We are so pleased to announce that the Vacation Rotation Enclosure has been completed and Big Cat Rescue celebrated the grand opening of the new space with dozens of volunteers, donors, and the media. Everyone gathered early in the morning on July 30th to watch as Bengali the tiger was the first to explore the 2.5 acre enclosure.

After 10 long months of hard work and $200,000 in cost the super sized enclosure inspired awe in the 20 year old tiger. Bengali made his way through a long tunnel connecting his enclosure to the Vacation Rotation Enclosure where he enthusiastically explored every square foot. He first checked out a large oak tree log and promptly scratched and marked it as his. Then he made his way over to the giant jungle gym and checked out the view of his domain from atop. Next he strolled over to the pond and took a long drink and a quick dip to cool off. He has never had access to a natural body of water such as this and the muddy floor was a little intimidating, much different than his concrete pool. After a long morning sniffing and marking, Bengali finally retired to his cave den for a well deserved siesta.

Bengali spent a week on vacation before giving way for Flavio to have his turn.

Our sincere thanks to the many donors who so far have funded 80% of this project, and special thanks to major donors Reitzel Foundation, Larry and Pam Trissel, the Little Family Foundation, and David G. Nugent in memory of Barbara M. Nugent.
Please help us reach our fundraising goal for the construction of the Vacation Rotation Enclosure.

We are so close to the finish line!

www.razoo.com/story/BigCatVacation

Donors check out the Vacation Rotation Enclosure before Bengali’s grand entrance.
Flavio gets his turn in the Vacation Rotation Enclosure and has a roaring good time playing in the fountain.
Starting your own legacy is simple. A will is not necessary. Just let us know you have included us with your estate and we will be glad to add you to our Legacy Society. If you have already included us in your will and would like to be added, please contact Finance@BigCatRescue.org. 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!
In late June Big Cat Rescuers received a call from a wildlife rehabilitation facility in need of assistance. An orphaned bobcat had been brought to their clinic, however they mainly deal with smaller animals and did not have the facilities to house her. They knew Big Cat Rescue specializes in bobcat rehab and thought that it would be the purr-fect place for the 8-week-old kitten.

The tiny three pound bobcat, named Khaleesi, has not become accustomed to being around humans and so will be an excellent candidate for release. She will be given some time to grow and learn the basic skills she will need to master in order to survive on her own. Once she is ready, Khaleesi will be returned to the wild where she rightfully belongs.

At right: Khaleesi is examined by Dr. Wynn with the help of Manager Gale Ingham

Help us put an end to the abuse today. Visit us online at:

BIGCATBAN.COM

3 STEPS TO SAVING BIG CATS AND THEIR CUBS

1. Tell USDA that there is no reason to allow public contact between big cats and their cubs.

Worn out tiger cub that was chained to a table for hours of photo ops at Christmas tree lot in Tampa, FL.

Cub petting and photo ops with cubs are the main cause of so many discarded tigers and lions when they get too big to use as Pay-to-Play props. USDA is asking for your comment now. Please let them know that there is NO circumstance under which the public should be allowed contact with big cats or their cubs.

2. Tell Congress that big cats should not be kept as pets or used as photo and petting props.

This is the Most Important Bill Ever to Protect Big Cats from Abuse. The Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act has been reintroduced as HR 1998 in the House and S 1381 in the Senate. Please ask your members of Congress to sign on as Co Sponsors so that this bill can be passed this year!

3. Ask the USFWS why they haven’t rescinded the generic tiger loophole yet.

It’s been two years now since more than 15,000 animal lovers spoke up and asked the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to rescind the generic tiger loophole that has allowed backyard breeders to inbreed, cross breed and over breed tigers. The USFWS should have listened to you and made it a Final Rule that anyone who wants to breed tigers has to go through all of the same red tape that the zoos do, but they still haven’t done it. Please email and politely ask when they will post the final rule that rescinds the generic tiger exemption.

Go to BigCatBan.com for easy instructions and direct links. Taking action on these 3 issues will make a world of difference to big cats suffering across our nation. Your voice counts. Please help us outnumber the voices of those who profit from the abuse of big cats. At BigCatBan.com you will find easy instructions, direct links, and pre-written letters to select from. (Personalized letters will have more impact)
LIONS AND TIGERS AND DRAGONS, OH MY!

We’re SO excited to be partnering with The Body Shop USA as they launch their Dragon Fruit Lip Butter Campaign, allowing customers to vote for a choice of three great charities.

Now through November 3 with any purchase you’ll receive a token which you can use to vote for Big Cat Rescue.

Buy super-moisturizing Dragon Fruit Lip Butter and you get a second token to vote with.

You can also go to:
http://bddy.me/NJIYzf
for an additional vote!

100% of the profits from the sale of the Dragon Fruit Lip Butter go to charity so the greater the sales, the greater the funding. The more votes we get, the greater the amount of funding we receive!

BRAZILIAN ACTOR LUIGI BARICELLI VISITS THE CATS

Luigi Baricelli is one of the most famous actors in Brazil, sometimes referred to as the “Brad Pitt of Brazil.” In a testimony to Big Cat Rescue’s increasing international awareness, Luigi (in photo, just left of Joseph the lion) brought his family and friends to see the cats in early August.

Like so many visitors from countries that have evolved way beyond the US in their respect for animals - Brazil bans big cats from circus acts - he expressed disappointment and distress that America permits private ownership and exploitation that results in the cats needing a sanctuary.

Before leaving, he took time out to tape a testimonial for us in both English and Portuguese and kindly offered to build awareness of Big Cat Rescue in Brazil by tweeting and Facebook.

Luigi, we hope the passage of our federal bill will let the US catch up to your country in the way we prevent abuse of big cats!

SAD FAREWELL TO TWO 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 114 animals, 92 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 76 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 18 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts that we must say good bye to these feline friends who has touched our hearts forever.

ROSE was such a friendly and beautiful caracal. She captivated guests with her regal looks and characteristic black tufted ears. After Rose had lost interest in food she was sedated for a blood work up and the results were not good. She was in the advanced stages of kidney disease. We have rescued 10 caracals during our 21 years, the oldest of which was 17 years old when she passed away. Rose was 16 years old.

SARMOTI was retired from the circus earlier than all of his buddies because he wouldn’t perform. He came here at the same time as Bengali, his brother. While Bengali is very social and playful, Sarmoti was serious and reserved. During Sarmoti’s last few months he spent most of his time sleeping. When he was taken in for diagnostics by the circus vet who treats him, she decided that at 20 years of age, it would be better to euthanize him than put him through rigorous testing that would probably not yield any improvement to his quality of life.

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**BIG CAT RESCUE IN SPAIN**

Big Cat Rescue has been recruited to offer our expertise and guidance in the development of a rescue center in Spain that will be broadening their focus from primates to now include big cats.

AAP Primadomus is located on more than 400 acres in Villena and currently houses a variety of primates that have been rescued from private ownership, circuses, and laboratories. They are now expanding their focus to also rescue countless lions and tigers that are in need across their country.

In an effort to prepare for this project nearly a dozen experts were invited to a symposium that focused on sharing information regarding the proper care of big cats in captivity, emergency protocol development, and enclosure design. Big Cat Rescue President Jamie Veronica and volunteer veterinarian Justin Boorstein traveled to Spain and joined experts from Italy, South Africa, France, Austria, the Netherlands and all across the United Kingdom.

Over the course of three days the team worked tirelessly to provide as much information as possible to the members of not only AAP Primadomus, but its origin center Stitching AAP. Stitching AAP is a rescue center for apes, monkeys and small exotic animals in the Netherlands that was founded more than 35 years ago.

The symposium was a huge success. Big Cat Rescue will continue to work with AAP remotely throughout the development process. We are so pleased to provide assistance to organizations that are saving big cats across the globe!

*Photos clockwise from above: Group photo of the attendees of the symposium, chimpanzee enclosure at Primadomus, Architect Vasili Popov showing the grounds on which the big cat enclosures will be constructed, Vasili and Stitching AAP's David van Gennep drawing the groups’ preliminary design on a dry erase board.*

**50 YEARS OR LESS UNTIL THE EXTINCTION OF THE IBERIAN LYNX**

The Iberian lynx is the world’s most endangered cat. Two small and isolated populations and about 300 individuals are all that remain in Southern Spain. According to a new study in the journal Nature Climate Change, the Iberian lynx may go extinct in 50 years as a result of climate change.

During the twentieth century, populations sank to a catastrophic low because of dramatic reductions in the cat’s main food source — the European rabbit. The rabbit makes up more than 80% of the Iberian lynx diet, according to the study, but a mix of disease and over-hunting has made the rabbit scarce.

Climate change will put the final nail in the coffin, says lead author Miguel Araújo and colleagues. Researchers contend that current recovery plans — captive breeding programs that facilitate the reintroduction of the Iberian lynx into the wild — are not effective because they don’t account for the impact of climate change, which will make Southern Spain and Portugal unsuitable habitats for the lynx by mid-century. The outcome is not likely to change even if strong efforts are made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within this century, the report finds.

“Survival of the species in the long term may require higher latitude and higher altitude regions on the Iberian Peninsula,” according to a statement from the University of Adelaide’s Environment Institute.

The Iberian lynx can be saved, but it will require “a carefully planned reintroduction programme, accounting for the effects of climate change, prey abundance and habitat connectivity,” the authors write.

*Dina Spector Jul. 22, 2013, CSIC Andalusia Audiovisual Bank/ Héctor Garrido*
The Big Cat Rescue needs a perimeter wall to surround the sanctuary and protect the cats. The total perimeter is 7,200 feet. We have completed 2/3 of the project but need your help to finish the 3,200 feet. You can help by sponsoring one linear foot of construction. The cost per linear foot is $100. In honor of your gift you will receive a Big Cat Screensaver, 2-for-1 Tour Pass, and name recognition on sign.

http://tinyurl.com/05lgcr
BIG CAT RESCUERS GO ON “SHORE LEAVE”

Thanks to the ROARING generosity of The Royal Manticoran Navy, the Official Honor Harrington Fan Association, representatives from Big Cat Rescue recently tabled and spoke as part of the 35th Annual Shore Leave Science Fiction Convention in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

The Royal Manticoran Navy is comprised of an international group of incredibly talented and passionate animal advocates who have generously supported Big Cat Rescue’s fiscal and advocacy initiatives for a number of years, including approximately $3000 raised during Shore Leave 2013.

The group celebrates the literary works of David Weber and the universe he created in his Honor Harrington series of books, which boasts over 3 million copies in print. Mr. Weber has had more than 13 of his titles appear on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Shore Leave 2013 included such notable celebrities as William Shatner (James Kirk, Star Trek), Brent Spiner (Cmdr. Data, Star Trek, Next Generation), Amanda Tapping (Sanctuary’s Dr. Helen Magnus; Stargate G1/Atlantis’s Col Samantha Carter) and Saul Rubinek, Eddie McClintock and Neil Grayston (Warehouse 13).

DRAG QUEEN BINGO TO BENEFIT BIG CAT RESCUE

Hamburger Mary’s is known for their great food, fun atmosphere and drag queen charity bingo. One of our supporters, Kimberly Ressler, made arrangements for Big Cat Rescue to be the beneficiary of a bingo night on July 1. All we had to do was bring prizes for the 10 bingo winners and fill the room with big cat lovers. That was easy.

The hard part was turning away guests when the room filled to capacity. When the staff at Hamburger Mary’s saw how many people showed up to support the cats they asked if we wanted two more slots they still had available in 2013. We were happy to get them.

That first night we raised a little over $1,900 for the cats. The second night, July 30th we raised a little over $2,100 in just two hours! Our next bingo night will be at:

Hamburger Mary’s
1600 E. 7th Av Ybor City
Nov 25, 2013 7:30 PM

Don’t get turned away! RSVP at 813 241-MARY

VOLUNTEERS AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION

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 outstanding volunteer or intern each month.

We are happy to celebrate; Senior Keeper Rich Bluder for always having a positive attitude, helping out with all things mechanical, and for his 9 years of volunteer service, Senior Keeper Rosie Emdey for always lending a helping hand to wildlife in need and for her 12 years of volunteer service, and Dennis Mitchell for creating a magical presentation called All About Cats, for sharing with Big Cat Rescuers, summer campers, and the community, and for his 12 years of volunteer service.

June - Rich Bluder    July - Rosie Emdey    August - Dennis Mitchell

33% MATCH ON YOUR DONATIONS TO ENDOWMENT

Our Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay is designed to insure that we can meet our commitment to care for the cats we take in to the end of their lives. Currently the Community Foundation has a wonderful program where we set a fund raising goal that we must meet over three years, and when we get to 75% of the goal, their Matching Fund puts the remaining 25% of the goal into our Endowment account. This translates into a 33% additional matching funds for each dollar you donate to the Endowment.

So, a donation of $100 from a supporter earns us an ADDITIONAL $33.33 from the Matching Fund!

This is a great way to leverage your donation and have even more impact for the cats. To donate by check to our Endowment and earn the match please make the check out to Community Foundation of Tampa Bay but still send it to us at 12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625. You can put Big Cat Rescue in the memo section for record keeping, but that is not necessary. You will receive a receipt for the tax deductible donation from the Community Foundation, which is a 501c3 non profit like Big Cat Rescue.

To donate online (minimum $50), please go to www.BigCatFund.com

If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, please email Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org

Thanks for helping make sure the cats can receive the best possible care for their entire lives!

www.BigCatRescue.org/volunteer
### THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Fall 2013

**ORDER DATE:**

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<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Size</th>
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**BILLING ADDRESS**

Name
Address
City St Zip
Day Time Phone
Evening Phone
Email

**RECIPIENT ADDRESS (different than billing)**

Name
Address
City St Zip
Day Time Phone
Evening Phone
Email

### DONATION TOWARDS THE VACATION ROTATION ENCLOSURE

- **SPONSOR A PAVE THE WAY BRICK**
  - Qty: 4x8
  - Price: $100.00
- **SPONSOR A PAVE THE WAY BRICK**
  - Qty: 8x8
  - Price: $200.00
- **SPONSOR PERIMETER WALL**
  - Qty: 1 Foot
  - Price: $100.00

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- Check
- Money Order
- American Express
- Discover
- Visa
- MasterCard
- CCV #__________

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

**Brief message to say:**

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

**FEEDING TOUR**
- **Tour Times:** Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun 2 PM (Reservations Required)
- Follow a keeper as they feed the big cats. Observe the big cats eating and learn about the threats they face. The tour is 1 hr. No children under 10 years of age.
- For reservations (800) 979-3370

**KIDS TOUR**
- **Tour Times:** Saturday & Sunday 9 AM
- 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:** 10% discount to all Military, Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters as well as USF faculty and students. Appropriate ID required. Discount on Day Tour only, not available through Zerve Reservations.

**BIG CAT KEEPER TOUR**
- **Tour Times:** Sat & Sun 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 (800) 979-3370

**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 hr. No children under 10 years of age.
- For reservations (800) 979-3370

**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.

**Visit us online for the most current tour information.**

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Big Cat Rescue is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. FED 59-3330495. Our Florida registration number is CH-114409. 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.
KANSAS CAT RESCUE UPDATE

In our last issue we shared with you the story of 6 cats that we rescued from a back yard in Kansas. The local sheriff’s department had confiscated them from their drug addicted owner. In May, Canada lynx Gilligan & Skipper, bobcats Mary Ann, Mr. Howell, and Lovey, and a serval named Ginger were brought to their new home at Big Cat Rescue. Here are some photos of them living the good life thanks to the generous support of individuals like you!

Ginger the serval is loving every minute of her new life at Big Cat Rescue. This very lucky serval went from a horrible cramped and dirty cage to a beautiful and spacious paradise (with plenty of frogs and lizards to chase!).

Ginger pounces after a frog

Mr. Howell before and after

Gilligan enjoys his roomy digs and fresh grass. Never again will he live in filth.

Gilligan’s cage in Kansas

When Mr. Howell first arrived he was missing most of his fur. He looked so strange that it was first believed that he may have been some sort of hybrid. However now that his fur has all grown back in it is quite clear that he is just one beautiful bobcat. Lovey was very shy and hid in her den for several weeks after her arrival. She has since settled in and after being spayed was reunited with Mr. Howell.

Lovey loves her new home

One of the saddest things we have ever seen on a rescue was a large pit filled with trash, brush, and dead animals including a serval and leopard. This disgraceful dump site was located just a few feet from the cages of the remaining living cats. This heart breaking image will be forever etched in the minds of Big Cat Rescuers.

Shortly after the rescue of the Kansas cats, Undersheriff Joe Butner and his family made sure the exotic cats who had been tossed on the trash heap by their former owner got a proper burial and memorial. This thoughtful gesture to give those animals the dignity they were robbed of will be forever remembered.
MASS BIOPSY FOR BELLA THE TIGER

Bella is a 17 year old female tiger who was rescued along with TJ from a breeding facility that was shut down by the USDA in 2006. Bella is quite friendly and happily pounces over and chuffs at her keepers before flopping down and rolling the grass. While Bella was happily rolling on her back her keepers noticed a mass on her abdomen about the size of a tennis ball. So volunteer veterinarians Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein sedated and examined Bella with the assistance of Big Cat Rescuers. While under sedation Bella received a full physical examination. Her body condition was good for a tiger her age weighing in at approximately 230 lbs. Her blood was drawn and a biopsy of the mass was collected. Both were sent to the lab for further testing. Sadly the biopsy results came back as mammary cancer which has begun to invade her blood vessels and her blood work indicated early kidney disease. For now Bella is receiving supportive care and is scheduled to be one of the next lucky tigers to enjoy the Vacation Rotation Enclosure.

LEOPARDS IN A BARREL

What? You never played that game when you were a kid? Ok, so maybe it was monkeys...

Anyway, Sabre the leopard received a very unique enrichment item this past week thanks to a special request from our summer interns.

Many of our cats love to play with cardboard tubes scented with spices or other aromas. We use toilet paper and paper towel tubes, but recently received a large donation of some extra large cardboard tubes. These tubes were big enough for a leopard to get inside of and that is exactly what Sabre the leopard did.

He spent much of his time lounging inside his massive tube. However sadly with the daily rain showers at the sanctuary these cardboard tubes do not last very long before they become mushy and must be removed. Sabre was so sad when his tube was taken away.

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.

And so Big Cat Rescuers took a large plastic barrel and cut the ends off making a lasting tube that Sabre could have forever. Sabre was especially grateful and immediately rubbed on and rolled the tube back and forth before finally plopping down inside. A huge roar of thanks to our thoughtful and creative interns!