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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.

# THE BIG CAT TIMES



#### BCR RESCUES COUGAR AND HELPS OTHER GROUPS SAVE 6 BIG CATS IN AL

COMES TO BIG CAT RESCUE

Mickey, a 11 year old male cougar, is one of the newest residents at Big Cat Rescue. He was rescued along with 6 other big cats from a private collection of wild animals housed on a farm in Alabama. The conditions of the facility were poor and the animals were not receiving the veterinary care they so desperately needed.

In 2005 the USDA revoked the owner's license to posses exotic animals, but for reasons unknown did not confiscate the animals. Instead several tigers, lions, a cougar and a leopard were left to continue suffering at the hands of their owner. in this issue, with The situation was not clear cut. The mental health of the 71 year old woman who had owned the animals for most of

their lives was failing. She knew she could no longer provide proper care for the animals, but she would flop back and forth between being willing to give them up and swearing they would never leave her property.

Lucky for Mickey and most of the other big cats her family stepped in and helped her make the right decision to let most of them go. Sadly it was too late for one leopard who had been badly injured and died as a result months earlier. On Sunday August 17th three rescue groups including Big Cat Rescue arrived to save the majority of her collection. Four tigers, a male and female lion, and a cougar were going to a better place. Unfortunately this large scale rescue was

> adamantly refused to release two tigers, two bears, a couple of wolves and a troop of lemurs. We had to settle for what we could get and hope that her family will continue to work towards convincing her to let all of the remaining animals go.



new home at BCR

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too much for the woman to handle and she

Many times when we rescue animals they are housed in filthy cramped cages and are literally starving to death. While the





## BE IN THE KNOW

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Above: Carole Baskin, Dr. Justin Boorstein, and other rescuers load Mickey the cougar into the rescue trailer

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conditions at this facility were poor, most of the animals seemed to be fed adequately. This made luring them into transports with food treats nearly impossible. Some of the cages were severely overgrown with weeds, so badly that the perimeter walls of their cages were impossible to see or access. This made for a tense day because we had no idea if there were holes in the cages that the animals could escape from. We also could not verify the number of animals in each cage, which is incredibly dangerous for the people involved in the rescue efforts. Other cages were

pieced together with a mismatch of various wire panels, chain link, wood, and metal scraps that were very unstable.

Mickey was the first to be captured. He lived in a chain link run approximately 10' x 20', a separating wall in the middle,

concrete floor, and a den box on each end. Mickey slinked into a den box at the first sight of strangers. This would not have been so bad, however inside the opening to the den was a half wall that he could tuck behind making it impossible to see him. Sedation would not be an option because he was completely hidden from view. We needed him to load up willingly.

At most rescues we are able to catch the cats in one of two ways; hook up a transport cage to the cat's cage and lure them in with food or sedate them. It appeared as though neither of these options were going to work.

Because Mickey felt secure in his den

we decided to lock him inside of it. This was no easy feat because there was not a door that could be shut over the opening from the outside of the cage. We had to improvise. Long pipes were slid through the chain link from one side of the cage to the other directly in front of the opening. A row of two pipes spaced a few inches apart then blocked the entire doorway to the den allowing for rescuers to enter the cage and install a patch of wire over the doorway securing Mickey inside.

Next the exterior wall of the cage was disassembled so the transport cage could be brought right up to the den opening. Once the transport cage was in place, and the patch wire removed, a guillotine style door was set up on a long rope that reached 15 feet or so away.

Most everyone then left the immediate area so Mickey would feel more comfortable coming out. One of Mickey's favorite people tried calling Mickey out into the transport cage, but he was unsuccessful. It was only after he too walked out of view that Mickey came out to investigate. He sniffed at the soft hay in the transport cage so intensely that he barely noticed the door drop behind him.



Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Big Cat Rescuers Carole Baskin, Jamie Veronica, Dr. Justin Boorstein, Regina Rinaldi, Laura and JT of Loving Friends Transport, as well as family and friends of Mickey's owner, Mickey was loaded up into the BCR Rescue Trailer and on his way to his fur-ever home in Florida.

While Carole and Regina embarked on the 11 hour drive to Big Cat Rescue, Jamie and Dr. Justin remained on site to assist the other rescue groups in catching their animals.

At the end of the day it took 9 hours to successfully load each cat into their transport cages.

Simba, a male lion, was the only cat other than Mickey that loaded up with out being sedated. A transport cage was secured to his cage. For hours he stared at the transport unwilling to enter. Coaxing by his care givers was unfruitful and he was not interested in food. Rescuers left him to investigate the transport at his leisure while they worked to get others loaded.



While working on a plan to capture Osha, a male tiger, and Patty, a female lion, one of the friends of Simba's owner was able to capture him. It was later discovered that he did so by repeatedly shoving Simba with a long metal pipe until he complied. Unfortunately none of the Rescuers were aware this was going on because we would have put a stop to it.

Osha and Patty lived in a 2 acre enclosure that was completely overgrown with thick vegetation. Weeds grew through and up over the short 8' cage walls. The weeds were so thick it was nearly impossible to even see where Osha and Patty were most of the time. Lucky for us there was a small cage built inside the large cage allowing for the cats to be separated. We could lock one at a time into the smaller cage in order to lure them into transport or sedate them. Neither was having anything to do with loading up willingly.

Meanwhile across the way a female tiger named Tara was darted and sedated. Friends and family said that she was very unmanageable and were confident



she would not go into a transport cage willingly. Tara fell asleep in a section of her cage that did not have any access doors. Rescuers had to cut away at the wire walls in order to get to her. She was placed on a carry tarp and lifted into the transport cage. There she received a basic physical exam, her blood was drawn and she was given fluids to help her recover. She was

secured in the transport cage and monitored until she awoke.

Next Osha was locked in the small cage inside the larger cage he and Patty shared. The bad part was we could only make out most of the walls of this small cage because of the obstructed views from outside the large cage. We had no way to know

if there were holes in the wall that would allow for Patty to enter the area where we had locked Osha. With no other options Osha was darted. After a few minutes he fell asleep. Jamie entered the small cage and pinned the sleeping tiger with a special "y" shaped pole while Dr. Justin inspected the perimeter of the small cage shot gun in hand. Once he gave the all clear the rest of the rescuers entered to collect Osha.

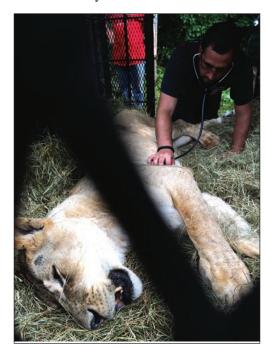
After Osha was removed caregivers tried to get Patty locked in the small cage.

While they worked on this Rescuers headed to the other side of the property near the owner's home. In the backyard was a cage that housed a male and female tiger, Tears and Madonna. To make matters worse they had no separating walls or dens that they could be locked in so both cats had to be sedated simultaneously. This is never a good option because it divides the attention of the vet between two cats.

The darting went well and both tigers fell asleep quickly. Madonna was removed first and loaded into her transport cage.

Tears was up next when he suddenly crashed. His vitals plummeted, he was not breathing and his heart beat was growing faint. CPR was performed and emergency drugs administered. After several tense moments Tears began to breath on his own again. Rescuers worked quickly to move him into his transport cage where he was monitored until he regained consciousness.

Last was Patty. During the stressful sedation of Madonna and Tears caregivers were able to secure Patty in the small cage. She too was darted and sedated. She too fell fast asleep and during her exam began to snore loudly.



After 9 hours all of the cats that were granted release by their captor were loaded into their transport cages, awake, and ready for travel. Simba, Tara, Osha, and Patty went to New Jersey. Madonna and Tears went to North Carolina. While it was heartbreaking to leave the other animals behind, Rescuers found solace in knowing that these seven, including Mickey, were on their way to a better life.

In the early morning hours the next day Mickey arrived at Big Cat Rescue. Staff, volunteers, and interns eagerly awaited his arrival and helped unload him into the on site Cat Hospital.

It was evident that Mickey required medical attention and an appointment was made for him to be taken to Ehrlich Animal

Hospital later that same morning to see volunteer veterinarian Dr. Wynn.

Both of his rear legs were deformed and he had a great deal of trouble walking and balancing.

X-rays revealed that Mickey had suffered not one, but two torn ligaments in both rear knees. When the cranial cruciate ligament is torn, instability occurs that allows the bones to move in an abnormal fashion in relation to each other. It is

difficult to bear weight on the leg without it collapsing. This condition is painful and, if untreated, can lead to permanent joint complications. In Mickey's case it has been left this way for so long that he now has severe arthritis in both knees. In addition two rotten teeth were discovered. They had abscessed in his gums are were infected. Dr. Wynn removed the teeth and gave him a long acting antibiotic injection.

Mickey's x-rays have been submitted to local surgical specialists to determine what if anything can be done to repair or at least stabilize his joints. Meanwhile his pain is being managed through medication.



Surprisingly Mickey is in very good spirits. He comes out of his cozy den for food treats, has picked out a few volunteers and interns as his favorite people, and is even quite playful.

We hope that there will be a surgical option that will allow Mickey to live a long and healthy life free from pain and immobility. For now we are making him as comfortable as possible and providing him with the best care and love imaginable. This is all thanks to you, our generous supporters!



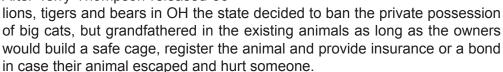
Opposite page: Jamie Veronica checks out Osha & Patty's cage, Tara tiger in makeshift caging, Tara tiger, Regina Rinaldi with Mickey. Above: Dr. Boorstein examins patty, Mickey's knees buckling, Mickey playing with his new toy

## SERVAL SURRENDERED TO AUTHORITIES IN OH

In 2003 an 8 week old serval kitten was purchased by a woman in Ohio, who named her Sheena. (The breeder's website boasts that he is still selling serval kittens to pet owners in the U.S. for \$6,000 and abroad for \$9,000.)

Fast forward 11 years...

After Terry Thompson released 56



Sheena's owner was willing to register her, and apparently kept her in a dog run, but was unwilling to provide insurance. She decided instead to turn Sheena over to the state of OH.

To our knowledge she is the first exotic cat to be surrendered to the Ohio authorities. The ban became law in 2012 and the exotic pet exploiters

predicted that hundreds or thousands of big cats would be dumped on the state, but that hasn't happened.

E HILLEN

People who really love their animals will do the minimal things asked of them by law to keep them. Sheena wasn't that lucky...

Or maybe she was even luckier because when the state of OH called and asked if we would provide a permanent home for her we knew that YOU would help us do that. Please let Sheena know that she is loved and welcome at Big Cat Rescue by donating to her care.



Photos from top: Sheena in a shipping crate at the air port, Sheena at Big Cat Rescue

#### **GOT ROKU?**

If you do, then you have more than 600 episodes of Big Cat TV waiting for you for FREE in the Channel Store! Channel includes our best videos from each year going back to 2007. Big Cat Vets, Cat Chat Show,



and Big Cat Rescuers, our weekly big cat reality show. We will only be in the NEW section of the Channel Store for the next month, so please take a minute to use your Roku box to go to the Channel Store, pick New, then pick Big Cat TV. Otherwise find our channel by entering Big Cat Rescue TV in the search box. If you add our channel and give us a 5 star rating, it can help us reach people who might not have any idea that the tiger could disappear in their lifetime, if they don't join YOU and take action now.

#### REHABILITATING A WILD BOBCAT AFTER YEARS OF CAPTIVE LIFE

Ariel is a four year old native Florida bobcat. The dog of a couple in Ocala found her and carried her inside when she was a tiny kitten.

She was raised as a pet, although she never quite acted like one. Ariel would hiss and growl at her owners and run away and hide when strangers would stop by.

The couple decided to start a family and were worried that Ariel would pose a threat to their soon to be born child. So they asked if Big Cat Rescue would give Ariel a home.

After consulting with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission it was decided that an attempt would be made to re-wild Ariel with the hopes that she We will give her a little more time to adjust to living would be a candidate for release.

Ariel currently resides in our Bobcat Rehabilitation Enclosure and receives a whole prey diet daily. She is away from the tour path and only a select few rehabbers care for her to minimize her interaction with humans.

So far she seems fine with the arrangement. She does not appear to like humans that much, although, she is also not very fearful of them. She will come right up to her keepers each day and get her food instead of hiding in the brush and waiting until they leave.

The next step will be to test her hunting skills with live rats as prey. In Florida, squirrels, rabbits, rats, opossums, and small raccoons are the primary prey species.

without human contact and will evaluate her hunting skills closely over the next few months.

Ariel was born to live free and we want to give her every opportunity to do so. However, if she is unable to hunt, or does not learn to conceal herself from threats such as humans then we will happily provide her a permanent home here at the sanctuary.



#### **BIG CAT INTERNS "DIVE TO SAVE LIVES"!**

On Friday, August 22nd, five of the sanctuary's amazing interns bravely jumped from 15,000 feet, the successful culmination of their month-long "Dive to Save Lives" fundraising/public awareness campaign.

Lisa Horsborough, Lauren Buckingham, Joanna Atkin, Cody Tepas, Erin Stewart, and Ciara Reddie conducted "Dive to Save Lives" to raise both funds as well as

public awareness in support of construction of a new and muchneeded big cat hospital at the sanctuary. These inspiring animal advocates successfully raised in excess of \$7000, surpassing their original goal of \$5000!

Once the new Windsong Memorial Hospital has been completed, we will be able to perform X-ray and ultrasound imaging on both our smallest as well as largest



cats, including lions and tigers. Being able to perform such diagnostic imaging at the sanctuary will avoid the need to transport our cats off site, sometimes for long distances, to provide such crucial health care for the cats.

ROARING Big Cat kudos to all of the sanctuary's supporters who kindly donated in support of the "Dive to Save Lives" fundraiser and to our wonderful friends at Skydive City in Zephyrhills, Florida for their generous support of the magnificent creatures that call Big Cat Rescue home.



Photos from top: Lisa Horsborough, Joanna Atkin, Erin Stewart, Lauren Buckingham, Ciara Reddie and Cody Tepas geared up to dive, Lisa Horsborough takes the big leap, Erin Stewart glides through the air



#### PAT GERARD, LARGO MAYOR AND PINELLAS COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATE VISITS BCR



Largo Mayor Pat Gerard, who is running for the Pinellas County Commission District 2 seat, took time out of her busy campaign schedule to visit Big Cat Rescue and learn about the issues surrounding captive ownership of big cats. One of the more notorious (in our opinion) private owners who carts tigers and other big cats out for display where they sit in tiny cages for hours so people can gawk is in

Pinellas County. He houses a large number of exotic animals jammed onto a few acres on the same street as a school.

Pat is pictured here with husband Eric and Bengali, the old former circus tiger who for the last 13 years has so enthusiastically chuffed his greeting at visitors. After her visit Pat sent the following note: "There's so much local government can do to ensure these beautiful creatures are treated well and to encourage the work of sanctuaries like Big Cat Rescue. I'm so thankful to their staff for educating us and for all the work they do."

Having legislators who understand the misery caused by private ownership of big cats and committed to solving the problem really is the only solution. We really appreciate Mayor Gerard taking time out to learn about the cats and for her encouraging and kind note of support.

#### C1 BANK ASSISTANT MANAGERS TRAIN AT BCR

C1 Bank conducts training and team building meetings for their staff at Big Cat Rescue. Recently their Assistant Managers gathered at our meeting house for a day of education and fun. After the work was over they continued their education by learning about the plight of big cats in captivity. C1 has been a wonderful supporter of the sanctuary

the bank since was founded. The bank recently went public under the symbol BNK. Here the staff poses in front of Andre the tiger.



## GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS











Little Cats Photo 15 oz Mug \$15.84



Tigers Photo 15 oz Mug \$15.84



BCR Travel Mug 18.oz \$15.84

Lion Neck Pillow

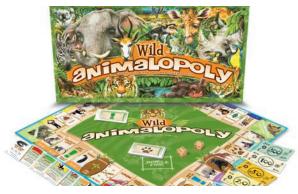
\$13.70



BCR Tumbler 16.oz \$17.05



Longsleeve Tee with Tiger Stripes on Chest & Sleeves & Big Cat Rescue on Back S, M, L, & XL \$29.75 XXL \$31.89



Animal-opoly Themed Monopoly Game \$28.54



Photo Collage Mouse Pad \$15.84



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





BCR Cameron Lion Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54

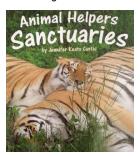


Crazy Cat Lady Board Game \$26.54

Trooper

Tiger 10'

\$15.48



Animal Helpers Sanctuaries photo book includes BCR, 32 pages, age 8+ \$12.17

Crazy Cat Lady Toy

5.25" comes with 6

cats \$11.63



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



Embroidered Cap with Gold

BCR Supporter Bracelet Black with White Logo & Lettering \$3.68



Fidel Cap Embroidered with **BCR & Running Cat** 

Black or Khaki \$20.12



Black with Snow Leopard S. M, L, XL \$22.26



Rhinestone Fitted Tee in Black Choose Tiger, Snow Leopard or Leopard S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54** 



Big Cat Rescue Tiger Kids Tee Available in Orange or Green XS, S, M & L \$15.91



Medium Socks Women 6-11 & Men 5-10 \$9.49 ea. Choose White Lion w/BCR Logo, Black Tiger w/ BCR Logo, Lion March, or Shorty Tiger



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

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



Side Print Big Cat RescueTee Navy with Orange Lettering S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54** 



Panthera Tigris Women's V-neck Loose Feminine Cut Tee, Purple S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54** 

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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, 82 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 67 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 four furry friends who have touched our hearts forever.

#### KIMBA



1991 - 2014

Kimba was rescued from a pseudo sanctuary in New York. Real sanctuaries do not buy, breed, or sell exotic animals. The facility where she came from did not meet these standards. Kimba was 20 years old and had spent her entire life in a tiny cage the size of a bedroom with gravel flooring. Until she had come to Big Cat Rescue she never felt soft grass between her toes or had lounged in a cool swimming pool. Sadly she had suffered greatly living in filthy conditions in NY and as a result was dying of kidney disease at the time of her rescue. At least she got to spend her last days in a peaceful and comfortable setting.

#### **AMAZING GRACE**



1992 - 2014

Amazing Grace was a roaring example of a temperamental ocelot. She growled both when she was happy and when she was mad making it difficult to determine what type of mood she was in. Rescued from a breeding facility that housed her in poor conditions, Grace's ears were tattered from fights with neighboring animals. When Grace arrived at Big Cat Rescue she was given her own space to roam freely without the threat of other animals tormenting her. Grace was boisterous and full of energy. She required lots of enrichment to keep her entertained on a daily basis. Sadly at the age of 22 several medical conditions overcame our fierce spotted friend. Kidney and liver failure took her life.

#### **THING**



2000 - 2014

Thing the binturong was a favorite of many of the staff, volunteers, interns, and guests. His odd shape and strange movements were mesmerizing. He was quite aloof and spent most of his time lounging in the tree tops or in his shady den. For a long while he was one of the animals guests could observe being fed on our Feeding Tour. Tragically Thing passed away one evening without warning. A necropsy determined the cause of his death was a combination of kidney disease and pancreatitis.

#### TRICK E.



2001 - 2014

Trick E is one of the only Amur Leopard Cats born in this hemisphere since the year 2000 according to ISIS. These cats have been recommended for phase out by the Felid TAG to make room for "more important cats". There were only 11 left on this side back in 2001. Trick E. was named for the trick he played on the keepers. When he was born, it was believed he was actually a she and so was named Miss. E. That all changed once he was physically examined and it was discover that "she" was a "he". This earned him the name Trick E. Much to our dismay he became very ill one evening and despite our best efforts to save him he passed away. Trick E had a severe case of

liver disease affecting his bile ducts. His liver was so abnormal, the pathologist had a hard time finding normal areas. He asked for a second opinion because it was the worst case he had seen. Cats get a liver disease caused cholangiohepatits. This can be very serious and deadly. It was further complicated by hepatic lipidosis. We did everything we could for him however the disease was too severe.

#### LEOPARD ISLAND

As you have seen in past issues of the Big Cat Times as well as on our website and facebook page, the leopards have been having a blast taking turns in the Vacation

However, transporting the leopards to the

Rotation Enclosure.

Vacation Rotation Enclosure has not been easy. Keepers have to lure the cats into transport crates and them drive them on carts to the other side of the property



where the Vacation Rotation Enclosure is located.

Leopards are very smart and do not always fall for our tricks to get them loaded into a transport crate. So in order to make it easier on everyone involved, i.e. the keepers and the leopards, plans for Leopard Island were created.

Basically all of the leopards will be moved to one section of enclosures near the Vacation Rotation Enclosure. Then each separate leopard enclosure will be connected to the Vacation Rotation Enclosure with a corridor. This way when it is one of the leopard's turn to go on vacation we can simply open a guillotine door to give the leopard access to the corridor. Then the leopard can make its way to the Vacation Rotation Enclosure at his or her own pace.

#### THANKS TO OUR LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Supporters who make a provision for the cats in their estate planning become members of our Legacy Society. The donations that result have played, and will in the future play, a huge role in making sure we can meet our commitment to care for the cats to the end of their lives as we have promised. In some cases supporters who are not financially able to make significant donations while they are alive have had a very significant impact by choosing the cats as beneficiaries of their estates.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the generous supporters below for including the cats as part of their life's legacy.

Anonymous (9) Jean & Peter Albini Bob Anderson Candace Barbara Carole Baskin Howard Baskin Michelle Black Ebe Bower Marie Collart Bonnie-Jean Creais Joan & Richard Czeck Mary Ann D'Agostino Thomas Daly (D) Lynne Daub Amy Davis Beverly Diehl Dorothy I. Edwards (D) Fran Ezer Lona Feingersh (D)

Ira Fischer Patricia Francis Hester Fuller "Hunter" Peter W. Jasin (D) Mary Margaret Kalal (D) Carol Klingler & Bill Loggins William Kuni "Tiger Claw" LaFever Imara Wisdom Light John E. Lovell David H. Lytle Jean Matusinka (D) Martha June Melville (D) Terri Mimbs Marcella Mirande-Ketcham Cecilia Nelson Terry Nordblom (D)

David G. Nugent Pat O'Shea Dennis Polivka (D) Karen & Jay Quinn Marjorie Rhodes (D) Denise Richman (D) Nancy Rodgers Pamela Rodriguez Steven Salomons Carol Sandstrom Robert Shepard Alexia Sherman Veronika Silvani Martha J. Simms (D) Andy Sirna JR Smalarz Diane Smith Morgan Jane Smith

Arlene Spencer Faynetta Jean Thompson (D) Starla Trivilino Monnie Turley (D) Ken Turnbull Robin Tyler John A. Varnado Lynne & Todd Waymon Patricia Webber (D) Karen Wells Ron & Joy Wentworth Carol Wettersten Susan Wilcox Odette Wilkins Brandy Williams Robert C. Williams (D) Marv Yang

(D) represents deceased. This list is maintained manually and errors can occur. If you are not listed or listed incorrectly, we ask you forgiveness and request that you email Finance@BigCatRescue.org so we can make the correction.



### **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



\$2,500

INDIA-TIGER



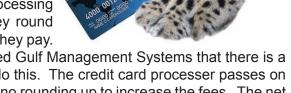
cat photo and donor name displayed on the tour path for one year, Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.



## CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SAVINGS LOWER OUR COSTS

By Howard Baskin, CFO

For years we paid a credit card processing company on a "tiered" basis where they round up the dozens of different levels of fees they pay.



Recently I learned from a company called Gulf Management Systems that there is a much fairer and less expensive way to do this. The credit card processer passes on their cost with a small fixed added profit, no rounding up to increase the fees. The net for us has been a savings of thousands of dollars a year in fees.

We have used Gulf for years to do "direct debit" when supporters become Sustaining Donors and sign up to donate monthly from their checking accounts. We have also used them for direct deposit of our payroll checks. The customer service has been fantastic.

As our contract with our credit card processor came up for renewal, I asked Gulf to review it. When they showed me how much we had been overcharged on credit card fees because of the rounding up tiered system the banks and big merchant service companies typically use, all I could think of was how much better use we could have made of that money.

If you operate a business that takes credit cards or does direct deposit and would like to get a no cost or obligation cost comparison, contact Matt Witte at (727) 669-7644. You can save money, and help the cats because (full disclosure here!) if you mention Big Cat Rescue we get a donation from them!

#### SAND CAT CASTLES



getaway. He checked out every square inch of sand, ate his special birthday meat cake, and then lounged in his castle. Genie is very shy and was reluctant to check out her new pads while in the presence of spectators. So we set up a camera trap to get some video and photos of her.

A huge thank you to everyone that worked so hard providing this enriching treat to Canyon and Genie!

Sibling sand cats Canyon and Genie turned 14 years old this year. To celebrate their birthday volunteers and interns gave these two adorable kitties what any sand cat would want...sand!

Canyon and Genie's enclosures were weeded, raked, and then filled with sugary white sand. For an extra treat a sand castle fit for a sand cat was constructed as the center piece!

Canyon was excited to explore his beach





#### BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS

April 1st - June 30th \$300,000 The Estate of Martha June Melville \$100.500 Sarah & Bruce McWilliams \$85,000 James Annenberg La Vea \$25,000 Reitzel Foundation \$10,000 Lawrence & Pamela Trissel \$5,000 Elfriede MacLean \$5,000 Mary MacLean \$5,000 Donald MacLean \$5,000 Steven Pereira \$5,000 Zach & Natalie Zgabay \$5,000 C1 Bank \$4,000 Greg & Sue Taylor \$3,000 SB3 Foundation \$2,500 Sheila Beck \$2,500 Caracal Energy Inc. \$2,500 Jefferson Bank \$2,500 Saint Pete MRI \$2,200 Kathleen Sullivan \$2,050 Sole Riley Marittimi \$2,000 Lynn Russell \$2,000 National Animal Supplement Council \$1,581 Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill \$1,200 Carl & Betty Schino \$1,000 Maria E. Birch \$1,000 Betsy Coville \$1,000 Stevie Griffin & Catherine Dozier \$1.000 Vanessa Fernandez-Thomas \$1,000 David Gill & Vicki Giordano \$1,000 J. Monte & Virginia Jones \$1,000 Rolf & Florence Kayser \$1,000 Georgia Kropf \$1,000 Heidi Lepak \$1,000 Kim Mahoney \$1,000 Carol Moore \$1,000 Lisa R. Mustapich \$1,000 Christine Newsom \$1,000 Jerry Palin & Sheila Siderman \$1,000 Kim & Bryan Stuchell \$1,000 Caroline Thrasher \$1,000 Barbara Thropp \$1,000 Elizabeth Watts & Jill Stevens \$1.000 Mary Yang \$1,000 Aladdin Oil & Gas Ltd \$925 April & Keith Montgomery \$925 Joe Sokolosky \$919 Tigers in America \$900 Suzanne & Alan Lucas \$750 Lynette Holsinger \$750 Sharon M. Panasuk \$600 Steven Carter \$600 Nancy & Larry Master \$600 Pamela Olson Koonts \$550 Ann E. Pattin \$525 Denis & Christine Edwards

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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

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\$100 Jacobsen

Manufacturing Inc.

\$100 KKR - MP

Charitable Gift Fund

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#### Chelsea.Feenv@BigCatRescue.org

so we can investigate and correct our records if there is an omission.

\$125 Donna Slocumb

\$125 Jane M. Steinlen

\$125 Christine White

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& John Davies

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#### 22 YEAR OLD LEOPARD **UNDERGOES DELICATE SURGERY**

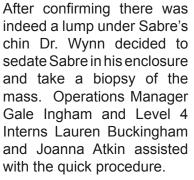


Our volunteer and in the they

Intern Cody Tepas was recently cleaning Sabre's enclosure when he noticed something concerning.

Sabre, who is a black leopard, was rolling around on the ground being silly when Cody spotted a golf ball sized lump under his chin. He reported the lump on the observation chart which is checked daily by staff and veterinarians.

intern keepers are very observant of the cat's health and behavior on a daily basis. They check on the cats when they clean their enclosures morning, when give them enrichment in the afternoon and again when they feed them at night.



Lab results confirmed that the mass was a low grade

fibrosarcoma. Fibrosarcoma is the most common malignant soft tissue cancer in the cat. The tumors vary in growth rate. They often recur locally although spreading to other parts of the body (metastasis) is rare. The best treatment for this type of mass is complete removal.

> 22 years old surgery was a potential risk, but in this case it was our only option. Because the mass was located under the chin. if it were left to grow larger it could have impeded Sabre's ability to swallow.



Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein worked together as a team with the help of Gale, Lauren, Joanna, and Jamie to perform the surgery. The location of the mass required delicate surgical precision due the proximity to the esophagus, trachea, and arteries.

Thankfully the surgery was a success. The entire tumor was removed and Sabre made a speedy recovery without any complications.

Because this type of cancer has the propensity to grow back we will continue monitor Sabre closely. While at 22 Sabre has already lived a full and

healthy life well past the typical lifespan of captive leopards, we are happy that he has been given a little more time to enjoy his large natural enclosure and jungle gym.



#### KIDS FOR CATS!

11 year old Anya Broyles visited Big Cat Rescue in July and donated \$217 towards the cats that she had raised at her school, Emerson Charter, in Dayton, OH. Thanks to Anya and all of the cat lovers in Dayton!!





Longtime BCR supporters Cool Cats of IDS at Corbett Prep came for tour this spring brought and a donation of

\$1,500!! Way to go, everyone! Thanks for all your hard work fundraising for the cats.

Big Cat Rescue summer camp 2014 was another big success! 98 campers enjoyed visiting with the cats, throwing water balloons at each other, speaking with our vet and practicing with the blow darts, making big enrichment, playing with domestic kittens, learning about tracking big cats in the wild, painting cat hieroglyphs, and many other fun activities! If you missed it this year, registration will begin for next summer on February 2015. Watch our website for the announcement.

#### **BIG CAT ACTION CENTER**

The most effective way to save big cats from abuse and abandonment is not by rescuing them and providing sanctuary...The most effective way to ensure that these cats are no longer exploited, neglected, or left homeless once their appeal or profitability wears off is to speak out for them. By using our voice for those who have none, we can promote legislation that will protect big cats currently suffering all across the country. Big Cat Rescue has made it easier than ever to speak out to your legislators to let them know that you support laws that will protect the big cats. With just a few mouse clicks you can make the biggest difference in their lives.

#### CatLaws.com

#### IMPORTANT FOR CAPITAL ONE **BCR CARD HOLDERS**



Privacy laws prevent Capital One from telling us what supporters have the BCR credit card. If you have a card, we would appreciate your emailing Finance@BigCatRescue.org to let us know so we can keep you informed on some changes that we cannot announce yet. Thanks so much for supporting the cats with your card purchases!



#### **FEATURED GIFT ITEM**

**ORDER DATE:** 

Description

#### THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Fall 2014

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Price Each

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#### **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

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

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#### **TOUR TIMES & PROGRAMS**

Tickets available online at: http://www.zerve.com/bigcatrescue or by calling: (800) 979-3370

Closed Thursdays, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

#### **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 the 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

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

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

# 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.

We are happy to celebrate Chris Hagen Keeper/Intern for always having a great attitude and being willing to help out with any project big or small. Level 4 Intern Lauren Buckingham was rewarded for her outstanding work promoting legislation to protect the big cats. We are so proud of Interns Lisa Horsborough, Lauren Buckingham, Joanna Atkin, Cody Tepas, and Ciara Reddie for their fundraising campaign Dive to Save Lives that raised more than \$7,000 for a new on site cat hospital. Lisa Alstein was rewarded for her bubbly personality and for helping to manage and display merchandise in the gift shop. Big Cat Rescue is so lucky to have outstanding volunteers and interns who give not only their time to help the big cats, but also go above and beyond the call of duty!

Do you want to help the big cats and

make new friends? 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!



Lauren Buckingham

June





Lisa Alstein

www.BigCatRescue.org/volunteer

# \$1000 Christophan

## COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) DONATES OVER \$100,000!

Each autumn generous federal government employees, including the armed forces, have an opportunity to make a pledge to have a portion of each paycheck donated to their chosen charities. These donations come to us from federal employees all over the world. About 80% of the CFC donors do so anonymously, which means we do not get their names to thank them individually. In some cases we get their names but not the amount of the pledge. The cats at Big Cat Rescue have been blessed to have been selected by so many of them that collectively the donations we receive through the CFC total over

\$100,000 each year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank those listed below whose names we do have, listing them by pledge amount where we have it. At the same time we would like to thank the estimated 1,500 others who have donated anonymously. Your contributions cover a significant portion of our annual budget and truly make a difference in allowing us to give the best possible care to the cats.

#### THANK YOU ALL!

Shelia Constantinfau



**\$1000+**Holly Silkman
Debra Bailey
Charles Graham

\$500-999
Sandra Shull
Abel Aguirre
David Ellis
Mark Higginbottom
Ashlee Yehle
Joelle Starefos
Edward Gow
Lauren Weigand

#### \$250-499

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C Wild

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Sean Alexander Tyrka
Kristen Albright
Blake Marcus Wanier
Theodore Picou
Everardo Alanis
Andrew Pont
Beth Simon
Lissa A Schultz

Joan Funk Theresa Ogden Scott C Endicott Arianda Sugar Rivad Nunn Thomas Thomas Celeste Plaisance Angela Micheli Charles Speth Umesh Rajagopal Catherine E Parker Bruce Lady Jason Smith Edgar Poe Cheryl Milliner Lieneke Cecile Massey Mary L Arndt Kathervn Hoke Ryan A Werner Mary Given Cynthia L Galliher Ruth Surface Cheryl Mcdonald John Wilcox Kathryn Boucher Rosemary Mills Bill Sauls Chelsea Shafer Kathryn Boucher Nicholaus Grassl Michael Mcelrov Howard Kalick Don Scott Lucero Rolla Suttmiller Russell Ricks Louis Bartalot Jeff Carlile Joseph Lombardo Jennifer Leon Dena Ponticello

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Margaret Baldwin Sandra Carlson Jeffrey A Vandorp Patty White Gregory Swensrud Karrie Maeda John Bohan Stacy N Fields Susan Jaworski Jill Murphy Kody Sessions Joe Benavides Adaire Mcleod Kristen Pacheco Matthew Gregory Richelle Ellen Gonzalez Derrick Thorson Antonio Figueroa-Morfin Bonnie Simmons John Shelton Kerry Karwan Ladarious Thomas Jeffrey Felty Mark I Lathinghouse Debra L Taylor Fred Nichols Charles A Haky Laura Gamble Susan Digiacomo Tyler A Greatorex Jeffrey Swank Elis Pujols Chris Lapp Emma James Susan Mckirdle Timothy B Everly

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Miranda Melton

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Kathleen Maupin
Richard Leclear
Racquel Mong Sanders
Kimberly Gates
Karen J. Ackerman
Wade A Rutledge
Jessica L Salyers
OTHER
Waneta Achas
Rebecca Aikin

Amber Alberts Nicole Alexander Karen Alfonso Bianca Alonzo B R Anderson Nadine R Anderson Shirley Avin Peggy M Bailey Evelvn Bailev Nicole M Barton Christine Bauer Ronald N Baumer Jessica Bezzi Mary J Blythe Elizabeth V Bouras Kenneth Bowling Michael Brockett Sean Bromeley Denise Brown Russell Buckholz Rebecca D Burkhart Robin Burngasser Marisa Capriotti Carol Channel Gayle Channell Nathanial Childress Cynthia Clark Jennifer Clavell Nalini Close Stephanie Colby

Carlos Contres Virginia Coons Marjorie Wesley Copeland Sherri Creasor Mary Cronin Julie C. Danielson George Daw Mary Desantis Terri Diehl Laura Diprizio Judy Dobler Natalie Downing Gregory T Drake Matthew Eaton Darryl Eddings Sandra Ehni Patricia Ercole Stephen Evans Jack Faircloth Steven Farbman Cynthia Ferre Thomas Ferro Roy F Filippucci Jerry Fitzsimmons Joseph Flanigan Barbara A Flaxington Cynthia Florence Jessica Fonseca Kate S Fortkamp Jennifer Fredericks Kristin Gallagher Daniel Gamboa Kevin Gantt Doreen Gardner Giuseppe Gelardi Fred Goetze Christpher J Good Gary Gormin Jessie Gourley

Mark Greene Jennifer Griffith Kristen Grijalva Patricia Gumz William Haines Nancy Hamilton Dan Harper Judy M Hempel Jacqueline Herbert Scott Hill Richard G Himebrook Scott Hoffman Allison Hollinger Taylor Honkala M Hughes Tobias Jaeger Dennis Johnson Barbara Johnston Jacklyn Jonas Bambi R Kehler Jenice Keisling Gretchen Kershaw Fariborz Khadem Dmitriy Khasik Marco Kilongkilong Lynne P Korelitz Kyle Kowakhuk Alec Krantz Susan Kreidler Kaleigh Kunde James F Lawrence Elizabeth Lee Ricardo Leon Luann Leonardi Kenda Letourneau Miriam Levin Stephen R Levy Susan Lewis April P Lockwitch Lisa Lockwood Jakob Lord

Paul J Mccann Alexander Mcconnaughy Amanda Mcdowell Crystal K Mcgaha Catherine Mcgarry Shawn Mckibbin Cheri Medrano Laura Melton Jan Mever Lawrence Miller Bindy Montova Jassie Morales-Centeno Ashly Morales-Centeno Jassie M. Morales-Centeno Kristyn Myers Elizabeth Nealin Alina Ness Abbie Nestler Kelly Norwood Carliene O'Connor Adam C Parker Carolyn Paurowski Joseph Peola Joseph Petruzzo Michelle Poskus Marc A Pumala Keshonda Raines Emily Rasmussen Brian Reed Heather A Retz. Gerardo Reves Nathalie Rice Conner Rickabaugh John Ring Barbara Robbins

Shauna Roberts

Courtney Robinson

Sara Robinson

Cathleen T Rodriques

Aimee Makovec

Carmine Marinilli

Jeanne Ruski Bonnie Ruzicka Kelly Sanborn Lisa Sato Autumn Sawver Anna Schmidt David W Self Michael Shav Mary Shyshka Ian O Sikonia Brandy N Skiffington Norma Smihal Michael Staver Odilie Stenard Cody Stephens Jeanne Stephens Marjorie Stogner November Stonely Sarah Thomas Anne M Tipton Coral Torres Amy L Turner Angel L Urbina Jeshua Vangarde Rvan Wallace Mary Wargo Jo Weddendort Andre White Sarah Whitson Julie Wilkinson Alisha Williams Nancy Williams Gareth Williams Claudia Wondra Alana Yick Joan Zaleski Regina Zayda John Zmich THANK YOU!

Danielle Romanosky

Deborah L Ruggles

#### HOW BIG AN XRAY MACHINE AND ULTRASOUND SYSTEM DOES IT TAKE TO XRAY A 700 POUND TIGER?



A really, really big, powerful and expensive one is the answer.

For 20 years we have had on our "wish list" to have a machine that would allow us to X-ray the largest cats without having to take them off site, in some cases all the way to Gainesville, more than 2 hours away. This is even more of an issue as the cats age and we are faced with the tough

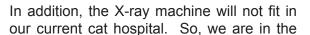
decision to put them through the stress of such a trip. For instance, Nikita, the 19 year old Siberian tiger, has been wheezing when he gets excited at dinner time. An X-ray would enormously help us diagnose the cause with certainty and determine how to treat him. But this elderly cat is not a good candidate for a

long trip.

Now, thanks to the incredible generosity of Sarah and Bruce McWilliams, we no longer have to agonize over the decision about the stress and risk of such a trip. When they heard about our long time need for the X-ray machine, they became our Big Cat genies who made our wish come true. Their donation of \$87,000 will cover the machine and a portion of the work needed to house the machine.



Speaking of which, in the "nothing is ever easy" category, the machine runs on "3 phase power" which is very expensive to bring to the sanctuary because we are at the end of a long dirt road (Easy Street) which puts us far from the nearest point where this kind of power exists. We are currently working with Tampa Electric on a plan and cost, and with a neighbor who is building a commercial building along Easy Street to split the cost. Preliminary plans indicate that it will still cost tens of thousands of dollars to provide this needed power supply.





process of obtaining a permit to erect a new cat hospital that will be a modular building tall enough to accommodate the X-ray machine. The building will be named the Windsong Memorial Hospital in honor of the first cat we rescued, Windsong, who passed away in 2010 at 18 years old.



But wait, there is other exciting news on the Big Cat medical equipment front. Some months ago we were honored to have as visitors Sandy Lerner and the Board members of the Leonard Bosack and Bette Kruger Charitable Foundation. Ms. Lerner just happened to have an ultrasound machine that had originally been purchased to use with cows,



but was no longer needed. She asked if we might have a need for it. Well, we didn't have to think long to answer that

> with the X-ray machine, will provide us with the diagnostic capabilities that we had only dreamed of until now.

> one. The ultrasound system, combined

The ultrasound will be installed in the new hospital building with the X-ray machine and we will be able to surgeries in the building as well. The photo shown at far left is the design, but the building



is much larger. It will be 16 feet wide, 40 feet long, and 19 feet high. The estimated cost excluding bringing the electric to the building is \$50,000.

If you would like to donate toward building the new cat hospital to help accelerate our ability to utilize the new X-ray machine and ultrasound,

please visit



#### http://www.razoo.com/story/NewHospital

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a permanent sign at the new

hospital.



Many thanks to Sarah and Bruce McWilliams and Sandy Lerner for these generous donations that will



significantly enhance our ability to give the best care to our big cats!



Photos clockwise from top left; Dr. Hay removes a mass from Modnic the tiger, Dr. Wynn examines x-rays of a serval, Dr. Boorstein uses ultrasound to look at Amazing Grace's liver, Dr. Wynn performs surgery on Lovey the bobcat, Dr. Wynn, Dr. Boorstein, and Dr. Peak prepare for a root canal on Andre the tiger, Dr. Wynn xrays Simba the leopard, Dr. Boorstein and Dr. Wynn ultrasound Skipper the Canada Lynx, the style building the new Windsong Memorial Cat Hospital will be, xray equipment.