Wild cats are solitary by nature and usually don’t want to share their space. It is very rare to have two cats that live together here at Big Cat Rescue and in every case it has been because they were kittens who had been raised together.

Max and Mary Ann the bobcats are two of our youngest residents. Max, a 4-year-old male bobcat, was kept illegally as a pet in Rhode Island. He was confiscated by the state and came to Big Cat Rescue in 2011. MaryAnn, a 5-year-old female bobcat, was seized by the sheriff’s department in Kansas because of the cruel neglect she suffered along with eight other exotic cats. She and five others came to Big Cat Rescue last year (the remaining 3 cats were placed at other sanctuaries).

Both bobcats are very energetic. Life alone in captivity with a companion can be very much more interesting and so we set out to introduce Max and MaryAnn. Having someone to play tag with could provide hours of entertainment and hopefully that will lead to a life long love affair that results in having someone warm to snuggle with, or to help stalk lizards as they age. Real sanctuaries do not breed animals. So before any introduction was made Max was neutered and MaryAnn spayed.

The two bobcats were moved to separate enclosures joined with a tunnel. They were able to get face to face to see each other close up and sniff one another, but small mesh wire in between them protected them from biting or scratching each other. After a couple weeks it appeared as though the two were ready to meet. They would pounce at one another and rub on the wire wall that separated them.
Now at the age of 20, Simba and Nyla have been spending most of their time laying near one another next to a tunnel that connects their two enclosures; pining at one another across the way. It seemed as though they really wanted to enjoy each other's company once again and the two were reunited.

Nyla was the first to make contact. She walked right up to Simba and began licking his face. Simba was more interested in exploring his expanded territory. Nyla followed him around the entire enclosure giving him slobbery leopard kisses at every stop. The long overdue reunion was heart-warming to witness.

Max and MaryAnn have since settled in nicely together and we hope that they will live a long happy life together keeping each other entertained and loved. Meanwhile just a few minutes walk down the path a reunion was taking place. Sibling leopards Simba and Nyla were reintroduced after having lived years apart. When they were cubs they lived together and loved every minute of it. However, as they came into maturity they decided that they preferred their own space and so they were separated. Although they remained next door neighbors.

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The day of the big introduction Max was very excited. He followed MaryAnn everywhere, stalking and pouncing at her. MaryAnn was more interested in checking out every square inch of Max’s enclosure and whenever Max startled her she would turn around and give him a good swat followed by a menacing growl. Max took this as flirtation and was not deterred.

The paw project documentary is an inspiring David and Goliath story of a grassroots movement to protect felines, both large and small, from the cruelty of declawing and how the movement has prevailed, despite the efforts of well-funded professional veterinary associations. pawprojectmovie.com

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When sanctuaries work together the animals always win!

SENATOR STANDS UP FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS

Nebraska Senator Ernie Chambers fired a warning shot recently to let the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission know he will oppose every proposal it brings to the Legislature as long as it allows mountain lions to be hunted. Chambers told Roger Kuhn, parks division administrator, he had expressed his “displeasure, repugnance and disgust” to Game and Parks Director James Douglas over the establishment of a mountain lion hunting season. There are only thought to be 60 mountain lions in the state. Chambers told him to take the message to the commission that he would strenuously oppose any proposal as long as the hunting season continues.”By fang and claw, somebody’s going to pay in terms of the Legislature’s time,” he said. “And I don’t mind being alone. In fact, that energizes me.”

For example, this lion was one of four big cats who were unwanted by their owner in MO. Through the combined efforts of several sanctuaries and entities, two lions and two tigers have safe forever homes. A big shout out to Safe Haven Rescue Zoo, Cedarhill, Turpentine Creek, Tigers in America and Loving Friends Transport, among others who helped facilitate this rescue.

Sanctuaries working together

In October 2013 the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries held a workshop for big cat sanctuaries from all across the country. The event was hosted in Raleigh, NC and included a field trip to Carolina Tiger Rescue.

Big Cat Rescue Founder and CEO Carole Baskin and CFO Howard Baskin attended the workshop to learn from the other presenters as well as to share Big Cat Rescue’s strategies for success.

Some of the immediate results from the workshop were the sharing of resources and building of relationships to help save more animals in need.

TWO IMPORTANT MOVIE SCREENINGS

Lion Ark follows the world’s most ambitious and daring animal rescue, with a narrative compiled from film, interviews, conversations and reactions as events unfolded. How attitudes to animals were changed in Bolivia, illegal circuses pursued and closed, and 25 lions airlifted to freedom. lionarkthemovie.com

The Paw Project documentary is an inspiring David and Goliath story of a grassroots movement to protect felines, both large and small, from the cruelty of declawing and how the movement has prevailed, despite the efforts of well-funded professional veterinary associations. pawprojectmovie.com

2 THE BIG CAT TIMES - SPRING 2014 - INFO@BIGCATRESCUE.ORG - 813.920.4130 - FOLLOW US AT TWITTER.COM/BIGCATRESCUE
Canyon the sand cat has trouble keeping his claws short and trimmed. He doesn’t scratch on his logs and trees as much as he used to and because of this his claws become overgrown. Canyon’s overall body condition was great and his blood work looked good with just mild kidney elevations that are to be expected of a cat his age. Canyon is 13 years old, which is the average lifespan of captive sand cats. You wouldn’t know it to look at him though, he is the picture of health and vitality.

Canyon was returned to his enclosure shortly after he awoke. His keepers have installed a special scratching post that will hopefully be irresistible to the 6.8 pound cat so that he can maintain his claws on his own.

The reason Cameron had a vasectomy was to save his mane. The mane of a lion is thought to be impacted by the production of testosterone, therefore when a male lion is neutered he can lose part or all of his mane.

During his procedure, Cameron was also examined. He had excellent muscular body condition, his teeth were in good condition, he had no arthritis and his blood work looked good.

While Cameron was sedated he was moved to the Vacation Rotation Enclosure. After recovering for a few days he was reunited with Zabu and the pair spent two weeks frolicking in the 2.5 acre paradise. They have since moved into their permanent lake-side home that is connected via tunnel so they can enjoy future retreats in the Vacation Rotation.

It has been a few months since Cameron was neutered. His aggression has subsided and he seems much more relaxed. We hope that this will be a permanent improvement so he and Zabu can live out their lives together.

AGING COUGAR POPULATION

Of the 10 cougars that call Big Cat Rescue home, 3 are 9 years old and the other 7 are 16 - 23 years old. Just as with humans, animals suffer the effects of arthritis as they age. Cougars Aspen and Mac have been previously diagnosed with arthritis and in the past few months alone, two more of our cougars have been examined and x-rayed to determine the severity of their arthritic joints.

The decision was made to neuter Cameron to help curb both behaviors. Cameron will lose his mane, but we feel it is a small price to pay to avoid being on mood altering medications or being separated from his mate for the rest of his life. Some may feel that him losing his mane is very sad, however, this side effect is just a cosmetic one. Had this situation been between a male tiger and a female tiger there would have been no hesitation at all neutering the male.

A few months later Cody began limping. Cody is an 18-year-old male cougar. He was rescued in 2000 when he became an unwanted pet of a divorced couple. He too was examined and his x-rays showed severe arthritis in his elbow as well as spondylosis in his spine. Spondylosis is characterized by the production of bone spurs along the bottom, sides, and upper aspects of the vertebrae of the spine. This degenerative condition can make it difficult to make normal twisting and turning movements and can also cause pain.

There is no cure for renal failure nor a treatment that is feasible for a wild cats of their age. Both Sassyfras and Cody have been prescribed a regimen of medications to ease their pain and improve their mobility. They will be kept as comfortable as possible and are monitored daily to ensure their quality of life.

Photos: Canyon, ingrown claw, Dr. Wynn examines Canyon, Cameron, Cameron & Zabu, Dr. Boorstein neuters Cameron, Cameron in transport cage, Sassyfras in chain link cage in II, Sassyfras in den at BCR, Cody, x-ray of Cody’s elbow showing arthritis.
MARCH FOR LIONS
Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 12:00 PM
Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Florida

Big Cat Rescue has joined the global event March for Lions to raise awareness for the plight of the lion in both captivity and in the wild. The event is being hosted around the globe involving 15 countries, 30 cities and 191 organizers.

Join us on March 15th at 12 PM for a 2k walk through Big Cat Rescue’s 65-acre sanctuary that is home to more than 100 big cats in Tampa, FL.

Meet our resident lions Joseph, Cameron, and Nikita as well as tigers, leopards, bobcats, cougars and others as you stroll the winding paths. Learn about lions and what you can do to protect them in captivity and in the wild.

For just $5 per person you can register to March for Lions. This is a family event, so all ages are welcome. The $5 registration fee gets you access to the walk through the sanctuary as well as to the after party.

If you would like to raise even more funds you can become a Member of the Pride and set up a fundraising page to reach a donation goal ranging from $25 - $500. Each level of membership comes with access to the walk and the after party, grr-reat prizes and an official event t-shirt. Donations will go towards the care of the lions at Big Cat Rescue as well as to conservations efforts focused on saving the lion in the wild.

The walk is 1.3 miles and takes a leisurely 40 minutes to complete. The pathways are gravel, dirt, and mulch so sturdy shoes are a must. (Golf carts will not be available for this event)

The walk ends in our parking area where there will be an after party with lots of fun family activities and gourmet food trucks to satisfy your beastly appetite.

Be sure to "paws" at the end of the march at our Call of the Wild video booth where our friendly staff will help you film a quick video shout out to your legislators asking them to protect lions from being abused and abandoned in captivity and to "march the Big Cat & Public Safety Protection Act through Congress."

Even if you can’t make it to the event, you can still set up a fundraising page to help collect donations to save lions. You can also purchase a March for Lions Tee for $15 Sizes: S - XXL.

For more information about this bill and the event go to: MarchForLions.com

BIG CAT SPONSORSHIP
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.
GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS

Collapsible Tiger Purse Hook
Keep your purse off the floor and hang from table edge.
$29.75

Animal-opoly Themed Monopoly Game $28.54

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

Crazy Cat Lady Toy 5.25” comes with 6 Cats $11.63

Crazy Cat Lady Board Game $26.54

Big Cats Photo 15 oz Mug $15.84
Little Cats Photo 15 oz Mug $15.84

7” Snow Leopard $10.56
11” Snow Leopard $15.91

7” Snow Leopard $10.56
11” Snow Leopard $15.91

Leopard Print and Cream Ruffle Scarf Chiffon 6’ x 16”
$17.05

Leopard Print and Cream Ruffle Scarf Chiffon 6’ x 16”
$17.05

7” Snow Leopard $10.56
11” Snow Leopard $15.91

Leopard Print and Cream Ruffle Scarf Chiffon 6’ x 16”
$17.05

Leopard Print and Cream Ruffle Scarf Chiffon 6’ x 16”
$17.05

Rhinestone Fitted Tee in Black
Choose Tiger, Snow Leopard or Leopard
S, M, L, XL
$26.54

Haunting Eyes Tee Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve, Snow Leopard, Sand Cat, Siberian Tiger or Bengal Tiger S, M, L, XL $24.40
2X $26.54

Rhinestone Ribbed Tank Black with Snow Leopard S, M, L, XL $22.26

Panthera Tigris Women’s V-neck Loose Feminine Cut Tee, Charcoal S, M, L, XL $24.40

ORDER ON PAGE 10 OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ
TOUR PRICE INCREASE DEC 1, 2013

Certain ongoing costs of caring for the cats inevitably increase over time. In addition, we want to continue replacing some of the older enclosures with the new larger (and much more expensive) open top enclosures like the ones we have already constructed for Nikita, Bengali, Cameron and Zabu, as well as the Vacation Rotation Enclosure.

In addition to your generous donations, the tour fees provide a significant portion of the support for the cats. We keep the fees the same for a number of years rather than change them annually. The last adjustment was almost three years ago, so it is that time again.

The price for children on the kid’s tour will remain $19. But our other prices per person changed as follows on December 1, 2013: Adult Tour $36, Feeding Tour $65, Night Tour $65, Keeper Tour $125, Private tour 1st person $125, each additional $65. Reservations and gift certificates purchased at previous prices will, of course, be honored.

We are consistently told by visitors and by reviews online that our unique educational guided tours are a great value. We particularly appreciate the way current supporters help by urging others to visit and learn about the plight of these magnificent animals and help support them through the tour fees and donations. Thanks very much for spreading the word!!

- Howard Baskin, CFO Big Cat Rescue

BIG CAT iBOOKS

LaWanna Mitchell is an amazing woman. She started out as a volunteer and became a remote contractor for us years ago. She is a workaholic and is constantly learning to do new things. She has recently taught herself how to build books in iBooks for iTunes and for Amazon.

LaWanna has a number of books published there now, including titles such as China Doll Loves Pumpkins, The Elusive Sand Cat, Meet JoJo, The Black Footed Cat, Shaquille’s Shattered Dreams, What Do You See?, The Tigrina or Oncila, and the first of a two part series called Big Cat Care – How to Start a Sanctuary.

This book is for those running a sanctuary who want to learn from our experience, or for those who have already made the mistake of supporting the pet trade so that the animal in your care does not needlessly suffer.

Look for all of the titles above and more by Big Cat Rescue when you check out Big Cat Care – How to Start a Sanctuary by Carole Baskin, in iTunes

“With more than 20 years experience, with every sort of exotic cat, I can assure you that there is nothing you can do to raise up an exotic cat to be a house pet. It just isn’t possible, nor is it fair to the cat….No matter how young you neuter or spay exotic cats, both male and female, ALWAYS spray when they become adults. Its their natural instincts to mark their territory.”

- Carole Baskin

SAD FAREWELL TO FOUR 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 107 animals, 89 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 75 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 25 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts that we must say good bye to these four feline friends who have touched our hearts forever.

BELLA

BELLA was rescued from Savage Kingdom, a breeding facility in FL., after it was shut down by the USDA. She came to Big Cat Rescue along with 3 other tigers, the last surviving of whom is TJ. Bella was a very special tiger. She found joy and happiness in every moment of her day. Lounging in the sun, pouncing after bugs, chuffing at anyone who passed. Sadly at the age of 18 Bella passed away. She had end stage mammary cancer. She will forever be remembered as a fun-loving tiger.

FLAVIO

FLAVIO was retired from the circus in 2002. He spent his life in small cages, forced to perform. For 13 years he was hauled around the country day after day, night after night. Until one day he had enough and decided to start picking fights with the other tigers in the act. Lucky for him, Flavio got to retire in paradise. Perhaps due to years of being made to perform unnatural behaviors, Flavio developed crippling arthritis. His pain was managed for years, but in his last few months with us it was apparent that this gentle giant was no longer living comfortably. He could barely get around and was no longer interested in food and so the difficult decision was made to euthanize him. Flavio was 25 and thought to be the oldest tiger in the world at the time of his death.

SASHA

SASHA was rescued from a facility in OH that was shut down by the authorities. Her previous owner had a collection of big cats that she defanged and declawed so she could sell them to the public to enter their enclosures and pet them. Poor Sasha was exploited in this manner for 13 years along with her mate Joseph until she was rescued in 2007. Sasha always had a small lump under one of her eyes. It didn’t seem to bother her and never changed. Recently it got a little bigger and looked red and irritated. She was sedated so the lump could be removed and a biopsy sent to the lab for testing. Tragically while under sedation Sasha stopped breathing and despite heroic efforts of the veterinarians she was lost. The subsequent necropsy showed that Sasha was in the final stages of lung cancer. She had never shown any signs of illness.

PRECIOUS

PRECIOUS was rescued from an exotic animal auction when she was a few months old. She spent her entire life at Big Cat Rescue. She was quite the climber in her younger years and loved perching high in the branches of her trees. A few months ago Precious was sedated for an exam and tooth extraction. While under anesthesia she had a stroke and when she awoke she was unable to walk. Her keepers managed to use a harness and leash to perform physical therapy a couple of times a day until she regained the use of her limbs, however, she was never quite the same. She appeared to be blind and even though she was eventually able to walk again, she was very unsteady and slow moving. Sadly without warning Precious had a massive seizure from which she did not recover.
KIDS 4 KATS

Christian Mouring, a local 3rd grader, visited Big Cat Rescue in December to present us with his donation of $400 towards our wish list item of plants for the cats!

The donation was put to good use to purchase lots of beautiful plants for inside and around Cameron and Zabu's new enclosure.

Director of Education Willow Hecht took Christian and his family out to see the enclosure in process, and they were very excited to meet the big cat couple. Thanks so much, Christian!

COOL CAT SUMMER CAMP

Children 8 to 15 years old are invited to explore the great outdoors with 100+ big cats of every size, color and purr-sonality.

While participating in educational activities campers enjoy meeting lions, tigers, leopards and many other felines. Join us for outdoor exploration on our 65 acre campus while learning about animal habitats, diets, adaptations and conservation. Interactive learning opportunities include diet preparation, scavenger hunts and keeper demonstrations of feedings and behavioral training with the cats.

Class size is limited to ensure a quality experience for each camper, so don’t miss out! Each class is staffed by two or more adults.

Session Schedule: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

8-11 years old - June 16-20, June 23-27, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1, Aug. 4-8

12-15 years old - June 16-20, June 23-27, July 14-18, July 28-Aug. 1

Limited availability, be sure to reserve your spot early! http://bigcatrescue.org/kids-camp/

SUMMER CAMP JOB OPENING

We are hiring 1 Florida certified teacher to teach our 12-15 year old campers this summer! This is a paid position, 4 weeks total, Monday-Friday each week. To apply please email:

education@bigcatrescue.org
$2,500 sondia & Edward Moylan
$5,000 Dyer Family Foundation
$1,500 Marvin D & Melissa U
$1,250 Cynthia M. Ostrowski
$900 Suzanne & Alan Lucas
$1,950 Sole Riley Marittimi
$1,000 Judith & Paul Hall
$1,000 Annamarie Smoyer
$1,000 Linda Brotherton
$1,000 Danny Patterson
$1,500 Lilian Y. Giraldo
$900 Karen Large & Fernandez-Thomas
$5,406 Mireille McGail
$2,000 Noreen Oreilly
$800 Karen Large & Fernandez-Thomas
$650 Patricia & Lon Wojtowicz
$500 Mickey Quinn Seminole
$500 Janis & Dave Barrows
$500 Donna & Paul Harold
$500 C. William Kauffman
$500 Blue Bell Ice Cream
$500 My Tampa Agent
$250 Thomas & Marilyn Carroll
$300 Michael & Julianne Green
$350 Kristi & Andrea Earle
$300 Margarida D. Marton
$250 Mark & Lisa Dwelle
$400 Barr Foundation
$400 Sheryl Gibbs
$250 Julia Evans
$250 Michael Friedberg
$200 Robin & John McLaughlin
$200 Richard & Sharron Rich
$200 Anthony & Jo Ann M. Coleman
$200 WP & Michelle Diza
$200 Wendy Capelin
$150 Tricia M. Oetmer
$150 Doris Schlichter
$125 Scott L. Greer
$100 Larinda Smith
$100 Wendy Capelin
$100 Judith A. Waller
$100 Michelle B.AndViewer
$100 Alan E. Kobernat
$100 Amber Peterson
$100 Michelle Oreilly
$100 Thomas & Margie Berman
$100 John & Cynthia Avender
$100 Randy J. Babicek
$100 Edward Bellamy
$100 Malinda & Richard Billingsley
$100 John & Mary Evans
$100 Doug Barton
$100 Penny Arnett
$100 Anne Macneil
$100 Michael Allen Scott
$100 Marie E. Collart
$100 Christina Fiedler
$100 Roy Degele
$100 John Gammicchia
$100 Michael Freitag
$100 John N. Bird
$100 Sarah Bolen
$100 John S. Jett
$100 Brett C. Boyd
$100 Carl & Sara Ross
$100 Janis & John Smith
Cat Rescue home! in support of the magnificent creatures that call Big Butter contest! To date, the Body Shop Foundation placed 2nd in the Body Shop USA's Dragon Fruit Lip. We're delighted to announce that Big Cat Rescue Up.

Last fall, we asked Big Cat Rescue for animal welfare, human money and awareness. Last March, we went all the way and earned the $100,000 matching funds before the 2013 and generous participation of over 200 of our donors, we and chose the maximum goal of $400,000. Although we and $200,000. This time, last March, we went all the way participated. Our previous goals had been for $100,000 Foundation. This amounts to a 33% match for our donors.

As reported in previous issues, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, where we have our Endowment Fund, has a wonderful program called “Challenge Grant” under which a non-profit with an endowment there chooses a goal up to $400,000. If the nonprofit raises 75% of the goal, the Community Foundation donates the remaining 25% from a fund created by donors to the Community Foundation. This amounts to a 33% match for our donors.

This is the third Challenge Grant in which we have participated. Our previous goals had been for $100,000 and $200,000. This time, last March, we went all the way and chose the maximum goal of $400,000. Although we had three years to reach the goal, thanks to the enthusiastic and generous participation of over 200 of our donors, we reached the $300,000, 75% target in just over nine months and earned the $100,000 matching funds before the 2013 year end!

Many thanks to all of you who helped us earn this very significant grant from the Community Foundation!

Below: Community Foundation President and CEO Marlene Spalloni presents the check to Big Cat Rescue CFO Howard Baskin
THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Spring 2014

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| DONATION TOWARDS THE LITTLE CAT VACATION ROTATION ENCLOSURE | $ |

| SPONSOR A PAVER THE WAY BRICK* | 4x8 | $100.00 |
| SPONSOR A PAVER THE WAY BRICK* | 8x8 | $200.00 |
| SPONSOR PERIMETER WALL* | 1 Foot | $100.00 |

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

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

Yes, I would like priority shipping for an additional charge of $3.00 $ 

☐ Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes 

Grand Total $ 

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ American Express ☐ Discover 

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard CCV # ____________ 

Credit Card Number ____________________________

Exp. Date MMYY ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

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. FED 59-3330495. Our Florida registration number is CH-11492. 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.

Also offered - WEDDINGS, PARTIES, EDUCATIONAL OUTREACHES AND FIELD TRIPS, VOLUNTEER & INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES

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

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. Reservation recommended. For reservations (800) 979-3370

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. 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. Reservation recommended. For reservations (800) 979-3370

FEEDING TOUR

Tour Times: Wed, Fri, Sat 5:30 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 (800) 979-3370

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 1.5 hrs. No children under 10 years of age. For reservations (800) 979-3370
**VOLUNTEERS AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION**

Congratulations to the following Big Cat Rescuers who have been recognized 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, Scratch, whose lifespan reached 30 years, the SAVE Award is presented to one outstanding volunteer or intern each month.

- **November**: Justin Boorstein
- **December**: Afton Tasler
- **January**: Sara Potosnak

We are happy to celebrate volunteer veterinarian Dr. Justin Boorstein for always taking time to explain procedures to the volunteers as well as answer questions and for keeping the foster kittens healthy. Afton Tasler was awarded for her endless enthusiasm. She is always willing to pitch in and help out wherever needed and does so with a winning smile. Sara Potosnak is a new volunteer who has dedicated nearly 300 hours of service in the her first 4 months. This is an outstanding amount of volunteer time and is greatly appreciated! Thank you all for your dedication to the sanctuary and the cats. You are truly amazing volunteers!

Big Cat Rescue is always looking for volunteers. There are two volunteer departments to fit every type of volunteer; Keepers clean enclosures, feed the animals, and landscape. Partners work in the gift shop and guide tours of the sanctuary. Check us out online to get all the details!

**LITTLE CATS NEED A VACATION TOO!**

We are so happy to share with you that as of November the 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation Enclosure has been completely funded! So far nearly all of the lions and tigers have had an amazing two week vacation in the new space, playing in the water fountain, climbing the massive jungle gyms, and running at top speed through acres of lush grass land.

Sadly the cougars, leopards, lynx, and other small cats feel a little left out. And so we have already begun the planning stages for a Little Cat Vacation Rotation Enclosure.

Please consider making a contribution towards this project to make the little cats purrr!

http://tinyurl.com/m9r99o8

**T. ROWE PRICE SHARES WHY THEY CHOSE BCR**

“Big Cat Rescue is such a unique organization. They are so dedicated to protecting these animals who are exploited in so many ways. The cats at the sanctuary were rescued from a variety of situations. Retired circus animals, fur trade refugees and even cats that were kept as pets until they got too unruly to handle. Big cat rescue gives them a place to live out the rest of their lives in peace.

We really wanted to help out any way we could to do something for these animals, and what better way than to volunteer and give some of our time to help the organization out?”

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER SANDY MURMAN VISITS BCR**

Recently we were honored to have a visit from Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandy Murman and her two staff members, Della Curly and Jeffrey Huggins, pictured here with Simba the leopard lounging on his platform behind them. The Commissioner wore the purr-fect outfit - faux leopard print.

After the visit, the Commissioner kindly wrote recognizing the role that Big Cat Rescue plays in our community: “From providing a habitat for unwanted or abused big cats to educating both children and adults in the community about these fascinating creatures, Big Cat Rescue continues to be an asset for Hillsborough County.”

We believe it is important for elected officials at all levels to become familiar with the issues facing the big cats in captivity and very much appreciate Commissioner Murman and her staff making time to visit us.
UPDATE ON KHALEESI AND FENCER
2 BOBCATS REHABILITATED AT BIG CAT RESCUE

In the previous couple issues of the Big Cat Times we shared with you the stories of Khaledesi and Fencer two bobcats that found their way into our rehabilitation program.

Last Summer Khaledesi, a two-month-old female bobcat, had been orphaned in Gainesville. She passed through a few wildlife rehabilitation centers from Gainesville all the way to Sanibel Island before she was made her way to Big Cat Rescue. These other centers did not have the facilities to house wild bobcats. Khaledesi was in good health, so all she required was a little bit of time in our rehab program so she could learn what foods to eat, how to hunt, and where to find shelter from the elements.

A few months after her arrival Khaledesi was nearly full grown and ready to be set free. She was 6.5 months old and weighed 12 pounds. When the door of the transport crate was opened Khaledesi was reluctant at first. After a few minutes she finally jumped out of the crate. She stayed low to the ground sneaking through the tall grasses, but once she realized that she was truly free she bounded off into the palmetto brush. The property on which she was released is 4,000 acres of privately owned prairie and forest land which also includes access to a river and a natural gas line that runs for hundreds of miles. This natural gas line property can never be developed. So Khaledesi can travel as far as she wants with no worries!

A roaring applause of gratitude must go out to everyone who made Khaledesi’s release possible; the rehabilitators who contacted Big Cat Rescue to find Khaledesi a suitable facility to be rehabilitated, Big Cat Rescuers who prepared the rehab enclosure and cared for her, and the property owners who graciously permitted her release on their land. Thank you!

Last Fall Fencer, an adult male bobcat, was found snared in a fence in a residential neighborhood. Bordering the neighborhood was a large tract of forest land that he was most likely traveling to. The homeowners awoke one morning and discovered the poor bobcat was hanging by his toe. They called Animal Control who in turn called Big Cat Rescue.

Fencer was sedated and examined. The toe by which he had been trapped was broken. He spent six weeks recovering in our onsite Cat Hospital and out door rehabilitation enclosure after which he was ready to go home.

Fencer was taken to a release site of 7,000 acres of privately owned forest very close to where he was originally found. He made a bee line for the forest edge once the door to the transport cage was opened and never looked back! A big thanks to everyone who made his recovery possible building the new rehab enclosure addition, feeding and caring for Fencer, and the land owners who made his release possible. You are all so amazing!

NEW BOBCAT RESCUED
CYPRESS GETS A SECOND CHANCE

Big Cat Rescuers rang in the new year with the rescue of another wild bobcat in need of help. Cypress, an adult female bobcat, had been hit by a car in the early morning hours of January 4th. Good Samaritan and wildlife lover Bob Strouse contacted Big Cat Rescue after having witnessed the incident.

Big Cat Rescue CEO and Founder Carole Baskin hit the road, driving an hour to the location. Thankfully Bob had enlisted the help of his wife Laurie and their friend Shawn Patterson to watch over the bobcat until help could arrive. Once Carole came on to the scene the four of them managed to corral and eventually net the bobcat.

Upon capturing Cypress it became evident that she had sustained a massive injury as she was unable to use her back legs. She was taken to Ehrlich Animal Hospital where volunteer veterinarians Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein examined her. Cypress weighed 16.2 pounds, average for a female bobcat. She had suffered a major impact to her rear end and x-rays showed that her pelvis was broken in 4 places and 2 of them were places that will be very difficult, if not impossible to plate and pin. Orthopedic specialists Dr. Hay and Dr. Salas were consulted to make a treatment plan.

Cypress was taken to Blue Pearl where Dr. Salas performed a procedure called FHO – Femoral Head Ostectomy. The socket of the pelvis where the head of the femur sits was badly broken. The head of the femur could have easily crushed this delicate socket and if this were to occur there would not be a treatment that would result in Cypress being a candidate for release. So the head of the femur was removed and the scar tissue that will develop around it will fill in this space over time.

Many animals do quite well after this procedure and Dr. Salas firmly believed that Cypress will be a candidate for release given proper care and adequate time to heal. Stay tuned to see what happens...