

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

BIG CAT TIMES

SUMMER 2016



BIGCATRESCUE.ORG

APOLLO - LYNX



A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

Jamie Veronica

Its summer time here at Big Cat Rescue and that means it is hot, hot, hot! With the hot weather also comes the longer days, which means we can get more work done!

Thankfully this is also the time of year that our intern program is packed. We currently have 25 interns who in combination with the volunteers feed the animals, clean enclosures, maintain the

grounds and guide tours. We would be lost without these dedicated individuals, so we are incredibly grateful for them. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or intern check out:

bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/volunteer/

In this issue, actually just across from this page, is the incredible story of Hoover, a tiger that was rescued from a circus in Peru following the country's ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

The Big Cat Public Safety Act is gaining momentum. This bill will end suffering across our country by banning the private ownership and breeding of dangerous big cats. To date we have 72 co-sponsors thanks to more than 4,200 phone calls made by people just like you. See pages 6-7 to find out how one call can make a difference.

Our bobcat rehabilitation program is hugely successful. That is thanks to donors like you, our awesome vet team and a handful of specially trained rehabbers. In this issue read about the trials and triumph of Thor and Mr. Claws.

The annual Wildcat Walkabout is just around the corner. This special event always sells out, so be sure to get your tickets soon.

Well what are you waiting for? Get reading! This issue of the Big Cat Times is busting at the seams!

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



Big Cat Rescue, one of the world's most effective 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 over 70 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





Hoover awaits rescue in Peru

Animal Defenders International

operation to seize these animals and place them in sanctuaries across the globe.

Hoover was owned by Circo Africano, a circus in northwestern Peru, where for many years he was forced to perform. His home

was a tiny barren travel cage. ADI had been on track to remove Hoover, but rescue attempts were thwarted when the illegal circus went underground.



Hoover gets rescued from the circus

PERU TO AMERICA

Hoover, a 12-year-old male tiger from Peru, has found sanctuary at Big Cat Rescue. Hoover received a warm welcome from Big Cat Rescuers on Saturday April 23rd, which also happened to be his birthday. There was a giant birthday card for Hoover made by our enrichment committee as well as several wrapped presents awaiting him in his lush 1.5 acre home. Staff, volunteers, rescue crews and the media enjoyed a delicious birthday spread of cupcakes, donuts, and coffee while watching Hoover take his first steps into a life free from pain and suffering.

Hoover has had quite the journey. In 2011, Peru followed Bolivia's lead and joined a growing list of countries worldwide to ban the use of wild animals in circuses. Animal Defenders International (ADI) joined forces with a nationwide law enforcement

Nearly eight months later a member of the public tipped off ADI's team to the location of the circus and a dramatic rescue ensued. Hoover was lethargic and emaciated. Sadly he was the sole survivor of approximately a dozen big cats that had been kept by Circo Africano.

Hoover arrived at ADI's rescue center in Lima, Peru frightened,



Hoover's first steps onto American soil



Hoover exploring his new home at BCR

sick and extremely thin. However, after months of intensive veterinary care, a healthy diet, rehabilitation and exercise, Hoover recovered and was ready to start the next chapter of his life in America.

ADI contacted Big Cat Rescue about becoming Hoover's forever home and we quickly agreed. However, the process of importing a tiger into the U.S. turned out to be a year long. Thankfully

by customs in about an hour. Hoover was then loaded into the Big Cat Rescue trailer for the final leg of his trip. He was so tired from the long flight he could barely keep his eyes open.

Hoover arrived at Big Cat Rescue around 9 AM. Big Cat Rescuers cheered as the truck and trailer pulled through the gate. Hoover was already loved by so many.

Hoover spent the next few hours investigating and exploring. His eyes seemed full of wonder and disbelief.

After a lifetime of being exploited and living in poor conditions Hoover is finally going to get the care and love he deserves. He will be free to do as he pleases whether that be relaxing in the sunshine, lounging up on his



A big welcome at the entrance of Miami International Airport

the permits were approved and finalized through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in April and Hoover began his long trip home aboard a cargo plane filled with flowers that were being shipped to the states for Mother's Day.

Big Cat Rescuers drove across the state to pick up their precious cargo from Miami. He landed around 2AM and was processed

Hoover's crate was unloaded and secured to the entrance of his new home. Everyone gathered around to watch as Hoover took

his first steps onto U.S. soil. He wasted no time. He stood right up and walked out of the crate and then disappeared into the forest.



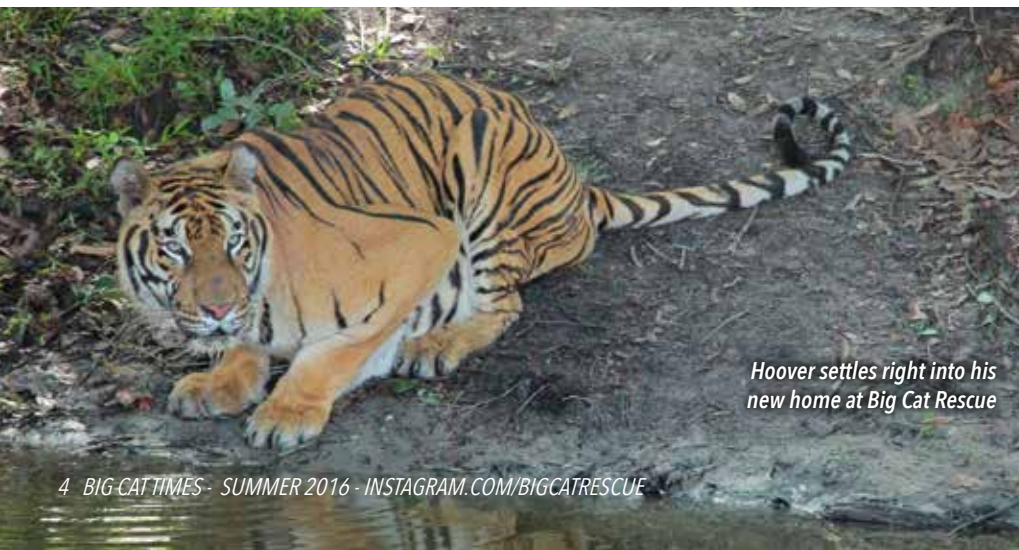
Hoover's new home has access to a lake for swimming



Big Cat Rescuer Chelsea Feeny sets up Hoover's Birthday party

platforms or cooling off in his lake. He will never again be bullied into performing tricks or have to worry about when his next meal will come. This is only possible because of people like YOU.

Can we count on you to help us fund Hoover's ongoing care at Big Cat Rescue? It costs us nearly \$10,000 per year for food and veterinary care for a tiger. It's because of wonderful donors like YOU that we can continue to rescue and provide a permanent home for exotic cats like Hoover! Thank you!



Hoover settles right into his new home at Big Cat Rescue

LET THE FUN BEGIN!

Nearly 1 year after construction first began the Funcation Enclosure is now complete. This 22,000 square foot space is a wonderland of excitement. Two large rock caves provide a great spot to escape the summer heat for a long leisurely nap. A massive jungle gym provides shade and a higher vantage point from which the cats can survey their kingdom. Lots of space to run, play, and explore and a variety of toys for enrichment make this new enclosure a fun and exciting place to visit. The little cats as well as cougars and leopards will take turns spending a one week vacation in the Funcation Enclosure.

First to go on vacation were Max and MaryAnn. Initially they were in awe of the sheer amount of space that lay before them. After a few moments taking it all in, they got to work checking out every inch of their new territory. They climbed all over the jungle gym platform, walked the perimeter, trotted across the large open space after birds, checked out their enrichment pool, and romped about chasing one another playfully. The duo barely

Angelica enjoys every second of her vacation



Mary Ann checks out the massive den



Mary Ann takes a dip in the pool



Frosty serval is quick to check out his vacation digs



rested during their stay. They are an adventure seeking couple and were always on the move and interacting with their new environment.

During the next few weeks we worked our way through the waiting list for Funcation, with the oldest residents receiving priority. Nairobi, Frosty, and Kalahari the servals have each had a turn as well as Angelica, Apache, Divinity, Little White Dove and Running Bear the bobcats.

So far every cat has had a different reaction. Some are bold and walk right around with their heads held high marking every thing they see as their own. Others take a day or two to feel comfortable and others stay hidden during the day and choose to explore under the cloak of darkness. One thing is certain. These cats have never experienced such a wide open space that simulates as closely as we can the feeling of being wild and free. Many thanks to you, our wonderful supporters, for giving this amazing opportunity to the residents of Big Cat Rescue.

22,000 SQ FT FUNCATION NOW OPEN

PINTEREST.COM/BIGCATRESCUE - SUMMER 2016 - BIG CATTIMES 5

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

14 NEW CO-SPONSORS

4,200 CALLS MADE

**PLEASE MAKE THE
"CALL OF THE WILD"**

We are pleased to report that since the last issue we have added 14 more Cosponsors from all over the country, 3 Republicans and 11 Democrats, to the bipartisan Big Cat Public Safety Act. This brings our total to 72 Cosponsors in addition to Sponsor Walter Jones (R-NC). This means that 17% of the House of Representatives is already committed to voting for the bill when it comes to the floor for a vote! The new Cosponsors in order of when they signed on are:

Rep. Theodore Deutch (FL)
Rep. David Scott (GA)
Rep. Jeff Denham (CA)
Rep. Stephen Lynch (MA)
Rep. Janice Schakowsky (IL)
Rep. Steve Cohen (TN)
Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD)
Rep. Susan A. Davis (CA)
Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (MD)
Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL)
Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)
Rep. Scott R. Tipton (CO)
Rep. Christopher P. Gibson (NY)
Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (NY)

If you live in the district of any of these legislators, it would be a huge help if you would call or email their office and thank them for becoming a Cosponsor of H.R. 3546, the Big Cat Public Safety Act, to reinforce their decision by showing that constituents noticed.

A significant reason we keep adding cosponsors is the calls that supporters are making to their legislators urging them to support the bill. Many of these calls are made by our tour visitors. At the end of the sanctuary tour, one way we show people how weak the laws are is to show them the USDA "rule" for how much space is required for a tiger enclosure.



No one knows what this language means. Then we visually show them the space Florida allows. Under Florida law, two 500 pound tigers can be kept in a 10 x 24 concrete floored chain link box their entire lives. Pound for pound by weight, this would be like you living in the tiny box shown in the photo above.

Then we invite our visitors to call their legislators right then. Inside the gift shop we have a large board showing who has already Cosponsored the bill – they have a star by their name.

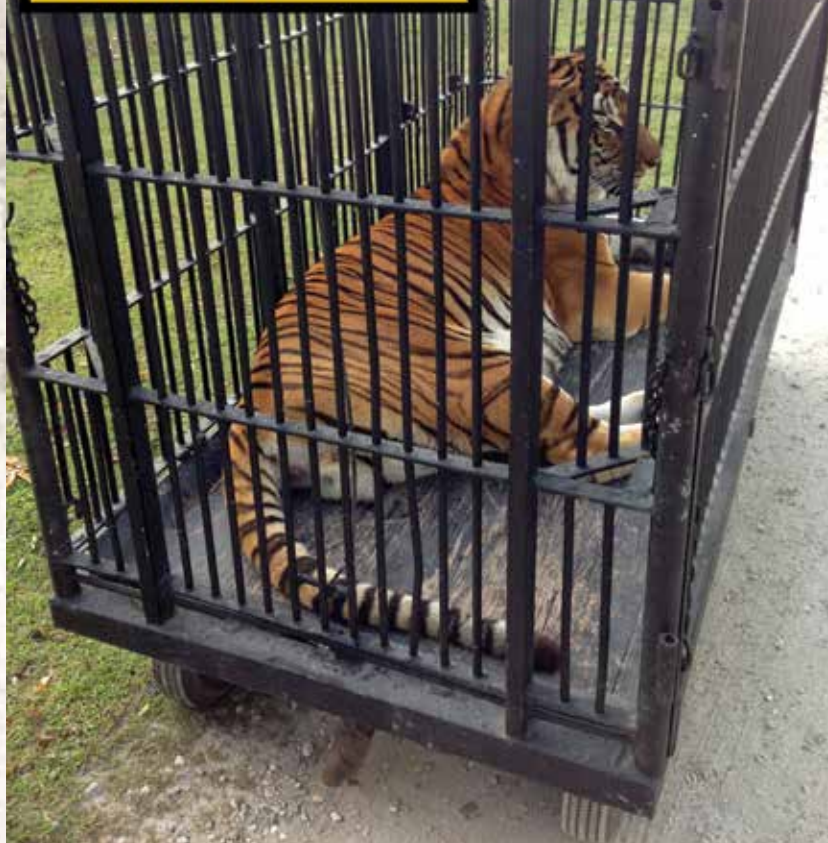
We assist by looking up their legislators' phone numbers. This session, i.e. since the bill was introduced in September 2015, visitors have made a wonderful 4,200 phone calls! Add to that the calls and emails by supporters like you who read the Big Cat Times or receive our Advocat emails, and you can see why support for the bill in Congress is steadily growing.

If you have not already contacted your legislators, please visit BigCatAct.com for easy instructions. To see the current Cosponsors visit:

**bigcatrescue.org/house
bigcatrescue.org/senate**

Thanks so much for helping put an end to these big cats living in miserable conditions!

USDA TIGER ENCLOSURE SIZE RULE: "MAKE NORMAL POSTURAL AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS WITH ADEQUATE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT"



REPRESENTATIVES

- AAR2 Don Young (R-AL) 202-225-5766
- AL21 Shirley Byrnes (R-FL) 202-225-4351
- AL22 Martha Raley (R-GI) 202-225-2901
- AL23 Mike Rogers (R-MS) 202-225-3291
- AL24 Robert B. Aderhold (R-CA) 202-225-4878
- AL25 John Garamendi (R-CA) 202-225-4951
- AL26 Gary Palmer (R-NE) 202-225-4821
- AL27 Tom A. Steyer (D-WI) 202-225-3868
- AR21 Rick Crawford (R-AR) 202-225-4036
- AR22 Francis HR 202-225-225-2206
- AR23 Steve Womack (R-AR) 202-225-4391
- AR24 Russ Westerman (R-AR) 202-225-3772
- AR25 Ann Rupperschlag (R-AR) 202-225-3361
- AR26 Martha McAlister (R-GI) 202-225-5442
- AR27 Russ M. Dwyer (R-CA) 202-225-3438
- AR28 Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ) 202-225-3315
- AR29 Mark Salmon (R-AZ) 202-225-3035
- AR30 David Schweikert (R-AZ) 202-225-2188
- AR31 Robert L. Gentry (D-AR) 202-225-4066
- AR32 Trent Franks (R-AR) 202-225-4576
- AR33 Kymberly Strömberg (D-AR) 202-225-9888
- AR34 Tom McClintock (R-CA) 202-225-2511
- AR35 David Lipton (R-AR) 202-225-3078
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CONGRESSMAN PATRICK MURPHY (D-FL) VISITS THE BIG CATS

In April we were honored to have a visit by Rep. Patrick Murphy, pictured here with tiger Bengali. Rep. Murphy currently represents the 18th Congressional district of Florida stretching from Ft. Pierce to Palm Beach. He is running for the Senate seat vacated by Marco Rubio.

After hearing story after story on the tour of how these big cats are mistreated in captivity, Rep. Murphy on the spot committed to become a cosponsor of the Big Cat Public Safety Act. He did so shortly after the visit and sent us the following much appreciated note:

"Big Cat Rescue works hard every day to end the abuse of captive big cats and save wild cats from extinction. After taking a very educational tour, I am so thankful that

we have organizations like this right here in Florida working hard to protect our environment and our wildlife. I am proud to now be a cosponsor of the Big Cat Public Safety Act."

We thank him very much for caring about the cats, making time to visit, and particularly for supporting the bill that is the only solution to the misery these cats endure in captivity.



BIG CATS ON THE RUN!!

Everyone at the sanctuary would like to extend ROARING Big Cat kudos to Advocat's Miki Y. and her running partner Yung Hae C. in recognition of their amazing accomplishment in having run and successfully completed the Boston Marathon in support of the magnificent creatures that call Big Cat Rescue home!

Miki and her friend not only helped promote BCR while running the Boston Marathon

by wearing their custom designed Big Cat singlets, but also raised over \$1000 in support of the cats via the sponsorship of family, friends and colleagues!

Miki and Yung Hae reported that they received a



Yung Hae running the Boston Marathon



Miki running the Boston Marathon

ROARING number of "Go Big Cat!" cheers along the course of this historic marathon.

Miki also ran and successfully completed the New York Half Marathon in support of the cats and excitedly reported that as she approached a band on the course, they suddenly started playing "Eye of the Tiger"!!!



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. 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!



WILDCAT WALKABOUT

Big Cat Rescue is excited to invite you to our annual Wildcat Walkabout on October 1 from 10 AM - 3 PM. Proceeds from this special event will be donated towards wildcat conservation projects around the globe.



Join us for an afternoon of good food and up close views of our furriest friends. The festivities of this 5-hour experience will include: Some of Tampa's finest food trucks, enrichment demonstrations, face painting, photo booth, and exploring the sanctuary at your leisure.

For details and tickets go to:

ZERVE.COM/BIGCATRESCUE/SAFARI



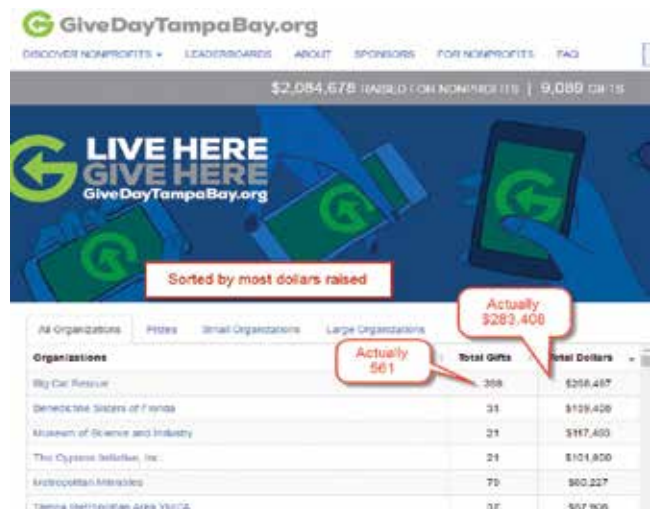
Big Cat Rescue has the best supporters who are ready and willing to lend a helping hand in new and interesting ways. Unique donations of stocks, bonds, goods, or services will now be joined by air miles. Joe and Nan Marotti have graciously donated an outstanding 365,000 air miles. These air miles will come in handy when we need to travel to rescue sites or are attending advocacy conferences across the country. Thank you so much Joe and Nan, you are truly wonderful!

GIVE DAY VICTORY AGAIN!

For the second year in a row Big Cat Rescue supporters arose to the challenge. Despite the technology failure of the firm providing the Leader Board and online donation form Give Day, 561 of you fought through the technology frustration and donated a total of \$283,408 making BCR the nonprofit that had both the most dollars raised and most supporters donating! The prizes added an additional \$6000 for the cats.

Here is an image of the Leader Board. The 163 donations made on our website when the Give Day site was not working counted but were not entered into the system so are included in the bubble numbers.

Thanks so much for your incredible support of the cats on what is our largest fundraising day of the year!



A BOBCAT'S TALE

UPDATE

OF BEATING THE ODDS

In our last issue we shared with you the rescue story of Thor the bobcat. To recap, Thor was found after he had been hit by a car. He was badly injured and just sat in the middle of the road until help arrived.

Thor's injuries included several breaks to the upper and lower jaw, a broken canine, fractures to the eye socket, and a complicated fracture to the shoulder blade. His eye was swollen and protruding most likely due to a combination of the impact and the resulting fracture to the socket. Blood work revealed he was anemic from blood loss. He was a mess and the prognosis was poor. It was feared that he would not make it through the night.

The next morning Thor was more alert and Big Cat Rescuers knew they had to do everything in their power to send this young bobcat back out into the wild where he belongs. And so began his long road to recovery.

Thor was examined by several specialists. Dr. Miller, an ophthalmologist, saved Thor's eye by suturing the third eye lid shut. This kept the eye moist until the swelling went down and he was able to blink again. Unfortunately even though the eye healed he never regained vision. On a positive note, losing

vision on his left side did not hinder his ability to hunt, so he would still be a candidate for release.

Dr. Boorstein stabilized the breaks to Thor's jaw with suture and wire. After several weeks of eating a soft food diet the bones in his jaw began fusing back together. Once the integrity of these bones was restored the wires were removed.

Dr. Gingerich, a dentist, and his team from the Pet Dental Center in Miami traveled across the state to root canal Thor's broken canine. A root canal is a procedure in which the nerve and pulp of the tooth is removed. The inside of the tooth is then cleaned and sealed, resulting in a usable and pain free tooth. This would be essential to giving Thor the best chance of survival once released. Cats depend on their canines and claws to catch and dispatch prey.

Radiographs of Thor's broken shoulder blade were sent to Dr. Hay, a specialist in orthopedics and soft tissue surgery, for a consultation. Due to the fragility of the shoulder blade bone and the amount of muscle attached to it, he recommended cage rest for several weeks to allow the bones to heal.

After 2 months of hospital care Thor was finally ready to be moved to the outdoor bobcat rehab enclosures. This large natural space would be Thor's home for the next month while he regained his muscle mass and brushed up on his hunting skills.

Throughout Thor's journey he was cheered on by adoring fans that watched him via a live streaming web cam. This high def camera is permanently installed in our rehab enclosure and is one of 9 on the grounds that can be watched online 24/7 at Explore.org/BigCatRescue

Three months after his rescue it was

time for Thor to go home. He was transported to a beautiful wooded property about 100 acres in size.

In most cases when the transport crate doors are opened the bobcat will bolt, running full speed away, never looking back. However, Thor has not made any thing easy for his rescuers since the day he arrived.

In typical fashion he stood his ground with a 20 minute stare down before causally ambling away. Finally he slunk behind a small hill just out of sight.

Rescuers looked on reflecting on his rehabilitation and release, realizing they would never see him again. Then he reappeared just past the hill.

As he trotted away at a slightly increased pace it seemed to suddenly dawned on him that he was free. He ran faster and faster until he was at top speed. When he approached a low fence he flew high into the air clearing it with little effort. He ran and ran until he was so far away that it became difficult to see him. Thor disappeared deep into the forest, this time for good.

Show your support for Thor and help fund our bobcat rehab program with one of these awesome tees. Each design features an actual imprint of Thor's paw taken while he was sedated. Find these tees and other cool Thor gifts in our online gift shop. Search using the keyword "Thor".

BigCatRescue.biz





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 the SAVE award.

The SAVE award is a \$1,000 donation made by Big Cat Rescue towards wild cat conservation in honor of the recipient.


Keeper Trainee Alex Foxx is an excellent worker who helps wherever she is needed and always has a smile on her face. She is incredibly enthusiastic and always wants to learn something new.

In honor of Alex a donation of \$1000 was made to the Cape Leopard Trust to fund the conservation of caracals in South Africa.




The Cape Peninsula is a biodiversity hotspot that has lost almost all of its large mammals such as cape lions, leopards

What's for dinner? Discovering Savannah's diet




Radio-collar GPS location
Movement path


A cluster of GPS points from Savannah's radio-collar suggested she'd been feeding in the area.



We visited each GPS point to look for prey remains.




Savannah, an adult female, from Table Mountain.



Only feathers and bones remain from a guinea fowl.

What We Learnt

- Caracals in Table Mountain hunt guinea fowl.
- The kill was only 100 meters from a major road.
- Savannah spent 24 hours hunting and feeding on her prey.
- She took "resting breaks" away from the kill site during the 24 hour feeding bout.



UrbanCaracal.org
Facebook.com/UrbanCaracal

and brown hyenas. Caracals as a result may play a major role in maintaining the ecosystem as they are the largest remaining predator in the area. The goals of the CLT's study on caracals are to:

Establish baseline information about the caracal population in the Cape Peninsula.

Evaluate the effects of urbanization on the behavior, movement patterns, diet, and genetic health.

Assess threats to survival for caracals in the Peninsula and potentially beyond to other parts of South Africa.

These funds will be used to purchase radio collars equipped with satellite tracking as well as for veterinary health assessments of the caracals being studied.

Senior Keeper Bonnie has been volunteering for 4 years. She is so positive and hard working. No matter who she is working with, or what the task may be, she is

always smiling and laughing. To show Bonnie how much she is appreciated, \$1000 was given to the Black Footed Cat Working Group to fund the ongoing research needed to conserve the Black Footed Cat in South Africa.



Started 23 years ago this is one of the longest running small cat projects. More than 60 cats have been caught and collared. The entirety of what is known today



Research / Navorising



about the species has been found during this field study. The group collects data on the ecology of the Black Footed Cat, including home range sizes and usage, social organization, food habits, mortality, longevity, dispersal and reproduction of the population.

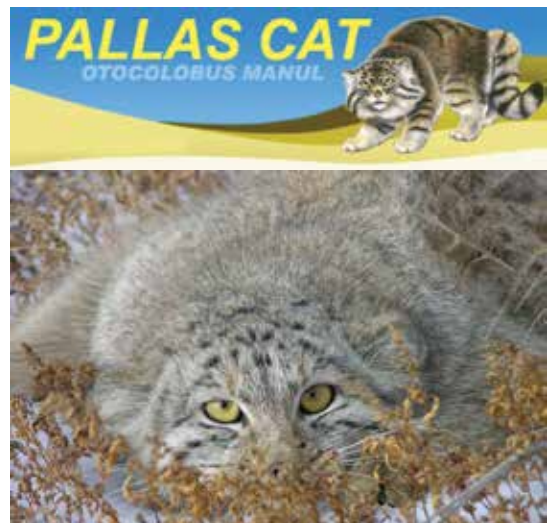
The Black Footed Cat Working Group consists of 7 biologists and veterinarians and acts as a central information source for the species.

black-footed-cat.wild-cat.org/

Joanna Atkin is a Level 5 intern. She has achieved the highest level in our intern program due to her unending dedication and tireless efforts. Joanna has made a significant impact on our domestic foster kitten program, helping new interns learn how to care for their fosters and taking the most challenging foster kittens under her wing.



To celebrate Jo, a \$1,000 donation was given to the Pallas Cat Study and Conservation Program to fund the ongoing research needed to conserve wild Pallas Cats in Russia.



The Pallas Cat is one of the least studied wild cats in the world despite having a large habitat ranging across Russia, Mongolia and North-Western China. The habitat of this species has been decreasing over the years resulting in numbers that have dramatically declined. Biology of the species and its adaptations to different landscapes have never been studied adequately, meaning data is lacking on the current spatial distribution, migratory patterns and habitat preference.

The Pallas Cat Study and Conservation Program focuses on collecting much needed data in order to effectively determine future conservation actions that will benefit the Pallas Cat

savemanul.org/eng/

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

GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS



King of Beards Tee Blue or Brown
S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Luminous Leopard, Fitted Cut
Purple or Blue S, M, L, & XL
\$24.40 XXL **\$26.54**



Lion wearing BCR Beanie
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



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



Roaring Motors Lion Tee
S, M, L, XL **\$24.40**



I see LIONS Periodically
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



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



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TJ



Zeus



TJ

PARTY!



Armani



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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>

KIDS TOUR

Children of all ages and their parents can learn about the big cats on this guided tour of the sanctuary. This tour is given on a child's educational level. Tour is 1 hr. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

DAY TOUR

Guided tour of the sanctuary. Learn about the big cats and the threats they face both in the wild as well as in captivity. Hear their personal stories of how they were rescued. Tour is 1.5 hrs. No children under 10 years.

FEEDING TOUR

Follow a keeper as they feed the big cats. Observe a variety of cats eating and learn about the their nutritional needs in captivity. Tour is 1 hr. No children under 10 years.

BIG CAT KEEPER TOUR

This tour takes you behind the scenes. Enjoy making enrichment (treats and food puzzles) for the big cats and watch as the keepers hand out the enrichment you made. You will also observe operant training sessions with the big cats. Tour is 2 hrs. No children under 10 years.

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Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change. Visit us online for the most current tour information. Closed Thursdays, Thanksgiving & Christmas Day. Tours may be canceled due to inclement weather.



THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Summer 2016

BILLING ADDRESS (please print legibly)

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

ORDER DATE: _____

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 Address: _____
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BCR Ribbon Magnet Gold or Silver **\$8.35**

DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE
SPONSORSHIP KIT:				
ULTRASOUND DONATION (Your contribution will be matched dollar for dollar!)				
AUTOMATIC GIVING PROGRAM - SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY	Please charge my card this amount each month:			
PAVE THE WAY BRICK (See description and instructions below)		4X8	\$100	
PAVE THE WAY BRICK (See description and instructions below)		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) ____

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

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

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BIG CAT WARRIORS



This March, for her 8th birthday, Megan (at center in pink jacket holding a cougar photo) chose to celebrate her special day by fundraising for Big Cat Rescue! Instead of birthday gifts, Megan asked that her birthday party guests contribute to the care of Nikita lioness.

We helped out by sending Megan and her mom some materials to help give the party the Big Cat Rescue touch.

All together Megan and her friends raised enough to be Big Cat Warriors! In Megan's words "I'm so glad that I got to help you guys for my birthday".

Thank you for thinking of our Nikita on this very special birthday and we hope you enjoy watching your girl live the good life on her very own Explore.org camera!

LITTLE KIDS - BIG IDEAS

Just because the kids that support Big Cat Rescue are little doesn't mean they don't have big ideas. Long time student supporter Alexander joined up with his friend Phoenix to propose a fundraiser at their school, the first of its kind!

In honor of their school mascot, the bobcat, Alexander and Phoenix organized a school wide campaign to raise funds for our very own Mr. Howell. Their long-term goal is to raise \$500 from the students each year to support Mr. Howell's medical needs, food, and general care.



The campaign kicked-off with a school wide presentation, included a student raffle, and culminated in a grand prize drawing with cool Big Cat Rescue themed gift baskets as giveaways!

What a wonderful way for the students at Banner School to come together and learn more about bobcats! We thank Alexander and Phoenix for their hard work and



commitment and all the students at Banner School for making this campaign a success!

DONATIONS

Received Jan 1st - Mar 31st

Jennie Jamison & Bernice Brooks \$5,000
 Millard & Lillian Prutky Trust,
 Kim Melick Trustee \$5,000
 Robin Tucker \$3,009
 The Human Fund \$2,500
 Mary Nall \$1,950
 Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill \$1,739
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Thank you for your support! If your donation came toward the end of the quarter, it may not have been entered into our database in time for this newsletter and will appear in the next. Donation data entry is manual and subject to occasional errors, so if your donation should appear and does not, please email:

Katie.Nikic
 @BigCatRescue.org

While the list of donors of \$100-199 is too long for this print edition, they are very much appreciated and recognized by being appended to the online edition.

- Howard Baskin,
 Treasurer

SPONSOR A CAT

All kits include: 4-page color fact sheet about the species, BCR 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. Sponsor levels below include these additional benefits:

\$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, 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, Founder Tour for 10

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MR AND MRS CLAWS

Nearly 5 months after being rescued Mr. Claws was ready to go home. In November of last year, Mr. Claws was found injured in a parking lot in Christmas Florida. He had suffered a broken leg, tail, and pelvis as well as damaged and missing teeth and a deep laceration to his leg.

Dr. Boorstein, Dr. Bard and technician Jamie Gibbs of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay performed surgery repairing the broken leg with a permanent plate. The fractured pelvis was not displaced, so cage rest would heal the broken bone. Lucky for Mr. Claws his damaged and missing teeth were baby teeth which would be replaced with adult teeth soon.

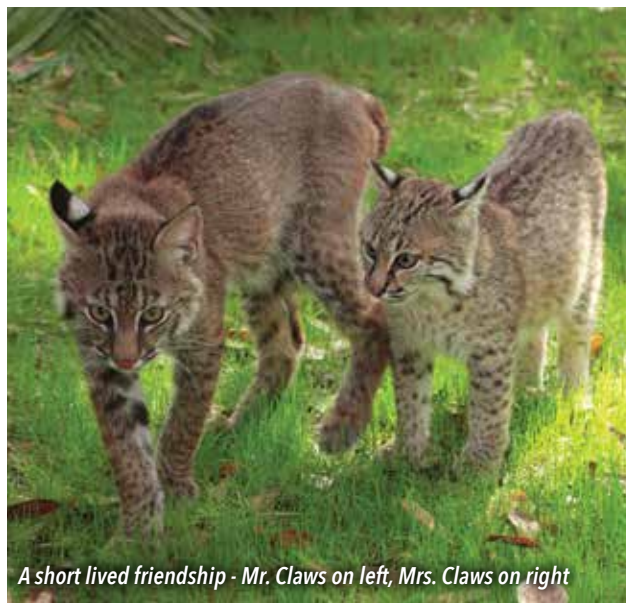
For the next 7 weeks Mr. Claws recovered indoors in small quarters to allow for his broken bones to heal. This is always a critical time for rehab bobcats as they can either hurt themselves further due to the fear of being trapped in a cage or become too accustomed to humans caring for them day to day.

Only a select few trained keepers

care for the wild bobcats in rehab at Big Cat Rescue. These bobcat rehab keepers wear camouflage ghillie suits and do not speak around the cats. Care including feeding, cleaning, and administration of medications is done quickly and efficiently, minimizing each bobcat's exposure to humans. Our goal is to keep these bobcats as wild as possible so that they will thrive once released back into the wild.

Approximately a month and a half after his arrival Mr. Claws was sedated for a follow up exam. His fractures had healed and he was ready for the next phase of his rehabilitation.

Mr. Claws spent the next 3 months in our outdoor rehab enclosures where he gained back his strength and sharpened his hunting skills. At this point he was introduced to another bobcat kitten that had arrived on the same day as him. Mrs. Claws was



A short lived friendship - Mr. Claws on left, Mrs. Claws on right

a few weeks younger and we had hoped the duo could be raised and released together. Unfortunately, these two bobcats were very food aggressive and their friendship only lasted a short while.

It seemed like it happened overnight that Mr. Claws had transformed from a young scruffy kitten into a

sleek stealthy adult. He was ready to go home and so the search for a suitable release site began. It can sometimes be difficult to find places to release bobcats that have been rehabilitated. Many people assume these wild animals can just be taken back out to the woods somewhere and let go or perhaps go to a state park or the like, but this is not the case. Regulations require that the bobcat be released in the same county, generally close to where they were initially found. The property must be a minimum of 40 acres and written permission from the landowner is required. It takes a lot of research to identify suitable release sites and contact information for those property owners. Requests are sent out to numerous individuals at the same time and then the waiting game begins.

Thankfully for Mr. Claws our top pick agreed to allow us to release him on their land which encompassed 1,600 acres of prime Florida habitat. Mr. Claws' new home features a variety of habitats including marshes, hardwood hammocks, and scenic lakes.

The day of Mr. Claws' release was filled with excitement. The release site was lush and teeming with wildlife. As we drove through the release site in the middle of the property we spotted numerous water birds, owls, bald eagles, snakes, and alligators. This area was alive with wildlife! A perfect home for this young bobcat.

Rescuers stopped at a nice grassy spot near a pond and unloaded the crate. Cameras were positioned and observers were standing by. Dr. Boorstein was given the honor

of opening the door releasing the bobcat whose life he had saved. Mr. Claws took off like a flash, running as fast as he could gaining ground with leaps and bounds. In just a few seconds he was gone. He disappeared into the forest. Hearts were filled with joy at the site of this healthy bobcat getting a second chance at life and going back to where he belongs.

Meanwhile Mrs. Claws continues her rehabilitation at Big Cat Rescue. Having suffered an injury to her head

as a young kitten we were concerned she might have brain damage or vision issues. This concern was brought on by her unusual behavior when seeking out and hunting her food. She will often bite at the ground or surrounding area missing her target by a few inches. To rule out vision problems Dr. Miller examined Mrs. Claws. She found her eyes to be normal and functioning. However, after reviewing videos of Mrs. Claws and her approach to food, she agreed with keepers that Mrs. Claws was a little off. This could be a result

of brain damage or perhaps she is slow in her mental development.

In addition to this deficit she has been very slow to grow. Her miniature stature in combination with her inefficient hunting skills have resulted in her need to remain in the rehabilitation program a little while longer. She will be monitored closely for improvements during the next few months. Hopefully with a little more time she will gain the size and efficacy required to survive on her own in the wild.



Dr. Boorstein and BCR President Jamie Veronica

Mr. Claws' release was attended by rescuers; Jamie Gibbs, Dr. Boorstein, Jamie Veronica, Gale Ingham, Afton Tasler, Karma Hurworth, & Dr. Bard



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: SIBERIAN LYNX



Fun Facts: The Siberian lynx is a sub-species of the Eurasian lynx. The name lynx comes from the Greek word "to shine," and may be in reference to the reflective ability of the cat's eyes.

Population: In Russia the lynx is thought to be stable in some regions and to be decreasing in others. The Siberian lynx population was last estimated at around 22,510 individuals in 2013.

Size and Appearance:

The Siberian lynx is the largest of the lynx family, with males weighing as much as 90 pounds. The fur is typically grayish, with tints varying from yellowish to rusty. They have 3 main patterns: predominately spotted, predominantly striped, and unpatterned. The coats are more heavily spotted in the summer phase, and almost barely visible in the winter phase. They have a flared facial ruff, long prominent black ear tufts, and long hind legs with a short black tipped tail. Their large, wide-spreading feet are covered in fur,

which act like snowshoes, and are effective in supporting the cat's weight on the snow.

Habitat: The Siberian lynx occurs in a wide variety of environmental and climatic

conditions. Throughout Europe and Siberia, it is primarily associated with forested areas which have good ungulate populations and provide enough cover for hunting.

Distribution: The Eurasian Lynx has a very broad distribution. It occurs along forested mountain ranges in southeastern and Central Europe and from northern



and eastern Europe through the Boreal forests of Russia, down into Central Asia and the Tibetan plateau. The lynx's stronghold is a broad strip of southern Siberian woodland stretching from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific.

Reproduction and Offspring:

After a gestation of approximately 69 days, females produce a litter of 1-4 kittens, with the average being 2. They weigh 8-12 ounces at birth. They are weaned between 3-5 months of age, and are independent at the age of 10 months. They reach maturity around 24 months for females and 30 months for males.

Social System: Solitary, except for females with offspring, or siblings who have just separated from their mothers who may travel and hunt together for several months before separating.

Hunting and Diet: The Eurasian Lynx primarily hunts hoofed mammals, although they rely on smaller species where these are less abundant. Prey includes several varieties of deer as well as hares, marmots, and wild pigs.

Threats: The largest threat facing this lynx is the competition for prey with hunters, conflicts with farmers, loss of habitat and the increasing urbanization. There is still some hunting of the lynx for the pelt trade, but it is believed to be restricted to less than 1,000 per year from China and 2,800 per year from Russia. It is believed that both countries have

been keeping those numbers well below their quotas, and each country has exported below 1,000 per year. In the past numbers were as high as 6,000 per year and have reached highs of 12,000 in a year.



Apollo - Male Siberian Lynx
Born: 1997 Rescued from fur farm



SAVING WILD FISHING CATS

The Fishing Cat Working Group (FCWG) was founded in the spring of 2011 with the aim of compiling and disseminating information about the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), one of four small cat species considered endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and encouraging conservation action for the species. Of the FCWG conservationists, some are involved in surveying ecology and status of the fishing cat in several range countries, while others have gathered available information on the historical distribution of the fishing cat. In November 2015 these conservationists were able to meet for the very first time at a 5 day international symposium in Nepal to push global fishing cat conservation forward, each conservationist presented their efforts and shared their experiences. The symposium brought together participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Below are examples of the current conservation projects aiding in the protection of the fishing cat, two of which are funded in part by Big Cat Rescue.

INDIA: Since 2011 Tiasa Adhya has been documenting and mapping fishing cats outside protected areas in West Bengal. Her project was one of the first attempts to research how the fishing cat persists in a human-dominated landscape. The study looked at threats to the fishing cat including habitat loss and poaching. Tiasa was instrumental in forming Fishing Cat Protection Committees and works with local communities to initiate a community-owned fishing cat conservation area. (Big Cat Rescue assisted in funding for this in situ project.)

SRI LANKA: Beginning in 2014, Ashan Thudugala has been monitoring potential threats to the fishing cat in the country. He initiated a research and conservation project in the hilly region and organizes awareness programs for school children and students. In Sri Lanka's hill country, many forest patches are covered or crossed by roads, or have been deforested in recent years to allow for expansion of urban areas. The fishing cat population is presumably severely affected by this habitat loss and fragmentation with feeding grounds for the species diminishing. In addition road kills are increasing, so Ashan also started setting up road signs at spots along highways where fishing cats have been killed. (Big Cat Rescue assisted in funding for this in situ project.)

BANGLADESH: Hasan Rahman, Jennifer McCarthy and Kyle McCarthy used a presence-only computer model to predict the distribution of fishing cats as more is currently known about dead fishing cats in the country than about live ones. Between January 2010 and March 2013, national newspapers reported 82 incidents involving fishing cats that were captured by local people; 14 individuals were rescued and released without being monitored; 30 individuals were fatally injured, and the fate of 38 Fishing Cats remained unknown. They called for urgent measures to protect the species.

Dr Jim Sanderson of the FCWG commented: *"Fishing cats are specialists and no larger generalist species can act as umbrellas to protect their limited and often threatened habitats. Much of Southeast Asia had already been lost. The Javan fishing cat subspecies has likely followed the Javan tiger into extinction. Fishing cats in Vietnam have no laws protecting them and any that remain might be a lost cause. The existence of Cambodia's last fishing cats depends on bold conservation actions. Despite these setbacks, fishing cat conservationists will never give up!"*

You can read more about work done by the Fishing Cat working group here:

FISHING-CAT.WILD-CAT.ORG

Information obtained from: http://www.wildcat.org/viverrinus/infos/FCWG2016_1stInt_FishingCat_Conservation_Symposium_proceedings.pdf



Sad Farewell

Taking care of 79 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 79 animals, 59 are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 54 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 27 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.

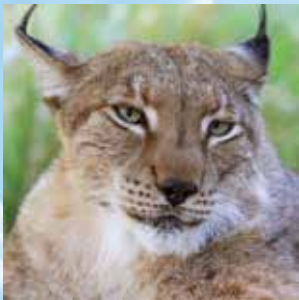
BONGO



1991 - 2016

Most servals have yellow colored eyes, but Bongo had the sweetest big brown eyes you have ever seen. He reigned as the oldest cat at Big Cat Rescue before passing away in his sleep a few days after his 25th birthday. A necropsy showed that he had succumbed to both heart and kidney failure.

ZEUS



1997 - 2016

Zeus and Apollo were luckily spared from being harvested. Sadly others continue to perish. Zeus and Apollo lived together and were inseparable. Tragically, Zeus suffered a massive seizure and despite heroic efforts from Big Cat Rescuers and our vet team he passed away. His

Bongo, a male serval, was born into the pet trade. Sadly many exotic cats like Bongo end up homeless when their owners can no longer afford to care for them. Bongo was 4 years old when he first arrived at BCR. He spent the next 21 years of his life being loved and cared for every

necropsy indicated he had multiple organ failure. He was 19 years old.

ANGELICA

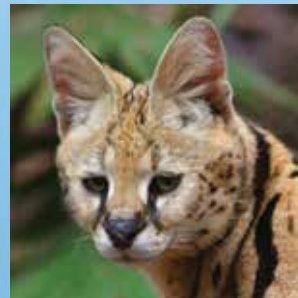


1997 - 2016

Angelica thrived here during the next 5 years. Just a few weeks before her passing Angelica got to be one of the first little cats to have a turn in the Funcation enclosure. She enjoyed her time in this fun new space immensely. Shortly after her vacation keepers noticed her jaw was swollen. Assuming she had a dental issue, the vet team sedated her only to find she had a bone mass in her jaw. Because the invasive mass was inoperable she was humanely euthanized. Biopsy results revealed the mass was a squamous cell carcinoma, a form of cancer.

Angelica, a female bobcat, came to Big Cat Rescue when she was 15 years old. Like Bongo, she was a pet who's owner ended up in foreclosure and was unable to provide for her any longer. Whenever we rescue an exotic cat from a private owner we require the owner sign a contract

FLUFFY



1993 - 2016

Her organ failure in addition to the recent onset of seizures made her a poor candidate for sedation. When Fluffy suddenly refused to eat we believed it was her time. However, it turned out that Fluffy had some dental issues that needed to be addressed. She had three bad teeth which required extraction. Although the procedure was successful, she never recovered from being sedated. She was too old and too weak to carry on. Fluffy was 23 years old.

Fluffy, a female serval, was the last remaining survivor of a trio of kittens born into the pet trade. As a kitten she was very outgoing, but once she matured she became more reserved and untrusting of her human care givers. Like many cats that live to be as old as Fluffy, her kidneys began to fail.

VET REPORTS:

MRI LAST CHANCE FOR TEISHA TIGER

Teisha was rescued in October of last year. She was seized by the Ohio Department of Agriculture when her owner failed to meet requirements for keeping exotic pets.



When Teisha first arrived at Big Cat Rescue she had extreme difficulty standing up and walking. She relied mainly on her front limbs to propel herself up and forward as her back end swayed weakly from side to side. According to officials she had been picked on by her cage mates at the failed facility. However we

were unsure if her mobility issues were a result of this or something else. Unfortunately for Teisha her inability to move about freely was compounded by the fact that she was grossly overweight.

Teisha was immediately put on a healthy diet and medications to reduce inflammation and pain. A healthy diet plan helped Teisha drop 60 pounds since her initial rescue in Ohio. Once Teisha was a more appropriate weight the vet team felt comfortable sedating her for an exam. Overall Teisha was in good health with the exception of her spine. X-rays showed significant arthritis all throughout her neck and back as well as in her wrists and ankles. Her radiographs were sent out to specialists for advice on how to proceed with Teisha's diagnostics and care.

Meanwhile Teisha took a turn for the worse. She was struggling to just stand up and would lay in one spot all day long. Our veterinarians and staff made a plan to transport Teisha to the University of Gainesville where she would have an MRI. Specialists at the university recommended the MRI to determine if the cause of Teisha's decreased mobility was something that could be alleviated with surgery.

Teisha was loaded onto the rescue trailer in the early morning to make the 3 hour trip to Gainesville. There a

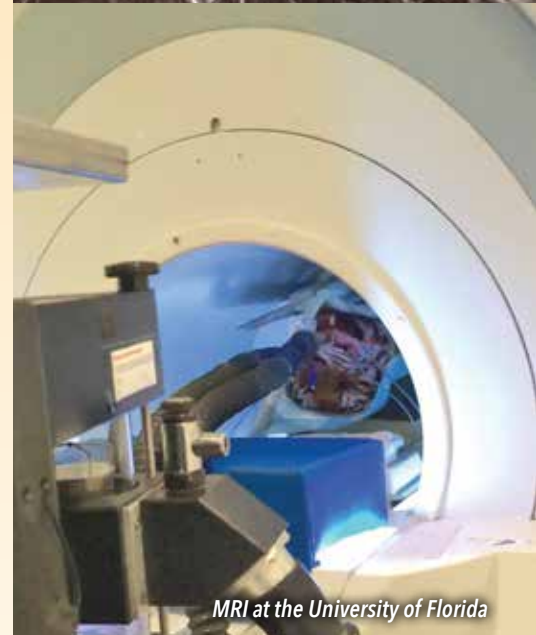
team of veterinary specialists and students sedated Teisha and prepped her for the MRI. The MRI took nearly 3 hours to complete. It was a long waiting game and the end results were not what we had hoped for.



Compressed discs and arthritis in the neck



Large compressive lesion on the spinal cord



MRI at the University of Florida

Teisha has so many bulging discs compressing her spinal cord that the neurologist recommended against doing surgery. There were just too

Dr. Miller and Dr. Wynn examine Teisha as Interns Chelsea and MC groom



many areas that were affected and it would require incisions and surgery from Teisha's neck all the way down her back to the base of her tail. This would be incredibly invasive and Teisha's ability to recover from such a procedure was very poor. The neurologist noted that Teisha's condition had been going on for many years.

We were saddened by the news that we would be unable to help Teisha with surgery. However, as a last resort, the neurologist suggested starting Teisha on a course of steroids. Now that we knew the root of the problem, we could try to approach it medically.

It took two weeks to see the full benefits from the new medication. At first the steroids seemed to help Teisha, she was getting around her enclosure a little better and was in good spirits. However, soon her improvements plateaued and then reversed. Teisha became weak and was unable to stand up at all.

The vet team knew there was nothing more that could be done for Teisha and made the decision to end her suffering.

We are incredibly saddened by the loss of Teisha. She was such a sweet natured and inquisitive tiger. She left a permanent paw print on the hearts of everyone who met her.



Broken canine post root canal



JUMANJI! WHY DID YOU EAT THAT?!

Jumanji is a 20-year-old male black leopard. Despite his age he still acts like a cub sometimes. When he is in a mischievous mood he will sometimes destroy the palmetto bushes in his enclosure. He chews off the leaves and bites the fronds down to helpless nubs.

One day keepers found part of a molar on his feeding block. The vet team decided he needed to be sedated for a possible dental issue.

As soon as Dr. Boorstein took a look in Jumanji's mouth the culprit was obvious, although it was no where to be found.

Across the roof of Jumanji's mouth was an irritated groove that spanned between the molars on the left side all the way to the molars on the right.

Most likely Jumanji had been up to his usual antics and when chomping on the palm fronds a portion of the

frond got caught across the roof of his mouth, resulting in the damage of his upper molars on both sides.

Surprisingly, Jumanji never acted like there was something stuck in his mouth and he continued to eat his breakfast each morning with no issues.

Unfortunately once the bad teeth were extracted Jumanji was left with no chewing teeth in his upper jaw. Therefore he will have to be on a soft chopped diet for the rest of his life.

Jumanji does not seem bothered by this one bit. He gets all of his favorite foods still and they are cut up into easy to eat pieces.



Dr. Boorstein extracts the bad teeth while Intern Jo monitors Jumanji's temperature



Jamie takes X-rays with assistance from Intern Martin

NEW DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR WINDSONG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Windsong Memorial Hospital has changed the way we care for the cats completely. Rarely is there a case in which we need to take a cat offsite for diagnostics. Right here at the sanctuary we can sedate, evaluate, take dental and full body X-rays, run bloodwork, stain and evaluate slides, test fecals, and even perform surgery. Thanks to the generous donations of big cat supporters we have been given an outstanding opportunity to build and outfit a state-of-the-art hospital. One key piece of equipment which was very much needed fell by the wayside for nearly a year. We had to prioritize our equipment needs and fundraise for each, one after the other. Finally it came time to raise donations towards the purchase of this life-saving machine, an ultrasound.

Thanks to the generosity of SHARE Foundation we were able to provide a \$25,000 match that helped fuel our fundraising efforts. The opportunity to make an individual's donation count for double spread like a wildfire and in no time we had raised \$20,000 towards the match. Leaving us with just \$5,000 left to raise in order to fully fund the purchase of this advanced machine.

Earlier this year Dr. Boorstein and BCR President Jamie Veronica attended the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando. At this conference there is a large showcase of products and supplies. Several ultrasound companies were represented. They visited each booth and talked with representatives about their machines and the services they offered. One company in particular stood out from the rest. Oncura offers a very unique service – live assistance with

the operation of the machine and successful capture of diagnostic images. Prior to or in the middle of performing an ultrasound exam we are able to call in to sonographers on standby. These technicians can log into the ultrasound computer as well as view the exam via a live streaming camera. These two features allow for live interactive assistance with capturing images needed by the radiologists. This is an invaluable service.



Jamie ultrasounds Reise the cougar while she is receiving a routine exam

One of the biggest complaints from practices that have ultrasound machines is that they do not get used enough and in turn the doctors do not get proficient in capturing images. If the equipment is not used frequently it can be easy to forget some of the protocols for locating certain organs or even just operating the machine itself.



With the services provided by Oncura we will never need to worry about that. We can feel confident that we will always have experts standing by to help. This is especially important in big cat medicine as there is a limit on the sedation time and in that time-frame we want to get everything done that needs to be completed in order to avoid multiple sedations.

After the purchase of the machine, Dr. Boorstein and Jamie completed 8 hours of training in operating the unit conducting a protocol for a full abdominal imaging. They both successfully completed the course and are now certified.

The ultrasound machine is a vital piece of equipment that will give us one more insight into the health of the cats that are examined.

To donate fill out the form on page 19 or visit:

**BigCatRescue.org/
ultrasound**



Dr. Boorstein ultrasounds Kalahari the serval while she is sedated for a dental exam

JOINING FORCES TO SAVE WILD TIGERS



In celebration of International Tiger Day Big Cat Rescue has joined forces with Clemson's Tigers for Tigers to raise awareness and funds to protect wild Sumatran tigers through the efforts of the International Tiger Project.

Big Cat Rescue has designed a collaborative t-shirt to raise awareness and funds for the International Tiger Projects conservation efforts in Bukit Tigapuluh. For every t-shirt sold \$8 will be donated to the project. In addition, Big Cat Rescue will match dollar for dollar t-shirt sales up to \$3,000. So for the first 157 shirts sold, a donation of \$27 will go towards these iconic big cats.



Check out these paw-some tees and help save wild tigers by purr-chasing yours today! The tee is available in a variety of colors in both guys and ladies styles.

bigcatrescue.org/international-tiger-day-2016/

The International Tiger Project has identified key Sumatran tiger habitat in the Bukit Tigapuluh landscape using camera trap surveys. Currently, 12 adult tigers and three tiger cubs have been individually identified through camera trap photos. In addition, a total of 36 medium-sized and large mammal species have been detected, many of

them belonging to rare and threatened species such as Asiatic wild dog, marbled cat, Sunda clouded leopard, Sumatran elephant and Sumatran orangutan.



In order to discriminate between individuals, tiger pictures were analyzed using unique stripe patterns and sex of the animals photographed. The resulting data was then analyzed using spatial capture-recapture models. These models estimate density accounting for the spatial distribution and movement of individuals.

In addition to collecting data using camera traps, the International Tiger Project funds Wildlife Protection Units to patrol the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park and surrounding buffer zones. Local people are employed as members of these units, giving good employment opportunities to local people and increasing the profile of the Sumatran tiger and its importance in the area. Members of these units receive extensive training including first aid, wildlife crime investigation, survey techniques and report writing. The Wildlife Protection Units have been very successful in deterring poaching and illegal logging. They are also responsible for educating other local people about laws against poaching wildlife, and how to gather information about illegal activities and report these to the forestry police.





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Is It Too Late for the *FLORIDA PANTHER*?

Will the Panther soon disappear from the forests and swamps of Florida forever? Each passing week it looks like this could become a reality sooner than expected.

To date this year 25 Florida Panthers have perished. An average more than 1 per week. 20 of those were road kills, 2 were killed by other panthers over territory disputes, and 3 died from unknown causes.

While 5 known Panther kittens have been born this year, the births cannot keep up with the deaths. Research indicates that less than half of Panther kittens born will survive past the age of 6 months.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reports that there are between 100-180 Florida Panthers remaining in the wild. We are only half way through 2016 and approximately 20% of the population has been lost.

If you think these statistics are both surprising and

disturbing, wait until you read this next part. The FWC is responsible for managing, protecting, and conserving Florida's wildlife. A commission of 7 individuals appointed by the governor leads the FWC.



Last fall, the FWC shocked the public with a proposal that would abandon efforts to increase population goals and instead weaken protections for the Florida Panther. This proposal was submitted without consulting with the state's staff Panther biologists.

In addition, vice chairwoman of the FWC, Aliese Priddy, has joined a group of developers seeking a special permit that would allow for the killing of Panthers that interfere with their development plans. The group has plans to turn 45,000 acres of prime Panther habitat into a bustling town the size of Washington D.C. This area would be home to mining, oil exploration, agriculture, and 10,000 residential homes.

Unfortunately the time to speak out about both of these issues has passed. Follow us online for future updates on how you can help protect the Florida Panther.

Can't wait for the next issue? Sign up for our monthly e-zine the AdvoCat at: BigCatRescue.org/join

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