



FALL 2012 ISSUE



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Photos by Jamie Veronica unless noted.

THE BIG CAT TIMES



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Nov 4, 1992 a trembling, frightened bobcat is carried to the center of the auction ring where the auctioneer's voice is booming over the loud speakers, "What will you give me for this bobcat?" The owner explains that his wife has tired of the novel pet and he has to get rid of her. The shaking 7 month old kitten buries her face in the man's neck and you can just hear her pleading, "Please get me out of here!"

I turn to the man next to me and ask, "Why are you bidding on a bobcat?" When told that it is to make a stuffed den decoration out of her I broke down and wept. She came home with me that day and Windsong the bobcat became the inspiration that resulted in what is now Big Cat Rescue. That was 20 years ago this November.

In the past 20 years we have rescued more than 250 exotic cats and given them a permanent home. We have provided rehab and release to many native bobcats and consult with rehabbers all around the globe on many species of wild cats. Our volunteer and intern program has become the model that other top sanctuaries use for recruiting, training and retaining the most dedicated animal lovers. Our interns seed the planet with our philosophy and mission which is to protect wild cats in the wild and from captivity by ending the abuses that cause so many of them to end up unwanted like Windsong.

Help us continue to do this much needed rescue work by donating here. <http://www.razoo.com/story/20th>
Thanks to the Reitzel Foundation, the first \$25,000 will be matched, which doubles your impact!

Scan QR Codes, in this issue, with your smart phone to get more info.



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A large tiger with orange fur and black stripes is walking towards the camera in a grassy field. The tiger's head is lowered, and its eyes are focused on the viewer. The background is a blurred green field.

Nikita had an ulcer on his eye. An ulcer is a scratch, abrasion or puncture in the surface of the cornea. In his case, it was more like a scoop, about the size of a grain of

good chance that any further trauma to the eye could cause the eye to rupture resulting in loss of vision, or worse, surgical removal of the eye.” says Big Cat Rescue’s veterinarian Dr. Wynn.



The surgery was a success and Nikita tolerated his keepers treating his eye with eye drops several times a day for a few weeks while it healed. Nikita's sutures have since dissolved and his eye has healed nicely. A huge thanks to our team of veterinarians; Dr. Miller, Dr. Stein, Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein and Big Cat Rescuers who made the surgery and after care possible! A roar of gratitude to all of our generous supporters for donations made toward the veterinary expenses of all of the cats at Big Cat Rescue as well.



BIG CAT BAN BILL GAINING MOMENTUM

The only solution is a ban on private breeding and possession. **H.R. 4122, the Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act**, is that solution. It was introduced on March 1st on a bipartisan basis by Representatives Buck McKeon (R-CA) and Loretta Sanchez (D-CA).

We are very pleased to report that both of our local Representatives, Democrat Kathy Castor and Republican Gus Bilirakis, are cosponsors.



The key
now is to

Thanks in advance to those of you who are willing to take a few minutes to help stop the suffering once and for all.



Bill Name: Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act
Bill Number: H.R. 4122

[illegible]

BIG CATS GOING GRRR-EEN

Big Cat Rescue just completed its first solar panel project to generate electricity. 22 panels with over 5KW generating capacity now sit prominently by our lake in an area that gets sun all day. The panels are connected to a special meter that allows the power they generate to offset our electric bill, saving us around \$1500/year on average over the 20+ year life of the project.



backup generator for our freezers, funding from Tampa Electric's solar rebate program, and extra panels and installation donated in part by Solar Energy Management. A planned expansion of this project has been funded in part by C1 Bank.

You can see, in real time, how much energy we are creating from the sun at this web page:

<http://bigcatrescue.org/2012/solar>



Each year Body Shop employees nominate colleagues for the Anita Award, named in memory of Body Shop founder Dame Anita Roddick. Just after the solar project was completed, Body Shop Foundation CEO Lisa Jackson and Communications Manager Adelle Scott brought the five Anita Award winners to spend two days volunteering at Big Cat Rescue. If we gave out awards for meticulous cage

painting, they would surely have won it for the fantastic job they did painting the cage that houses Orion, Ares and Artemis, three cougars who came to us as tiny cubs after their mother was shot by a hunter in Idaho in 2005.



Many thanks to The Body Shop Foundation, C1 Bank, Tampa Electric Company, and Solar Energy Management for helping the cats "go green" and lowering our electric cost for many years to come!



THE BIG CAT APP

Hundreds of big cat photos that you can download as wallpaper or email to friends, each cat's rescue story and fun facts too!

Compatible with:
iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad Requires iOS 3.2 or later
Android 2.2 and up

SAD FAREWELL TO THREE GREAT CATS

Taking care of more than 100 exotic cats is a roller coaster ride of emotions as we try to provide the best possible life for them and yet deal with the gut wrenching decisions of life and death. Of our 109 wild cats 100 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 80 of those 100 cats are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). It is with heavy hearts that we must say good bye to these three feline friends that have touched our hearts forever.

CRAZY HORSE



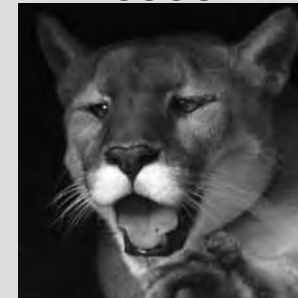
1995 - 2012

CRAZY HORSE came to live at Big Cat Rescue along with Levi, Two Toes, and eight other Bobcats in June 1995. They had all originally been destined to become part of a fur coat harvest. Instead of being hand-raised, he was raised by his mother, therefore Crazy Horse has never been very trustworthy of humans. When he first arrived he would hiss and run away when approached. Over the years he participated in the operant conditioning program with his roommates and as a result his personality improved tremendously. Crazy Horse shared a large enclosure with Two Toes, Tiger Lilly, and Levi. He and Levi, another male, were neutered to prevent any kittens from being produced. In June a large mass was discovered in Crazy Horse's armpit. The mass was surgically removed. However, Crazy Horse never fully recovered from sedation and passed away in his sleep after the procedure. Sedation of wild animals always carries risks and in some cases can even result in death of the animal.

MISSOURI and Cody were rescued when they became unwanted after their previous owners divorced. They arrived at Big Cat Rescue in 2000 and were filmed for Jack Hanna's Wild Adventures. Missouri was the complete opposite of Cody. She would run up to see anyone who walked by and was extra curious when work was being done nearby. She was very cross eyed because most exotic cats in the pet trade have been purposely inbred to create a dependent animal contrary to what nature intended. Missouri broke a small bone in her ankle that required several extensive surgeries and

the installation of screws, plates, and pins on the bone to stabilize it during the healing process. She was required to be kept in small quarters to restrict movement and needed weekly changes to the splints and bandages on her ankle. Each surgery and bandage change required sedation. Unfortunately after being sedated for one such bandage change, Missouri had a seizure and died suddenly. Heroic efforts were made to revive her, but were unsuccessful. Her loss was devastating. A necropsy found that she also suffered from a malignant tumor in her adrenal gland that had grown around a nearby blood vessel which would have caused the cancer to grow and spread faster. To add to this serious illness Missouri also showed signs of chronic kidney disease.

MISSOURI



1997 - 2012

INDIAN SUMMER



1989 - 2012

INDIAN SUMMER and Shiloh had lived together for seven years. When they arrived at Big Cat Rescue, they were left to live together since they had shared a cage their entire lives. Their former owner was a cat breeder in Davie, Florida who decided that she wanted to re-do her garden and the cats were in the way. Indian Summer was 23 years old. She had been losing weight and after her keepers reported that she was making weird faces, as if her mouth hurt, during an operant session she was taken to see Dr. Wynn at Ehrlich Animal Hospital for an exam. She had a large cyst in her throat that was most likely the cause of her discomfort. She also had small masses near her jaw, later stage kidney disease, and a heart murmur. The cyst was drained and she was started on a medication for her heart. Indian Summer went back to eating normally and acting like her old self, sleeping away most of the day in her den or the ferns. She did well for just about two months. Then she started to decline rapidly. She became uninterested in food and was even more lethargic than normal. Big Cat Rescuers made the hard decision to help ease her to the other side.



CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS THANKS TO ENRICHMENT FUND

All of the cats have benefited from the Enrichment Fund in so many ways including bloodsicles, toys, fancy catnips, and platforms. A while back we set a goal to provide every cat with a platform and we are almost finished. From the teeny tiny Geoffrey cat to the great big tigers, nearly every cat is climbing to new heights!



TRICK E.'S CAT-A-TAT GETS TRICKED OUT

Trick E. is an, 11-year-old male, Amur leopard cat. He is one of only two leopard cats that live at Big Cat Rescue and is listed among 264 in captivity worldwide.



In our ongoing effort to give every cat at the sanctuary more space to roam, Trick E. has finally reached his turn. Interns recently connected his enclosure to a neighboring one doubling the amount of room he has to explore. Leopard cats are very secretive and Trick E. in particular rarely walks around in the open while humans are near by. While

we probably will not get to see these explorations ourselves for a while, we are sure that Trick E. will love checking out his new space.

Fun Leopard Cat Facts:

Weighing 6-15 lbs. and reaching lengths of 35-38", this is the most common cat of Southern Asia.

Primarily nocturnal, they hunt both on the ground and in the trees.

Their diet consists of rodents, young ungulates, hares, birds, reptiles, insects, eels, fish, and carrion.

This was the first cat recently to be used by man in a hybrid situation 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.

Once heavily harvested for the fur trade in the 60's and 70's as many as 400,000 pelts were exported per year.



Left: Interns Janine, Heather, and Jocelin build tunnel connecting enclosure.

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.

Anonymous (6)	Lynne Daub	Jean Matusinka (D)	Pamela Rodriguez	John A. Varnado
Jean & Peter Albini	Dorothy Edwards	Terri Mimbs	Carol Sandstrom	Patricia Webber
Candace Barbara	Fran Ezer	Marcella Mirande-Ketcham	Alexia Sherman	Karen Wells
Carole Baskin	Ian Ira Fischer	Cecilia Nelson	Veronika Silvani	Ron & Joy Wentworth
Howard Baskin	Patricia Francis	Terry Nordblom (D)	Martha J. Simms (D)	Carol Wettersten
Ebe Bower	Hester Fuller	David Nugent	Diane Smith	Odette Wilkins
Marie Collart	Peter W. Jasin (D)	Pat O'Shea	Morgan Jane Smith	Brandy Williams
Joan & Richard Czeck	Mary Margaret Kalal (D)	Rich Reed	John Richard Smalarz	Robert C. Williams (D)
Thomas Daly (D)	William Kuni	Nancy Rodgers	Starla Trivilino	(D) Indicates deceased
Amy Davis	David H. Lytle		Robin Tyler	

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!

BIG BAT RESCUE? SCOUTS BUILD BAT HOUSES TO HELP THE BIG CATS

This spring, Big Cat Rescue was lucky to be the recipient of an Eagle Scout project which will help to cut down on our biting insect population! Clay Swingle, of Troop 46, researched, designed, raised money for supplies, and constructed five bat houses, with the help of his troop.



These bat houses were installed by Big Cat Rescuers in key locations throughout the sanctuary where we hope bats will congregate and eat plenty of mosquitoes, which not only bother the staff, volunteers, and guests, but the big cats as well. Thank you, Clay, for helping us and the cats!

Above: Scout Clay Swingle delivers bat houses and gets a hearty hand shake for a job well done from the Director of Education Willow Hecht

COOL CATS CAMP: A ROARING GOOD TIME!

This year, we had 106 campers attend 6 very full weeks of Big Cat Rescue summer camp. The campers had a great time, and enjoyed activities like watching veterinary procedures, helping prepare big cat diets, making large cardboard animals for enrichment, and plenty of games, blood cicles, cat trivia, art projects, and guest speakers. Also, of course, plenty of time was spent watching, photographing and talking to the big cats up close! Thank you to everyone who helped with camp, and to all the campers who made it so much fun.



OHIO EXOTIC ANIMAL BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR KASICH



We are pleased to announce the passage of SB 310 the Ohio Big Cat Ban. A law regulating ownership and sale of exotic animals in Ohio has been signed into law by Gov. John Kasich. The Ohio Senate voted 31-0 to agree with changes made by the Ohio House, which earlier approved Senate Bill 310 by an 89-7 vote. Sen. Troy Balderson, R-Zanesville, the sponsor of the measure, called it "a great step forward for public safety." While the bill got overwhelming support, state Rep. Terry Boose, R-Norwalk, was one of those voting against the bill. He said it would give Ohioans a "false sense of safety" that they will now be protected from another Zanesville.

The legislation was sparked by last fall's release of more than four dozen wild animals by owner Terry Thompson of Zanesville who set them free and then killed himself. Most of the animals, including large carnivores, were killed by law enforcement authorities to protect the public.

This law is a full ban on the acquisition, sale and breeding of restricted species and will take effect 90 days after the measure is signed. Mandatory registration of exotic wild animals would kick in by the end of this year. By Oct. 1, 2013, current owners would have to obtain a permit and pay a fee to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. As of Jan. 1, 2014, owners without permits could have their animals seized through local humane societies.



ENCLOSURE EXPANSION FOR NAKITA LIONESS BEGINS

Thanks to a matching grant of \$10,000 provided by Lawrence and Pamela Trissel we were able to raise ALL of the money needed to build a huge cage expansion for Nakita the lioness. There were



so many people who wanted to help Nakita get this great new space that the full match of \$10,000 was raised before we even had the chance to ask you to help.

Construction has begun on the addition to Nakita's enclosure. The rain has delayed the work on several occasions, but despite the setbacks we are finally seeing real progress. We hope by the next issue of the Big Cat Times we will have lots of photos of her enjoying the massive new space.



TOTALLY TUBULAR ENRICHMENT!



Cameron (Photo by Lawanna Mitchell)

THE "MANE EVENT" WILDLY SUCCESSFUL

Everyone at Big Cat Rescue would like to thank all of our friends at Hello Beautiful Color Salon and Spa for successfully producing a spectacular evening of fashion and fun in support of both Big Cat Rescue and Equestrian Inc. Horse Rescue of Tampa.

Held at the Green Iguana on North Dale Mabry in Tampa, this fun and festive event was attended by approximately 200 guests and helped to raise \$700+ in support of the magnificent animals that call Big Cat Rescue home.



ROUTINE EXAMS FOR TWO BOBCATS

Big Cat Rescue has a wonderful group of volunteers who do everything at the sanctuary from guiding educational tours, keeping the gift shop stocked and shipping orders, to providing top notch care to more than 100 residents. Both our Keeper and Partner volunteers are always looking out for the cats, observing their condition and behavior. Unusual observations are recorded on virtual observation logs that are checked daily by the staff and veterinarians. These observations are vital to providing the cats with excellent veterinary care.



Two bobcats in particular popped up on our radar recently. Angie, a 19 year old female, was reported for holding her ear down and Will, a 5 year old male, was not acting like his usual self. Both were sedated and routine exams were performed. Angie was in excellent condition for such an old girl. While nothing appeared to be wrong with her ear, Dr Wynn discovered that she may have high blood pressure for which she was started on medication. Will's exam showed nothing obvious, so urine, blood, and fecal samples were sent to the lab for testing. All came back negative for parasites or disease. Will has since returned to his normal ways so perhaps he was just having an off day.

Left: Angie, Dr. Wynn examines ear & Gale brushes away mats

Above: Will, Dr. Wynn performs ultrasound on Will





THE BIG CAT TRADING POST - GIFT GUIDE

Proceeds from your gift purchases help take care of the big cats. Order these gift items using the order form on page 10 or visit **BigCatRescue.biz** to see all of our gift items and purchase online. S & H within the US as well as tax has already been included in the prices listed here. You can also upgrade your shipping to Priority for just \$3 for your entire order. For luxury cat themed gift items visit **BigCatLuxeGifts.com**



Tiger Photo Wrap 15 oz. Mug
\$15.84

Big Cats Photo Wrap 15 oz. Mug
\$15.84

Bobcats Photo Wrap 15 oz. Mug
\$15.84

Little Cats Photo Wrap 15 oz. Mug
\$15.84

BCR Photo Collage License Plate Frame features 18 resident big and little cats of Big Cat Rescue. Standard size and four holes make easy installation.
\$15.84

BCR Photo Bumper Stickers
Choose Leopard or Lion **\$4.21**

Big Cat Vanity Plates Choose Black Leopard, Leopard, Lion, Tiger, Bobcat or Sand Cat **\$10.56 ea.**

BCR Ribbon Magnet
Choose Gold or Silver **\$8.35**

Carabiner Key Ring Choose Gold, Black, Blue or Purple **\$5.21 each**

Leopard Clicky Pen Rotating message w/ each click. **\$4.00**

Big Cat Photo Key Chain Choose Portrait - Leopard Cat, Bobcat, Cougar, Leopard, or Serval, Landscape - Sand Cat, 2 Lynx, Black Leopard, Tiger, Cougars, Lioness, Lynx, Lion, Snow Leopard, Bobcat, or 2 Ocelots **\$5.21 ea.**

BCR Logo Golf Towel Navy or Hunter **\$21.19**

BCR Golf Ball **\$6.28**

Photo Luggage Tags Choose Black Leopard, Bobcat, White Tiger, Leopard, 3 Cougars, Tiger, Sand Cat, or Lion **\$4.50 ea.**

Wood BCR Lighter with Engraved Logo **\$7.35**

Photo Easel Magnets Choose Sand Cat, Lynx, 3 Cougars, Serval, Leopard Cat, 2 Ocelots, Leopard, Tiger, Lioness, Ocelot, or Black Leopard **\$3.14 ea.**

BCR Enamel Bookmarks Choose Tiger, Lion, or Black Leopard **\$4.21 each**

Lanyard **\$7.35**

Hologram Luggage Tag **\$5.32**

Toy Veterinarian Kit includes: Stethoscope, syringe, medicine bottle, blood pressure pump, etc. **\$10.56**

7" Snow Leopard **\$10.56**

11" Snow Leopard **\$15.91**

Logo Sunglasses Case Red, Yellow, Lime, or Orange **\$9.49 ea.**

4" Handmade Beaded Figurine Choose Lion, Tiger, Peacock **\$18.12 ea.** Gecko **\$13.77**

Cat-opoly Themed Monopoly Board Game **\$28.54**

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

Lehi Lynx 12" **\$5.21 each**

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

BEST SELLER Crazy Cat Lady Action Figure 5.25" tall comes with 6 Cats **\$11.63**

Ultimate Cat Sticker Book, 60 re-useable stickers **\$11.63**

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 Animal Sticker Book, 60 re-useable stickers **\$11.63**

Encyclopedia Sticker Book with Over 600 Stickers **\$19.60**

 <p>Big Cat Rescue Fidel Cap Embroidered with BCR & Running Cat Choose Black or Khaki \$20.12</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Cadet Cap Embroidered Big Cat Rescue text Choose Blue or Pink \$20.18</p>	 <p>Embroidered Adams Cap Choose Navy with Khaki Logo White with Blue Logo \$22.40</p>	 <p>Eco Bag with BCR Recycle Logo on Front 13" W by 10" D by 15" H \$13.70</p>	 <p>Navy or Black Fleece Beanie Logo \$25.61 Navy or Black Fleece Scarf Logo \$28.75</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Tiger Watch \$28.75</p>  <p>Photo Necklace Choose Any Species \$45.00</p>
 <p>Big Cat Rescue Compass & Lion Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Skip - FL Bobcat Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL & XXXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Bobcat Rehab Program Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL & XXXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>BCR Papyrus Tee Red or Aqua Ladies Tee S, M, L, XL \$19.05 XXL \$21.19</p>	 <p>Property of BCR Tee Available in Blue or Gray S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	
 <p>Yellow Ladies Polo with Navy Trim and Embroidered Logo S, M, L, XL \$39.45 Blue Polo with Navy Trim and Embroidered Logo S, M, L, XL \$40.45 XXL \$43.66</p>	 <p>BCR Baseball Tee Gray & Black S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Rhinstone Fitted Tee in Black Choose Tiger, Snow Leopard or Leopard S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Rhinstone Ribbed Tank in Black with Snow Leopard S, M, L, XL \$22.26</p>	 <p>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 \$26.54</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Tiger Shoe Laces \$9.49</p>
 <p>Chocolate Rhinstone Junior Fitted Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Logo Tees Available in Royal, Charcoal, Azalea, Teal, Purple, and Pistachio S, M, L, XL \$18.05 XXL \$20.19</p>	 <p>Longsleeve Hooded Knit Tee Available in Eggplant or Black S, M, L, & XL \$31.89 XXL \$34.03</p>	 <p>Longsleeve Tee with Tiger Stripes on Chest & Sleeves & Big Cat Rescue on Back S, M, L, & XL \$29.75 XXL \$31.89</p>	 <p>Medium Socks fit Women 6-11 & Men 5-10 Shorty Pink Tiger \$9.49 Shorty Recycle Tiger \$9.49 Lion March \$9.49 Cat Silhouette \$9.49 Tiger Facts \$9.49 BCR White Lion \$9.49 BCR Black Tiger \$9.49 BCR Brown Tiger \$9.49 BCR White Big Cats \$9.49 Shorty Leopard \$9.49 Shorty White Big Cats \$9.49</p>	
 <p>Orange/White Tiger Baby Creeper BCR on Front XS, S, M & L \$13.70</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Tiger Kids Tee Available in Blue or Pink XS, S, M & L \$15.91</p>	 <p>Paws Off Lion Kids Tee S, M & L \$16.91</p>	 <p>Jeweled Lion Kids Tee XS, S, M & L \$16.98</p>	 <p>Zipper Hoodie with Tiger Art on Front Black S, M, L, & XL \$42.52 XXL \$45.73</p>	

BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS

\$25,000 Reitzel Foundation	\$250 Darcy Brindle	\$150 Shari Dirks	\$100 Robin Ciupidro	\$100 Brandon Meyer
\$20,000 Lawrence & Pamela Trissel	\$250 David Budnetz	\$150 WF & Michelle Diss	\$100 Kathleen Cole	\$100 Jacqueline Mikiten
\$10,000 Leslie L. Alexander Foundation, Inc.	\$250 Craig Carter	\$150 Graciella Dominguez	\$100 Aaron	\$100 Joyce Moody
\$10,000 Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities	& Kelly Lynn Denney	\$150 Katherine	& Mary Wells Cooke	\$100 Martha Morandi
\$3,000 Dwight Lowell	\$250 Luis & Amy Diaz	& Andy Duncan	\$100 Susan Corellis	\$100 Sheila
\$3,000 Seth & Susan Szold	\$250 Vickie Diluigi	\$150 Christina Farah	\$100 Debbie Couture	& Brent Morgan
\$2,500 Chinthe Consulting Company	\$250 Jo Ann & Jon Frogue	\$150 Larry Han	\$100 Patricia & Ernie Coy	\$100 Carol
\$2,310 Pamela Rodriguez	\$250 Ricardo & Katya Galbis	\$150 Hollace	\$100 Kenneth Dagdigian	& Thomas Morris
\$2,000 Diane Mick	\$250 William	& Gordon Hannaway	\$100 Dorothy	\$100 Fran Morrison
\$1,950 Sole Riley Marittimi	& Mary Ganser	\$150 Steven	& John Davies	\$100 Nancy Moulden
\$1,900 Lois Cronholm	\$250 Michael	& Anne Harrison	\$100 George Dees	\$100 Christine Naughton
\$1,850 Laura Moreno	& Julianne Green	\$150 MaryLouise Hawken	\$100 Terri Dixon	\$100 James Nimocks
\$1,500 Enterprise Holdings Foundation	\$250 Zach Gumm	\$150 MaryLouise Hellthaler	\$100 Robert Dolecki	\$100 Cheryl Niven
\$1,300 David Nugent	\$250 Susan Kell	\$150 Dianne Hodgett	\$100 Nancy Douglas	\$100 Mikhail V. Novgorodov
\$1,150 Sophisticated Surfaces Inc.	\$250 William Kelley	\$150 Sam & Ivan Iverson	\$100 Wendy	\$100 Norm And Joan Oyen
\$1,045 The Skipaholics	\$250 Paul Manzo	\$150 Charles S. Jones	& Mark Durand	\$100 Nancy Peters
\$1,000 Betsy Coville	\$250 Shelley McVicker	\$150 Kelli Lopardo	\$100 Janene Edgar	\$100 Elaine Peterson
\$1,000 Christine Hoke	& David Callahan	\$150 Michele Marziano	\$100 Jennifier Elliott	\$100 Adriann Philby
\$1,000 Jerry Palin	\$250 Joan Russell	\$150 William	\$100 Denise E. Etris	\$100 Katherine Piel
& Sheila Siderman	\$250 Anthony Samson	& Meda Maxwell	\$100 Sue Evilsizer	\$100 Nicole Pomeroy
\$1,000 Deborah Vetter	\$250 Allen Schmidt	\$150 Michael Neblock	\$100 Mary Fairbanks	\$100 Tina Purin
\$1,000 Elizabeth Watts	\$250 Susan Seibert	\$150 Joan Nodwell	\$100 Carolyn Falco	\$100 Melissa
\$1,000 S.R. Wilcox	\$250 Deborah Spade	\$150 Anna Price	\$100 Ed Feathers	& Ray Ramsey
\$1,000 Merchants Association of Florida, Inc.	\$250 Michael Stickney	\$150 Carol Schauer	\$100 Susan Fix	\$100 Linda Richter
\$900 Suzanne & Alan Lucas	\$250 Patricia	\$150 Doris Schlichter	\$100 Andrew	\$100 Karen Robey
\$800 Pamela Olson	& Lon Wojtowicz	\$150 Paula Trehey	& Johnna Freson	\$100 Maria Rosales
& Benjamin Koonts	\$240 O. Rosie Betancourt	\$150 Karen Wayment	\$100 Janet Frisch	\$100 James & Andrea Ross
\$760 Todd & Susan Richerson	\$240 Donna Reisinger	\$150 Lisa Williams	\$100 Gretchen	\$100 Mathieu Rovello
\$720 Hello Beautiful Colour Salon & Art Spa	\$225 Jennifer Caswell	\$150 Christie Wood	Garceau-Kragh	\$100 Michael Rubin
\$700 Annamae Young	\$220 Charlene Boden	\$142 Jack Krull	\$100 Judith Gatzke	\$100 Kathy Rulison
\$650 Marie E. Collart	\$215 Debra Nitkin	\$139 Shelley Pavlovich	\$100 Anita Ghosh	\$100 Don Russ
\$600 Steven Carter	\$214 Charlee Wert	\$137 Antonio	\$100 Vicki Giordano	\$100 Mary Salzman
\$600 Beverly Ford	\$210 Graham	& Marguerite Salvatore	& David Gill	\$100 Carl & Betty Schino
\$510 Kevin Bunker	& Jenny Dudley	\$134 Patrick Schaldemose	\$100 Bart Gillespie	\$100 Doris Schlichter
\$505 Coral L. Hilby	\$201 Gloria D. Cox	\$131 Christine Schumaker	\$100 Leslie Graham	\$100 James Schoonmaker
\$500 Samuel Afalo	\$200 Lynn Baumeister	\$130 Christine Carpenito	\$100 Sheree Greer	\$100 William & Anne Seals
\$500 Eric Barton	\$200 Ben Smith Enterprises	\$130 Debra & John Jones	\$100 Dusty Marie Haberkern	\$100 Prescott
\$500 Robert Butler	\$200 Paul Boyle	\$125 Kimberly Anna-Soisson	\$100 Marie & Ray Hahn	& Sandra Seckel
\$500 Theresa Cooper	\$200 Erin Carris	\$125 Renee Grimmett	\$100 Julia Clifford	\$100 Lisa Shaw
\$500 Mellissa Hayes	\$200 Michelle	\$125 Charles	& Lucia Hallberg	\$100 Rodney & Judy Snow
\$500 Becci Litten	& Scott Chamberlin	& Rae Ellen James	\$100 Cynthia Hammer	\$100 Jonathan Spartz
\$500 Judy Schumer	\$200 Bailey	\$125 Debora Modra	\$100 Suzette R. Harbour	\$100 Lois Stange
\$500 Kelly Shane	& Steve Desrochers	\$125 Larelle	\$100 Clifford Hayman	\$100 Christopher Stewart
\$500 Peggy & Murat Shekem	\$200 Karen DiMenna	& Joseph Szumski	\$100 Valiene Heckart	\$100 Richard
\$500 Royal Manticoran Navy:	\$200 Steve & Kim Dunkle	\$120 David Brooks	\$100 Eileen Hibbler	& Lee Ann Stiles
The Official Honor Harrington Fan Club	\$200 John & Sharon Foster	\$115 Randy	\$100 Lorelei	\$100 A. Kevin & Dawn Stoppello
\$500 Aqua Designs Inc.	\$200 Jeanette Goebel	& Constance Bergstrom	& Robert K. Hickman	\$100 James
\$450 Cars 4 Causes	\$200 Tim & Diana Kim Hart	\$110 Rebecca A. Merlin	\$100 Bob Holdredge	& Barbara Syverud
\$450 Sindhu Mathew	\$200 Richard	\$110 Michael Smolik	\$100 Suzanne Holeman	\$100 Tanya Tetu
\$450 Adam Stevens	& Pearl MacGregor	\$108 Melissa E. Black	\$100 Anna Horner	\$100 Paula Thompson
\$400 Carolyn Inman	\$200 Phyllis S. Middaugh	\$105 Kerry Gilbert	\$100 Michael	\$100 John Tillis
\$400 Sarah Jackson	\$200 Larry S. Moore	\$105 Pattie Quinn-Bennett	& Dennis Marks Hughes	\$100 Eugenia Van Bremen
\$400 Angie Korsun	\$200 Michelle Motchos	\$105 Celeste Rousseau	\$100 Tina Hutchison	\$100 Carol Vogel
\$350 Kirk & Aileen Davis	\$200 Maryanne Mothersole	\$105 Erin Trease	\$100 Peggy & Jay Ince	\$100 Lowell
\$350 Sharon Sauro	\$200 Alisa Pachella	\$100 Pauline Adams	\$100 Tom Isgar	& Nancy Walker
\$350 Harry & Ellen Yospin	\$200 Bill & Jan Rothbauer	\$100 Barbara Alber	\$100 John Johnson	\$100 Courtney
\$300 Lisa & Marcus Altus	\$200 Mary Scott	\$100 Elizabeth Albrecht	\$100 Phyllis Kaplan	& Daniel Waterbury
\$300 Annarosa Berman	\$200 Teresa Sherrick	\$100 Shabnam Alibhai	\$100 John Kay	\$100 Denise Watkins
\$300 Christine Cables	\$200 Timothy Snider	\$100 Roberta Alpers	\$100 Justin Kim	\$100 Andrew
\$300 Stacie Carpenter	\$200 Anthony & Mary Urso	\$100 Kenneth Archbold	\$100 Ananth Kini	& Carissa Wendt
\$300 Diane Freeman	\$200 Jason Van Patten	\$100 Leo & Jeanne Aubert	\$100 Samuel Kohler	\$100 Irwin Werbowsky
\$300 Brian McDougall	\$200 Patricia Webber	\$100 Lisa Baca	\$100 Eileen Hibbler	\$100 Samantha Wilder
\$300 Daniel Pursel	\$200 Joan Woolard	\$100 Virginia Bacon	\$100 Lorelei	\$100 Ron & Susan Williams
& Lisa Minich	\$180 Roberta	\$100 Marvin & Ellen Barnes	\$100 Lelei	\$100 Donald
\$300 Diana Rankin	& Jeffrey Newton	\$100 Kirsten Belgium	& John Leclerc	& Laleeta Wilson
\$300 Starla Trivilino	\$175 Jeanne Tedesco	\$100 Sandra Bell	\$100 Debbie	\$100 Melissa Wright
\$271 Eric Keegstra	\$160 JustGive.org	\$100 Carolle Bendle	& Callum Lees	\$100 Anthony
\$270 Creative Horizon Inc.	\$150 Vicki Anselmo	\$100 Jim & Wendy Brazill	\$100 Richard Lodkawski	& Shirley Yankowsky
\$252 Ladawn Knight	\$150 Karan	\$100 Linda Cassetty	\$100 Tom & Cara Kretz	\$100 Jean Zegadlo
\$250 Lesa Albright	& William Beynon	\$100 Jeanne Castaldini	\$100 Philippe Lafont	\$100 G F Business Services
\$250 Janet Berman	\$150 Sheila Campbell	\$100 Nona Caulkins	\$100 Lynn & Stuart Lang	\$100 Ballen
	\$150 Vicky Cole	\$100 R. M. Chapman	\$100 Lee L. Lanza	& Company, Inc.
	\$150 Edward	\$100 David Charles	\$100 Nancy	\$100 Massachusetts School of Law
	& Carol Collins	\$100 Jeannine Charnota	& John Leclerc	\$100 Olympus NDT
	\$150 Brandy L. Cumming	\$100 Carla Charny	\$100 Dorothy	
	\$150 Janice Devine	\$100 Michelle Cherry	\$100 George Dees	

Big Cat Sponsorship Levels and Benefits



All kits include the following appreciation gifts: 4-page color fact sheet about the species, Big Cat Rescue logo window decal, Registration Card to select the cat of your choice. 8x10 color photo of the cat

you choose to sponsor with the cat name and your name as sponsor printed on it. The sponsor levels below include these additional benefits and donor recognition:

\$25 BIG CAT BUDDY – KIDS SPONSORSHIP
Coloring pages featuring wild cats and 1 Kids Tour Pass.

\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER
10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop.

\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND
10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop and 1 Day Tour Pass.

\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR
10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop, 2 Day Tour Passes, 30 big cat mailing labels, Donor name and gift amount listed in the Big Cat Times and on website.

\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR
10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop, 4 Day Tour Passes, 60 big cat mailing labels, Donor name and gift amount listed in the Big Cat Times and on website.

\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR
Conservator Benefits above plus: 4”x4” Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 6”x12” Engraved plaque on the tour path with donor name displayed for one year.

\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO
Conservator Benefits above plus: 6”x6” Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 9”x12” Engraved plaque on the tour path with donor name displayed for one year, and Private Tour for up to 10 people.

\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION
Conservator Benefits above plus: 8”x8” Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 12”x12” color plaque on tour path with cat photo and donor name displayed for one year, and Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.

\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS
Conservator Benefits above plus: 12”x12” Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 18”x24” Sign with big cat photo and donor name displayed on the tour path for one year, Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.

A FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

To our knowledge, only two white servals exist in the world: Tonga and his brother Pharaoh. Both live at Big Cat Rescue. The white coat is just the outward indication of the deleterious effects of inbreeding. Tonga is now 15 years old has been diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. Although most arise without antecedent cause, in many species, especially in white cats, prolonged exposure to sunlight is a major predisposing factor. Being a wild cat, Tonga lives outside, and what cat doesn't love to nap in their favorite sunny spot?

Tonga's adult life has been pretty uneventful from a medical perspective. He had a bad tooth extracted in 2010 and he had an abscess treated on his leg in late 2011 but his blood work was pretty much routine for an elderly cat. (In the wild and in most other places servals only live to be 10-12, but at Big Cat Rescue they have an average lifespan of 17). In July 2011 our Education Director Willow reported on the Veterinary Observation Chart that Tonga had a cut or scab on his



nose. It was treated and went away but then in February of 2012 Keeper Bren reported it had recurred. It was treated with antibiotics and subsided, but recurred again in August of 2012. Something strange was going on here and this time it looked much worse, so despite the dangers in sedating an exotic cat we decided to do a full work up on him first by Dr. Wynn at the Ehrlich Road Animal Hospital and then by Dr. Jen Coyle and Dr. Wendy Gwin at the Blue Pearl Oncology lab.

We were crushed when we heard the devastating news that it was cancer. After many tests and a full CT scan of

his nose it was determined that the only way to save Tonga's life would be to remove his cute little pink nose. The surgeons have to take a full centimeter extra, around the cancerous mass, in order to make sure they get all of the cancerous cells. That will mean removing his entire nose, but the good news is that they said it should heal very well and that he will be able to live outside again once the skin has completely healed over. He will just have higher nostrils on his face and more of a Persian profile than that of a normal Serval. He will still be beautiful to us.



The other bit of good news is that Tonga is strong, has a healthy appetite and zest for life and the cancer

does not appear to have spread into his brain or nasal cavities, so he could live another two years. That is an average lifespan for our Servals and

we feel like this surgery will give him a chance. To leave it untreated will undoubtedly result in the spread to the rest of his body and cats are so good at masking pain that we fear he would suffer and not let us know. The only clue we had that there was anything wrong this time was a recurring sore on his nose.

While waiting on test results and several expert opinions on what could be done we have wrestled with these options.

It will be thousands of dollars for the diagnostics we have already done and the delicate surgery that he needs. Tonga could die during surgery. He could have a recurrence or have the cancer manifest in other organs. He may live a few weeks, a few months or a few years; we just don't know. What we do know is that we have to try. We hope that you agree that every life is precious and worth trying to save by helping us fund the work here and specifically Tonga's surgery.



REFRESHING TREATS TO BEAT THE HEAT

Summertime is here once again and the big cats received a very special treat to help them beat the heat. Watermelons make great enrichment toys for the cats. Their oblong shape makes them roll around unpredictably which drives the cats bonkers. Once the mysterious green orb is captured the cats receive another surprise as they sink their teeth into a yummy cool treat that is sure to please!



COLUMBIA CLOSING IN ON ANIMAL CIRCUS BAN



An end to the use of ALL animals in circuses in Colombia moved a step closer recently when the Colombian House of Representatives unanimously approved Bill 52/2011, enabling the proposed legislation to move on to the Senate. This exciting breakthrough comes after five years of intense lobbying and campaigning activity by Animal Defenders International following the release of their undercover investigation into South American circuses in 2007. Field officers uncovered a staggering level of violence and animal abuse. One particularly brutal incident involved a female chimpanzee named Karla, kept isolated and alone, who was punched in the face and whipped with a chain by her trainer. She, like other circus animals, was beaten into submission. Now removed from the circus, Karla's future is unclear and ADI is fighting for her freedom. In the past year alone, ADI has successfully secured animal circus bans in Greece and Peru.

PAVE THE WAY: HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL



Engraved pathway bricks make 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 or someone else. You can order on page 10, or online:

<http://tiny.cc/k8ey0>

<http://www.bigcatrescue.org/household>

RECIPIENT ADDRESS (if different than Billing)

Name

Address

City *St* *Zip*

Day Time Phone

Evening Phone

Email

This is a gift, please make card TO: _____ **FROM:** _____

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.

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.

[illegible]

Special Comment, Request, or Question:
* Personalizations (How you want your name to appear):



Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change. Visit us online for the most current tour information.

FAUX BOBCAT RESCUE

At 5PM on June 12th a call came in from an urban area of Plant City. The caller said her kids had found two bobcat kittens nursing on their dead mother's body. By 5:30 our new Toyota Tundra, who we call Moby since it is as big as a whale, was loaded down with sturdy gloves, carriers, nets and blankets because we just didn't know what we would find.



Big Cat Rescue President Jamie

Veronica and Dr. Justin rushed to the scene only to discover two bobtailed domestic kittens that were left in a bird cage on the front porch of a modest little home.

No one was there, the caller had to go to work so had left the kittens outside to be picked up. The floor of the cage was covered in dry cat food and there was an empty bag of frozen chicken on the ground. Even though the pair were not



wild cats, Jamie and Dr. Justin took the kittens home. As for the missing tails, they appear to have been born that way and that's probably why the caller thought they were bobcats.

Dr. Justin took the kittens to Animal Coalition of Tampa where he vaccinated, spayed, and treated them for parasites. Jamie quickly fell for the tiny gray kitten and named her Tigre, but spelled it TeeGray, and decided to adopt her.

The other kitten named Grayce was adopted by Jamie's cousin Katie Stairs. Both kittens have plumped up since their rescue and both have settled right in with their new families.



2012 S.A.V.E. WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Big Cat Rescuers who have been recognized this year for their outstanding commitment to the mission of Big Cat Rescue. In honor of this commitment they were each presented with an award called the S.A.V.E. and allotted \$500 to spend on their favorite feline friends.



S.A.V.E stands for Scratch's Award for Volunteer Excellence. Named for an outstanding cougar named Scratch, whose lifespan reached 30 years, the SAVE Award recognizes one volunteer or intern each month who is doing an outstanding job.



May - Dottie Major & Regina Turgeon (no photo avail.)



June - Honey Wayton



July - Mary Lou Geis



August - Marcy Spellman



Join our family - www.BigCatRescue.org/volunteer

BAN TIGERS & OTHER BIG CATS AS "PETS" IN PENNSYLVANIA

HB 1398 bans the private ownership of big cats including lions, tigers, cougars, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and bobcats as pets. Pennsylvania's state legislature is right now considering legislation (HB 1398) that will ban the private ownership of big cats and other dangerous wild animals as pets.

Please join Big Cat Rescue and other animal welfare organizations in asking legislators to SUPPORT HB 1398! Go to CatLaws.com

HB 1398 is sponsored by Rep. Edward Staback, D-Lackawanna/Wayne, and the bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.



Under current Pennsylvania law, it is legal to keep dangerous wild animals as pets provided the person purchases a permit from the Pennsylvania Game Commission to keep that animal. There is NO requirement that the permit holder notify neighbors, local law enforcement or schools that dangerous exotic animals are being kept in their neighborhood. And there is very little regulatory oversight of the law, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

After the tragic events in Zainesville, OH, when an exotic animal owner turned loose dozens of lions, tigers, and other animals, Ohio lawmakers stepped up and passed legislation banning private citizens from acquiring dangerous exotic animals as pets.

Let's add Pennsylvania to the ever-increasing list of forward-thinking states that have changed or added laws that will greatly increase public safety and stop the abuse and usually horrific conditions these cats endure while in the hands of private "collectors."

SNOW LEOPARD GUARDIAN ALLIANCE



In addition to providing a permanent home to more than 100 big cats and advocating on their behalf to promote legislation that will protect captive wild animals, Big Cat Rescue also provides aid for programs focused on conservation. Our most recent project is the funding of a GPS tracking collar that will be monitored by researchers with the Snow Leopard Trust. Founded in 1981, the Snow Leopard Trust is the world's leading authority on the study and protection of the endangered snow leopard. This collar will allow researchers to track a wild snow leopard in order to study its habits and territory needs.

We are excited to provide you with this teaser update on the field project from the Snow Leopard Trust researchers: Aztai's collar indicates that he was one busy cat this last month. He patrolled his home range and also made a few short explorations to the north. We observed several location data that indicate possible meetings between Aztai and Lasya.

The Snow Leopard Trust is allowing us to share some great inside stories and tracking information that is only made available to those who sponsor the \$5,000 Collar Project. If you would like to receive access to these updates and photos from the field you can join a Big Cat Rescue's **Snow Leopard Guardian Alliance**. Membership is \$5 and as a member you will receive access to exclusive updates and photos for one year. The membership fees collected will go directly towards

funding the collar project. \$1,500 of the \$5,000 we donated to the project has been funded in honor of our extraordinary team of staff and volunteers.

Sign up today and get full access to the first of many updates and photos to come. To sign up visit our online gift shop at: <http://tinyurl.com/83raqqo>

Photo by the Snow Leopard Trust



FAMILY DOG RESCUES BOBCAT KITTEN



Honey, look what the dog dragged in? OK, so that's not how the saying usually goes...

Last month Big Cat Rescuers received a call from a family in Gainesville who lived on a 4,000 acre ranch. One of their dogs had come home one afternoon with an unusual find, a tiny bobcat kitten. No one knows where or how this dog ended up with the kitten, but one thing was certain, the kitten was very thin and was quite ill.

Big Cat Rescue President Jamie Veronica and veterinarian Dr. Justin made the 6-hour round-trip to pick up the bobcat. This was the first of many rescues to come, made possible

thanks to the Toyota Tundra that you, our supporters, helped us win in Toyota's 100 Cars for Good contest.

Because of the proximity to the University of Florida, the approximately 12-week-old, male bobcat kitten was appropriately named Gator. Gator was emaciated and dehydrated. His gums were pale and he was covered in ticks and fleas. He was anemic and was diagnosed with hookworms and giardia.

Gator was given IV fluids, treated for parasites, and put on a healthy diet supplemented with vitamins to improve his anemia. Now just a few weeks later he is the picture of health and has transformed into a wild spitfire. His time being treated in our on-site Cat Hospital has come to an end and Gator has moved into our outdoor rehab enclosure. Here he will be taught the necessities for life in the wild and once he is a little older and able to care for himself he will be released back into the forest from which he came.

(Photo shown is not Gator, but is an example of what he looks like at this age. Currently the Florida Wildlife Commission is taking the position that rehabbers cannot show you pictures or videos of rehab animals but we will be asking them to revisit that interpretation of the rules.)

SKIP-A-HOLICS JOIN FORCES TO GRANT WISHES

The Skip-a-holics are a very special group of people from around the world that were brought together by following the rescue story of Skip the bobcat. They created the first ever fan page for one of our residents and have become one of our most dedicated forces of off-site Advo-cats. Recently the Skip-a-holics hosted a fundraiser to purchase several items from our wishlist. We were thrilled when they visited a few months ago to deliver thousands of dollars worth of plants for the sanctuary, a dipping pool for Skip and a back up camera for our rescue vehicle. The staff, volunteers, and especially the cats would like to send a roaring thank you out to this ever supportive group!



Clockwise from left; Skipaholics & Manager Gale Ingham, Interns and volunteers planting, Skip

A VERY DIFFERENT TAFACONFERENCE!

Big Cat Rescuers attended the very first Taking Action for Animals conference, known as TAFACON, in 2005 and have attended every year since. But, this year was very different.

The conference involves two days of outstanding lectures and workshops followed by a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill for current legislation. Some of the presentations are about specific animal issues as diverse as farm animal treatment, shark finning and breed-discrimination against pit bulls. Other workshops are devoted to updates on the law and how to be an effective advocate for better laws to protect animals.

Big Cat Rescue has always supported the conference with attendance, a table in the Exhibit Hall, and last year with a lower level sponsorship. This year, though, with the introduction of H.R. 4122, the most important bill ever introduced to stop the abuse of captive



big cats, we decided to be the top level "Diamond" sponsor in order to build awareness of the captive big cat issue and the bill.

the most fun things was seeing 1000 people running around with tote bags with a huge Big Cat Rescue logo on it, seeing our logo on everyone's name tag, and seeing our logo prominently featured on the printed signs in the lobby and projected on the screen before each workshop. Nobody left that conference without knowing who Big Cat Rescue is and how important H.R. 4122 is to stopping the abuse of big cats!

Then on Monday we visited our legislators with a record number of attendees from Florida. Pictured in the photo are about 25 Florida animal lovers visiting with Sen. Marco Rubio's aide Hampton Ray.



Our sincere thanks to the Humane Society of the United States for taking on the massive task of organizing the conference and doing such a fabulous job of helping us get our message out to such a wonderful audience!



As the major sponsor, we got to speak to the entire audience of over 1000 animal loving people. We showed video of the cats having fun with enrichment. Then we showed the abusive cub petting that is responsible for incessant breeding, exploiting and then discarding of big cats. We showed video of the conditions at the places from which we have rescued cats to contrast those conditions with the video showing the cats' lives at Big Cat Rescue.

In addition, we had a huge booth that was almost always crowded with people seeking to learn more, and we were speakers in three of the workshops. One of

