

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

BIG CAT TIMES

FALL 2015



BIGCATRESCUE.ORG

BENGALI - TIGER



A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

Jamie Veronica

I am so excited to bring to you the completely redesigned Big Cat Times! We have come such a long way since our very first issue 19 years ago.

Our newsletter launched in the summer of 1996. It was titled Cat-Tales and was a 6-page black and white leaflet.

In 2004 we upgraded the publication to a newspaper format and renamed it The Big Cat

Times. This was a very exciting step forward as we were able to bring to you color photographs for the first time ever.

Now here we go again. The Big Cat Times has received a major upgrade to this beautiful glossy color magazine...but at what cost?

Actually, very little more than the cost of the previous newspaper format.



For the mere pennies extra per issue we feel that this sturdier version of The Big Cat Times will have a longer shelf life and will turn get passed around between family and friends.

You can help spread the word about the plight of captive big cats as well as their wild counterparts by sharing your copy of The Big Cat Times. Every person touched by one of these stories is another voice for the voiceless.

So go on, dive in, and enjoy the stories in this issue including the latest bobcat rescues, our federal bill, an important notice regarding the Florida Panther, and more!



Scan QR Codes,
in this issue, with
your smart phone
to get more info.



Big Cat Rescue, one of the world's largest accredited sanctuaries for exotic cats, is a leading advocate in ending the abuse of captive big cats and saving wild cats from extinction. We are home to 87 lions, tigers, bobcats, cougars, servals and other species of exotic cats, most of whom have been abandoned, abused, orphaned, saved from the fur trade, or retired from performing acts.

The sanctuary, located on 67 acres in the Citrus Park area of north Tampa, was founded in 1992 and is a 501c3 charity.

Big Cat Rescue is accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries, certified by Independent Charities of America as a "Best in America Charity", a member of the World Society for Protection of Animals, rated 4 Stars by Charity Navigator, and is part of a global coalition including HSUS, IFAW, WWF, GFAS, Born Free and other animal protection groups working together to end big cat abuse.

Read more about Big Cat Rescue and the cats who call it home at: BigCatRescue.org

Tour Info: Zerve.com/BigCatRescue

WILD FUTURE

for Four FL Bobcat Kittens



Big Cat Rescue is excited to announce the recent rescue of four orphaned Florida bobcat kittens! This group of wild babies will be raised here at the sanctuary in our rehabilitation area until they have purrr-fected their survival skills. Then they will be released back into the wild from which they came.

Phoenix treated for burns to his paws at CROW



Phoenix managed to survive a forest fire in Lee County, FL in May. Officials hoped to reunite the kitten with his mother by leaving him near where he was found after an initial assessment that he seemed ok. In the meantime his story spread like wildfire via local media. Three days later, the kitten was dehydrated and still calling frantically for his mother,

so he was sent to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW). Staff at CROW evaluated Phoenix and treated his burns. We think there could be no more appropriate name than Phoenix, the mythological symbol who rises from the ashes to be reborn.

Shortly before Phoenix's arrival CROW received another orphaned kitten. Captiva's story is every bit as heart rending, but didn't make the news. She was the one Big Cat Rescue agreed to take first. Gareth Johnson, the CROW Hospital Manager, worked with us a few years ago when we rehabbed and released bobcat Copter. Gareth called Big Cat Rescue on June 1st to report that some people had trapped a bobcat kitten and then left it in the trap without food or water for a couple of days before deciding



Phoenix





Captiva introduced to the outdoor rehab enclosure

CROW has state of the art medical facilities, but is not set up for long term bobcat rehab. Raising and rehabilitation of a bobcat requires a lot of space and infrastructure. Because these two kittens would need long term care CROW contacted the wildlife rehabbers at Big Cat Rescue to see if we had room for the duo. Both kittens were transported to Big Cat Rescue on June 25,

they should feed her something. Of course, they had no idea what to feed a 4-week-old nursing bobcat kitten, so what they fed her made her sick. Lucky for Captiva, they finally made a good decision and dropped her off at CROW. The kitten was stabilized, despite the fact that she had arrived in such bad shape.



Phoenix's first day outside

2015 for the next phase of their rehabilitation. Upon their arrival Phoenix was estimated to be 9 weeks old and Captiva 11 weeks.



Captiva & Phoenix

Unfortunately due to the extensive hands on care Phoenix initially received to treat his injuries, he is not as wild as we would like. He seems unafraid of humans and will usually approach keepers when they are cleaning his water dish. On a positive note however, his wild instincts when it comes to hunting are right on track. We hope that housing him with Captiva, who is much more wild and extremely leery of humans, will teach him how to appropriately respond when approached by people (run and hide).

Pairing Phoenix and Captiva will ensure a greater chance at survival once released. The two will most likely stay with one another for a period of time while they both adjust to life in the wild.

Three weeks after the arrival of Phoenix and Captiva we received another call to action. Two bobcat kittens were found playing near



Captiva

the side of a busy highway. A passerby stopped and captured the kittens and then took them to a nearby veterinary clinic. A knowledgeable technician at the practice took the kittens back to where they had been found in search of the mother. When a mother bobcat gets separated from her kittens she will call out to them for days. Sadly the tech heard no such calls and had no other choice but to bring them back to the clinic.

Big Cat Rescuers made the 5 hour round trip to Lake Placid, FL to collect the kittens. At just 9 weeks old this brother and sister had a lot of growing up to do before they would be able to survive on their own. In the wild bobcat kittens will stay with their mother for up to a year before disbanding in search of their own territory. Their arrival came in the wake of a difficult loss at the sanctuary. Raindance, one of the founding bobcats of Big Cat Rescue, had recently passed at the age of 22. Her loss was felt deeply as she had become an icon at the sanctuary and was admired and loved by all that met her. In honor of Raindance we decided to carry on her spirit with the lives of these two wild ones. And so they were affectionately named Rain and Dancer.



BCR President & Rehabber Jamie Veronica



Rain is not trusting of humans, which is a good thing

All four rehab kittens are doing great. Phoenix and Captiva have become efficient and successful hunters. Phoenix is still approaching his keepers at



Rain on left, Dancer on right

times, however he occasionally follows Captiva's lead and runs off to hide. Rain and Dancer have just recently moved to the outdoor rehab enclosures and have transitioned to a whole prey diet. They will move on to live prey (rats) in the coming weeks.

So what's next? Securing a release site for Rain and Dancer. The law calls for a release site

to be a minimum of 40 acres of privately owned land near where the bobcats were originally found. We typically release our rehab bobcats on several hundred or even thousands of acres. If you or anyone you know live in the area and would be willing to help Rain and Dancer by providing a release site please email jamie.veronica@bigcatrescue.org

Thanks to CROW's connections a site has already been secured for Phoenix and Captiva.

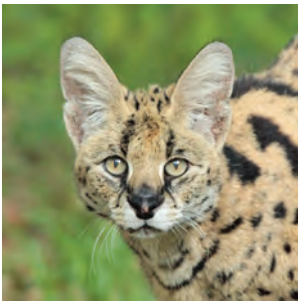


Perches in rehab enclosure

Sad Farewell

Taking care of 87 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 87 animals, 69 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 60 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 22 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts we must say good bye to these beautiful cats who have touched our hearts forever.

ARIZONA



1989 - 2015

Arizona has reigned as the oldest serval at Big Cat Rescue since her arrival in 1997. Upon her passing she was 24 years old. Despite having lived her entire life being confined to a cage and dominated by humans, Arizona's spirit was truly wild until the very end. Arizona passed away due to kidney failure, a common cause of death in elderly felines.

RAINDANCE



1993 - 2015

Raindance came to Big Cat Rescue from a fur farm in Minnesota. She was 1 of 56 kittens that were purchased in order to save them from being slaughtered for their fur. This rescue was in our early days and soon after we stopped paying to rescue animals because it does not solve the bigger problem.

Raindance got her name because she loved to splash around in the rain. She would run and pounce into any muddy puddle she could. By the time she was done, you couldn't even tell who she was, other than her bright, happy eyes gleaming behind a mud soaked coat.

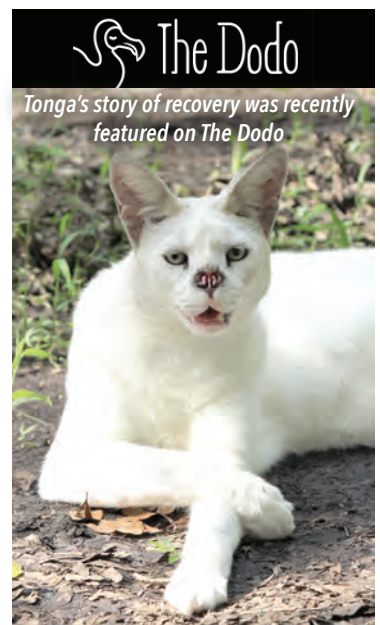
She was a huge favorite at the sanctuary, probably because no matter who you were or what you were doing near Raindance, she would stop whatever she was doing to come over and see what was going on. Once she got your attention she would rub her cheeks on the side of the enclosure with a blustery purr.

In the end it was kidney failure that took Raindance away from us. She was 22 years old.

TONGA CELEBRATES 3 YEARS CANCER FREE



Tonga, an 18-year-old white serval, is not a rare breed, but rather shares the same genetic mutation as does the white tiger. In 2012 Tonga was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. A CT scan confirmed surgical removal of the nose was the best option. His prognosis after surgery was 1 year. We are so happy to report that Tonga is happy and healthy!





Give Day Tampa Bay was established by The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and Florida Next Foundation as a means to raise the profile of charitable giving in the Tampa Bay area. This is accomplished by awarding charities prize money in several fundraising categories. We are so grateful to the over 500 supporters (more than any other nonprofit) who made

winning this prize money possible, including the donors of \$100 and above listed below. This year we won \$30k as follows: Most Dollars Raised \$12,500, Single Largest Donation \$10,000, Most Dollars Raised in Animals Category \$5000, and Most Individual Donors in Animal Category \$2500. Our \$30k in prize money was twice as much as any other nonprofit. We would like to give a roaring thanks to all of the donors!

<i>Estate of Lona Feingersh</i>	<i>Barbara Wenicur</i> \$500	<i>Gregoire Bergier</i> \$100	<i>Kimberly Feitl</i> \$100	<i>Leslie MacDonald</i> \$100	<i>Tedford Rose</i> \$100
<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>Andrea DeCapua</i> \$300	<i>Charlene Boden</i> \$100	<i>Janice Fischer</i> \$100	<i>Matthew Malicki</i> \$100	<i>Julia Rosenthal</i> \$100
<i>Tigers in America</i>	<i>Jon Ohman</i> \$300	<i>Carol Boyse</i> \$100	<i>Deepak Gangadharan</i> \$100	<i>Jennifer Marzo</i> \$100	<i>Mary Salzman</i> \$100
<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>Lynn Baumeister</i> \$250	<i>Dorothy Brink</i> \$100	<i>James Grant</i> \$100	<i>Lois Masso</i> \$100	<i>Nancy Sanderbeck</i> \$100
<i>Reitzel Foundation</i>	<i>Linda Davis</i> \$250	<i>Rebecca & Denis</i>	<i>Michelle Haast</i> \$100	<i>Jan McIlhenny</i> \$100	<i>Barbara Scheer</i> \$100
<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>Lyndsey Hewitt</i> \$250	<i>Brunetta</i> \$100	<i>Melinda Harris</i> \$100	<i>Anna Meckley</i> \$100	<i>Lesley Schultz</i> \$100
<i>Matt Burghdoff</i> \$5,000	<i>Laura Martin</i> \$250	<i>Kevin Burke</i> \$100	<i>Janet Heinig</i> \$100	<i>Mike Nagy</i> \$100	<i>Sara Simmons</i> \$100
<i>Jefferson Bank</i> \$2,500	<i>Daniel Shea III</i> \$250	<i>Robert Campbell</i> \$100	<i>Michael Heitnze</i> \$100	<i>Leslie Newberry</i> \$100	<i>Timothy Smith</i> \$100
<i>Gillian McPhee</i> \$1,500	<i>Barbara Archer</i> \$200	<i>Wendy Dinsmore</i> \$100	<i>David Herbert</i> \$100	<i>Maria Patterson</i> \$100	<i>Krista Stafford</i> \$100
<i>Jan Edenfield</i> \$500	<i>Candice Azurmendi</i> \$200	<i>Vicki Dizney</i> \$100	<i>Nikki Holbrook</i> \$100	<i>Lucretia Phillips</i> \$100	<i>Elizabeth Thomsen</i> \$100
<i>Daria Kiselica</i> \$500	<i>Cari Mustard</i> \$150	<i>Deanie Dorwart</i> \$100	<i>Cynthia Hutton</i> \$100	<i>Michele Prekop</i> \$100	<i>Barry Vaughan</i> \$100
<i>Lynn & Stuart Lang</i> \$500	<i>Susan Al-Abed</i> \$100	<i>Don Eyres</i> \$100	<i>Mary Krantz</i> \$100	<i>Kelley Price</i> \$100	<i>Laurel Wehrman</i> \$100
<i>Joseph Sokolosky</i> \$500	<i>Russ Alba</i> \$100	<i>Assana Fard</i> \$100	<i>Carole Lee</i> \$100	<i>Karen Quinn</i> \$100	<i>Marsha Woerner</i> \$100
<i>Suzanne Spantidos</i> \$500	<i>Carol Atkinson</i> \$100	<i>Leonard Fehskens</i> \$100	<i>Laura Lidral</i> \$100	<i>Shirley Reeve</i> \$100	

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. Please join us in congratulating the following S.A.V.E. winners!

Some volunteers truly shine and Rebecca Williams is one of the brightest. She started out as an



intern and after progressing through all of the levels she decided she could not live without the big cats and moved to the area so that she could continue to help them by becoming a volunteer. You deserve it Rebecca!

We are so excited to present this award to Matt Ruszczyk! Matt has been a dedicated and hard working volunteer for more than 15 years! Throughout his career as a volunteer his passion for caring for the animals has been passed on to hundreds of volunteers and interns.



Kristen Dawley first became a volunteer a little over 4 years ago. Since she first started she has been a dependable and dedicated member of the team. Thank you for your service Kristen!



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.

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. Get all the de-tails at:

BigCatRescue.org/volunteer

ADVO-CATS IN ACTION!

We use the term AdvoCat to describe people who care enough about the plight of big cats to add their voice to help stop abuse of big cats. AdvoCats help in a variety of ways from assisting with projects and programs to participating in action alerts by writing letters and calling their legislators.

One such AdvoCat, Kristina S., brought Big Cat Rescue's message to her community by tabling on our behalf at Concord Market Days in New Hampshire. "We were successfully able to bring awareness to hundreds of people. As the event was three

and educational materials supplied by Big Cat Rescue, Kristina, along with her family and boyfriend Victor, were successful in getting over 400 signatures on a petition aimed at New Hampshire Senators and Representatives to support big cat safety and protection laws. They also raised funds for the cats and were highlighted in an article about the event in the Union Leader on NewHampshire.com.

"It was an amazing experience and something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. If my actions helped big cats and prevented people from going to roadside zoos and participating in cub petting in any way, I am so humbled and grateful. Thank

you for letting me help!" We say, thanks to you Kristina for being a valuable voice for the cats!

To learn more about the AdvoCat program and how you can be part of this p a w - s o m e team, visit:

bigcatrescue.org/advocats

Already an AdvoCat? Be sure to join our new AdvoCat Facebook group at

www.facebook.com/groups/BCRAdvoCats/



days long, some came back and said they had found Big Cat Rescue's page and posted on their personal pages the reality behind cub petting and white tigers. "

Displaying home made posters



YOUNG NOT POWERLESS

We love when young people advocate for big cats! It gives us great hope for the future of our planet and for the preservation of exotic cats!

Teenager Makenna from Florida was inspired by our May AdvoCat newsletter to write a blog post in June entitled "The Irony Kills Me" about the new CBS show Zoo, which sadly is using live animals rather than computer-generated images (CGI). Way to go Makenna! Read her post and great tips for taking action for animals here at:

www.greenfirefox.com

Would you also join us in politely asking CBS to stop using real wild animals on Zoo? Email David Stapf, President of CBS Television Studios, at dstapf@cbs.com.





FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE BENEFITS BIG CAT RESCUE

Charters School in Berkshire, England is organized into four houses, one of which is called Pankhurst Panthers, and of course they have a panther mascot. The students of Pankhurst House selected Big Cat Rescue as the beneficiary of a series of fundraisers they held during their academic year. The events included a Valentine's Day bake sale, a

teachers' karaoke and an 'Hour Challenge' in which the Pankhurst students were sponsored to do as many laps of the school field in an hour as possible.

The result of their efforts was an impressive 1346.27 British Pounds, or \$1980 donated to Big Cat Rescue. Many thanks Pankhurst House!



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

A big cat "roar" to Reese W. and his friends from Madeira Beach Fundamental K-8. The kids raised funds as part of a 5th grade service project by selling Tampa Bay Times newspapers at a Rays game. Reese chose to support Big Cat Rescue! We are so grateful for our young supporters!



CRAFTY WAY TO HELP BIG CATS

The cats are so grr-ateful to Madeline O., Elle G., and Isabella K. for donating the earnings from their crafts business! Over this past year the girls sold crafts with animal print or animal designs to their friends and family. The group visited on a Kids Tour and were excited to see how their donation helps the cats.

Cecil Lion CHANGED the World

Centuries of humans destroying the planet and everything that is beautiful and magnificent, to pursue personal wealth and status has brought on the sixth mass extinction, with lives being extinguished at rates that are 10,000 times the norm. The mounting evidence of the destruction being caused, hasn't been enough to make the masses stop and take notice, but Cecil did.

When Cecil the lion was lured from a protected area onto private land to be brutally shot with a bow and arrow, caused to suffer for 40 hours as he ran for his life, only to be gunned down by a rich American, so that his head and skin could be stolen as a trophy,



Cecil shines brightly on the Empire State Building

it was an act so egregious millions across the globe were outraged.

For days his plight made every media outlet even though animal abuse is rarely discussed in mainstream media, for fear of offending industries that profit from animal suffering who also happen to bring in big advertising dollars to networks.

Social media first broke the news of Cecil's torture and slaying, and the public outcry was so enormous that mainstream media couldn't ignore it. Jane Velez-Mitchell from CNN passionately spoke about how we have finally reached a tipping point in our attitudes toward animal protection at the Animal

Rights Conference 2015 in Washington, DC on August 1st.

"The evolution revolution is a process, not an event, and we are headlong into that process." said Jane Velez-Mitchell

What is it about Cecil's story that so moved everyone? What made this lion different from the hundreds of thousands of lions who have been massacred since the 1940's when there were estimated to be 450,000 of them in the wild?



Cecil the lion.

Photo courtesy Andrew Loveridge/Wildlife Conservation Unit

DHL Express, Delta, Air Canada, United Airlines American Airlines, & 33 others have implemented bans on the importation of Africa's Big 5; Elephant, Rhino, Lion, Leopard, and Buffalo

The drop in wild lion populations to 30,000 by 2011 was enough to prompt many large wild animal protection groups to petition the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list lions as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Four years later lion numbers have dropped to as low as 20,000, and yet the USFWS has failed to implement this much needed change in status with little public outcry...until Cecil.

Thanks to Cecil a bright light is shining on not only the issue of trophy hunting, but also what is happening in our own back yard.

So what are we going to do about it? What can we do? We can save big cats in the wild and in captivity with our voice. Some may think that just one voice doesn't matter, but it does. Sometimes one voice can make all the difference. The voice of just one lion, Cecil, has brought about more awareness in the past few weeks than in all the decades of slaughter.

Let your VOICE be heard. Roar for Cecil!

Here is how you can help Cecil and the many like him that lose their lives each and every day:

Thank the airlines who have banned the transportation of animal trophies, sign petitions and call your legislators to voice your support of laws to protect big cats, donate to conservation efforts focused on preserving habitat and protecting wild animals.

While the tragic demise of Cecil has captivated the world there is a more sinister market exploiting lions and tigers that is thriving right here in our own back yard.

Exhausted tiger cub at pay to play operation



- An estimated 200 lion and tiger cubs are being bred by a handful of Americans each year for the pay to play schemes where people pay to see or pose with a cute cub.

- These cubs are stolen from their mothers when they are just a few days old, never to return to her comfort again.

- Lion and tiger cubs can only be handled by the public for a few months. During this time frame



they are not fully vaccinated to protect them as well as the public. After this window expires their profitability is depleted.

- The vast majority of those now useless cubs just disappear off the radar.

- It is believed that these cubs end up in slaughterhouses to supply the exotic meat trade in the U.S.

96% of Americans care about protecting animals from cruelty and every year that number grows as older generations and their outdated beliefs die out.

In recent times when celebrities ignorantly chose to pose with these wild animal cubs they have been reprimanded via mainstream and social media for doing so.

But why isn't the outrage as strong yet against those who perpetuate the exploitation of cubs as it was against the dentist who poached Cecil the lion this summer?

Cecil had the benefit of being raised by his own mother and living free for 13 years. Big cat cubs who are born into the trade

at the hands of greedy breeders for the sole purpose of public interaction have never had the benefit of being raised by their mothers or living wild and free.

Maybe the difference is that their ultimate plight is hidden from view? Being shot with an arrow and then with a gun are a pretty gruesome way to die, but the public isn't privy to the suffering, neglect and disposal of captive cubs when they grow up. They quietly disappear behind closed gates and doors.

Maybe it is because we didn't know their name?

The killing of Cecil has brought to the forefront a long fought battle to protect wild lions. His name has put a face on the issue that the public can identify with and champion for.

Unfortunately there is not a clear name and face aligning the masses in support of protection for big cats in captivity. But that can change right now. YOU can be that name, YOU can be that face. Each and every one of YOU matter, can make a difference, and can change the world.

Roar for all of the big cats! Contact your member of congress and ask them to champion the Big Cats & Public Safety Act.



FEDERAL BILL

**If you take just
ONE action for
big cats this year,
this should be IT!**

Congress operates in two year sessions. At the end of each session, any bills that did not get signed into law "die" and have to be re-introduced in the next session.

Once a bill is introduced, legislators can "co-sponsor" the bill by calling the legislator who introduced it. The co-sponsor names are published online.

Being a co-sponsor shows support and basically means you are going to vote for the bill if it comes to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote.

We are part of a coalition of animal welfare groups that in February 2012 introduced a federal bill to ban private breeding and ownership of big cats with limited exemptions. The bill would put an end to the rampant breeding of cubs for pay to pet schemes and tens of thousands of big cats living in miserable conditions in back yards and roadside zoos like those pictured here.

In the ten months we had left in the 2011-12 session we got up to 60 cosponsors in the House, which was great. We re-introduced the bill in 2013 and by the end

of the 2013-14 session we were up to 119 cosponsors out of the 435 members of the House, more than 25%!

At the end of 2014 our primary Republican sponsor retired. So in 2015 we have been working on finding a suitable new main Republican sponsor to join our Democratic main sponsor Loretta Sanchez of California. At this writing we have a great new Republican main sponsor in the House who has not yet been announced and we are working on lining up what are called "initial cosponsors" whose names are submitted at the same time the bill is "dropped" or "introduced." In the Senate, our past champion Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut will be re-introducing the bill.



2 Tigers and 2 lions kept together in cramped filthy conditions after being abandoned by their owner in OH



By the time you read this, or shortly after, we expect the bill to have been introduced and have bill numbers in both the House and Senate. Then, what we need is your help in urging your Representatives in the House and your Senators to co-sponsor the bill.

When you get this, please check the status of the bill at:

StopBigCatAbuse.com.

If it has been introduced, right there you can send an email to your legislators urging them to co-sponsor. You CAN play a meaningful role in stopping the abuse by helping pass this bill – but it is critical that your legislators know you care!

In addition to sending the email, even more effective is to also make a phone call to the legislator's office and ask for the staff person who handles animal welfare issues. To find your legislators and their phone numbers visit

<https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>

All you need to say is that you would like the Congressman or Senator to "co-sponsor the Big Cat Public Safety Act."

If you cannot call during business hours, or simply if you are shy, call at night or on the weekend and leave a recorded message. It is helpful to include the bill number, which we do not have yet but will be at www.StopBigCatAbuse.com

by the time you read this hopefully.

If you have any questions about the bill or making the call, just email Howard Baskin at:

Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org

StopBigCatAbuse



CongressLookUp



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S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



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make easy installation. **\$15.84**



2-sided acrylic key chain is 2"
x 3" Choose Tiger, Leopard,
Bobcat, Sand Cat, Black
Leopard, or Lion
\$6.21 each



Collapsible Purse Hook
Keep your purse off the
floor hang from table.
Choose any
species at BCR
\$29.75



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



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



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



14" Lioness
& Cub **\$35.10**
11" Snow Leopard **\$15.91**
12" Dream Eyes
Tiger **\$15.48**



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



SUMMER FUN

ARTHUR THE TIGER GOES FOR A DIP IN A POND





Florida can get quite steamy in the summer months. Thanks to our awesome enrichment team our cats have lots of fun ways to beat the heat and celebrate summer!

Clockwise from left: Zabu the white tiger plays with a dolphin, Pharaoh the white serval drools over his jelly fish, Aspen the cougar puts the finishing touches on her sand castle, Armani & Jade the leopard sisters take turns putting their favorite toys in their pool, Joseph the lion munches on an ice cold watermelon, Ares and Orion the cougar brothers decide they prefer their pool on the other side of their enclosure.



WAYS TO HELP

bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/

AMAZON SMILE

Select Big Cat Rescue as your designated charity at:

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!



SPONSOR A CAT

All kits include: 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:
Wildcat coloring pages, 1 Kid Tour Pass

\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER: 10% off card

\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND:
10% off card, 1 Day Tour Pass

\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR: 10% off card, 2 Day Tour Pass, 30 mailing labels

\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR: 10% off card, 2 Day Tour Pass, 60 mailing labels

\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR: Conservator benefits plus 4"x4" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 6"x12" engraved sign displayed on tour path, Private Tour for 10



\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO: Conservator benefits plus 6"x6" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 9"x12" engraved sign displayed on tour path, Private Tour for 10

\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION:
Conservator benefits plus 8"x8" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 12"x12" photo donor sign displayed on tour path, Private Founder Tour for 10

\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS: Conservator benefits plus 12"x12" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 18"x24" photo donor sign displayed on tour path, Private Founder Tour for 10

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!



ORDER TODAY!

8"x8" \$200

Your Name or Company Logo Here

4"x8" \$100

Your Name Here

BigCatRescue.biz

Now available Heart Bricks!

PROJECT CATER-WALL

The perimeter of the sanctuary is 7,200 feet. We have completed construction on 2/3 of this project, and need your help to finish the remaining 2,300 feet. You can sponsor 1 linear foot of wall for \$100. For your donation you will receive a BCR screensaver, 2-for-1 Tour Pass, and name listed on donor sign.



BIG CAT WISHLIST

Donate a new or used item from our wishlist online at: <http://tinyurl.com/n42yjmh>

THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM

Fall 2015

2016 BIG CAT RESCUE CALENDAR

BILLING ADDRESS (please print)

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ORDER DATE: _____

RECIPIENT ADDRESS (if different than above)

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

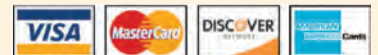
13-month glossy
color calendar
features the big cats
who call BCR home.
Each month enjoy
a fabulous big cat
image to go wild
over! \$18.05



DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE
AUTOMATIC GIVING PROGRAM - SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY	Please charge my card this amount each month:			
PAVE THE WAY BRICK		4X8	\$100	
PAVE THE WAY BRICK		8X8	\$200	
PERIMETER WALL		1 FOOT	\$100	
			GRAND TOTAL	

PERSONALIZATIONS (enscription to appear on the brick or wall fund sign, or brief note to be included on a card sent with order to recipient)

CREDIT CARD INFO:



Card #: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Exp. Date (MMYY): ____ / ____ CCV# (back of card) _____

Signature: _____

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

PAVE THE WAY BRICK: Laser engraved bricks line the paths leading to our Trading Post Gift Shop and to the entrance of the tour path. 4" x 8" Brick: 29 characters per line, total of 5 lines OR heart or paw print symbol, 14 characters, total of 5 lines. 8" x 8" Brick: 14 characters per line, total of 6 lines OR With heart or paw print symbol, 14 characters, total of 4 lines.

PERIMETER WALL FUND: To best protect our big cats we have constructed a solid perimeter wall surrounding the property. While the construction is complete we are still below our fundraising goal. \$100 funds 1 linear foot of wall. Donors will be recognized on a permanent sign at the sanctuary.

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Donations Received Apr 1st - Jun 30th

Estate of Margerie Rhodes \$25,000
Piper Mongan Properties \$10,000
Lawrence & Pamela Trissel \$10,000
Greg & Sue Taylor \$5,000
Micol Bartolucci \$3,000
SB3 Charitable Trust \$3,000
Zach & Natalie Zgabay \$2,555
Saint Pete MRI \$2,500
Broadmeadow
Elementary School \$2,271
Linda LaMaire \$2,000
The Manny & Ruthy
Cohen Foundation \$1,800
Sole Riley Marittimi \$1,500
Corbett Preparatory
School of IDS \$1,346
Styx/Rock to the Rescue \$1,250
Verena Ottman \$1,030
Roderick & Shelly Barbanica \$1,000
Diana Brookes \$1,000
Betsy Coville \$1,000
Hunter Truck Sales
& Service Inc. \$1,000
Lynn Russell Advised Fund at
Aspen Community
Foundation \$1,000
June Mayeda \$1,000
Brian Rush \$1,000
Jill Stevens &
Elizabeth Watts \$1,000
Kristina Weingartner \$1,000
Jason Wright \$1,000
Suzanne & Alan Lucas \$900
Donna Anderson \$875
Pamela Rodriguez \$750
Shannon Flory \$640
Linda Bongiorno \$625
Brittney Zeher \$625
Frank & Mavis Ainsleigh \$600
Steven Carter \$600
Sindhu Mathew \$600
Ann Zaharis \$515
Geoff Blades \$500
Arlene Braga \$500
John Bushnell \$500
Susan Connolly \$500
Jacqueline Fazekas \$500
Scott Greer \$500
Lisa Jaroske \$500
Victor Lebedovych \$500
Anthony Malafrente \$500
Brian McKinney \$500
Minda Nagy \$500
William Pocius \$500
Edward Roeder \$500
Marjorie Salmonsens \$500
Nanci Spires \$500
Mary Stephens \$500
Patricia Taylor \$500
The Kutch Family Fund of The
Dallas Foundation \$500

Walter Wassung \$500
Joyce Williams \$500
Lynn Wilson \$500
Victor Chouinard \$450
Eugenia VanBremen \$440
Diane Hosenbold \$405
Aladdin Oil & Gas Ltd \$400
Teresa Crawford \$400
Michele DeVincentz \$400
Melinda Faulkner \$400
Daniel Green \$400
Helmut Heidemann \$400
Dawn Howell \$400
J M Smith Foundation \$400
Greg Lutzen \$400
Jeffrey & Roberta Newton \$400
Barbara Orloff \$400
Rosemary Lupo &
Chris Rottmayer \$400
Laura Neher \$385
Leonard Domzalski \$375
Sue Lindhorst \$375
Renee Martin \$375
Michael Spatola \$375
Kellye Williams \$375
Shalen Hamar \$374
Robert Jennings \$360
Tim Case \$350
Kirk & Aileen Davis \$350
Janice Elliott \$350
Sherry & Chris Sutton \$350
Annika Mottus \$343
Mary Fiumara \$336
Michele Vaughn \$330
Laura McSoley \$328
Karin Hurley \$325
Susan Haughey \$250
Michael Herem \$250
Cindy Hogue \$250
Sven Johnson \$250
Lisa Juriga \$250
Vicky Kang \$250
Bryan Launer \$250
Charlene Martel \$250
Becky Nesbitt \$250
Steven Olson \$250
Vicki Osborne \$250
Ruben Rangel \$250
Patricia Raymond \$250
Brian Rice \$250
Jennifer Rimes \$250
Christine Robinson \$250
Donna Rondolone \$250
Peter Rosenstein \$250
Anthony Russo \$250
Patricia Scheid \$250
Misty Seaton \$250
Neil Smith \$250
Barbara Steinberg \$250
Gaylin Thomas \$250
Elizabeth Tudryn \$250
Diana Volling \$250
Brian Zuckerman \$250
Girl Scout Troop 601 \$240
David Cook \$237

Victor Vidal \$260
Michael Wahoske \$260
Lambertus Kim Warmolts \$260
Anthony Wysk \$260
Robert Davis \$258
Maggie Fox Dierker \$258
Maggie Fox Dierker \$258
Jacquie Boutin \$255
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Karl Klauenberg \$252
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Sven Johnson \$250
Lisa Juriga \$250
Vicky Kang \$250
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Misty Seaton \$250
Neil Smith \$250
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Jenny Kessel \$216
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Celeste Semenas \$127	Deborah Elliott \$108	Jennifer Redd \$108	Kathleen Cole \$100	Elena Marchenko \$100	Milton Weisman \$100
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John Marc Anderson \$125	Lisa Emmerdoyer \$108	Leah Retamozo \$108	Edward & Carol Collins \$100	Albert & Madeline Marx \$100	Louise Wilker \$100
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Shannon Berendes \$125	Michelle Faust \$108	Roy Rimmer \$108	Laura Crompton \$100	Daniel & Dorothy McCormick \$100	Ronald & Susan Williams \$100
Melissa Berger \$125	Steve Featherstone \$108	Shoshana Robuck \$108	Linda Dees \$100	Kimberly McKean \$100	Angela Winn \$100
Robin Bisha \$125	James Foley \$108	Kristine Roome \$108	Ann Dehoff \$100	Frederick Mendoza \$100	
MaryAnne Blackburn \$125	Sarah Ford \$108	Nathan Roustio \$108	Matthew & Allyse Denmark \$100	Richard Mitzel \$100	
Anne Cuccchiara \$125	David Forrest \$108	Kami Ruple \$108	Toni Derr \$100	Maryanne Mothersole \$100	
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Lynda Hall \$125	Barbara Gaines \$108	Luda Semenikuk \$108	Brandon & Ashlee Drumm \$100	Barbara Orloff \$100	
Shirling Hsu \$125	Robin Galison \$108	Fayez Shafi \$108	Bobbi Emmons \$100	Norman & Joan Oyen \$100	
Charles & Rae Ellen James \$125	Jill Garcia \$108	Pramit Shah \$108	Krista Endres \$100	Jennifer & Joe Pampanye \$100	
Dee-Ann LeBlanc \$125	D. Gibson \$108	Gina Silvia \$108	Angela Fasoli \$100	Todd Parker \$100	
Brendan O'Bryan \$125	Linda Gilley \$108	Glyn Simpson \$108	Elizabeth Fazio \$100	Marilyn Pease \$100	
Greg Peinado \$125	Tina Gould \$108	Jane Singleton \$108	Pilar Fierro \$100	Carol Peele \$100	
William & Alexis Reishus \$125	Jane Graham \$108	Chad Smith \$108	Gary Fisher \$100	Victoria Perepelitsa \$100	
Sabine & Raymond Hirst \$120	Mary Grimm \$108	Jean Smith \$108	Gail Fournier \$100	Elaine Peterson \$100	
Gretchen Buytas \$118	Lynn Grossheim \$108	Janise Smith \$108	Mark Freeman \$100	Robert & Charlotte Pierce \$100	
Francis DCruz \$118	Ralph Haffenden \$108	Heather Smith \$108			
Heather Gaffan \$118	Glenda Harnings \$108	Joshua Sponar \$108			
Chrystene Leber \$118	Kathleen Hansen \$108	Jonathan Sporn \$108			
Vickie McAfee \$118	Robert Hansen \$108	Mary Straw \$108			
Judy Ostermeier \$118	Stephanie Hanson \$108	Angie Stringham \$108			
Cathy Russell \$118	Harrison Heysel \$108	Hans Stuhldreier \$108			
Mark Thoreson \$118	Brenda Hillman \$108	Amanda Tate \$108			
Nicholas Vicari \$118	Susan Hirsch \$108	Tracy Taylor \$108			
Sara Walser \$118	Nancy Hottinger \$108	Grace Thornton \$108			
Sharon Yattaw \$118	Monique Hunt \$108	Christine Topalian \$108			
Elite Moving Labor \$115	Angela Hyssong \$108	Michael Turner \$108			
Susan Adams \$110	Matthew Jackson \$108	Thodd VanAllen \$108			
Jeanette Barker \$110	Paula Jones \$108	Jacki Vorhees \$108			
Graeme Burns \$110	David Joseph \$108	Katy Walters \$108			
Shannon Campbell \$110	Debra Karstadt \$108	Deborah Watson \$108			
John Carey \$110	Christopher Kayser \$108	Cindy Weinel \$108			
Venu Cherukuri \$110	John Kelly \$108	Jeff Whitlock \$108			
Jessy Chiu \$110	Logan Kelly \$108	Deanna Williams \$108			
Thomas Green \$110	Sherry Kendall \$108	Kathy Wood \$108			
Dennis Mhindu \$110	Kathy Kent \$108	Anne Woods \$108			
Elizabeth Paterson \$110	Daralyn Kingma \$108	Carrie Arndt \$107			
Kavitha Ramchandran \$110	Georgia Klamon-Miller \$108	Howard Cronson \$107			
Mary Schmidt \$110	Cynthia Klingensmith \$108	Alan Brunelle \$105			
Charlotte Swanson \$110	Paul Kramer \$108				
Alexandra Taylor \$110	Diane Krasinski \$108				

THE INTERN EXPERIENCE

By Ellie Richardson



While on a family vacation, I came across a leaflet for "Big Cat Rescue". I had always loved and admired big cats so I persuaded my family to visit this sanctuary. Most people on the tour were there to see a big cat up close, as was I. However by the end of the tour, I realized that this sanctuary was very different than most other animal facilities – their ethics included no breeding, and no contact. This seemed strange at first, as most other animal exhibitors, such as zoos frequently promote these aspects. I learned a great deal on the tour that ended up affecting how I looked at the animal industry. I discovered the major problem of private ownership of exotic animals in the U.S., and I wanted to help stop this. My experience influenced what I wanted to do as a career, and so after high school I began studying for a degree in animal science at a local university in Edinburgh.

Five years later, I applied to become an intern at Big Cat Rescue, and was accepted! I arrived in Tampa in June. After approximately 20 hours of traveling I was tired, and slightly jet lagged but excited to start a new adventure.

During the 12 week internship I will learn how to clean and maintain enclosures, and be trained in diet preparation, feeding techniques, operant training, and enrichment. Housing is provided as well as a grocery stipend.

At orientation I was given an overall briefing on the sanctuary, its goals, and what I could expect as an intern. My first week was reasonably calm, easing me into the internship, so I could get an idea of how the sanctuary operated on a day to day basis.

Over the next few weeks daily activities fell into a routine. In the morning we feed & clean, then we break for lunch. The afternoons are spent working on projects and guiding tours.

Prior to arriving at Big Cat Rescue I had worked in jobs that required interaction with members of the public, and so I enjoy speaking with and educating guests. I found tours to be really rewarding - it was a great feeling knowing that I had the power to teach people about various aspects of animal care, and issues we at BCR are fighting to change.

As an intern I also take part in the sanctuary's 'Kitten Foster Programme', that is organized with the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. We are responsible for litters of orphaned kittens or young families that are not quite ready to be adopted. These cats are reared and socialized increasing their

chances of being adopted later on.

I am often asked which cat is my favourite. After 6 weeks of being here, I have managed to narrow it down to a few. Narla the cougar is a sweetheart, she is blind and mostly deaf, but is very talkative and happily greets keepers. I found Sabre, a 23 year old black Asian leopard, acting particularly silly during one of my tours on afternoon. He sprinted around his enclosure and pounced on and attacked his toy ball, it was a special moment to witness this old man having such genuine fun. Finally my favourite cats include the 'Texas Tigers' – Amanda, Andre, and Arthur. These cats to me, represent 'unbroken' animals. At feeding time their roaring is especially unrelenting, and though I have been scared by them on many occasions, I admire their will power to remain true to their wild nature behaving how tigers should.

The work here is hard, but it is also very rewarding. Big Cat Rescue is an excellent example of how far people can get with determination. BCR and it's huge support base are at the forefront of supporting legislation to better protect big cats in captivity. I am honoured to be able to say I have been a part of this sanctuary's journey.





On Father's day a sell out crowd of 550 people joined us for our first annual Wildcat Walkabout. The event was a roaring success and raised over \$6,000. This year's Walkabout was in support of lion conservation. All of the proceeds from the event as well as pre and post event tee sales were donated to two worthy causes; Build a Boma project led by National Geographic and Lion Guardians. You can read more about these projects at: buildaboma.org and lionguardians.org

A limited supply of event tees are still available.

Order yours today before they are sold out.



BACK

**PLEDGE TO BE
CIRCUS
FREE**

**12,054 PEOPLE HAVE MADE
THE PLEDGE. HAVE YOU?
PLEDGE TO BE CIRCUS FREE!**

If you love lions and tigers and elephants, please show them you care by making a pledge to not attend circuses with wild animal acts.

The circus makes big cats and elephants do unnatural tricks. We believe the animals perform because they are afraid of the circus trainers, who use painful bull hooks, electric prods and whips. Tigers and lions should not live in tiny circus cages with barely any room to move. And elephants should not be tied up with ropes and chains so short they can't even walk.

Big Cat Rescue would like to see ONE MILLION kids and adults pledge to be CIRCUS FREE! We promise to make sure the politicians in Washington know that all of us who LOVE wild animals want the circus to stop exploiting them! Big cats and elephants belong in the wild... not in circus cages and wagons.

You can make the Circus Free pledge when you visit Big Cat Rescue or by going online to:

NoCircusTigers.com

Please make the pledge today
And tell your friends!

TIGER SELFIE CHALLENGE

Public opinion is evolving when it comes to using wild animals as photo props. Once thought to be a thrilling experience resulting in a cute photo, is now widely known to be CRUEL not COOL. Wild animals are pulled away from their mothers and forced to interact with the public

for hours on end for the sole purpose of profiting the breeders and dealers. Once these cubs age out of the window in which the public is permitted to have contact with them they are discarded, ending up in canned hunts and the black market. Get the Tiger Selfie app for iPhone and help spread the word about posing with wild animals by posting your cruelty free tiger selfies on social media sites.

TigerSelfieApp.com



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: TIGERS



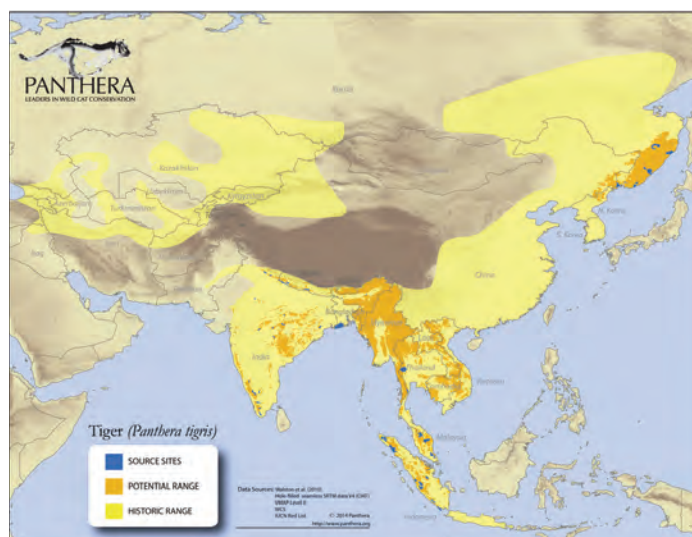
Population: Just over 100 years ago, there were as many as 100,000 wild tigers living in Asia. Today, there are fewer than 3,200. There are 6 existing subspecies of tigers; three have gone extinct in the last century. Existing: Bengal, Indochinese, Sumatran, Siberian, Malayan, South-China (No signs of the South-China subspecies have been found in the wild in the last decade). Extinct: Javan (lost in the 1970's), Caspian (lost in the 1950's), Bali (lost in the 1930's). Tigers are listed as "Endangered" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

Size and Appearance: The largest of all the living cats, the tiger is immediately recognizable by its unique reddish orange coat with black stripes. Stripe patterns differ among individuals and are as unique to the animal as are fingerprints to humans. Body size of the tiger varies with latitude, the smallest occurring at low latitudes in Indonesia and the largest at high altitudes in Manchuria and Siberia. The largest, the Siberian tiger can reach weights exceeding 700 pounds and lengths of 10+ feet.

Habitat: The tiger requires dense

vegetative cover and sufficient large prey. Range size is based on the habitat conditions and availability of prey. Indian tigers generally have a range of 8-60 square miles, Sumatran tigers 150 square miles, and Siberian tigers 400 square miles. Tigers have lost more than 40% of their habitat in the past decade.

Distribution: Tigers exist in 13 Asian countries and are extinct



in 11 countries. Tigers no longer live in 93% of their historic range.

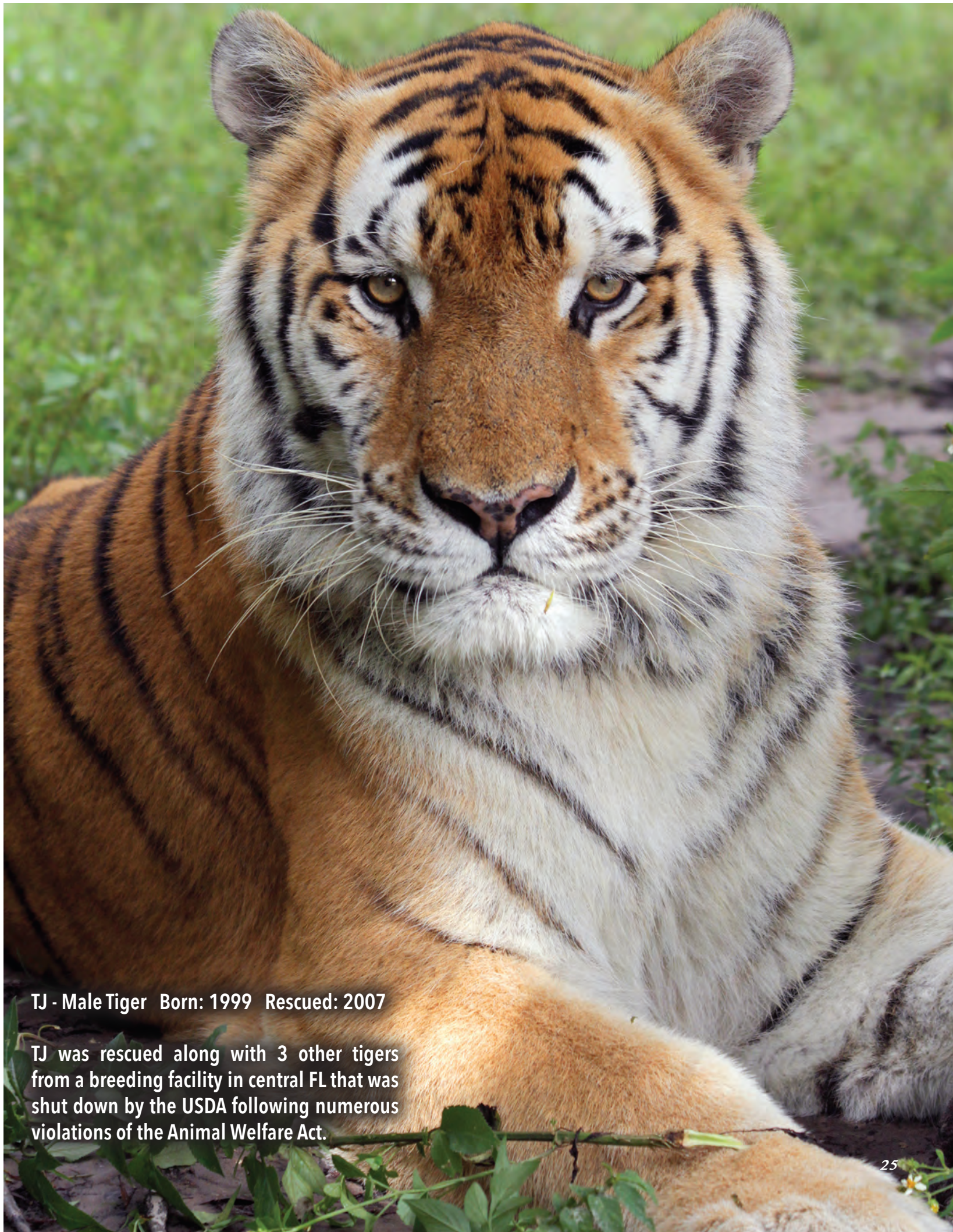
Reproduction and Offspring: Tigers will mate throughout the year, but most frequently between the end of November to early April. After a gestation of 103 days an average litter of 3 cubs are born. Cubs will leave their mothers between the ages of 18 - 28 months. During the first year, mortality can be as high as 35%, and of that 73% of the time it is the entire litter that is lost. The leading cause of mortality is attacks from other animals, although fire and floods are

contributors as well.

Social System: Tigers are solitary, however, they are not anti-social. Males not only come together with females for breeding, but will feed with or rest with females and cubs. Females with cubs have also been seen coming together to share meals. Most likely, in all of these cases they are somehow related. Males will kill cubs from other males, so it is likely that the offspring in question is his own.

Hunting and Diet: Tigers hunt primarily between dusk and dawn. Once prey is killed, the tiger either drags or carries its meal into cover. A tiger can drag or carry an animal twice its body weight and will consume anywhere from 35 – 90 pounds of meat at one sitting. Tigers are not the most successful of hunters. Only 1 in every 10-20 attempts will be successful. The most common prey items are various species of deer and pig.

Threats: Wild tigers are being hunted to meet the demands of the illegal wildlife trade market, a \$20 billion a year industry. Tiger parts are consumed for traditional medicinal purposes across Asia, with a heavy demand in China. Wild tigers are persecuted when villagers take retaliatory measures to protect their livestock. Tiger habitat is increasingly under threat from agricultural developments, like palm oil plantations.



TJ - Male Tiger Born: 1999 Rescued: 2007

TJ was rescued along with 3 other tigers from a breeding facility in central FL that was shut down by the USDA following numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

WHY is the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Giving up on the Florida Panther?



In the 1930's scientists reported that no more than 30 Florida Panthers remained in the wild and that many of them suffered from birth defects due to inbreeding.

In 1958 the state made its first stride in protecting the Florida Panther and put an end to hunting the big cat.

In 1967 the Florida Panther was listed as Endangered. For 30+ years the federal government has maintained that for panthers to be taken off of the endangered list their South Florida population must be increased to 240 individuals as well as two additional populations of a minimum of 240 be established elsewhere in the state. This goal,

most recently reviewed in 2008, is based on scientific research supporting these numbers will ensure the panther survives another 100 years.

Throughout the past several decades conservation efforts have increased the panther population to an estimated 100-180 individuals as well as restored genetic diversity through the brief introduction of Texas cougars.

On June 23rd, Nick Wiley, executive director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), proposed a plan that would weaken protections for the endangered Florida Panther. The policy proposal which was co-authored by FWC commissioner and cattle rancher Aliese Priddy appears to be the first step towards legalizing the hunting of Florida panthers.

Separately Priddy is among a group of land developers that are

Proposal to weaken Florida Panther protections submitted without expert input from the states' panther biologists.

seeking a special federal permit to kill a certain number of panthers should they get in the way of their development plans. These developers include; two major sugar companies, Alico and King Ranch; the Half Circle L Ranch; Pacific Tomato Growers; English Brothers; and the Barron Collier Partnership and Collier Enterprises. The group intends to turn 45,000 acres of their 177,000 acres of prime panther habitat in Collier County into a town that would be home to mining, oil exploration, agriculture, and 10,000 residential homes.

Over 600,000 acres of traditional panther habitat have been mostly abandoned by panthers due to impacts of periodic high water events since the 1970's. Clearly a town in the middle of current panther habitat is not in the best interest of the species.



Wiley and Priddy's policy proposal suggests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's goals are not realistic so it is time to change them. The policy included language that would give the wildlife agency more flexibility when dealing with panthers that are considered a nuisance by allowing for the killing of them as is currently permitted with alligators and bears. Current federal law protects panthers from being hunted, while Florida law makes killing a panther a third-degree felony.

On a side note, Wiley and Priddy submitted their policy proposal regarding the Florida Panthers at the June 23rd meeting where the FWC voted in favor of removing protections for the black bear that had been in place for 21 years. Despite public outcry the FWC has opened up the first black bear hunting season since 1994. Current population estimates are unknown, but thought to be around 3,000 bears. The cost to kill a black bear \$100-\$300.

Reasons cited in Wiley and Priddy's proposal for weakening the protection of Florida panthers were: the growing panther population, estimated between 100-180, has led to an increase in predation of domestic pets and livestock (estimated 20-30 annually), human-panther conflicts (20-25 road kills annually), and the hindrance of land development. "Panther populations are straining and currently exceed the tolerance of landowners, residents and recreationists in the region," according to the proposal.

The proposal would also change

FWC wants to abandon federal required recovery plans to establish additional FL Panther populations

how the FWC protects the endangered cat by focusing the agency's resources on controlling the growth of the South Florida population, addressing lost live stock, and putting the responsibility of establishing the two additional panther populations on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Removing protections for the Florida Panther would be a big step in the wrong direction for the future of the state's big cat.

Instead the focus should be on protecting habitat and establishing wildlife corridors that would contribute to the success of the panther throughout Florida and into Georgia and Alabama.

The state pays nearly \$1 million a year to biologists to study the Florida panther. Yet these panther biologists were not consulted during the drafting of this policy proposal regarding the protection of the panther. Wiley and Priddy (who claims to have lost 10 cattle to panthers) appear to have an alternate agenda.

The proposal stated that panthers have outgrown their "carrying capacity" in their habitat south of the Caloosahatchee River, claiming there are too many for the area to support naturally. When the wildlife commission's panther biologists did get to see this proposal, after it was drafted, they strongly disagreed.

"There is no science supporting the statement about 'exceeding carrying capacity,' " panther biologist Darrell Land, who has been studying the big cats since

1985, said in a May email to his bosses. "I am unaware of any analysis ... that reached that conclusion. ... It is an opinion, not a fact."

After hours of public comments regarding the proposal and a strong backlash from the public and the media the FWC delayed their vote until September so that more data could be collected. The delay gives Floridians a chance to speak out for the Florida Panther and demand that preservation of the species continue.

In response to the uproar caused by the first draft of Wiley and Priddy's proposal, a second draft which includes input from the agency's biologists, the public, and the other 6 commissioners has been made public.

The new version, posted in its entirety on the FWC's website has removed language stating the primary focus will be on protecting livestock, and has also made clear that there are no intentions of removing the Florida Panther from the Endangered Species List any time soon. However, it still

calls for federal officials to lessen their criteria for taking panthers off the endangered list. The current criteria set a goal too high to be achieved, the draft says. Also still included is language regarding the need to deal with human-panther conflict. Which may, in turn, open the door to hunting the endangered cat.

FWC commissioners will vote on adopting the new policy on September 2nd. Big Cat Rescue will be present at the meeting to speak out in support of the continued preservation of the Florida Panther. For an update regarding the outcome of this meeting visit:

BigCatRescue.org/FLPanther

Check out the latest reports on the FL Panther





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!



Sandra Barnes \$3,250
Charles Graham \$1,200
Rachael Myers-Ward \$1,131
Debra Bailey \$1,040
Sandra Shull \$1,040
Laurence Miller \$1,040
Scott Hill \$1,000
Vivienne Halpern \$1,000
Joelle Starefos \$780
David Ellis \$700
Gillian Cohen-Boyer \$554
Daniel Morris \$540
Richard Perry \$520
Christine Athey \$520
Anne Lloyd \$520
Paula Gray \$520
Christina Anderson-Plimpton \$500
Sarah Hoffman \$450
John Newman \$442
Stacie Blizzard \$400
Janice Burke \$390
Kelly Hays \$390
Kasmira Kolden \$390
John Leszczynski \$390
Nicole Foust \$390
Anastasia Hetman \$360
Elizabeth Gannaway \$360
Laura Cooksey \$351

Karen Maskew \$325
Erin Mettee \$325
Denise Nichols \$312
Jonathan Richard & Nat Weaver \$300
Robert Vaughn \$300
Michael Manning \$300
James Smith \$300
Katheryn Hoke \$300
November Stonely \$300
Alanna Youngblood \$300
Melissa Miller \$300
Christopher Bunyea \$286
Susan Jaworski \$260
Brenda Marinke \$260
Marilee Smalley \$260
Robert Rhodes III \$260
Siobhan Feliciano \$260
Megan Edel \$260
Gretchen Persohn \$260
Christine Curley \$260
Kim Ann Gerwer \$260
Arianda Sugar \$260
Paul Stabile \$260
Lucia Wakeman \$260
Julie Wilkinson \$260
Michael Young \$260
Roxanne Gerry \$260
Joseph Spencer \$260
Stephen Nickerson \$260
Michele Poulos \$260
Rene Coughenour \$260
Kurt Brown \$260
Cahterine Parker \$260
Terri Diehl \$260
Rainer Brown \$260

Theresa Ogden \$260
Dana Cook \$260
Travis Webb \$252
Edward Gow \$251
Ilseleore Passalacqua \$250
Deborah Gilliam \$247
Carol Tritt \$247
Micheal Creeden \$240
Barry Dersh \$240
Anne Cook \$240
Lynn Isaak \$240
Reenah Schaffer \$240
Derrick Thorson \$240
Cinda Lautenschlegar \$234
Christine Birkenmaier \$234
Amy Pryor \$221
Bruce Lady \$208
Angela Huss \$208
Abbie Nestler \$207
Deborah Gunnlaugsson \$200
Diane Kistler \$200
Celeste Plaisance \$200
Angela Micheli \$200
Marvin Levine \$200
Jane VanDerlip \$195
Todd Walters \$182
Karl Fuchs \$180
Paul Banas \$179
Gemel Thomas \$175
Lieneke Massey \$166
Mary Arndt \$160
Gina Marvin \$160
Shannon Bradbury \$156
Barbara Freeby \$156
Marianna Martindale \$150
Jeffrey Felty \$150

Louis Baralot \$150
Jocelyn Winslow \$143
Maegan Evanisko \$132
Janet Briggs \$130
Homer Janssens \$130
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Jeffrey Swank \$104
Julie Zambrana \$104
Jessica Salyers \$100
Kimberly Gates \$100
Jody Hughes \$100
Stephen Bernard \$100
Tracy Gieger \$100
Forrest Williamson \$100
Jillian Andrews \$100
Susan Matchett \$100
Kathleen Maupin \$100
Thomas Thomas \$100
Rick Mitchell \$100

VET REPORTS:

AMANDA TIGER GETS SPAYED AT 19

Amanda was rescued along with Andre and Arthur from a sanctuary that went bankrupt in Texas. The trio had lived with several other big cats. All of the males had been neutered to prevent breeding. Unfortunately it is not uncommon for female cats to have complications later in life if they are not spayed.

Keepers noticed something was wrong right away when Amanda was not interested in food. She along with her siblings are always very excited when its feeding time. Instead she lay quiet in her den.



Because this was so unusual for her it was decided that an exam was critical. Amanda was sedated and examined. During the exam it was discovered that her uterus had become infected. In the veterinary field this is referred to as pyometra. Pyometra is considered a serious and life threatening condition that must be treated quickly. Treatment involves entire removal of the

reproductive tract, in other words spay.

Dr. Helga Blaeyart performed the surgery along with the assistance of Dr. Sami Peterson, Dr. Tammy Miller Michau, and Dr. Wynn.



Dr. Blaeyart & Dr. Peterson operate on Amanda

This normally routine procedure was anything but. Because of the severity of the infection there was a very real risk of the uterus rupturing which could flood Amanda's abdominal cavity with bacteria laden pus.

Thankfully the surgery went smoothly and after a short time recovering in our hospital cage she was returned to her permanent enclosure and reunited with her brothers.

GROOMING BIG CATS

Some of our cats are very old and with age comes arthritis. A few of our cats have very bad arthritis that inhibits their ability to move freely in all directions so they can groom those hard to reach areas. While on medications to help their joints and ease their pains, they require assistance with regular grooming.

One way we help these cats is by

using extendable back scratchers. These scratchers allow a trained keeper to brush out loose or matted fur, while maintaining a safe distance from the cat. However, some cats need more than a little brushing.

Sassyfras the cougar and Angie the bobcat must be sedated periodically and completely shaved. Sassyfras is new to the back scratcher and will only allow for a few brushes here and there. Hopefully with time and patience we will be able to groom him completely using this method so that he does not have to be sedated.

Angie on the other paw is very distrustful and will not come anywhere near her



Little Feather allows keepers to remove mats from her fur using a back scratcher



Angie being shaved by Dr. Wynn



Sarah, Joanna, and Gale move Sassyfras to the recovery cage

keepers so unfortunately she will require routine sedation for grooming.

MYSTERY ILLNESS AFFECTS KING TUT

One morning in April King Tut was found in his enclosure shivering and laying in a crouched position. He seemed very uncomfortable and unable to pick his head up to a normal resting position. His keepers had just seen him an hour earlier and he was acting completely normal, following them around the enclosure looking for his morning meal.



King Tut is a hybrid between a serval and a domestic cat

He was sedated and examined by Dr. Boorstein. Nothing obvious was found during his exam, so blood was drawn and sent to the lab for testing. In the meantime he was started on a course of steroids in case he had injured himself. This seemed to fit given the fact that he was seen earlier in the day acting normal.

The results came in and were unremarkable. The steroids seemed to help a little, however King Tut was losing his appetite and still exhibiting the same symptoms.

King Tut was taken to the Animal Care Institute for an MRI to see if there was an injury to his back or tumor in his brain. The specialist who examined the images noted that there was a slight swelling along the spinal cord which could be caused by injury or disease. It was recommended that a spinal tap be performed in order to narrow down the cause of the swelling. The bad news is King Tut had to be taken off the steroids that were making him feel better in order to obtain an accurate reading from the test.

After weaning him from the medication he was sedated a third time so that Dr. Boorstein could collect a sample of the fluid that surrounded the spinal cord.

The results from the CSF (cerebral spinal fluid) were inconclusive. The cause of King Tut's condition could have been due to injury or any one of dozens of diseases including disc disease, FIP, meningitis, or even cancer.

Some of the listed causes would respond to steroids and so King Tut was put back on this medication at an increased dose.

Throughout King Tut's ordeal we thought many times that he would not make it. He would refuse food and in turn not take his meds. He was so sick he allowed the veterinarians to inject him with medications to increase his appetite and decrease nausea



Dr. Boorstein preps King Tut for an MRI



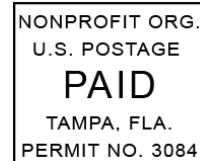
Dr. Boorstein & Jamie Veronica collect a CSF sample

and fluids to keep him hydrated. His keepers tried every kind of meat you could imagine to get him interested in eating again. King Tut spent several weeks under intensive care in our onsite Cat Hospital.

Suddenly he turned the corner. King Tut began eating small meals and drinking on his own.



12802 Easy Street
Tampa, FL 33625



:CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

As the steroids started to do their job his shaking went away all together and he seemed much more comfortable.

Once he was back to normal King Tut was returned to his outdoor enclosure. He will remain on steroids indefinitely and will be monitored closely by the vet team.

We are so grateful for each and every one of you who donate towards the care of these great cats. Without your help we would not be able to provide them with such excellent veterinary care. King Tut definitely thanks you!

JOSEPH'S LION EYES

Dr. Miller removes Joseph's lens



Joseph is probably one of the grumpiest cats here at the sanctuary. He has a right to be. He was rescued along with 3 others from a facility that chained

and drugged their big cats her team carefully removed the lens.

Enduring a lifetime of being forced to do something you do not want to is bound to make anyone grumpy.

Needless to say when he had to be sedated for eye surgery the keepers were not looking forward to his reaction. It took two people to dart Joseph, one to distract and another to deploy the dart. Joseph roared in retaliation. It was over in seconds, but Joseph will unfortunately remember it forever.

Once sedated he was transported to the Windsong Memorial Hospital where a team of vets and keepers worked simultaneously to perform a routine exam as well as eye surgery.

Joseph's right eye had developed a luxated lens. This means the lens which is responsible for focusing and is suspended just behind the pupil becomes detached and floats into the front of the eye. Dr. Tammy Miller Michau (eye specialist) and



Meanwhile, Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein drew blood, collected samples, and monitored his anesthesia.

Post surgery Joseph required eye drops several times a day for 5 weeks. Surprisingly he was a compliant patient and allowed his keepers to do this as long as there were treats involved. His eye has healed well and he will still have vision in it, although it will be farsighted.

