



The Cat Chat Show is a weekly podcast in which Big Cat Rescue's CEO interviews cat experts from around the world. It is a fun and informal hour of chatting about cats of all kinds. Tune in each week for roaring fun!

CatChatShow.com

Photos by Jamie Veronica unless noted.

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THE BIG CAT TIMES

LARGEST WILD ANIMAL CONFISCATION IN NEW YORK HISTORY



BIG CAT RESCUE SAVES THREE TIGERS

STARVING TIGERS FIND PERMANENT SANCTUARY AT BIG CAT RESCUE

Rescuing big cats or other wild animals may seem like glamorous work and an attractive pursuit to many. However it comes at a great cost of time, resources, and funds which are quickly depleted unless a sound business plan is at the foundation of the organization. Sadly many rescuers end up rescuing themselves right out of business, becoming unable to provide for the animals they have saved. In the end it is always the animals that suffer. They are born into captivity by those seeking to exploit them. Then, when they are no longer useful or profitable, they are discarded into private hands and bounced from one person to the next. Some are lucky enough to find permanent sanctuary. Some are not so lucky and will end up having spent their entire lives wasting away in tiny cells. The only way to end this never ending cycle is to stop the problem at its root through legislation that is crafted to protect big cats and all exotic animals in captivity.

In 1997 Ken and Jackie Wisniewski started rescuing big cats, bears, wolves and a variety of other wild and domestic animals under the name JnK Call of the Wild Sanctuary. In direct opposition of what a sanctuary stands for they also let their collection of animals breed and produce offspring. Before long they were in over their heads. The animals were housed in inadequate caging and provided with little to no veterinary care. Feeding the animals wasn't a problem because there is a lot of road kill in Sinclairville, NY. We counted half a dozen dead deer, a duck and raccoon, in just two days visiting this sleepy little town. However, the rotting carcasses were just left to fester, along with the piling excrement, in the tiny, barren cages. The lions and tigers, who are the most fastidious creatures on earth, were forced to live in these abysmal, fly infested conditions while USDA went through the tedious process of citing the facility year, after year, after year with no improvements.

Finally after many years of failing to provide for the basic needs of the animals, USDA revoked JnK's license, which is a multi year process. The state of NY had previously banned the private possession of big cats, bears and wolves, but in all but 4 states (KY, OH, WA & WV) a person can circumvent the ban if they obtain a USDA license.

JnK had lost their USDA license and the animals could have been seized years ago, but as is often the case, the violator will



Big Cat Rescuers from left; Scott Haller, Chelsea Feeny, Jeff Kremer, Cody Tepas, Rebecca Williams, and Jamie Veronica move Zeus to his new permanent enclosure.

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just have a family member or friend get a USDA license issued in their name and then the whole process starts over. When Ken and Jackie Wisniewski lost their USDA license, their daughter, Kristy Wisniewski, got one in her name. It's easy: a one page form, name, address and

Their ragged fur, which was missing in places from laying in their own excrement, was stretched taut over protruding bones. Kimba, a 19-year-old tigress, seemed to have just given up and laid unresponsive, in her den. It wasn't until she saw that there was the promise of food, in exchange

very hungry, she was hesitant to hop up in the transport. A few chunks of beef were laid in the corner of the transport. The area where Rescuers were working was so tight that the rope holding the transport door open had to be threaded into a vacant, nearby cage and operated from there by Big Cat Rescue's CEO and Founder, Carole Baskin. After several minutes Keisha could no longer resist temptation.

Keisha is missing half an ear and has a little bobbed tail. We suspect she lost them to two neighboring lions. All over this compound the bears and big cats shared common walls with openings in the wire 8" wide by 6" high. This must have led to some intense fights and quite possibly the

deaths of animals along the way. No one seemed to know exactly when or how Sasha, the 4th tiger we were supposed to have rescued, had died.

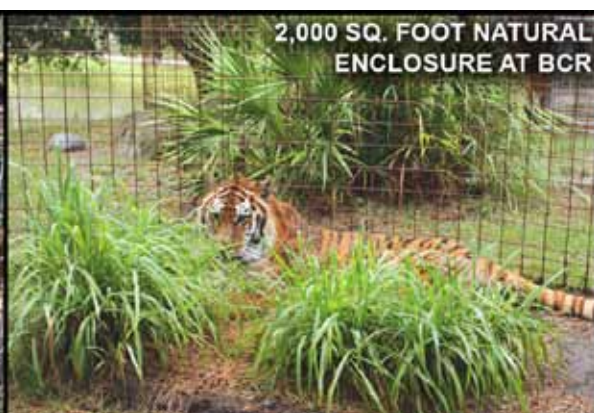
The only cage to have a double wall (one with a space of about 3 feet between the walls) was the one between Keisha and 2 lionesses. Keisha and the lionesses both had common walls with Zeus, but it would appear that after Keisha lost her ear and tail, someone finally installed a double wall between the lions and Keisha. That one small measure has probably saved her life, but her tail healed in such a scarred and unusual way that it's doubtful she had a vet attend to her wounds.

the grass, nor enjoy the shade of trees or bushes. The only shade, or escape from the sharp edged rocks, was in their smelly dens and on top of a small table in each cage.

Big Cat Rescuers loaded all three tigers in 2 hours. The officer in charge commented that we worked together like a well oiled machine. Amid the rush to load the tigers and move out of the way for the next rescue group, there were some heart breaking moments. The worst for cat lovers was the discovery of a domestic cat corpse lying in the middle of a cage that housed the 4 youngest tigers, who were born at JnK. The cat had died so the owner tossed it in with the hungry tigers. Even though they were starving the cat lay untouched. Time may have finally caused them to overcome their disgust at being fed another cat, had they not been rescued that day.

As soon as Kimba, Zeus, and Keisha were loaded and their transports were strapped down for the 22 hour trip, Big Cat Rescuers and JT and Laura Taylor of Loving Friends were on their way back to Tampa.

The cost of the transport and rescue was approximately \$7,000, but that is just the beginning. Getting these tigers back on the road to health will require extensive veterinary care, high quality food, vitamins, joint supplements and probably a good deal of pain management. One tiger



phone and \$40 and you can get around any ban, anywhere but a few states. So, the long legal battles had to start over again until the daughter had a falling out with her mother and decided not to renew her USDA license.

By this time Terry Thompson in Zanesville, OH had set free 56 lions, tigers and bears in 2011 and state agencies woke up to the fact that it could happen in their states too. The NY state attorney's office decided to send a message to all of the backyard breeders, dealers and pseudo sanctuaries that they would no longer turn a blind eye to the danger that these facilities pose to the public and launched the biggest seizure of wild animals in New York's history.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare, IFAW, took the lead and arranged for the 11 tigers, 3 lions, 3 bears, and 2 wolves to be picked up and transported to Big Cat Rescue in FL via Loving Friends, Safe Haven Wildlife Rescue Zoo in NV, Wild Animal Sanctuary in CO, In-Sync Exotics in TX, the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in IN, and Animal Lifeline to a facility in PA.

What we saw during the rescue was unimaginable suffering and dangerous conditions that clearly threatened everyone in the area. The animals were literally starving to death. We had agreed to take 4 tigers, but one died before we arrived. No agency had been able to inspect the animals since December 2013 (nearly 6 months ago) and at that time they said the cats were well fed, but that the rotting carcasses, piles of feces and ramshackle cages were reason enough to seize the animals.

for pulling her aching body up into the transport wagon, that she came to life. Big Cat Rescue President Jamie Veronica had locked Kimba in her den so that we could push the transport up to the rickety door. As soon as she was released and given the scent of beef on a stick, she followed Gale and loaded up without hesitation.

Zeus a 17-year-old tiger has limited vision due to a cataract and anterior lens luxation affecting one of his eyes. As soon as Zeus smelled food, he RAN down the length of his cage, chasing Big Cat Rescue's Operations Manager, Gale Ingham, who was racing (outside the cage) toward the transport that had been affixed to a hole that was cut into the side of his cage. Zeus was the largest tiger and the hole wasn't really big enough, because of metal piping making it impossible to make the hole any larger. Zeus didn't care. He wanted that life giving morsel of food so bad that he squeezed through the opening in a flash. Jamie dropped the door and Zeus was on his way to a life of luxury that he couldn't possibly imagine.

The cages were rotted to the point of falling apart. Rusty screws held ragged sheets of plywood together for the dens and doors. If the tigers had any strength left in them, they could have burst through. Citations went back to 2012 for these unsafe conditions. This made for some tense moments, especially when it came to loading Keisha a 14-year-old tigress who is rumored to be the offspring of Kimba and Zeus.

As soon as food was introduced to the situation Keisha became frantic and aggressive. Although she appeared to be



As each of the tigers were loaded into their transports they were rolled up into Loving Friend's rig where they probably experienced air conditioning for the first time ever. Even though they loaded quite easily, they were all stressed out by the move and the chaos of the day, so the lower temp helped take some of the edge off. Within minutes Kimba was sound asleep in the deep, soft hay.

Zeus gulped down water before laying down in his big fluffy hay bed. These cats, like so many others across the country, were kept on rocks. There was no place for them to feel the soft earth, nor roll in

costs Big Cat Rescue \$10,000 per year just for food and vet care. These neglected tigers will need much more intensive care. Even though they are safe and will never go hungry again, it is only because people like you will open your hearts to these precious creatures. Please let them know that you are there for them, for now and forever.

Will you **PLEASE DONATE** to help us provide care for these Kimba, Zeus, and Keisha?

Donate at: <http://bigcatrescue.org/jnk/>

FEDERAL BIG CAT BAN BILL HAS OVER 100 COSPONSORS!

Sanctuaries around the country can provide a good home for a few hundred big cats. But that usually happens after the cats have endured miserable conditions for years. And it does not help the THOUSANDS of big cats living in horrible conditions owned by selfish people for their own pleasure or ego, or by exhibitors who use them to make money.

The only way to stop the widespread abuse is to follow the lead of a few states and a number of other countries and ban private ownership. That is what our federal bill, **HR 1998/S 1381**, named the **Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act**, does.

The bill grandfathers in existing owners because there is no place for their animals to go. But those owners would not be allowed to breed or acquire more animals.

The bill has an exemption for AZA accredited zoos, who have the only tigers that are purely one subspecies. The thousands in private hands are all "generic tigers", such as hybrids between Siberian and Bengal tigers, and have no conservation value. The bill has a few other limited exemptions including sanctuaries. But over the next decade or so, as the population of tigers being mistreated dies out, there would end up being no need for sanctuaries because there would be no cats living in miserable conditions that needed to be rescued.



Getting a federal bill passed is a process that usually takes 4-5 years as you build momentum and support. That is exactly what we are doing with the help of the many of you who have taken the time to call or email their representatives.

The bill was first introduced in the last session of Congress that ended December 31, 2012. At the end of that



session we had 62 Representatives who had cosponsored the bill. The bill was reintroduced in the current session, and at this writing we are at 102 cosponsors!

THE BAD GUYS ARE LOBBYING

There is one lobbyist we know is lobbying against our bill and providing what we

believe is false information to legislators. And guess who we hear is paying him? Mario Tabruae, who news reports indicate is a self confessed illegal importer of exotic animals, a convicted drug dealer, and was implicated in the brutal murder of a DEA agent. A perfect example of the kind of people we are battling.

Another person we believe is lobbying against our bill is Kevin Antle, who in our opinion is one of the most notorious exploiters of tiger cubs in the world. Antle's zoo in South Carolina constantly has numerous cubs available for petting during the tourist season, so he likely has to breed dozens each year. But, his USDA census year after year shows about the same 50+ tigers every year. So, where do all these little cubs go after he finishes making money off them?

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS YOUR HELP TO FIGHT THE BAD GUYS AND KEEP THE MOMENTUM BUILDING!

Please visit StopBigCatAbuse.com and email your legislators urging them to cosponsor the bill. If you want to have even more impact, make a phone call to their office simply saying you would like the aide you speak with to tell the Representative you would like him or her to cosponsor HR 1998, or if it is your Senate office, cosponsor S 1381.

To download a Fact Sheet about the bill that you can email or hand to other people

you know who care about animals visit **BigCatRescue.org/factsheet**. For tips that make calling your legislator's office simple, easy and very comfortable for you, visit **BigCatRescue.org/tips**.

YOU can make stopping this abuse part of your life's legacy by writing, calling and urging others you know to do so. Thanks for helping us stop big cat abuse!

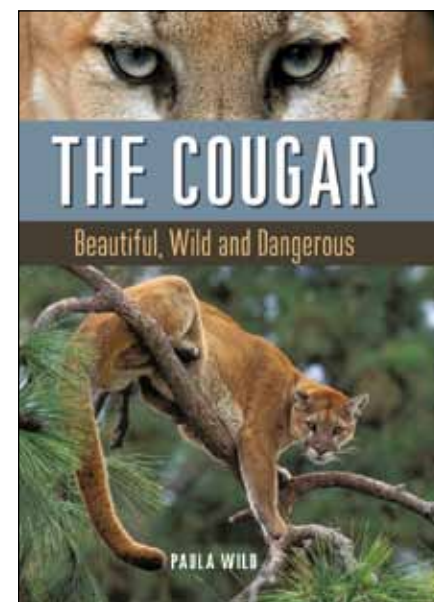
NEW BOOK: HUMAN – COUGAR RELATIONSHIPS

Paula Wild explores the evolving relationship between humans and this enigmatic predator from past to present in her new book, *The Cougar: Beautiful, Wild and Dangerous*.

Combining natural history, scientific research and first-person accounts, Wild describes the cougar's biology, lifestyle and behavior, as well as the most up-to-date information on cougar awareness and defense. Through in-depth research, she examines how peoples' perceptions impact cougar populations and how cougar populations affect the environment. And, with the help of experts like Carole Baskin, founder and CEO of Big Cat Rescue, she delves into the plight of captive cougars and the need for better legislation to protect them.

Paula Wild is an award-winning author of four books and has written more than 1,000 articles for numerous periodicals, including *Beautiful British Columbia*, *Reader's Digest* and *Canada's History Magazine*. She lives in Canada on Vancouver Island, the cougar capital of the world.

The Cougar: Beautiful, Wild and Dangerous is short listed for the 2014 BC Book Prizes Booksellers' Choice Award (Canada) and for the Nature Book of the Year Award in Foreword Review (USA).



For more information visit www.paulawild.ca

AN ADMIRATION OF WILDLIFE, A LEGACY OF SUPPORT



Big Cat Rescue recently received a collection of fine art wildlife prints donated by Traci and Gregg Matthews on behalf of the estate of Mr. and Mrs. David Melville, Traci's Grandmother and Grandfather.

Mr. Melville met his first big cat, a black leopard, in a jungle in Burma during the 2nd

World War. The cat emerged to drink from a stream as he stood there watching in amazement.

Soon after, Mr. Melville began collecting the artwork of renowned wildlife artists Charles Frace' and Guy Coheleach.

Following Mr. Melville's passing, Traci and Gregg Matthews sought to pay tribute to her Grandfather's legacy by donating his collection of artwork, valued at approximately \$13,500, in support of an animal welfare related organization that advocated in support of the magnificent creatures he so fondly admired.

These spectacular wildlife prints, all of which include an affidavit of limited edition/authenticity, are now available for purchase in support of the magnificent creatures that call Big Cat Rescue home. Visit our online gift shop at BigCatRescue.biz and then click on the link Art: Paintings and Prints or go to the direct link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/olg2lug>

NO ANIMALS HARMED IN NOAH

Darren Aronofsky says no live animals were used and that he opted to use all computer-generated imagery to create the animals on Noah's Ark, instead of using captive exotics.



A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO PORSCHE!



This month Porsche is unveiling their new SUV called the Macan – which means Tiger in Indonesian. When Big Cat Rescue recently learned

that Porsche dealerships around the country planned to rent tiger cubs as part of the “entertainment” at their Macan launch parties, we knew we had to try and educate Porsche about this abuse.

We contacted Porsche North America's headquarters in Atlanta and explained that Big Cat Rescue as well as other GFAS-accredited sanctuaries and reputable animal welfare groups are highly opposed to the exploitation of tiger cubs for entertainment, PR and “shock value.” Tigers are endangered in the wild and using them as props to promote automobiles would send the very wrong message that exotic animals are ours to use at will.

Porsche management quickly agreed and notified all of their dealers around the country NOT to include tiger cubs in their marketing promotions for the Macan. After further discussions with Big Cat Rescue and PETA, Porsche has adopted a no-animal policy for all dealer activities!!

Thank you Porsche for caring about tiger cubs and taking a responsible stance on wild animal exhibitions! Big Cat Rescue encourages our supporters to visit their local Porsche dealer and test drive the new Macan!



THANKS TO OUR AUTOMATIC SUSTAINING DONORS!

Supporters who make their donations by monthly, quarterly or annual automatic donations from their bank account, credit card or PayPal become members of our Sustaining Donor Society. For donors, this method of contributing has two advantages. First, it saves the time it takes to write checks or go online repeatedly to donate. Second, it conveniently spreads the donations out across the year for those who choose the monthly option.

For the sanctuary, these donations are particularly helpful because it allows us to better plan our cash flow to care for the cats and process donations at the lowest cost. These automated donations can be changed or discontinued at any time.

Members of our Sustaining Donor Society receive special recognition on our website, in the Big Cat Times, and on a sign in our tour waiting area.

You can set up an automated donation by emailing finance@bigcatrescue.org or on our website click the Give Now button, and on the donation box select the frequency of the donation.

ON BEHALF OF THE CATS, THANK YOU!

This list is maintained manually, so if you make regular automatic donations and are not listed, please accept our apologies and email Finance@bigcatrescue.org so we can correct the list.

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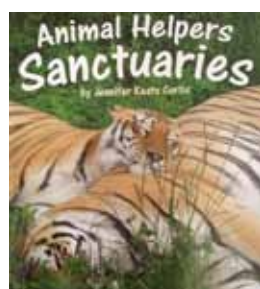
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SAD FAREWELL TO FIVE FRIENDS

Taking care of 100 exotic animals 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 100 animals, 86 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 74 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 22 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts that we must say good bye to these five furry friends who have touched our hearts forever.

BANJO



1991 - 2014

Banjo was used in classroom presentations by Wildlife Educators of America in Castaic, CA and was sent here when it was discovered that he was a he and not a she. Often times males are discarded in the industry as they are not as profitable as females who can produce offspring. Banjo was the favorite of staff member Vern Stairs and since Vern builds the enclosures, Banjo had one of the biggest. Banjo was also a favorite of tour guests. His unusual appearance and even more unusual scent of popcorn amazed visitors. Even though Banjo has an enormous enclosure, he always would hang out in the same old corner, where he had the best view down

the paths so he could keep an eye out for volunteers bringing him his favorite treats. Banjo was 23 years old and his health was failing. He had debilitating arthritis that made simple movements quite painful. It was a very difficult decision to put Banjo out of his misery. We all loved him dearly, but he was suffering and it was the most humane thing to do for him.

CLEO-CAT-TRA



1997 - 2014

Cleo-Cat-Tra's former owners no longer wanted her. Most of our servals were rescued from people who got them as pets and were not prepared for the fact that male or female, altered or not, they all spray urine to mark their territory when they become adults. Cleo was a beautiful serval. She was very petite and had striking dark brown eyes. Most servals have pale golden colored eyes. Cleo was 17 years old. She had lost interest in eating and blood work indicated that her kidneys were failing.

CHINA DOLL



1994 - 2014

When China Doll's owners discovered that they were going to have a baby and be dealing with terminal illness in their family, they asked Big Cat Rescue to take their tiger and 8 cougars and we did. Even people who could afford to give proper care to these cats in large cages, good food and vitamins and love, were not prepared to commit to a lifetime of care when their personal situation changed.

As a result China Doll came to us in April of 1995 and because she was close in age, she was introduced to Shere Khan. They became the best of friends the very first day and spent the next 19 years together as inseparable soul-mates. In recent months Keepers began

keeping close track of Shere Khan. In his advanced age his mobility has decreased and his appetite is not as it once was. China Doll was the exact opposite and the picture of good health. She was strong and active and always looking to eat any left overs of Shere Khan's dinner. It came as an extreme shock when she suffered from a massive stroke one evening. Staff just so happened to witness the event. China Doll immediately



lost the use of one of her front limbs. She was sedated and examined. The limb was cool to the touch and the blood pressure readings in it were very low. It appeared as though she had thrown a clot to the area. Despite the efforts of her Keepers, China Doll refused to eat or take any medications in the days following her stroke. Her health was deteriorating and the painful decision to euthanize her was made. China Doll was such a happy tiger and having her leave us so suddenly in this way was very difficult to accept. Her necropsy results indicated that she suffered from heart disease. It would have been very likely that in the days or weeks following her stroke she would have had subsequent episodes, any of which could have taken her life in a more painful way.

MR. E



2000 - 2014

Mr. E was born at the sanctuary in the spring of 2000. His birth was unintentional and nearly prevented. While he is an endangered species, Mr. E and others like him will never be released back into the wild. It was when we discovered this truth that our views on breeding exotic cats for life in captivity drastically changed. Knowing that these animal will never roam the wild as they should we made the decision to separate or spay and neuter all of our resident cats. This took a long time to accomplish. We started with the bigger cats first. Mr. E's parents had lived together for 5 years and had never produced any offspring. It was thought that they were too old to produce kittens. Unfortunately this was not the case and they had Mr. E. before they could be separated. Mr. E. lived a full and enriched life. He recently was found to be drinking excessive amounts of water, so a visit to see the vet was planned. Shortly after he sustained two broken legs from jumping down from the side of his enclosure. An appointment was made with a specialist to repair his broken bones. During the surgery the doctor remarked that a leap like his should not have resulted in such injuries and because the bones were very thin he suspected something was not right with Mr. E's health. The surgery seemed like it was going to be successful, however just as it was finished Mr. E stopped breathing on his own. The vet staff tried for 25 minutes to revive him, but despite their efforts Mr. E passed away. He was 14 years old. The average life span for Leopard Cats and Bengal Cats seems to be 12-15 years by most accounts, so even though 14 seems so young to us at Big Cat Rescue, 14 was very old for Mr. E.

NYLA



1994 - 2014

Nyla came to Big Cat Rescue with her brother, Simba, in August of 1994. She was a product of the entertainment industry, which only wants perfect looking specimens. Because Nyla was cross eyed, she was unwanted. Nyla would always get very jealous if her brother Simba was getting any attention and would begin making a nuisance of herself until all the attention was focused on her. All she ever wanted was everyone's undivided affection. Nyla was nearly half the size of her brother, though she was just as tough. When Simba and Nyla became mature they were separated to prohibit breeding. However they remained close neighbors throughout the years. For health

reasons many years ago Nyla was spayed and Simba was neutered. Just one month before Nyla's passing she and Simba were reunited. While it had been our intent to reintroduce the pair for some time it just had not happened. Nyla immediately greeted Simba with loving leopard kisses and the two fast friends again. We are so happy that Nyla and Simba were able to enjoy a two week getaway in the Vacation Rotation enclosure before it was too late. Shortly after being reunited Nyla fell ill from kidney disease. She was 20 years old.



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.



SAVING LIONS THANKS TO YOU!

Big Cat Rescue's March for Lions was a roaring success. Thanks to everyone who attended and fundraised we raised \$10,000! These funds were donated to four special projects focused on saving lions.



The movers and shakers behind the Global March for Lions were Chris and Bev Mercer of **CannedLion.org**. They have been the leading force against lion hunting and pay to play schemes that exploit lion cubs, only to sell them into canned hunts as easy targets. We contributed \$7,000 to their continued efforts to ban lion hunting. Chris said, "this is the equivalent of a small fortune, I will put it to good use in protecting lions."

The support didn't stop there. We were so impressed with Nat Geo's Cause an Uproar campaign we donated \$1,000 to their **BuildABoma.org** project. This will build two bomas to help protect lions from being killed for harming livestock.

In addition, we have long admired Animal Defenders International. They are a small organization that has been winning huge victories for animals. They have made great strides in the past few years to ban circus acts that use wild animals in 20+ countries. If you saw Blackfish and thought, "big cats need a movie like that," then you have to see Lion Ark. We saw it and were so enamored that we sent \$1,100 to help with their efforts to free all big cats from circuses.



Lastly, we donated \$900 to Walking for Lions to be a major sponsor for the cycling event from Kenya to Botswana to raise awareness of the plight of wild lions.

So, thanks to your generosity Big Cat Rescue is raising awareness, supporting boots on the ground, giving locals a way to live with lions, rescuing lions from circuses and letting everyone know that when you pay to play with a cub, the cub is always the one who pays with his loss of life and liberty.

Special thanks to the following for making March for Lions a huge success;

Boston's
Health Freakz
Jordan Fees Art
Sharon Beach
Target
Yogurtology

Disco Donuts
iStyle XG Salon
Natural Balance Massage Therapy
St. Pete Tax Service LLC
Tasty Stacy

Foxy Face & Body Art
Jiffy Lube
PDQ
Stonewood Tavern
Whiskey Joe's



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You Tube

BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS



**Donations received
January 1st thru
March 31st**

\$37,308 Martha J. Simms Rev Living Trust
\$15,504 Body Shop Foundation
\$4,450 Sole Riley Marittimi
\$2,500 Saint Pete MRI
\$2,000 Micol Bartolucci
\$2,000 Andrew & Julie Morse
\$2,000 Susan & Larry Sousa
\$2,000 Frey Foundation
\$1,828 Tigers In America
\$1,344 Vanessa Fernandez-Thomas
\$1,300 Beckie Tomlyn-Litten
\$1,180 Rock to the Rescue
\$1,157 Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill
\$1,000 Maria E. Birch
\$1,000 Andrew, Julia & Gigi Menard
\$1,000 Samuel M. Perez
\$1,000 Christina Pickett
\$1,000 Vernon & Barbara Stairs
\$900 Suzanne & Alan Lucas
\$887 ECHOage
\$750 Ann E. Pattin
\$700 Ami Forte
\$700 Edward & Roycie Roeder
\$656 Calvin & Andrea Dyer
\$650 Pamela Olson Koonts
\$600 Steven Carter
\$500 Andre Beaudry
\$500 William & Rosemary Borchardt
\$500 David Fredericks
\$500 Nancy L. Gelderloos
\$500 Christina Heinle
\$500 Karma Hurworth
\$500 Mitchell & Louise Kanaan
\$500 Lynda Licht
\$500 Dwight Lowell
\$500 Edith Parker
\$500 Maya Rainey
\$500 Joseph Sansone

\$500 Carl & Betty Schino
\$500 Gregg & Tarra Stocker
\$500 Robert B. Strouse
\$500 Merry M. Sutton
\$500 DEX Imaging
\$500 Paul Smith's College
\$450 Christina Farah
\$450 Sindhu Mathew
\$450 Dave Zunac
\$400 Dawn Howell
\$400 Larry S. Moore
\$400 Glennis Siverson
\$350 Kirk & Aileen Davis
\$310 Todd & Susan Richerson
\$300 Bruce Berman
\$300 Sandra McClueb & Paul Bishoes
\$300 Amy G. Brown
\$300 Stacie Carpenter
\$300 Christine Coats



\$300 Carolyn Grantham
\$300 Fran Hamilton
\$300 Martin & Sarah Hydell
\$300 Greg Lutzen
\$300 Nicki & Paul Lyford
\$300 Jennifer Marler
\$300 Margarida D. Marton
\$300 Daniel Pursel & Lisa Minich
\$300 David Nugent
\$300 Helen Prather
\$300 Joe Sokolosky
\$300 Eugenia Van Bremen
\$280 Roberta & Jeffrey Newton
\$275 William Konopaske
\$250 Donna Abersman
\$250 Roger & Rosette Ajluni
\$250 John Brooks

\$250 Cheryl Caputo
\$250 Ann Church
\$250 Katherine Clarkson
\$250 Christina Cypnotis
\$250 Robert Davis
\$250 Scott Dolan
\$250 Janice Elliott
\$250 Scott P. Fuhrman
\$250 Bruce R. Johnson
\$250 Jackie Lashinsky
\$250 Earl McDaniel
\$250 Bryan Meyers
\$250 Ron & Jayne Mikat
\$250 John Olin
\$250 Alicia Rodites
\$250 Sharon Sauro
\$250 Robyn Webb
\$250 YouthBridge
\$230 Andrea Nader
\$225 Liuba Kurtyn
\$225 Lesley Schultz
\$224 Glen Hills Middle School

\$221 Active Network, Inc
\$210 Monika Koniaris
\$200 Gail Bolt
\$200 Dana Bruce
\$200 Erin K. Burdick
\$200 Calvin Cole
\$200 Kristi & Andrea Earle
\$200 Francia Firestone
\$200 Fay Forman
\$200 April Gornik
\$200 Athena Han
\$200 Ed & RoseMarie Harrison
\$200 Arvin & Susan Heilman
\$200 Catherine Hoagland
\$200 Phyllis & Robert Hurworth
\$200 Laura & Joe Jolesch
\$200 Janet Jordan
\$200 Roland Kunkel
\$200 Katie Lai

\$200 Barbara Lauterbach
\$200 Carole & Robert Lee
\$200 Dorothy Lewis
\$200 Elizabeth Licowski
\$200 Ellen London
\$200 Keith MacArthur
\$200 Mary Magazine
\$200 Jim Meeks
\$200 Judith Olsen
\$200 Deborah Peterson
\$200 Linda & William Phipps
\$200 Jeanne Ridolfi
\$200 Robert & Katherine Saucier
\$200 John Schoen
\$200 Cynthia Shaughnessy
\$200 Geraldine Smith
\$200 Victoria Stack
\$200 Anthony & Mary Urso
\$200 Runing Xu
\$200 Jean Zegadlo
\$200 Caspers Company
\$200 Leadership Pinellas Inc
\$189 Catherine Traversone
\$175 Amanda Fenick
\$175 Marilyn Gash
\$175 Jamie L. Lewis
\$150 Emily Arnold
\$150 Marvin & Ellen Barnes
\$150 Jennifer Caswell
\$150 Brandy L. Cumming
\$150 Cecelia Curtis
\$150 Janice Devine
\$150 Jeanette Goebel
\$150 Alexander & Danielle Gorbach
\$150 Steve & Sandie Grimes
\$150 Darla Haines
\$150 Larry Han
\$150 Steven & Anne Harrison
\$150 Marion Hellthaler
\$150 Deepa Jansen
\$150 Erik Jungk
\$150 Monique McGee
\$150 Joyce Moody
\$150 Michael Neblock
\$150 Mikhail V. Novgorodov
\$150 Adrienne Parkhurst
\$150 Anna Price
\$150 Lisa Rasico
\$150 Doris Schlichter
\$150 Richard & Lee Ann Stiles

\$150 Jessica Stull
\$150 Lisa Williams
\$150 Elizabeth D. Wiseman
\$150 Patricia & Lon Wojtowicz
\$150 Christie Wood
\$141 James, Colleen & Erin Lager
\$130 Maria & James Chase
\$130 Gordon & Hollace Hannaway
\$125 Andre Haiduga
\$125 Dianne Hodgett
\$125 Thelma Rodriguez
\$125 Barbara White
\$118 Kenneth Fick
\$118 Marilyn Monson
\$114 Barbara B. Bunn
\$108 Melissa E. Black
\$108 Stephanie L. Shiley
\$108 Marsha Woerner
\$106 Eric Malkiel
\$105 Kerry & Don Gilbert
\$105 Pattie Quinn-Bennett
\$100 Heather Aboud
\$100 Morgan Ackerman
\$100 Rebecca Acorn
\$100 K. Patricia Adamow
\$100 Amber Aguero
\$100 June Albert
\$100 K. C. Andrews
\$100 Deborah Appello
\$100 Lucas Ballard
\$100 Margaret Barham
\$100 Sandra Barnes
\$100 Lawrence Baxter
\$100 Thomas & Margie Berman
\$100 Gail Beyer
\$100 Joanne Bolemon
\$100 Molly Braverman
\$100 Nan Breglio
\$100 Brian Breseman
\$100 Julia Brittain
\$100 James & Joan Campbell
\$100 Christine Cartaya
\$100 Claudia Chang
\$100 Dennis & Ann Cieslak
\$100 Deborah Cole
\$100 Edward & Carol Collins
\$100 Clarene Connable
\$100 Jennifer Conner
\$100 Monica Cortez-Garland
\$100 Betsy Coville
\$100 L. Catherine Crompton
\$100 Charlene Czajkowski
\$100 Dorothy & John Davies
\$100 Jenny Deacon

\$100 Kseniya Demchenko
\$100 Veronica Dewind
\$100 Vickie Diluigi
\$100 Helaine Dubach
\$100 Ken & Frances Dunn
\$100 Albert Duro
\$100 Janene Edgar
\$100 Megan Fanning
\$100 Tyler Fanning
\$100 Boyd & Judy Fisher
\$100 Gary Fisher
\$100 Jacqueline and David Fleishman
\$100 Jan C. Flowers
\$100 Tony Fonzi
\$100 Tamarah Forcellina
\$100 Neal Gillespie
\$100 Marley Gorman
\$100 Doris Gosney
\$100 Joan Griffin
\$100 Destini Griggs
\$100 Kim Guise
\$100 Zeki Gunay
\$100 Dennis Hammer
\$100 Diane Hanson
\$100 Mark & Sharon Hechter
\$100 Michael R. Heintze
\$100 Raymond Hirst
\$100 Jennifer Hochlan
\$100 Kristen M. Holtz
\$100 Laura S. Hottel
\$100 Lise Hudson
\$100 Margaret C. Ince
\$100 Jo-Ann & Wayne Ingersoll
\$100 Randall & Leann James
\$100 Mary Karr
\$100 Barbara & Richard Kime
\$100 Andrew Knaus
\$100 Angie Korsun
\$100 Michael & Kathy Laudenslager
\$100 Lisa Lazzaro
\$100 Lorenz Leopold
\$100 Richard Lipovac
\$100 Roxanne Loget
\$100 Bridget Loring
\$100 Kim Loughlin
\$100 Alice & Vincent Luce
\$100 Allison Lyons
\$100 Janice L. Macdonald

\$100 Michele Manos
\$100 Courtney May
\$100 Cindy McCabe
\$100 Kailani McMiller
\$100 Mindi & Daniel Meeks
\$100 Aaron Mencia
\$100 Phyllis S. Middaugh
\$100 Joseph Miletta
\$100 Randall Miller
\$100 Emily & Kerri Seke Miller
\$100 Susan Mitchell
\$100 Melissa Montgomery
\$100 Martha Morandi
\$100 Douglas Morgan
\$100 Linda Moss
\$100 Maryanne Mothersole



\$100 Janice Mullaly
\$100 Ronald & Gale Nicodemus
\$100 Joyce Palmquist
\$100 Diana Perry
\$100 Paul Pinchuck
\$100 Mike Pisano
\$100 Jerome Pollitt
\$100 Trisha Porter
\$100 Joan Powell
\$100 Rachel Quinlan-Waters
\$100 David & Donna Reese
\$100 Mark & Analee Reutlinger
\$100 Charles Rignall
\$100 Karen Robey
\$100 Ellen Rock
\$100 Barbara Roodvoets
\$100 Tedford Rose
\$100 Carl Rosskamp
\$100 Elissa Rudolph
\$100 Gina Sanfilippo
\$100 Matti Savolainen
\$100 Tracey & Randy Schrader
\$100 Betsie Scott
\$100 Heather Seville
\$100 Margi Shah
\$100 Laurie Shentalevnn
\$100 Yekaterina

\$100 Shinkareva
\$100 Robert Siegel
\$100 John Simon
\$100 Janet Sleath
\$100 Steven & Cynthia Smith
\$100 Timothy Snider
\$100 Robert Spahr
\$100 Barbara Steinberg
\$100 Jane M. Steinlen
\$100 Jessica Stroud
\$100 Dianne Tate
\$100 Carole Terpstra
\$100 Chris Tharp
\$100 Dian Thompson
\$100 Cathy & Jon Tileson
\$100 Richard Titus
\$100 Anita & Kenneth Todd
\$100 Wendy & Dale A. Todd
\$100 Michele Tucker
\$100 Mary Tuohy
\$100 Griffin Vancil
\$100 Marissa Velazquez
\$100 Patricia Voss
\$100 Lowell & Nancy Walker
\$100 Sue Ellen Wall
\$100 Diana Walsh
\$100 Denise & Fred Watkins
\$100 Charles & Darlene Weir
\$100 Sandra B. Wells
\$100 David Whitaker
\$100 Mike Wilhite
\$100 Ron & Susan Williams
\$100 Brittney Williams
\$100 Royal Manticoran Navy

Thank you for your support!

If your donation came toward the end of the quarter, it may not have been entered into our database in time for this newsletter and will appear in the next. Donation data entry is manual and subject to occasional errors, so if your donation should appear and does not, please email Chelsea.Feeny@BigCatRescue.org so we can investigate and correct our records if there is an omission.

Photos Clockwise from top left: Zabu and tire toy, Saber and jingle ball, Andre and tire toy, Pharaoh and puzzle toy



BIGCATFUN.COM

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Happy Birthday

Hundreds of eCards for Mother's Day, Father's Day & more!

Screensavers & Wallpapers

Holiday Crafts, Games & Puzzles

Design & Print Custom Big Cat Bookmarks

CHECK OUT BIGCATFUN.COM FOR TONS OF WILD FREEBIES

BIG CAT WINS ON GIVE DAY!

"Give Day" is a national event participated in by cities all over the country. It took place on May 6. This was the first year for Tampa Bay. Our Give Day was organized by our Community Foundation (who manages our endowment fund) and Florida Next Foundation. Over 380 non profits signed up to compete for which would have the most donors make contributions that day, which would raise the most money, and more than a dozen other prizes.

It turned out to be an exciting day because for most of the day Big Cat Rescue and the Museum of Science (with a budget five times our size!) were duking it out, going back and forth from #1 to #2. The giving ran from midnight May 5 to midnight May 6. MOSI came out of the block very early with a large number of donations to take the lead.

We steadily gained as the day went on and by mid afternoon were strongly in the lead on number of donors (thank you all so much!) and running a tight race for most dollars. Then, later in the day, the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, with only small number of donors, came in with huge donations to pass us and MOSI,



although still fairly close. It looked like they had the dollars contest won until MOSI, after 11pm, came up with over \$30,000 in additional donations to take first place on most dollars raised.

So, how did we do "bottom line?" We won the \$10,000 prize for the most donors. We did not just win though. We had almost three times the number of donors as the next runner up – thank you all so much!!! We came in third in dollars at \$85,864, winning a \$2,500 prize for that. We won a number of other prizes, like \$2,500 for most donors during lunch hour. In total we won \$22,500 in prizes, more than any of the other 380 non profits, ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!!

In addition to being a very, very successful day financially, the close race all day long was fantastic PR for us. It broadened awareness of our cause and received very strong media coverage reporting on our success.

Proceeds from the day will help fund our efforts to pass our federal bill, HR 1998/S 1381, the Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act, that will end the abuse of thousands of big cats.

Thanks so much to the amazing 802 supporters who made this possible by donating that day!

RECYCLE PROGRAM GENERATES \$50,000 FOR THE BIG CATS

With your help, our recycling program over the years has generated over \$50,000 for Big Cat Rescue! The vendor accepts Laser/Toner Cartridges, Inkjet Cartridges, Cell Phones, iPods/MP3 Players, Digital Cameras, GPS Devices, and Laptop/Computers.



If you are local you can drop items at the sanctuary any day but Thursday. If you are not local, or if you are local but it is more convenient to receive labels and ship from your location (easier for us too!) just email your address to ink@bigcatrescue.org. We will arrange for the vendor to send you five UPS shipping labels that have no expiration. You can put the label on any kind of box you have laying around.

You cannot call UPS for pickup with these labels, but you can drop off at a UPS store or, if UPS comes to your place of work to deliver, give it to the UPS person when they come by. The only requirement to make the shipping cost effective is that the box contain a minimum of 20 units (cartridges and toners can be mixed) or 20 pounds.

This is a great way to help the cats!

Info: bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/ink

Questions: ink@bigcatrescue.org

LEOPARD HAS SURGERY TO REMOVE MASS

Armani, a 17-year-old female leopard, was seen by her keepers vomiting foam and unchewed pieces of meat after eating her dinner on more than one occasion.

Sometimes when two cats share an enclosure one may tend to eat too fast because they are worried about the other cat coming to steal their food. In these cases we separate the cats during feeding so each has plenty of time to finish their dinner. Even though they are separated they sometimes still eat too fast. Armani lives with her sister Jade and initially her vomiting her food was attributed to this behavior.

On one particular evening Armani vomited foam and then began gagging. She eventually threw up a chicken leg and although it was not chewed up well it should have been easily swallowed.

In order to determine if something more serious was going on an appointment was made at Ehrlich Animal Hospital for Armani to see volunteer veterinarian Dr. Wynn. Armani's xrays showed a small mass in the back of her throat. The images were sent to a radiology specialist for a consultation and it was confirmed there was indeed a mass.



Surgery to remove the mass was complicated



in that the mass was located very near the breathing tube which is inserted into the airway to deliver anesthesia gas to sedate Armani. It took 4 people to prop the 88 pound leopard up in such a way that Dr. Wynn and Dr. Saleh could visualize the area and successfully remove the tissue. The mass was sent to the lab for further testing and the results indicated that it was a polyp and not cancerous.

Since her surgery Armani has been prescribed a soft food diet and her meats are cut into easy to swallow bite-sized chunks. She has been doing much better and we hope that this surgery will be a permanent solution.



Photos: At left heart shaped spot on Armani, above Dr. Wynn removing the mass, the mass that was removed

TOWNHOME DEVELOPMENT THREATENS SANCTUARY

Although we are next to a major highway and a stone’s throw from a major mall and another large shopping center, for all of our 22 years the 60 acres to the west and north of sanctuary has been undeveloped except for a few homes, providing a buffer. Within the last year a major national townhome developer has put under contract about 20 acres directly west of us and 10 acres directly north of us. We purchased a nine acre parcel between those two at the end of last year, and more recently 3 acres at our south end.

Last August we began a dialog with the developer. We expressed our concerns and offered what we feel are practical solutions to those concerns that would allow them to build townhomes in a way that would minimize the risks to the security and tranquility of the sanctuary. After months of little responsiveness from them, those discussions are about to resume. One very critical issue is the possibility that the developer may try to obtain the right to build a road across our land to connect his two parcels, putting traffic very near the cats.

At this point we are hopeful that we can negotiate a solution. If not, and we end up in a fight, we will be asking you to help by using email and Facebook to let the developer and certain decision makers know we have national support and thousands of people are concerned about the safety and peace of our cats. No action is appropriate yet, and we hope none will be needed, but we will keep you posted by email and Facebook if things do not work out the way we hope. We thank you in advance for your support if it ends up being needed.



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Photos: At left, Windstar bobcat, at right aerial view of Big Cat Rescue and surrounding properties



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.



www.BigCatRescue.org/volunteer

We are happy to celebrate Senior Keeper Susan Reed for her outstanding dedication. No matter the job Susan is always ready and willing to pitch in! Intern Phillip Mouchtaris was brave enough to volunteer to play the role of the poacher in the Dunk the Poacher tank at our big event March for Lions. The proceeds from the dunk tank sales were donated to lion conservation efforts. Big Cat Rescue is always willing to help out other sanctuaries in need and so are our volunteers. Senior Keeper Kathryn Quaas recently spent several weeks in Minnesota helping The Wild Cat Sanctuary with managing their keeper department while they searched for a permanent staff member to fill the position.

Big Cat Rescue is always looking for volunteers. 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 de-tails!

50% MATCHING FUNDS FOR DONATIONS \$500 - \$6000

Tigers in America is a foundation whose goal is to end the misery suffered by captive tigers in captivity in the United States. In recognition of Big Cat Rescue’s work to solve the captive tiger problem, they have offered a very generous 50% match on all donations of \$500 to \$6000 dollars up to a total match amount of \$30,000 through the end of this year. Because the foundation operates with very little staff and overhead (a very good thing!), they cannot administratively handle sending out many receipts, so they only accept checks of \$500 or more.

This is a great way for supporters who are able to donate at this level to leverage their donations and have 50% more financial impact. To obtain the match, checks should be made out to Tigers in America and sent to Howard Baskin, Big Cat Rescue, 12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625-3702. We then submit the checks to them, and they send us back the donation amount plus the 50% match. Thanks in advance to any of you who are able to help us take advantage of this generous matching grant!

DONOR BRICKS INSTALLED

Well, it took a while to fill up the display boards that hold the bricks with donor names until they are installed. But with the help of over 250 supporters who purchased bricks for themselves, as gifts, or in memory of a family member or pet, we did it!



The second phase of the gift shop front walkway was installed in April and looks great! Guests signing in for tours will now be standing on solid brick instead of the former mulch walkway.

You can help us complete the next phase of the walkway by purchasing a brick to create a permanent memory of your support of the cats.

Purchase on the order form on page 10 or online at **BigCatRescue.biz** using key word “brick” in the search box.



LITTLE CATS NEED A VACATION SPOT OF THEIR OWN!

In 2013, thanks to **YOUR** generous donations, Big Cat Rescue was able to build a wonderful 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation enclosure for our big cats to enjoy during two-week “vacations” to experience new sights, sounds and smells.

We originally thought most of our little cats would use the Vacation Rotation too. But we have so many small cats it would mean that our biggest cats – our lions, tigers and leopards – who are **LOVING** their vacations, would have to wait a very long time for their turn to go on another vacation.

So...(drum roll please!) we are building the little cats their very own Little Cat Vacation Rotation enclosure!! It will be 20,000 square feet of lush foliage, trees, dens, hills, platforms and pools. This is more than 10 times the size of their permanent enclosures! We anticipate most of our lynx, bobcats, servals, caracals and hybrids (like JoJo – a serval/caracal mix) will take a leisurely stroll from their permanent enclosures into and out of the new Little Cat Vacation Rotation through specially-constructed, above-ground tunnels. We know they are going to just love exploring a fun new space all their own!



And the **BEST** part is this means that **TWICE** as many cats can be on vacation at the same time! Big cats enjoying the

original Big Cat Vacation Rotation while little cats simultaneously enjoy the Little Cat Vacation Rotation. Yeah!

All this planning for our little cats has got us thinking about our beloved bobcats Raindance and Little Dove, both of whom turned 21 this May. That is beyond ancient in bobcat years.

Raindance and Little Dove are the last remaining cats of the 56 bobcat and lynx kittens our founder Carole Baskin rescued in 1993 from a fur farm. They were less than 3 weeks old when Carole brought them back to Tampa and the rest is history: Raindance and Little Dove helped launch Big Cat Rescue.

But they’ve never been on a vacation. We need your help so Raindance can lead the way and help launch the Little Cat Vacation Rotation enclosure!! Raindance will be the first to enjoy a two-week vacation in the new enclosure once it’s funded and finished. Little Dove is a bit reclusive, so she will go on vacation only if she feels like it. The cost is approximately \$50,000 to complete this very special vacation spot.

Will you please help Raindance and most of our other small cats experience the joys of a new place to roam and explore? To test out new platforms and nap in the shade of new dens?

Donors of \$500 or more will have their name on a permanent recognition sign near the enclosure. Any funds donated in excess of project costs will be used for other needs for our cats.

Thank you for your amazing support of our cats! Raindance and the rest of our little guys and gals thanks you too. Donate at:

BigCatRescue.org/smallcatfun

LEOPARDS IN THE BIG CAT VACATION ROTATION



Photos from top Saber enjoying his lake view, Simba & Nyla on vacation, Simba stretching out in the acres of grassland, Jumanji checking out the enclosure, perching on the massive jungle gym and rolling in the grass, Sundari on the prowl & under platform