



Select Big Cat Rescue as your designated charity at:
<http://smile.amazon.com/>
 For every purchase you make using this portal a donation will be made to the big cats. It's a free and easy way to give without any extra cost!



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

KALI TIGER FINDS PURR-MANENT HOME



AT BIG CAT RESCUE



BARREN CAGE IN GA



LAVISH JUNGLE AT BCR

MEET KALI THE TIGER, BIG CAT RESCUE'S NEWEST ARRIVAL

Kali (pronounced Kah-lee') the tiger was born in a travel trailer in the year 2000 the day after her mother and a transport full of tigers, leopards, cougars, bears and wolves were dropped off at the Augusta Conservation Education in GA. The founder of the organization rescued over 300 animals in the 20 years that he ran the facility, but by 2014 he could no longer afford it and began looking for new homes for his animals. The International Fund for Animal Welfare asked if we could take Kali, the last cat remaining at the facility and we agreed.

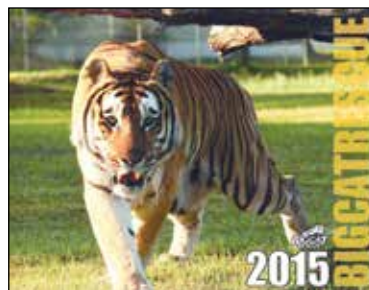
Kali was a big, fluffy, healthy tiger upon arrival and that almost never happens. Most of the residents of Big Cat Rescue were rescued from horrible conditions and are often in failing health upon their arrival. Kali's owner had always taken good care of her and when he knew that he could no longer give her what she needed, he moved heaven and earth to find a safe place for her to call home.



*Gale Ingham, Becky Gagliardo, & Dr. Justin Boorstein unloading Kali
 Cover photo by Carole Baskin*

BCR GIFT ITEMS

Proceeds from the sale of Big Cat Rescue gift items in this issue help take care of the big cats. Order on page 10 or visit **BigCatRescue.biz** to see hundreds of our gift items!. Use coupon code: **BCTWINTR14** in our online gift shop to receive 10% off your entire order! Offer expires November 15, 2014. Tax, S & H within the US have been included in prices listed throughout this issue. Scan QR Codes with your smart phone to get more info.



**2015 Big Cat Rescue Calendar
 Order Today! \$18.05**

GO PAPERLESS

Save trees and the big cats money. Receive The Big Cat Times via email sign up at: <http://tinyurl.com/m2mgylg>

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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 12802 Easy Street
 Tampa, FL 33625

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Big Cat Rescue will be her forever home. Great care is taken to operate in a responsible manner that ensures all of our cats will have a permanent home regardless of changes in the economy or even the leadership of the sanctuary. This has been accomplished by creating detailed strategic plans, setting aside money for reserves and extensive training for all of our staff and volunteers. People like you, who

learn about the plight of these cats, and who donate to help, are the way we can continue to help cats like Kali.

Above: Kali in the transport crate getting ready for the journey from Georgia to Florida. Right: Staff, volunteers and interns watch as Kali checks out her new enclosure complete with rock den and swimming pool.



LITTLE CAT VACATION ROTATION ENCLOSURE FULLY FUNDED

The Vacation Rotation Enclosure for our big cats has been a roaring success, with the cats clearly enjoying their vacations! Our annual appeal letter this year focused on raising \$50,000 to fund a vacation rotation enclosure for our little cats. We are so pleased to report that your kind donations, matched by the very generous \$25,000 Matching Grant from the Reitzel Foundation, have now fully funded this project. With our limited staff we constantly have to prioritize and there are a few critical things that must be done before this, along with some possible design elements that may be different from the large cat version, but we expect to complete this project in 2015 and will keep you posted.

Moses raising his paw to call dibs on the first vacation!



BCR HONORED AS 2014 TOP-RATED NONPROFIT

In recent months the animal exploiters began posting fake reviews on several websites to try and bring our ratings down. We then asked our supporters to post reviews about their own experiences at Big Cat Rescue. Thanks to the huge out pouring of support we won the prestigious 2014 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations. Way to go everyone!



The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the large number of positive reviews that Big Cat Rescue received – reviews written by volunteers, donors and clients. People posted their personal experience with BCR. For example, one person wrote, “Big Cat Rescue is the most wonderful place you can ever visit! I was there last year and GOSH, the animals and their enclosures are gorgeous! The tour guide was friendly and knew her stuff. The animals were playful and happy and anyone who says otherwise has not been there! I recommend BCR for anyone who loves, or even LIKES animals.”

While the Top-Rated Awards run through the end of October, Big Cat Rescue was one of the first groups to qualify for the 2014. In addition, we’ll be added to Great Nonprofits #GivingTuesday Guide—an interactive guide to top nonprofits throughout the years. Look for this near the holidays.

“Savvy donors want to see the impact of their donations more than ever,” said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits, “People with direct experience with Big Cat Rescue have voted that the organization is making a real difference.”



BIG CAT HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS



Snow Leopard Ornament handmade in Mongolia from sheep wool. Colors vary. **\$10.56**

Acrylic Snow Flake Ornament Choose Sand Cat, Tiger w/ Santa Hat,

Lion, Ocelot, Bobcat, Leopard, White Tiger, or Cougar **\$6.75**

Painted Metal Die-Cut Big Cat Collage Ornament **\$10.56**

BrushArt Cat Ornament made from natural materials.

Choose Siamese, B&W, Lion, Marmalade, or Tiger **\$10.56**

ORDER ON PAGE 10 OR ONLINE AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ



UPDATE ON MICKEY THE COUGAR

In the last issue of the Big Cat Times we brought you the rescue story of Mickey. Mickey is an 11-year-old male cougar. 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.

On the day of the rescue it was clear that Mickey was in urgent need of veterinary care. His knees collapsed outward with every step he took. His keepers informed us that he had been this way for over a year.

The day following Mickey's arrival at Big Cat Rescue he was taken to Ehrlich Animal Hospital to see volunteer veterinarian Dr. Wynn. X-rays confirmed suspicions that both of Mickey's rear knees suffered from torn ligaments. Mickey's case was referred to Dr. Hay, a board certified surgeon who specializes in knee repair.

Dr. Hay installed an artificial ligament in Mickey's left knee. This new ligament will help stabilize the joint making it

easier for Mickey to walk.

It has been nearly a month since Mickey's surgery and he is recovering well. Staff performs physical therapy sessions with him twice a day using food treats to encourage him to walk

slowly from one side of his enclosure to the other. These sessions are helping Mickey to re-learn how to walk using his new joint.



As long as Mickey continues to make progress during the next few months he will be scheduled to have the same procedure performed on his other knee.

It is thanks to the gracious supporters who love Big Cat Rescue that we are able to provide Mickey with these life changing surgeries. If you would like to make a donation towards the veterinary care of the big cats you can do so using the order form on page 10 or by visiting our online gift shop here;

**BigCatRescue.org/
donate**



From top; Mickey-collapsing knees, x-ray showing screws that hold ligament in place, Dr. Hay & team performing Mickey's knee surgery



BEASTLY FEAST

Feed the beastly appetite of our big cats by donating to have a whole turkey, chicken, or hen purchased and given to a lucky feline at Big Cat Rescue. Donate on page 10 or at BigCatRescue.biz.

\$15 buys a turkey for a lion or tiger, \$10 buys a chicken for a leopard or cougar, \$5 buys a hen for a lynx, bobcat, serval, ocelot, caracal, or Geoffroy cat. Sorry, you may not choose who receives the poultry prize, but rest assured, staff will select a very deserving wild cat to dine on your delicious donation.



Get a close look into our day to day operations, the conservation efforts we support, and the 100+ feline residents of Big Cat Rescue



Looking for a very unique gift for that person who has everything? Look no further. Big Cat Rescue's Roar Reserve Wines are sure to please. Six wines to choose from each featuring a BCR cat.

BenefitWines.com/bigcat

UPDATE ON ARIEL THE BOBCAT

Ariel is a 4-year-old female bobcat who was found in the wild as a kitten and raised as a pet for 4 years. The couple who had raised her wanted to start a family and could no longer care for her.

Big Cat Rescue took her in as part of our Bobcat Rehabilitation Program. Even though she was raised as a pet, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission asked us to attempt to rehabilitate her for release back into the wild.

Ariel has been at Big Cat Rescue for 2 months now. She is a skilled hunter who eats a diet of mainly whole prey. Despite being fed a consistent and nutritious diet every single day, Ariel has not gained any weight since her arrival. She



was quite thin to begin with and this became a concern to her keepers.

Ariel was sedated and examined by volunteer veterinarian Dr. Boorstein. Blood and fecal samples were collected, a physical exam performed and flea treatment applied. Ariel seemed to be in good health so the results from the lab would hopefully give some answers as to why she was so lean.

A few days later Ariel's fecal and blood work results reports were in. She has no infectious diseases or other abnormalities such as kidney or thyroid disease. She did however



test positive for internal parasites. A round of de-wormer medication was prescribed and another fecal test will be performed in a couple of weeks.

Meanwhile her diet will be supplemented with a commercially prepared ground diet that the permanent residents at the sanctuary are fed. This ground diet will add to the lean meats she is already consuming and will hopefully help her to gain some much needed weight.

Unfortunately Ariel remains unfearful of humans. She quickly runs out of hiding to approach keepers when they arrive to clean her water bowl or to feed her. The best they can do is ignore her. Ariel will continue to be rehabilitated for approximately 3 more months at which point a decision will have to be made regarding her candidacy for release.

PUZZLING SITUATION FOR BIG CATS

Big Cat Rescue has teamed up with University of Miami Department of Biology Doctoral Candidate Natalia Borrego to help with her research project testing the problem solving skills of big cats. Natalia has designed a special puzzle box and is putting lions, tigers, and leopards to the test. The box is approximately 2' x 3' made of hard plastic. The entire box has small holes cut in it so that a food reward can be placed inside the box and the cats can both see and smell the treat. The door to the box has a spring loaded latch with a cable and ball attached to it. In order to solve the puzzle and get the food treat the cat must pull on the cable or the ball to open the door. The cat has only 15 minutes to solve the puzzle and it doesn't end there. If the cat successfully solves the puzzle it must be tested 2 more times in the following weeks to determine if the cat remembers how to solve the puzzle.



This experiment has been great fun for several of the big cats. Alex the tiger was afraid

of the puzzle box the first time he encountered it, but the second time he got to try to solve the puzzle he was much more inquisitive. Zeus the tiger was very interested and sniffed and circled the box intensely for the entire 15 minutes, however he never quite figured it out. Jumanji the leopard circled the box over and over, pawed at the sides of the box, and even jumped on top of the box for a better angle. He did not solve the puzzle his first time, but we have



high hopes for him on his second try. Bengali the tiger was the winner! He solved the puzzle in just under 7 minutes. Now the real test will be if he remembers how to get the food treats inside the box on his next turn.

Sabre leopard checks out the puzzle box, Bengali tiger opened the door and got his food reward!

ROCK TO THE RESCUE GIVES \$10,000 GRANT



Big Cat Rescue was truly delighted to learn that the sanctuary has been selected as recipient of a \$10,000 Rock to the Rescue grant. Rock to the Rescue is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded by classic rock band Styx, whose mission is to build strong communities through the support of grassroots organizations across the country. Rock to the Rescue has a special interest in supporting sanctuaries that provide humane and non exploitative care to wildlife.

Ms. Hannah Shaw, Director of Rock to the Rescue notified Jeff Kremer, the sanctuary's Director of Donor Appreciation that Rock to the Rescue's band and board had voted to award Big Cat Rescue a \$10,000 gift to help fund construction of the sanctuary's new "Small Cat Vacation Rotation" habitat! "Rock to the Rescue is impressed with the sanctuary's education and advocacy efforts on behalf of wild cats, and could not be happier to support this important mission" said Ms. Shaw.



Styx's Rock to the Rescue has provided over \$2 million in support of grassroots animal organizations, music education programs, and disaster relief efforts. The nonprofit is an important component of the band's national tours, with fundraisers supporting the local community in every city the band performs.

For more information, visit: <http://rocktotherescue.net> and be sure to "Like" them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RockToTheRescue>

LEMONADE STAND RAISES BIG BUCKS FOR BIG CATS



Elle Williams, age 7 from Long Beach, CA, sent us this awesome photo from the lemonade stand she held at Easter to raise money for the cats! This year she sent us \$276 in donations. This is the second year Elle has had her Easter Big Cat fund raiser, and she hopes to do it again next year. Thanks so much, Elle! Keep up the good work!

GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS



Zipper Hoodie with Tiger Art on Front
Black S, M, L, & XL **\$42.52** XXL **\$45.73**



Keep Calm and Big Cat Rescue Green or Orange S, M, L, & XL **\$19.05** XXL **\$21.05**



Luminous Tiger, Fitted Cut
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Tiger Poop Brewed Daily at Big Cat Rescue
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Lion Outburst, Fitted Cut
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



BCR Travel Mug
18.oz **\$15.84**



Panthera Tigris V-neck
S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Side Print Big Cat Rescue
S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



BCR Est. '92 with Cameron Lion
S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Rhinstone Fitted Cut, Stretchy
Tiger, Snow Leopard or Leopard
S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Rhinstone Tank Snow
Leopard S, M, L, XL **\$22.26**



Tigers Photo 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



Embroidered Cadet Cap
Blue or Pink **\$20.18**



Embroidered Baseball Cap
Gold BCR Logo **\$22.40**



BCR Supporter Bracelet
\$3.68



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



Photo Collage Mouse Pad **\$15.84**



BCR Tumbler
16.oz **\$17.05**



Big Cats Photo 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



Crazy Cat Lady Board Game **\$26.54**



Crazy Cat Lady Toy 5.25"
comes with 6 cats **\$15.84**



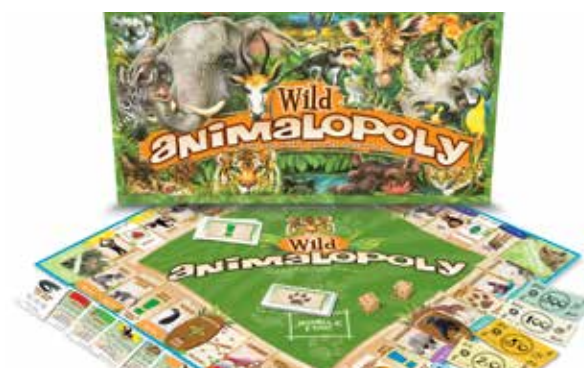
Neck Pillow **\$13.70**
Choose Tiger or Lion



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



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 made of recycled materials



Animal-opoly Themed Monopoly Game **\$28.54**



12" Dream Eyes Tiger **\$15.48** 9" Serval **\$19.05**
7" Lionel Lion **\$8.35** 14" Lioness & Cub **\$35.10**



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



BCR Ribbon
Magnet
Gold or Silver
\$8.35



Eco Bag with BCR Recycle
Logo 13" W x 10" D x 15" H
\$13.70

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SAD FAREWELL TO THE KING OF BIG CAT RESCUE

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 103 animals, 81 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 70 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 20 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts that we must say good bye to these two furry friends who have touched our hearts forever.

SHERE KHAN



1994 - 2014

Shere Khan's parents were bred with the hopes of producing a white tiger cub that would fetch a large sum of money. The breeder pre-sold Shere Khan, but when Shere Khan was born he was orange and considered worthless. Sadly due to the public's fascination with oddities many tiger cubs just like Shere Khan are discarded because of their color.

Though many people believe that the white tiger is an "endangered" species that should be bred to be saved, this is completely untrue. The white tiger results from a color mutation that happens infrequently in the wild and usually is not passed along. White animals in a forest environment would not live long due to their inability to hide and sneak up on prey. When you hear the phrase "survival of the fittest," remember that nature does not allow the genetically mutated white tiger to survive in the wild, therefore, should not be bred in captivity. In fact you may be surprised to know that every white tiger is the result of incessant inbreeding which results in a multitude of debilitating birth defects. The American Zoological Association (AZA) recognizes that these cats should not be bred and admonishes AZA accredited zoos not to breed any more of them.

Shere Khan was rescued and came to Big Cat Rescue when he was just 3 months old in 1995. He was terribly malnourished and suffered from weakened bones. He was immediately started on a regimen of vitamins and supplements and fed a healthy diet. One month after his rescue China Doll a 5 month old tigress was rescued from a family that could no longer care for their collection of big cats. Shere Khan and China Doll became fast friends and life long companions. (Shere Khan was neutered to prevent any cubs from being produced).

Shere Khan blossomed into a magnificent healthy tiger weighing in at 750 lbs in his prime. He and China Doll spent every day together in their 3-acre enclosure. Lounging on their jungle gyms, swimming in the lake, and chasing one another around their forest. The two became the king and queen of Big Cat Rescue, icons that will always be remembered as such.

Tragically China Doll suffered from a stroke at the age of 19 in April and due to her inability to recover was euthanized. Ever since the loss of his best friend Shere Khan's health began to decline. His mobility was ever decreasing. He no longer played or had the same zest for life, and eventually he refused to eat. Just a few months after the loss of our queen, we suffered the loss of our king. While those of us who are left behind are heart broken and will miss them both greatly we can take solace in knowing that Shere Khan and China Doll have been reunited in that great big forest in the sky where they will run free together forever.



Farewell Shere Khan - Your paw print is forever on our hearts.

CODY



1996 - 2014

Cody and his mate Missouri became unwanted dependants when their owners got divorced. They arrived at Big Cat Rescue in 2000 and their arrival was filmed for Jack Hanna's Wild Adventures. Cody was neutered and shared a spacious enclosure with Missouri for many years. Over time they grew apart and decided that they preferred their own space so they were separated but remained neighbors. Missouri passed away 2 years ago. Cody was a very handsome cougar and looked different from the other cougars at the sanctuary. He had a thick robust build, a long fluffy tail and a black nose. Cody was very shy and only had a select few keepers he was fond of. Sadly as Cody grew older his joints became terribly arthritic and he began to suffer from kidney disease. His illness eventually took over and the humane decision to help ease him into the afterlife was made.

FOREVER REMEMBERED

Permanently remember a beloved pet that has passed with an engraved granite plaque displayed on our memorial wall.

Engraving includes;
Pet name, year of birth and passing, photo of pet, & your name or personal inscription



8X8" ENGRAVED
GRANITE PLAQUE

[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/O8YYM7Y](http://tinyurl.com/o8YYM7Y)

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE BIG CATS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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.

\$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.

\$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.



Sponsorship levels recognized with signage are as follows:

\$500



\$1,000



\$2,500



\$5,000



\$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.

AUTOMATIC GIVING PLAN

Spread your giving throughout the year and provide steady support for the big cats by enrolling in our Automatic Giving Plan.

A monthly amount of your choosing (minimum \$10) can be automatically debited from your credit card, checking account, money market account or Paypal account.

To sign up visit our website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/l8bp8no>

You can change or cancel at any time.

SIGN UP FOR AMAZON SMILE

A wonderful way to support the cats at no cost to you is to go to your Amazon.com account and sign up for Amazon Smile to have .5% of your purchases donated to Big Cat Rescue.

Go to Smile.Amazon.com and select Big Cat Rescue as your charity. Once you sign up, you should go to Smile.Amazon.com to make your purchases instead of Amazon.com. You can download a shortcut to Smile.Amazon.com.

Smile.Amazon.com works the same as Amazon.com and has all the same products. The only difference is that it sends a half percent of your purchase to Big Cat Rescue. If our thousands of supporters all sign up, this will become a very significant source of funds to care for the cats, especially during the holiday shopping season!

PAVE THE WAY

Receive recognition for your support or honor or memorialize someone else with a custom engraved pathway brick. The bricks will make a lasting impression on visitors year round as they line the path entering and exiting the gift shop. Laser engraving changes the brick color to create the letters deep into the brick so they will never wear off or fade away. Great gift for any occasion!



DONATE A NEW OR USED ITEM ON OUR WISHLIST

Do you want to provide Big Cat Rescue with much needed supplies instead of a cash donation? We have tons of items that we need and use every day listed on the Wish List page of our website. Check it out at:

<http://tinyurl.com/n42yjmh>



PROJECT CATER-WALL

Big Cat Rescue needs a perimeter wall to surround the sanctuary and protect the cats. The total perimeter is 7,200 feet. We have completed 2/3 of the project, but need your help to finish 2,300 feet. You can help by sponsoring one linear foot of construction. The cost per linear foot is \$100. In honor of your gift you will receive a Big Cat Screensaver, 2-for-1 Tour Pass, and name recognition on sign.

<http://tinyurl.com/o5nlgr>



BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS

Donations received July 1st - September 30th

\$249,713 Estate of
Lona Feingersh
\$10,000 Rock to the Rescue
\$5,000 Lawrence
& Pamela Trissel
\$5,000 Ferguson
Foundation
\$5,000 Floyd C. Johnson
& Flo Singer Johnson
Foundation
\$5,000 Thomas M. Neal
Foundation Trust
\$2,500 Diane
& Robert Klingel
\$2,500 Houghton Mifflin
Matching Gift
\$2,000 Maria E. Birch
\$2,000 Linda LaMaire
\$2,000 Saint Pete MRI
\$1,950 Sole Riley Marittimi
\$1,849 Whiskey Joe's
Bar & Grill
\$1,800 The Manny & Ruthy
Cohen Foundation
\$1,500 Greg DiCostanzo
& Gillian McPhee
\$1,200 Bradley Meltzer
\$1,149 Body Shop
\$1,100 Patricia &
Lon Wojtowicz
\$1,000 S. B.
Downey-Turpin
\$1,000 Janice Elliott
\$1,000 Vanessa
Fernandez-Thomas
\$1,000 Eileen Ferro
\$1,000 Kimberly Handley
\$1,000 William Kuni
\$1,000 Dwight
& Kimberly Lowell
\$1,000 June Mayeda
\$1,000 Franklin Mesa
\$1,000 Braxton
& Christi L. Monroe
\$1,000 Leslie Newberry
\$1,000 Sharon M. Panasuk
\$1,000 Philip Paustian
\$1,000 Jill Stevens
& Elizabeth Watts
\$1,000 Deupree
Family Foundation
\$1,000 Lynn Russell
Advised Fund at Aspen
Community Foundation
\$1,000 On Shore
Foundation, Inc
\$900 Suzanne
& Alan Lucas
\$850 Finley's Irish
Pub & Eatery
\$750 Sarah E. Hoffman
\$655 ECHOage
\$600 Steven Carter
\$600 Pamela Olson Koonts
\$580 Lorrie Fetrow
\$575 William Konopaske
\$575 Diana & Mohan Rao
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& Robert Pressner
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Betty Sue Shane
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Christina Berler
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Julia Hallberg

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Chelsea.Feeny@BigCatRescue.org

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



\$42,500 GRANT TO MATCH YOUR DONATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAT HOSPITAL

Steady progress is being made on the new Windsong Memorial Hospital. At this writing the concrete slab has been poured and the shell of the building is complete. The vendor for the X-ray machine has started the production process (they make these one at a time to order).

We explored options for bringing the required 3 phase power to us. Because we are at the end of a long dirt road far from the nearest node of that kind of power, the cost to bring power under the only practical scenario was estimated to be \$69,000 by our electric company. In addition it required them to get easements, put in new poles, and then put this into their construction backlog. In short, it would have been hugely expensive and taken months.

With the help of the X-ray manufacturer and our electrical engineering firm we came up with a better solution. Since the X-ray machine is only used intermittently, it can be powered by a generator. Of course, we are not talking about those little units you see in Home Depot. We are talking about a 50kW diesel powered generator that is 8 feet long and weighs a little over one ton! This generator will cost an estimated \$25,000 – \$30,000 installed. Still very expensive, but less than half the cost of the power line and it can have us up and running MUCH sooner. Currently our engineering firm is completing the electrical drawings that are needed to apply for the electric permit.



So, what is left to do? We need to get the electrical permit, install the wiring and fixtures in the hospital, install the air conditioning and the generator, finish out the inside of the building, get the X-ray machine and install it, and set up the ultrasound system. A lot to do, but we are on the way.

The total cost of the building including the generator is currently estimated to be about \$85,000. This week our fundraising received a huge boost from Sarah and Bruce McWilliams, who previously provided the funding for the X-ray machine itself. These passionate advocates for the cats have generously offered an additional \$42,500, half the estimated cost of the completed hospital, as a Matching Grant to match all other donations dollar for dollar.

If you are considering a year end donation, this is a great way to leverage it. You can donate via the order form and envelope with this newsletter, or online at <http://www.razoo.com/story/Newhospital>. Any donations in excess of the building cost will be used for other needs of the cats.

Our sincere thanks to the McWilliams' for this very generous matching donation and to all of you who help us earn the match!



KEISHA & ZEUS, RESCUED MAY OF THIS YEAR, GO ON FIRST VACATION SINCE ARRIVAL AT BIG CAT RESCUE

Keisha and Zeus had a roaring good time during their turns in the Vacation Rotation Enclosure. Never before had they ever had so much open space to run and play. Thanks to you all of our big cats enjoy two week long vacations in the 2.5 acre habitat complete with cave dens, oversized toys, jungle gym platforms, and a swimming pond with a water fountain! The Vacation Rotation Enclosure provides these big cats with a taste of the wild life!



[illegible]

DONATE TO WINDSONG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MATCHING GRANT FUND				\$
SPONSOR A PAVE THE WAY BRICK *		4x8	\$100.00	
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SPONSOR PERIMETER WALL*		1 Foot	\$100.00	

* NOTE: Fill out blue shaded box at bottom of form	
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I want to join the automatic giving program, charge my card each month \$

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

☐ Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes Grand Total \$

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13-month calendar features glossy color photos of the big cats of Big Cat Rescue. Order today! **\$18.05**

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Brief message to say: _____

Big Cat Rescue makes it easy and convenient to donate monthly with no worry. You can do this either by credit card or by direct debit to a checking account for as little as \$5/month. For credit card donations, just fill in the highlighted line on the order form above and provide your credit card information. For checking account direct debit email finance@bigcatrescue.org, or leave a message for Howard at 813-920-4130. This is a G-R-R-eat way to spread out your donations and provide steady support that is so meaningful for the cats.

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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 service 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 so excited to present this award to Barbara Zingg to celebrate nearly 8 years of outstanding service. Barbara is such a kind and caring person. She pitches in wherever needed and volunteers more than double the number of hours each month required of her level. Thank you Barbara! You rock!

Also receiving the SAVE is Maureen Calderon. Maureen is extremely

dedicated to the care of the big cats. She is very thorough when it comes to cleaning the enclosures, a huge help with feeding the big cats, and a great role model to other volunteers

and interns. Maureen is an all around excellent volunteer. Congrats!

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!

September



Barbara Zingg

October



Maureen Calderon

BigCatRescue.org/volunteer



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Federal and State regulations on the care of big cats set "minimum" requirements that to those of us who love these animals and see their intelligence and expression of emotion do not meet their psychological needs. There is no requirement to provide mental stimulation, which we refer to as "enrichment." So, any many facilities that call themselves sanctuaries the cats simply languish in their cages, often small, concrete prison cells.

At Big Cat Rescue we put enormous effort into entertaining the cats to keep them both physically and mentally active. Photos here show some of the Halloween enrichment, including ghosts and pumpkins that the cat can investigate, bat around and tear apart.

FEDERAL BILL UPDATE

As this two year congressional session comes to a close at year end, we are excited to report the progress of our federal bill (HR 1998 / S1381)



Kiesha was kept in a tiny barren cage with only sharp rocks to walk on. She also lost her tail to lions who shared a common wall with her in a backyard zoo in NY

this session. Passing a federal law is usually a multi session process where you steadily build support over time until it finally passes. That is exactly what is happening. At the end of the 2012 session we had about 60 cosponsors in the House and had just introduced the bill in the Senate. We currently have almost twice as many cosponsors in the House, 115! IT IS YOUR EMAILS AND CALLS TO LEGISLATORS THAT IS MAKING THIS HAPPEN!

The important step that needs to happen after a bill is introduced is to have it "heard" in the Committee or Subcommittee that must recommend that it move further in the process. We were thrilled (and somewhat surprised that it happened so soon) that the Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife of the Senate Committee on



A tiger in FL housed in a shed for years with no access to the outdoors

Environment and Public Works heard the bill in July. Senator Blumenthal, who introduced the Senate Bill, spoke to the committee, and Carole submitted written testimony along with other experts and animal welfare organizations. This is a major step for the bill!

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

At the end of this two year session on December 31, 2014 all bills expire. When the new session begins in 2015 we will reintroduce the bill, just like we did after the 2012 session. We will go back to cosponsors that are re-elected and ask them to cosponsor again and then continue to build momentum, working toward getting a hearing in the House. This is just part

of the normal process and the steady progress we are making is very, very encouraging.

This bill truly is the only real solution



Simba kept as a pet in filth in OH

to ending the widespread misery that big cats endure in private hands. We are on track in what can be a slow and frustrating process, but one where persistence pays off.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As we reported in our summer issue, the bad guys are lobbying against the bill. 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. Last week a construction worker at his facility had his finger bitten off by a tiger. A perfect example of the kind of people we are battling.

The key thing now is to build whatever additional momentum we can in these last few months by trying to sign up more cosponsors so we



A white tiger, TJ and Bella in small rusty cages at a breeding facility in FL

begin the next session in the strongest possible position.

Please visit **StopBigCatAbuse.com** and email your legislators urging them to cosponsor the bill. If you want to have the most impact, change the language in the suggested text, at least the first line, so it is not perceived as a "form." That small effort makes a big difference.

If your legislator is already a cosponsor (you can check at **bigcatrescue.org/house** or **bigcatrescue.org/senate**) the system will automatically send them a note of thanks. This is just as important as asking them to cosponsor. It reminds them that they have constituents who care about this issue, which is important for them to have in mind when the lobbyists

YOU CAN PUT AN END TO THE SUFFERING



Nakita kept as a pet in a cramped and dirty building in OH

for the bad guys visit them.

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

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