.WildTrack.org

Photos: Bengali, track made by TJ, Carole Baskin packing sand path, Gale Ingham luring Alex across the sand with Jennifer Flatt and Barbara Frank, Jamie Veronica photographs tracks with Jewell and Alibhai

WILD WINES TO BENEFIT THE BIG CATS
**KEEPER’S LOG:**

**MODNICS BATTLE WITH CANCER**

In our last issue of the Big Cat Times we brought you the story of Modnic the tiger who was diagnosed with mammary cancer.

Shortly after it appeared like her uterus was falling out. Already diagnosed with cancer, we didn’t want to do the invasive surgery required to spay her if her cancer had already spread to her lungs. We called our friend Dr. Hay of Veterinary Surgical Services who agreed to let us bring Modnic to his clinic. Her x-rays were clear, the cancer had not progressed to her lungs, and so Modnic was whisked into the surgery room.

The tissue that was protruding from vagina wasn’t a collapsing uterus, but rather a fist sized tumor. Dr. Hay snipped it off and cauterized the bleeding before turning to the two lowest teats with cancerous bulges, each about the size of an orange. Usually, in cats, if one teat is affected they all are, which would mean cutting her open down both sides from chest to abdomen, but they couldn’t detect any masses other than these two.

Four hours later, two surgeons had removed Modnic’s tumors, she was stitched up and taken back to the sanctuary where she has since made a full recovery.

Surgery like this is very expensive, often costing thousands of dollars. Your donations ensure that we are able to provide top-notch veterinary care to all of our residents.

**SASSY CARACAL GETS SPAYED**

Sassy the caracal wasn’t acting like her usual self at feeding time and her behavior was reported on the observation logs, which are checked daily by staff, and arrangements were made to take Sassy to Ehrlich Animal Hospital the very next morning. X-rays revealed her intestines were filled with feces and a fluid filled mass was blocking her colon. Sassy’s uterus was infected and was the cause of the cyst so she was spayed and the fluid was drained. She is now happily reunited with her best pal Rusty. (Rusty is neutered. It is our policy to house cats in pairs only if one has been spayed or neutered.)

**EXCUSE ME, DO I HAVE SOMETHING IN MY TEETH?**

Our enclosures are brimming with a variety of plant life from tall oak trees, to high grasses and thick palmetto bushes. These plants provide shade, places to hide, and entertainment. Clawing their trees, digging up the flowers, and batting at the grass that shudders in the breeze are a few favorite pasttimes. One day, Narla the cougar thought she might like to see what a palmetto frond tasted like. She discovered that it was nothing like chicken, but in the process of the taste test she managed to get a portion of the frond lodged across the roof of her mouth in between her teeth. Her keepers noticed right away and she was taken to the vet to have the stick removed. Hopefully Narla has learned a valuable lesson and will stick to eating her dinner and not the foliage.

**MOVIN’ ON UP, TO THE LAKESIDE**

Bengali the tiger is living it up in his new lake side digs. He was recently moved to a half acre enclosure, next to Joseph and Sasha the lions, on the tour path. Being the attention loving ham that he is, Bengal’s life will surely be enriched by the tour guests oohing and awing over him.

**Serval Dines off the Menu**

Bongo the serval loves special treats so when he refused them his keepers became worried. Wild cats have a natural instinct to hide their injuries or illnesses so they give very few clues as to when they are not feeling well. Bongo was examined by our vet Dr. Wynn. He looked great for a 20-year-old cat! His coat was full and sleek and his teeth were in perfect condition. Blood work indicated his kidney values were within range and x-rays showed only mild arthritis. Internal parasites were found in his fecal results for which he was prescribed medication. All of the cats at the sanctuary are treated monthly as well as quarterly with specific dewormers to combat internal parasites. However, once in a while, some of the cats catch a meal of their own that is not on the menu at Big Cat Rescue. Bongo has completed his course of medication and is back to himself.

**ROOM ADDITION FOR A SERVAL**

Ty the serval can now strut his stuff in nearly twice the space. His enclosure was recently connected to another one nearby that was empty. He seems to be enjoying this addition and spends most of his time in the new enclosure.

**SANDY BEACHES FOR SAND CAT**

We recently purchased a load of sand to be used for the tiger tracking program we are working on with WildTrack (see page 11). Lucky for Genie, there was some left over so we treated the tiny sand cat to a new substrate. Interns and volunteers shoveled the sand into her enclosure making large pathways for her to explore. Genie is really shy so she did not check it out right away, but the maze of tracks the next morning were a sign that she thoroughly enjoyed it.

**PIZZA TIME FOR THE BIG CATS**

Big Cat Rescue provides several forms of enrichment to the cats to make their lives in captivity as enjoyable as possible. Enrichment items include paper spice bags, food puzzles using cardboard tubes and boxes, frozen treats from yogurt cup to 5-gallon bucket sized, durable plastic balls, thick plastic rings and more. Thanks to a donation of pizza boxes from our neighborhood Bruno’s Pizza we were able to give several of the cats a new enrichment item which, as you can see from the photos, was a big hit!