

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

BIG CAT TIMES

FALL 2016



RUSTY & SASSY - CARACALS



A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

Jamie Veronica

Despite being our slowest months, Summer has flown by and now we are gearing up for our busiest time of year.

The past few months have been ripe with exciting developments as well as gut wrenching losses.

While the bill to end big cat suffering gains traction we have had to say goodbye to many of our furry friends and even more heartbreaking we are mourning the loss of one of the founding members of Big Cat Rescue, Vernon Stairs.



Aside from the sadness we have a lot of interesting stories and news to share with you in this issue.

The Wildcat Walkabout is just weeks away so be sure to get your tickets soon. We are so excited to be hosting this event for the 3rd consecutive year and even more excited about the conservation projects that the Walkabout will benefit. These include; Wildlife Conservation Research Unit's Sunda clouded leopard project to study habitat loss, Ewaso Lions' efforts to reduce conflict between humans and Africa's biggest cat, Wildlife Conservation Society's research of Latin American jaguars, construction of wildlife corridors for Canada lynx by Rocky Mountain Wild, and BCR's involvement in the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Big Cat Rescue is joining a coalition of international animal welfare organizations at CITES this month to lobby support for tiger friendly initiatives. We will bring you updates from this epic meeting in our next issue of the Big Cat Times.

Also in this issue read about our newest wild bobcat rescue Spirit Feather. Check out the updates on Thor and Mrs. Claws as well as our plans for a massive expansion for the bobcat rehabilitation program.

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", 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:
BigCatRescue.org/Tickets

INTERACTION WITH BIG CATS LEADS TO ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING

Thailand's Tiger Temple was founded in 1994 as a forest temple and sanctuary for wild animals. The temple rescued its first tiger in 1999, an orphaned cub that had been found in a local village. The cub died soon after its arrival. According to reports 8 cubs in need of rescue were brought to the temple a few years later. By January 2016 the temple housed more than 150 tigers.

Somewhere along the way the temple evolved from a rescue center to a breeding facility focused on profiting from the exploitation of their collection by charging tourists for photo ops.

The temple's operations violated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) international treaty on wildlife to which Thailand is a signatory, which bans commercial breeding of protected wild animals such as tigers

for their parts or derivatives. In addition the temple did not possess a license required for breeding as determined by the Thai Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act of 1992. Yet for years the temple continued to breed tigers for profit.

On the surface it appeared as though the temple was solely profiting from tourists paying entrance fees to walk among the tigers and take selfies with the big cats. This practice in and of itself that results in tigers being bred for an unnatural life in captivity with no benefit to conserving the species in



the wild. However, something much darker was taking place behind closed doors.


Following years of prodding from a coalition of international animal welfare organizations authorities in Thailand launched a crackdown on the Tiger Temple in June of this year. The ITC is comprised of 45 NGO's (non-governmental organizations) including Big Cat Rescue focused on ending the exploitation of captive big cats which has a direct impact on their wild counterparts.

Along with 137 live tigers, authorities seized the bodies of 40 tiger cubs in a freezer, 30 cubs preserved in jars and approximately 1,000 amulets made from tiger skin. These preserved cubs and trinkets were on their way to fuel the black market trade of this protected species.

Thailand's Tiger Temple is just one of hundreds of similar interaction/farming operations.



Like cattle this tiger is identified with an ear tag, doomed for the black market trade in tiger parts.



Tigers housed in small barren cages awaiting their fate at a commercial farming facility

According to the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), there are more than 200 such centers across Asia ranging in size from tiny to huge. These centers, spread across China, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand, jointly house between 7,000-8,000 captive tigers. That's thousands more than the estimated 3,900 tigers left in the wild, which occupy only about 7% of their historic range. In addition the U.S. is reported to have more than 5,000 tigers living in captivity across the country. Many of these tigers will most likely end up being sold illegally to feed the demand for tiger parts, furs, and products.

The wild tiger population has declined more than 95% over the last 100 years. 2016 has also marked a significant upsurge in tiger poaching and trade. In India more tigers have been killed in the first five months of 2016 than in the whole year of 2015.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABROAD?

Following the dramatic findings at Thailand's Tiger Temple animal welfare groups across the globe are urging governments throughout Asia to put an end to tiger farming. The ITC continues to urge countries with tiger farms to end the breeding of tigers for commercial purposes and phase out existing tiger farms.

The dwindling population of wild tigers is threatened by the trade for nearly all of their body parts - from skin and bones, to teeth and claws. These products including tiger skin rugs and tiger bone wine are considered luxury items that elevates one status. Trade in captive tiger parts and products stimulates demand for tiger products, be it from wild or captive tigers, and undermines enforcement efforts by making it difficult to know whether seized tiger products come from wild or captive tigers.

*Tiger skins worn as a sign of status,
Photo by Belinda Wright*



hosting a social gathering where presenters will speak in support of phasing out tiger farms.

WHAT IS BEING DONE HERE IN THE U.S.?

In April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) tightened regulations in the trade of tigers, requiring all facilities that want to transfer tigers across state lines be registered, making it easier to detect illegal wildlife trafficking.

USFWS also rescinded the generic tiger loophole. The

loophole allowed private owners to breed tigers whose lineage could not be traced back to the wild with no regulation while accredited facilities participating in the Species Survival Plan were heavily regulated and required permitting prior to breeding pure bred tigers in an effort to conserve the species.

Big Cat Rescue has been pressuring the USFWS since 2007 to rescind this loophole and in August of 2011 the generic tiger issue was published to the Federal Register for public comment and received over 15,000 comments in support of our

request to ban the breeding of non purebred tigers. Still more needs to be done, including banning public contact with tigers for photo ops.

Back in 2012, a coalition of animal advocacy and conservation organizations including Big Cat Rescue, The Humane Society of the United States, World Wildlife Fund, Detroit Zoological Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Born Free USA, Fund for Animals and Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries petitioned the USDA to amend the Animal Welfare Act.

The change in rules would prohibit the public from coming into direct contact with dangerous animals, including big cats, bears and non-human primates, regardless of their age, as well as request that young animals aren't separated from their mothers before a species-appropriate age.

Finally the USDA has taken a small but positive step forward with the prohibition of the public handling of big cat cubs including tigers, lions, jaguars, leopards, and cheetahs under the age of four weeks.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help end the exploitation of captive big cats and the abuse they endure as well as ensure the survival of these incredible species in the wild by taking action at

BigCatAct.com

In September Big Cat Rescue will join several other animal welfare leaders at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa. During the 12-day conference the coalition will attend meetings regarding the protection and conservation of several cat species including tigers as well as lobby attendees to support a ban on tiger farming.

In an effort to educate and solicit as many attendees as possible the coalition will man an information booth throughout the event. Additionally the coalition will be

Tiger skeleton soaking in a vat of wine



Tiger bone wine openly sold in China



Farmed tigers in battery style cages, Photo by Belinda Wright





RESCUED TIGER HOOVER ENJOYING RETIREMENT IN SUNNY FLORIDA

In the last issue of the Big Cat Times we brought you the dramatic story of Hoover's Rescue. Hoover, a 12-year-old male tiger, spent his entire life in a tiny circus wagon traveling from town to town in Peru, forced to perform tricks. Thanks to the government's ban on the use of wild animals in circuses and the combined efforts of Animal

Defenders International, Peruvian law enforcement, and Big Cat Rescue, Hoover spent his 12th birthday celebrating his freedom as he took his first steps onto U.S. soil and into his new forever home here at the sanctuary.

Hoover was quick to settle in. He loves exploring his massive enclosure, napping in the cool shade of an extra large rock den, and swimming in the refreshing waters of the lake. Hoover has developed quite the following as well. Thousands of people from across the globe tune in to explore. org/bigcatrescue each week to see what Hoover is up to. A live streaming camera is positioned at the lakeside of both his and TJ's enclosures giving viewers an up close view of their swimming areas.

Watching Hoover enjoy his new found freedom is inspiring. After a lifetime of being forced to perform, Hoover finally has the life he deserves. A life outdoors surrounded by trees with soft grass beneath his paws. A life where he is free to do what he chooses, when he chooses. Exotic animals like Hoover should not be bred for entertainment. You can help animals like Hoover by sharing his story with your friends and family and asking them to never support organizations that exploit exotic animals.



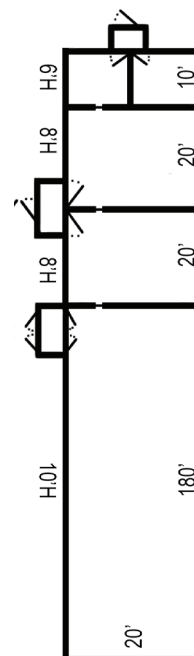
BOBCAT REHAB EXPANSION \$345,000



Mr. Claws run free after surgery to repair his broken leg

With so many orphaned and injured Florida bobcats in need of rescue Big Cat Rescue has just broken ground on a massive expansion to our current facilities on a more remote location at the sanctuary.

The new bobcat rehab area will include 8 enclosures each spanning 230'x20' (4,600 square feet) of natural habitat. The roofed enclosures are divided into sections with special needs in mind.



The first section is 10'x20' which will be specifically designed to house kittens or bobcats recovering from major injuries. The second section will be 40'x20' allowing kittens or recovering bobcats to have more space with lower walls to prohibit climbing too high. The final section of the enclosure is 180'x20'. This area will give the bobcats a large tract of land to run and hone hunting skills.

We need your help to complete this much needed project. The first \$100,000 raised will be matched dollar for dollar. Please consider donating at:

**BigCatRescue.org/
rehabfund**





WILDCRU
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit



ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILD



WILDCAT WALKABOUT TO BENEFIT 5 BIG CAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

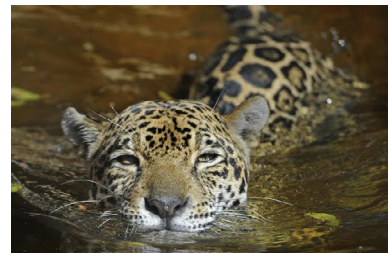
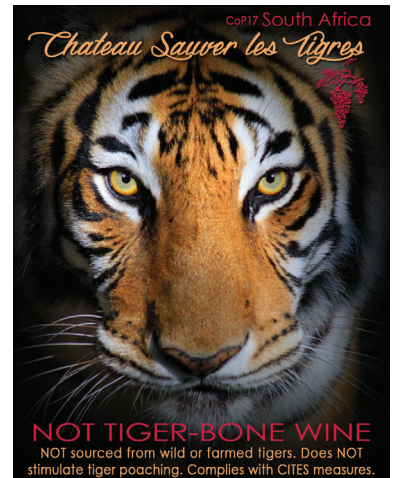
We are excited to announce that the funds raised from our annual Wildcat Walkabout will go towards helping to conserve tigers, clouded leopards, jaguars, Canada lynx, and lions in the wild! Funds will be allocated in a super fun way as well! You decide!

Wildcat Walkabout tickets are \$25 per person. Upon entrance you will receive 5 Conservation Bucks each representing \$5. As you tour the sanctuary at your leisure you will come across information tables for each of the conservation projects. You can choose to give all of your Conservation Bucks to one project or divvy it up between multiple projects. (You can also donate more at each of the conservation tables, if you wish, in the form of cash, check, or unused gift cards) At the end of the day we will add up how many Conservation Bucks and additional donations each project receives and then Big Cat Rescue will make a donation for that amount to the corresponding organizations.

This event is very popular and always sells out, so be sure to get your tickets soon! Enjoy fabulous cuisine from some of Tampa's best food trucks, enrichment demonstrations, face painting, a wild photo booth (no real cats for photo ops), and exploring the sanctuary grounds at your leisure. There will also be a very special opportunity to be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a Paw Painting created by one of our very own big cats.

Join us for the Wildcat Walkabout on Saturday October 1st. Check in starts at 11 AM. Enjoy activities and food trucks from 11 AM - 3 PM. The tour path will be open from 12 PM - 3 PM.

Book your tickets online today at:
BigCatRescue.org/safari-days



BOBCAT REHABILITATION PROGRAM UPDATES

THOR THRIVES IN THE WILD

We are very excited to share these camera trap photos of our most recently rehabilitated and released Florida bobcat Thor.

Back in February Thor was found in the middle of the night after having been hit by a car. He was captured at the scene and rushed to Big Cat Rescue for an emergency exam. Thor sustained several critical injuries including multiple breaks to his upper and lower jaw, a broken canine, and fractures to the eye socket and shoulder blade. He was examined and treated by Dr. Miller an ophthalmologist, Dr. Gingerich, a dental surgeon, and our own Dr. Boorstein. After three months of intensive care and recovery Thor was healed and ready to go back home.

Following Thor's release on a 100 acre preserve camera traps were deployed in an effort to track his progress. The cameras are checked once a month and so far each time they have captured images and videos of Thor in his new home. We will continue to maintain the camera

traps at the release site for as long as possible in an effort to study and document the success rate of rehabilitated Florida bobcats.

animals such as carnivores. These cameras are checked monthly and moved or adjusted as needed depending on the resulting images.

The step up from this camera is the Bushnell Aggressor Wireless. This camera costs \$514 and has all the same features of the other camera with the added bonus of a wireless program. Using a \$10 per month data plan the camera transmits images to our email instantly. Having this information at our fingertips allows us to quickly ensure proper placement of the camera. We are also able to log in to these cameras remotely and update settings as needed or switch the mode from camera to video.

Being able to monitor and access these cameras without going into the field is really helpful in capturing the most images possible. Most wild animals are often deterred from the site of the cameras for a few days following our visits to check them. Bobcats in particular may avoid the area for 1-2 weeks resulting in fewer images and videos of our target species.



More info and videos at: bigcatrescue.org/bobcat-rehab/

You can help fund the ongoing research of rehabilitated and released Florida bobcats by purchasing a camera trap on our wishlist at:

BigCatRescue.org/wishlist

We have two camera options listed. The 14 megapixel Bushnell Aggressor is a great camera, priced at \$128, that captures both photos and videos. It has a quick trigger speed which is important for capturing images of fast moving

Camera trap photo of Thor 6 weeks following release



Bushnell M THOR 73°F22°C

06-12-2016 0

Thor remains in the same area 4 months after release



M BCR 1 75°F23°C



NOT EVERY REHAB SUCCEEDS

Mrs. Claws was rescued when she was a tiny kitten by a rehabber in Christmas, Florida. She had been bitten in the head by an unknown animal. Her wounds were treated and fully healed during her six weeks stay at the facility.

Because Mrs. Claws was so young she would require special care and training to prepare her for a life in the wild. The rehabber knew about our bobcat rehab program and thought Big Cat Rescue would be a great place for Mrs. Claws to continue her rehabilitation. It just so happened



Mrs. Claws as a kitten

that we had made arrangements to take in a more recent rescue from the rehabber, a young male bobcat who had suffered a broken leg. We were happy to take the pair and had hoped to raise and release them together.

Mr. Claws received the lifesaving surgery he needed and Mrs. Claws began her training in hunting and wild behaviors. Both kittens were progressing nicely and seemed very interested in one another from their neighboring enclosures.

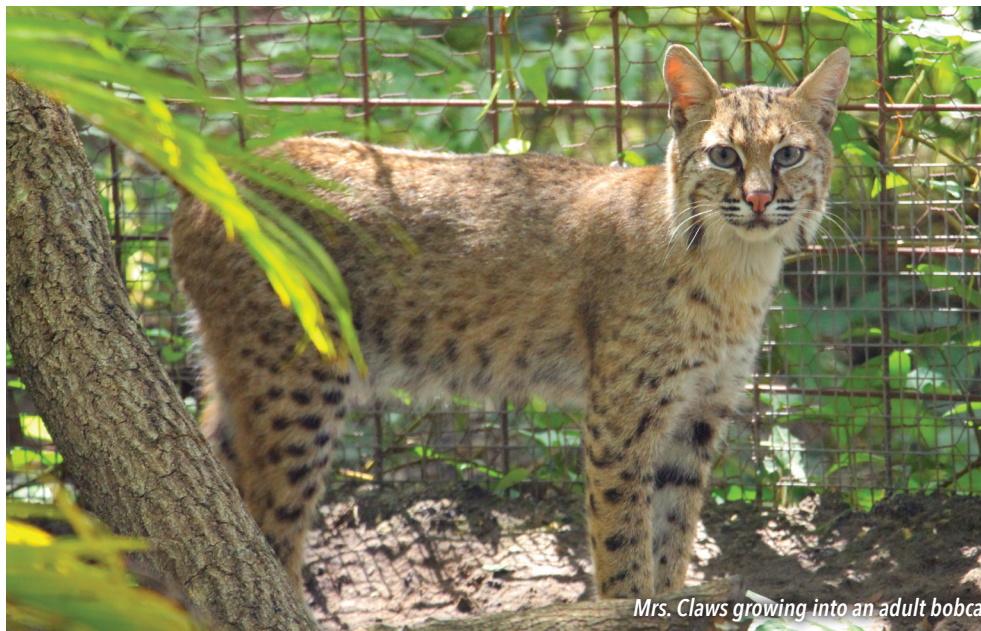
Through careful observation the pair

were introduced. They got along great for a short while. However, their friendship came to an abrupt end over a scuffle involving food resulting in their having to be separated.

Mr. Claws recovered completely during the following months and was later released. Meanwhile Mrs. Claws repeatedly showed signs of mental insufficiency. At first we thought she may have a problem with her vision. She would run into doors that she had watched and heard being shut, she would nip and bite near her food using her sense of smell to pinpoint its location, and

and her environment was rearranged to evaluate her ability to navigate and adapt to change.

She eagerly accepted each challenge sometimes conquering them and other times not. To make things more complicated she would succeed at something one day and fail at the same challenge the next only to succeed again the following day. Her ability to learn and her reactions were not consistent. There were times when her live prey would walk right past her and she would run in the opposite direction looking for it. There were other times when she was given whole prey and she would



Mrs. Claws growing into an adult bobcat

she would occasionally stumble over logs on the ground.

She was examined twice by ophthalmologist Dr. Miller who determined her vision was fine. This left us only one conclusion, she may have suffered an injury to her brain from the bite wounds that were inflicted upon her as a kitten.

Throughout her rehabilitation she was continuously tested and challenged in new ways. Her food was hidden, she was given different types of prey that would be harder to catch including birds and squirrels,

lose track of it and frantically look for it even though she was actually standing right on it. Her efficiency at hunting was also worrisome on occasion. These occurrences were not daily, but happened enough times to cause concern.

To make matters worse Mrs. Claws does not fear people despite having no human interaction and her caregivers wearing camouflage ghillie suits. In one test, one of our male staff (all of her caregivers are female) was sent out to her enclosure to walk around the perimeter and leave. She did not run away and hide,

nor did she hiss or growl. She just watched the person come and go from her perch. Subsequently, a few weeks later, another male volunteer was sent out to her enclosure. She ran right over to him and followed him around the entire perimeter purring all along the way.

Our bobcat rehab team struggled with the inevitable determination of whether or not Mrs. Claws would be able to survive on her own in the wild. We had provided her with all of the training she required and hoped that with time she would overcome these deficits, yet sadly she has not.

The final and most concerning scenario to take place was that of a chance encounter with a group of raccoons. Thanks to the diligent watchers of the live streaming explore.org/bigcatrescue webcam in her enclosure, footage of this encounter was captured and sent to our bobcat rehab team.

Four full grown raccoons approached Mrs. Claws' enclosure. She immediately ran over to them and rubbed her face and side along the wire. Her tail upright and flicking in a playful manner. She had no fear of these animals that would most certainly kill her in the wild. Instead she enthusiastically approached them and acted as if she wanted them to pet her. This was not a good sign and was the final determining factor regarding her release.

Sadly, Mrs. Claws will not be a candidate for release. There are too many instances that have caused

concern for her ability to survive on her own. She will be relocated to the main sanctuary in the near future. On a positive note, because she is not fearful of humans and approaches them in a friendly manner we believe that she will do well as a permanent resident. We so wanted her to go back to the wild, but have to do what is best for her considering her condition.

KITTEN HONORS BCR ICON

Just as soon as one bobcat is released back into the wild it seems another is right there to take their place. At 12:30 in the morning on July 21st Big Cat Rescuers received a call from a clinic, in a small town outside of Orlando, where an orphaned bobcat kitten had been surrendered. The kitten had been found alone in the middle of the road.

This tiny kitten was extremely feral and had the spunk and spirit of full grown wild bobcat. Her arrival came at a time when we were mourning the loss of our beloved Little Feather (a permanent resident of the sanctuary). The name Spirit Feather seemed a purr-fect fit in honor of both her fiery attitude and our recently passed friend.

Weighing just two pounds we estimate Spirit Feather to be have been approximately two months old upon her arrival.

Spirit Feather was not injured in any way. However, she suffered a heavy infestation of fleas and hookworms for which she was treated. She



Spirit Feather cuddles her toy squirrel



Jamie Veronica restrains Spirit Feather for her first vaccines

also had a small crusted spot on her back which tested positive for ringworm. Because ringworm is highly contagious Spirit Feather was quarantined and started on medication to treat the infection.

Spirit Feather has been doing very well. She is eating whole prey foods, is very playful and energetic, and has maintained her wild nature.

Spirit Feather has recently been moved to the outdoor rehab enclosure equipped with a live streaming webcam viewable at explore.org/bigcatrescue. Tune in to watch Spirit Feather's progress and stay tuned for updates in our next issue.



Spirit Feather has lots of hiding places in the natural rehab enclosure

TONGA 4 YEARS CANCER FREE

Four years ago on August 18th Tonga went under the knife for the life saving surgery of a nasal planectomy (removal of the nose).

Tonga had a recurring wound on the tip of his nose. A biopsy was taken of the affected area and the results indicated it was a squamous cell carcinoma; in other words skin cancer. He was taken to a specialized clinic, Blue Pearl, nearby where a CT scan was performed to determine if Tonga was a candidate for surgery. Fortunately the doctors felt that slim margins could be taken and thus removal of the mass would be curative.



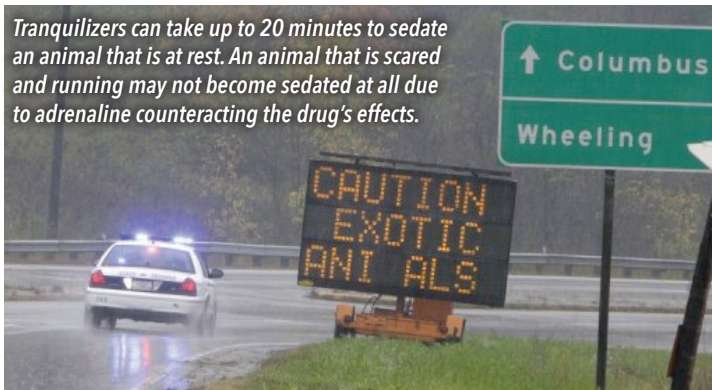
Tonga's surgery was four years ago and he has been doing great ever since. We are so happy that Tonga has beaten cancer and grateful for the doctors who saved his life.



Tonga playing with a paper bag filled with catnip

NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

In 2011 Muskingum County Sheriff Matthew J. Lutz and his deputies came face to face with a nightmare: a private owner of exotic animals in Zanesville, OH had opened the cages of his 56 tigers, lions, cougars, bears and wolves and let them loose. Recognizing that the animals were a serious public safety risk as dusk approached, deputies had no choice but to shoot most of the animals before they could scatter into the night and threaten the lives of the nearby community.



Law enforcement should never have to be put in that scenario and we understand why they made the decision they did. But we don't ever want this to happen again, which is why we are working with Sheriff Lutz and the National Sheriffs' Association to spread awareness and gain support for the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

Last month Big Cat Rescuers attended the National Sheriffs' Association's annual conference in Minneapolis with this message: tigers, lions and other exotic cats kept in people's homes, backyards, and roadside zoos pose a serious and completely unnecessary risk to public safety, law enforcement, and first responders.

The National Sheriffs' Association has been very welcoming of our message, recently publishing our article about big cats and public safety in their July/August issue of Sheriff & Deputy magazine and passing a Resolution in support of the Big Cat Public Safety Act. We are grateful to the National Sheriffs' Association and look forward to building relationships with Sheriff departments across the country. To learn more visit:

BigCatRescue.org/lawenforcement

VISIT OUR ONLINE GIFT SHOP AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ - FALL 2016 - BIG CATTIMES 11

CONSERVATION PROJECTS FUNDED IN HONOR OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

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 Jocelyn Gardner is a hard worker, responsible, reliable and



fun to work with! She has been a volunteer at Big Cat Rescue for just over 2 years. We are so grateful to have her as a member of our big cat family.

In honor of Jocelyn a donation of \$1,000 was made to the Felidae Conservation Fund to support the ongoing research needed to

conserve jaguarundi along the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

The distribution of jaguarundi in the borderlands of Northern Mexico, Southern Texas and Southern Arizona is currently unknown. There is debate regarding recent unconfirmed observations and sightings. The last



confirmed sighting in the United States was in April 1986 of a road-killed Jaguarundi. Additionally, while the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) status is "Least Concern", the jaguarundi's Texas status is listed as Endangered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The goal of the project will be to study the occurrence of jaguarundi in the U.S. and Mexico borderlands, competition with other felid species, habitat loss, and human conflict.

The Project will utilize remote camera technology to yield a thorough evaluation of the species' distribution to answer the unresolved question of the presence or absence in this area. Team members will also utilize Global Positioning System (GPS) collars to determine home range size and habitat use by individuals.

felidaefund.org

Senior Keeper Jennifer Ruszczuk is a veteran Big Cat Rescuer with more

than 17 years of service under her belt. She has been with us since nearly the beginning of the sanctuary and is trained in every aspect of its operations. Jen goes above and beyond to train and mentor fellow volunteers, is friendly to guests, and dedicated to providing the best care possible to our resident felines. We could not be more thankful for the nearly two decades Jen has dedicated to the cats.

To celebrate Jen a \$1,000 donation was given to the Fishing Cat Working Group to fund the ongoing research needed to conserve Fishing Cats in Sri Lanka.

The conservation status of fishing cats according to the IUCN is Endangered. Despite being an endangered species, fishing cats in Sri Lanka, and in most parts of Asia, are a poorly studied species.

In Sri Lanka they are most commonly seen inhabiting marshes and wetlands. However, with rapid urban development taking place, these wetlands are being destroyed or otherwise affected. Therefore, it is now crucial to understand the ecology and behavior of fishing cats in these urban wetlands, and integrate the conservation of wetland habitats into development plans, as green areas.





where else to go. She is also a voracious animal advocate acting as a voice to the voiceless. In addition to her own rescue operation, Rosie has spent 15 years caring for the cats at Big Cat Rescue, working her way up the ranks to Senior Keeper. Sadly Rosie recently retired from the volunteer program, however, her impression on the animals as well as her fellow rescuers will never be forgotten.

To ensure these elusive and secretive wild cats thrive, the Sky Island Alliance is advocating for ocelot conservation in the region by promoting greater public understanding of the importance and benefit of carnivores, lobbying for Critical



In 2006, a pilot study was conducted to confirm the presence of fishing cats in Colombo, Sri Lanka urban wetlands. The study was conducted over a year, during which fishing cats were caught on camera in several of these wetlands. However, the study had to be concluded due to security issues in Colombo and suburbs, as this was during the last stages of the country's civil war. In 2013, four years after the war ended, Colombo saw rapid development and many of the urban wetlands were cleared or filled with complete disregard for the importance of these habitats and their biodiversity. It was therefore decided to reconfirm the presence of fishing cats in the wetlands.

The aims of this study will be to estimate current fishing cat presence in Colombo's Urban wetlands and to determine how development has affected fishing cat populations in the area.

fishing-cat.wild-cat.org

Rosie Emdey is a life long rescuer of animals of every shape and size. Over the years she has rescued numerous cats, dogs, and reptiles that had no

To show Rosie how special she was to all of us, a \$1,000 donation was made to the Sky Island Alliance to fund conservation efforts for wild ocelots in Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico.

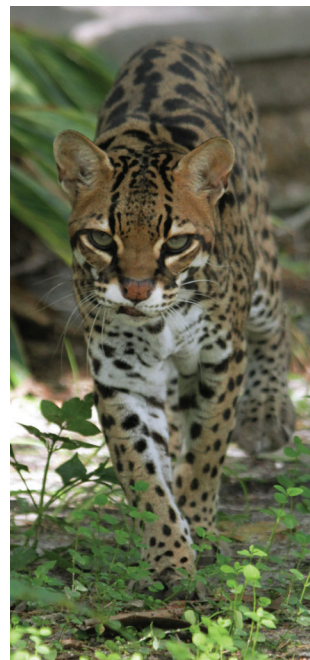
The Sky Island Alliance started researching ocelots in 2006. In 2009 they documented the first living record of an ocelot in Arizona and in 2011 they recorded the first evidence of ocelots breeding in the Sky Islands (a mountain range in NW Mexico and SW US), with images of a kitten and mother captured on a camera trap.

Sky Island Alliance protects and restores the biodiversity and natural heritage of the Sky Islands using science, education, and advocacy to connect the bi-national landscapes, people, and wildlife.

Habitat designation, identifying and mapping ideal ocelot habitat and movement corridors, analyzing motion-activated camera data to determine wild cat activity patterns and behavior and encouraging the designation of new protected areas and privately-owned and managed conservation lands in Sonora, Mexico.

skyislandalliance.org

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**



Time Honored Genuine Big Cat Rescue Gray
S, M, L, & XL **\$29.75** XXL **\$31.89**



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**



Tiger Face Composed of Words
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Racerback Leopard Tank
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



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



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



XS, S, M, & L
\$16.91

Kids Super
Hero Tees
Supermane
or Lion Mane



Tiger in Text
Light Weight
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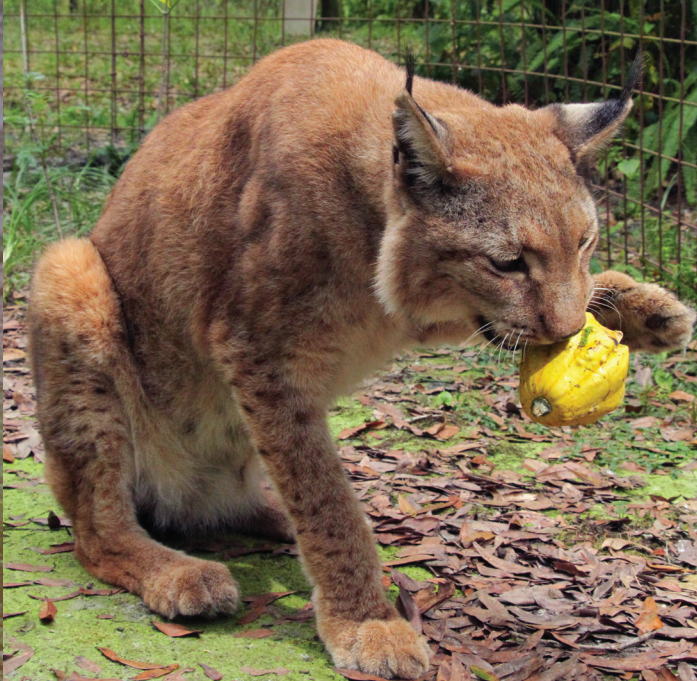


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KIDS TOUR

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 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.

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 2-for-1 Tour Pass, and name listed on permanent donor sign.

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THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Fall 2016

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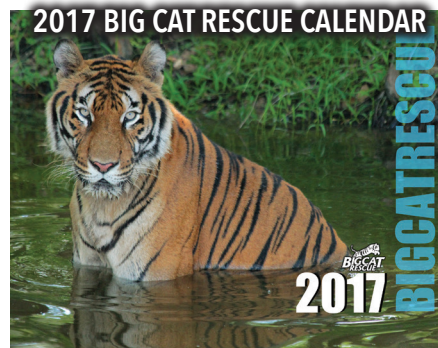
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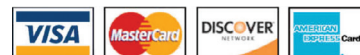


13-month glossy color calendar features the big cats who call BCR home. Each month enjoy a fabulous big cat image to go wild over! \$18.05

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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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CATNIP ALTERNATIVE STUDY

Big Cat Rescue's Research Director Lauren Buckingham recently assisted California scientist Sebastiaan Bol with his study on catnip alternatives using some of our big cats as test subjects.



Sebastiaan initially wanted to determine if house cats who had no reaction to catnip would enjoy alternative plants, in an effort to enrich their lives. Catnip is well known for its pleasure inducing effect and everyone who has seen a cat rolling around with an overwhelming feeling of joyful excitement will understand that it is rather sad for those who don't like catnip to miss out. Approximately 1 out of 3 cats do not respond to catnip, most likely because the smell of the catnip does not trigger a reaction.

Silver vine is a plant that is believed to have similar effects to catnip and

is very popular in Japan, however is not well known in the U.S.

Through the data collected in his study Sebastiaan was able to conclude that many domestic cats who do not respond to catnip loved silver vine. The results of his study are due to be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

In addition to social domestic cats, silver vine even interested shy and feral cats, and from this finding Sebastiaan hoped the catnip alternative would have practical applications in addition to the enrichment element. Some feral cats are notoriously difficult to capture for trap, neuter and release programs. Thus catnip and silver vine may be utilized to increase capture success, thereby preventing many kittens from being born and ending up in the shelters.

Following the findings in his domestic cat study, Sebastiaan was interested to know if silver vine would have a similar effect on big cats and so he contacted Big Cat Rescue.

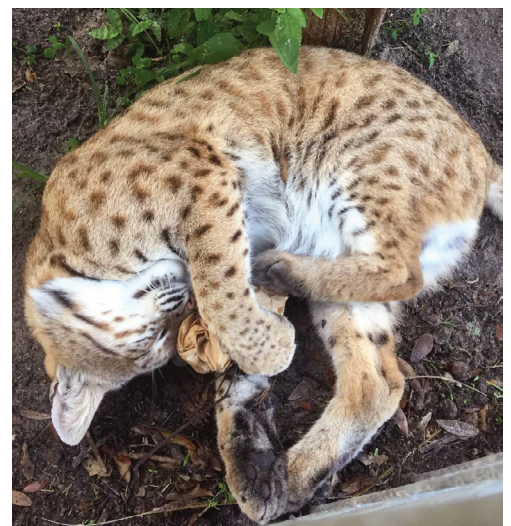
In the early 60's Harvard University's Dr. Todd completed a study that showed big cats love catnip too and expressed similar behaviors to domestic cats when in contact with it. However, while almost all of the leopards and lions used in the study showed behaviors such as rolling over, rubbing their heads, chin and cheeks on the plant material, tigers showed no interest. As silver vine proved to be a successful alternative for domestics who did not like catnip, it led to wondering if it would be an alternative for tigers. Unfortunately after a few days of



testing it was concluded that the tigers showed the complete opposite reaction than expected with a strong dislike of silver vine. Many did not simply ignore it, but moved away from the area in disgust.

Despite that finding, Lauren and Sebastiaan decided to offer the silver vine to other species to see if they had the same response as the tigers. Pictured here are some of our bobcats and their reaction to silver vine. Although they were not the initial target species, a new and exciting enrichment smell was found for the small cats.

We want to thank Sebastiaan for the time he spent here and look forward to his publication, which will include Big Cat Rescue, later in the year.



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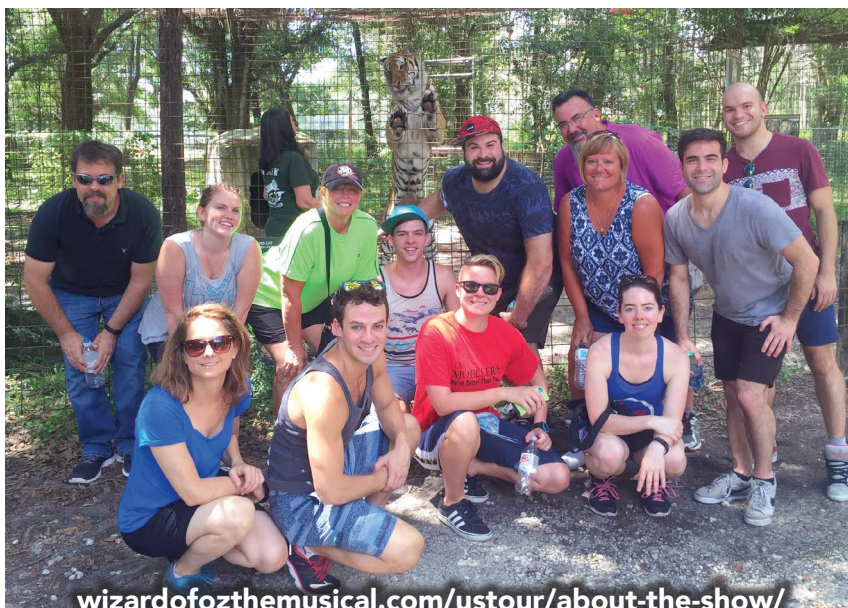
Katie.Nikic
@BigCatRescue.org

While the list of donors of
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very much appreciated
and recognized by being
appended to the online
edition.

- Howard Baskin, Treasurer

COWARDLY LION MEETS COUNTERPART

Aaron Fried and family plus a group of cast members from The Wizard of Oz visited Big Cat Rescue last month. Aaron is a friend of our vet Dr. Boorstein's family back home in New Jersey. On Friday July 15th the group enjoyed a special tour of the sanctuary. Aaron was really excited to meet our lions since he plays the cowardly lion in The Wizard of Oz. Cameron gave him a roaring welcome, however, Joseph, in typical lion fashion, was napping the afternoon away.



wizardofozthemusical.com/ustour/about-the-show/

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!



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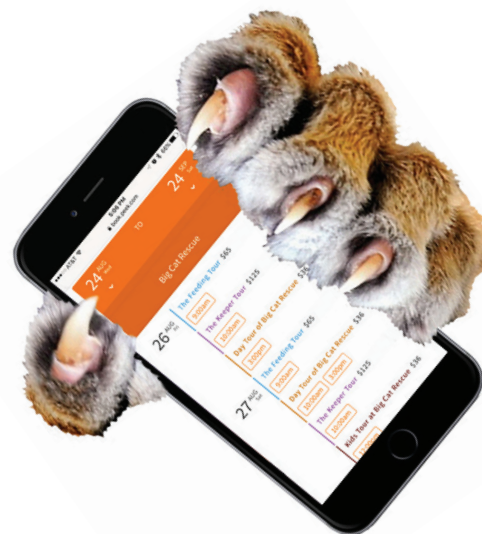
VISITING YOUR FAVORITE BIG CATS JUST GOT EASIER!

For several years we used a ticketing agent because we cannot afford full time staff to answer the phones and book tours. They served us well but went out of business over the 4th of July holiday weekend with only 2 days notice to us. We had to scramble on our end so there would be no disruption of service for our guest's, but we got it done and were up and running with Peek.com in just a couple days.

The bad news is that Peek doesn't offer phone support, so you can't call and book a tour when we don't have someone here who can answer the phone AND do the booking.

The good news is that Peek makes it so easy to book your tour from your computer or smart phone that you don't need to call. Go to BigCatRescue.org/tickets and see how easy it is to find the tour you want and book it immediately.

You will experience a secure payment system, quick online release waiver (so you don't have to stand in line



when you arrive), the ability to include any discount passes you might have, a full description of what is included, an immediate confirmation email detailing all of your tour info, your receipt, a map to the sanctuary and links allowing you to reschedule if necessary at no added cost.

And you can give any tour as a gift, or just give a dollar amount and let your recipient choose the adventure.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF VERNON STAIRS

MASTER CAT-A-TAT BUILDER 8/26/1941 – 8/26/2016

Vernon Charles Stairs met Barbara Norris at WEDU, a local television station in Tampa, in 1959. He was a camera man and she was a secretary. Vern was the quiet type so Barbara made the first move inviting him to a Sadie Hawkins picnic. The two fell in love and were married in 1960. Their first child, BCR Founder, Carole Baskin was born in 1961 and 6 years later they had a son named for his father and affectionately called Chuck.

Vern had a variety of careers during his time. He owned a landscaping business, sold furniture at the flea market, served in the air force, operated as a private investigator, and was a private pilot for the governor of West Virginia. It wasn't until he retired in 1996 that he found his true calling and began working at Big Cat Rescue. He joined his daughter Carole and granddaughter Jamie Veronica (BCR President) and became BCR's Master Builder from 1996 - 2016. For 20 years he designed, built and maintained all of the enclosures and facilities at the sanctuary.

A few of Vern's most notable accomplishments include the construction of a 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation enclosure for big cats, the 22,000 square foot FunCation enclosure for leopards and small cats, the tiger lake marsh, dueling waterfalls for the fishing cats now enjoyed by Max and Maryann, an air conditioned rock mountain for the snow leopards that is now home to the Canada lynx, ponds for all of the tigers, rock cave dens for dozens of the cats, and so much more for the comfort of the hundreds of exotic cats who spent their lives here at Big Cat Rescue.

Vern had a fondness for the unusual residents of Big Cat

Rescue including long passed Beeper the otter and Banjo the binturong. He would regularly sneak his favorite furry friends treats when he thought no one was looking.

Vern had an admirable and unwaivering work ethic putting in six full days each week. Despite having triple bypass heart surgery in August of 2010, he was right back at work as soon as he could get to his feet. He could not stand to sit around and do nothing. After his surgery Vern was joined by Chuck and the two continued to build enclosures, landscape the 67 acre property, and maintain the buildings, older enclosures, and roads.

Vern's passing has left a huge void in the hearts of his family, friends and everyone who knew him. He was a constant source of wisdom and inspiration. His problem solving skills were equal to none. Every action Vern took was to benefit someone or some animal. He was truly a big cat hero. Vern is remembered daily by the animals, staff, volunteers and guests for his work and will be remembered for many years to come in the lasting improvements he has made to the quality of life for each of the animals.



Vernon Stairs - The man, the myth, the legend.



Roofing an enclosure



Moving a tiger



Building a tiger pond



Constructing a rock cave den



Shifting a tiger CATLAWS.COM - FALL 2016 - BIG CATTIMES 23

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: CARACAL



Fun Facts: The name caracal is derived from a Turkish word "karakulak" meaning "black ear." The caracal was once trained for bird hunting in Iran and India. They were put into arenas containing a flock of pigeons, and wagers were made as to how many the cat would take down. This is the origination of the expression "to put a cat amongst the pigeons." A caracal is capable of leaping 12' into the air and knocking down 10-12 birds at one time!

Population: In sub-Saharan Africa, the caracal is common in parts of its range, especially in South Africa and southern Namibia. However, in Central and West

Africa, where they are largely absent, densities are apparently lower, possibly due to finer partitioning of resources in a more diverse carnivore community. Caracals still occupy much of their historic range in Africa but have experienced substantial loss at the peripheries, particularly in North and West Africa.

Size and Appearance: The caracal has a short, dense coat, usually

Habitat: The caracal occupies a wide variety of habitats from semi-desert to relatively open savanna and scrub-land to moist woodland and thicket or evergreen/montane forest, but favors drier woodland and savanna regions with lower rainfall and some cover. While drier open country is preferred, they are absent from true desert.



Distribution: The caracal is widely distributed across Africa, Central Asia, and south-west Asia into India.

Reproduction and Offspring: After a gestation of approximately 78-81 days, females produce a litter of 1-4 kittens, with 2 being the average. They begin to open their eyes on their first day of life, but it takes 6-10 days for them to completely open.

a uniform tawny-brown to brick-red. As the name implies, the backs of the ears are black and topped with long black tufts about 1.75" long. It is the largest member of Africa's small cats weighing 18-40 lbs., stands 16-20" at the shoulder, and is 35-39" long.

They are weaned at 10 weeks, and will remain with their mothers for up to a year. They attain sexual maturity between 12-16 months.

Social System: Caracals are solitary animals, and social interactions are limited to periods of mating, except for mothers with kittens.

Hunting and Diet: Caracals prey on a variety of mammals, with the most common being rodents, hares, hyraxes, and small antelope. Unlike the other small African cats, Caracals will not hesitate to kill prey larger than themselves, such as adult springbok or young Kudu. Like leopards, caracals have occasionally been reported as dragging their food up into trees.

Threats: As caracals are capable of taking small domestic livestock, they are often subject

to persecution. Reports from the 30s through the 80s indicate more than 2,000 caracals were killed per year as retribution for the loss of domestic farm animals. Severity of depredation appears to be dependent on the availability of wild prey and husbandry techniques.



Habitat destruction (agriculture and desertification) is a significant threat in central, west, north and northeast Africa where caracals are naturally sparsely distributed. It is also likely to be the main threat in the Asian part of its range.

BigCatRescue.org/caracal-facts

Sassy - Female Caracal
Born: 1994



Rusty - Male Caracal
Born: 1997



Sad Farewell

Taking care of 73 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 73 animals, 53 are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 47 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 21 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.

BENGALI



1993 - 2016

Bengali, a male tiger, was retired from the circus when he was 7 years old. He and 18 other tigers as well as 1 leopard came to Big Cat Rescue following rigorous negotiations with the circus. The circus agreed to retire the cats here and fund the cost of their enclosures, food, and veterinary bills

with the caveat that we would be prohibited from releasing their name. For the sake of the cats we agreed and took in all 19. At the time the circus had decided they no longer wanted to have a big cat act and so the rescue of these big cats would help aid the end of an era.



However when ticket sales plummeted the circus contracted acts to once again take tigers on the road. Bengali had a wonderful life here at Big Cat Rescue. He had a huge

personality and was always so talkative. Everyone he met instantly fell in love. As Bengali crept into his twenties he began to develop several health issues including severe arthritis making it difficult for him to get up and walk around. When his quality of life worsened we made the difficult yet humane decision to end his suffering. Show Bengali his earlier life of suffering was not in vain, by taking the pledge to never go to a circus that uses wild animals at **NoCircusTigers.com**

DOODLES



1999 - 2016

Doodles, a male serval, was rescued along with 4 other servals that were kept at pets and confined to a basement in the suburbs of New York. Their owner was a middle aged woman who had been diagnosed with cancer. The children ages 6-17 who had been abandoned by her sister lived with her and her home was in foreclosure. With so much stacked up against her, she had no other option than to give up her "pets". All 5 servals came to Big Cat Rescue in the Spring of 2011. Doodles was 12 years old when he arrived. Over the next few years the servals started fighting and one by one were separated into their own spacious enclosures. Doodles loved to eat and would follow keepers around his enclosure in search of treats. When he suddenly had no interest in his evening snack and seemed too tired to even get up and come to the side of his enclosure. Big Cat Rescuers were immediately alarmed. He was sedated and examined during which a large mass was discovered on his liver. Dr. Boorstein performed surgery to remove the mass, which was riddled with cysts. These biliary cysts may be acquired or they could potentially be part of a congenital cystic disease of the liver. In addition Doodles had significant kidney disease. Sadly he did not survive post surgery due to a combination of these two diseases. Doodles was 17, which is the average age our servals, and is 5 years older than they usually live elsewhere. We had to see if removing the mass would give him a few more years, but unfortunately this was the end for him.

GREAT PRETENDER

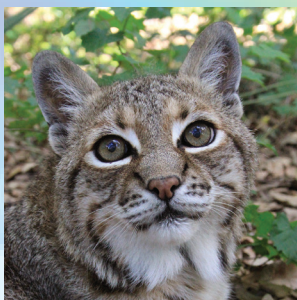


1992 - 2016

The Great Pretender, a male bobcat, was rescued along with his mate Precious in 1992 when they were just 6 months old. The pair had most likely been pets and were no longer wanted. Unfortunately unwanted exotic animals often end up in horrible situations. Pretender and Precious were both sold to the highest bidder at an animal auction. Fortunately for them

they came to Big Cat Rescue instead of being purchased by taxidermists, who often attend such auctions, looking to make a quick buck. The Great Pretender was quite wild upon arrival and remained so his entire life. He lived a full life receiving the best care until the ripe old age of 24 when kidney disease took him away.

LITTLE FEATHER



1993 - 2016

Little Feather, a female bobcat, was five days old when she came to Big Cat Rescue. She was born at a game farm that bred bobcats and cougars. Game farms often breed wild animals to be shot for sport or exploited in other awful ways. Little Feather was the sweetest bobcat to

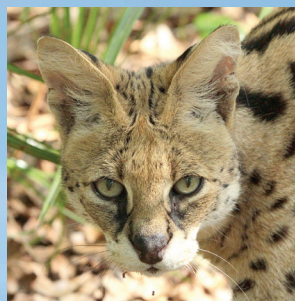
ever live at BCR. No matter the time of day she would follow her keepers around her enclosure, purring, and rubbing on the fence. She was quite unusual looking with a stocky frame, short rounded



ears, and enormous brown eyes. Little Feather reigned as the sanctuary's little darling for 23 years. Throughout her life she had overcome incredible odds. Surviving multiple dental procedures in her twenties and overcoming paralysis resulting from a blood clot. In the end it was mammary cancer that claimed her.

Nairobi, a female serval, was kept as a novelty mascot in a pet shop. When she was about a year old the shop owner feared she may harm one of the customers and sought a suitable home for her. Nairobi came to Big Cat Rescue in 1994. Nairobi was very playful and loved enrichment. It

NAIROBI

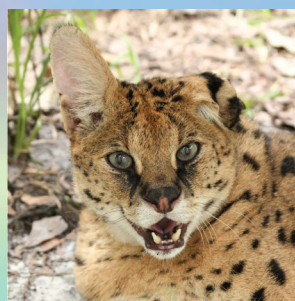


1993 - 2016

cortical carcinoma.

wasn't until recent years she became more quiet and reserved. Napping away the day under the shade of her palmetto bushes. She spent more than two decades here at the sanctuary before passing at the age of 23. Lab results confirmed Nairobi succumbed to a form of cancer called adrenal

SANTINO



1998 - 2016

of every day cuddled up near one another. They were the perfect pair (Santino was neutered). Like Doodles, Santino suffered from liver disease. In addition his heart was also failing.

Santino, a male serval, arrived with Doodles. The group of 5 servals initially shared a very large enclosure. However, after their arrival they soon wanted for their own space and territories. The only 2 in the group that were inseparable were Santino and Zouletta. The duo spent every minute

ZEUS



1997 - 2016

When approached with food or enrichment they would lunge at the side of their enclosure puffing out an intimidating growl. Early one evening in April Zeus unexpectedly suffered a massive seizure. Luckily Dr. Boorstein was at the sanctuary at the time and Zeus was rushed to the hospital. However he died shortly after. Because this passing was so sudden and Zeus had no history of seizures a necropsy was performed. Lab results indicated liver cancer.

Zeus, a male Siberian Lynx, spent nearly 20 years sharing a large natural enclosure with his brother Apollo. These brothers were quite the pair. Despite having spent the majority of their lives surrounded by caring volunteers and staff the two never deviated from their natural wild behaviors.

VET REPORTS:

ROOT CANAL PERFORMED ON TIGER

Zabu is a 16-year-old female white tiger who was rescued along with Cameron the lion from a roadside zoo in New England in 2004. At the zoo Zabu and Cameron were housed together and neither had been spayed or neutered. This could have resulted in the pair producing offspring called ligers. These genetically mutated cross-breeds are victim to a plethora of birth defects that plague the animal its entire life. Unfortunately these freakish hybrids have become popular, though this is not an animal that would even exist in the wild. Since their arrival at Big Cat Rescue Zabu has been spayed and Cameron neutered so the duo can continue to live together.

Zabu was sedated earlier this year for a dental exam after keepers reported her gum line around one of her teeth appearing a little red and inflamed. Because of the sheer size of her teeth and the special

equipment required to perform root canals on a big cat a specialist was called in. Dr. Gingerich and his staff from the Pet Dental Center, with locations in both Bonita Springs and Fort Lauderdale, made the long trip



Dr. Gingerich performs a root canal on Zabu while Dr. Wynn and Jen Dupree monitor anesthesia



Close up look at Zabu's teeth after surgery



Zabu

to Big Cat Rescue for a day of dental work on the big cats.

Despite never showing any symptoms of tooth pain it turned out that Zabu had several teeth in need of repair. During her first exam she had two root canals performed on both an upper and lower canine. A few months later she was sedated again and two molars were repaired. Unfortunately for Zabu her dental work is still not complete. She requires work on four more teeth. Due to complications that arise in the big cats during sedation we limit the time spent under anesthesia to 3 hours. Because of the intricate

nature of performing a root canal on such a big animal the dentist can only complete 2-3 teeth during each visit.

Zabu will require at least two more dentals in order to complete all of the restorative work needed. We are so thankful to Dr. Gingerich and his staff Jennifer Dupree and Reena Garcia for their help making Zabu feel so much better!

COUGAR GETS SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT



Sassyfras

Sassyfras is an 18-year-old male cougar who was rescued from Idaho after his owner took her own life leaving behind Sass and another cougar named Freddy.



Dr. Boorstein performing a dental exam on Sassy



Intern Claudia and Senior Keeper Sara shave the mats off Sassyfras

He has arthritis which makes it difficult for him to groom himself effectively and so he must be sedated periodically to be shaved. Upon his last sedation he was fully examined and was found to have 4 bad teeth which were removed by Dr. Boorstein. Meanwhile interns helped shave his fur down to a more manageable length.

Sassyfras was looking good with his new haircut which will also keep him a little cooler during the sweltering summer months.

21 YEARS AND NEVER A VET VISIT

Tiger Lilly was rescued from a fur farm when she was two months old along with several other bobcats. She is a very shy bobcat who spends most of her time hidden in the den or among the tall grasses or bushes in her enclosure. She is also very striking with her silvery colored coat.

This past April Tiger Lilly celebrated her 21st birthday. A few months later she was reported as having difficulty chewing bones. Although she would readily eat cuts of boneless meats as well as the balanced ground diet that is the staple of every cat's meal.

She was caught and brought to the Windsong Memorial Hospital where we prepared for her sedation.

Prior to sedating the cats the

veterinarians look over their medical history to make sure they have not had past issues with sedation and determine if there are any areas of the body that were previously noted that need a follow up exam.

We were very surprised to find that Tiger Lilly had not been seen by a vet in over two decades. She had never been sick, had a parasite infestation (from eating frogs and lizards), been injured, or had any dental issues. This was simply astounding. She had been the picture of health her entire life.

Because Tiger Lilly had never been examined she got the works; full exam, x-rays, bloodwork (both in house and sent to the lab for in depth analysis). In addition her mouth was examined as this was the main reason for her hospital visit.

Tiger Lilly had three bad teeth that were removed. The teeth were not infected, but the roots had either broken or were starting to reabsorb.

We worried that removing these teeth would be too much for this old lady to recover from. The procedure is time consuming, meaning she had to spend more time under anesthesia. She would also have three surgery sites in her mouth with

stitches which can be uncomfortable in the weeks following as they heal. However, we had no choice but to proceed. Dr. Boorstein removed the bad teeth.

The first few days after the procedure Tiger Lilly refused to eat or take her medicine. We hoped that this was due to the fact that she was being kept indoors in a strange and unfamiliar place.

We made the decision to move her back to her enclosure ahead of schedule. Some cats simply do not do well in such foreign surroundings.

Sure enough Tiger Lilly was just unhappy in the cat hospital and once she was returned to her home she began eating and taking her meds. Since her dental surgery Tiger Lilly has made a complete recovery.



Dr. Boorstein removes Tiger Lilly's bad teeth as Carole films and interns Fiona and Kaitlyn assist



Tiger Lilly



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 the donors of \$100 or more listed below whose names and amounts 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!



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Debra Bailey \$1,170
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David Ellis \$750
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Daisy Perez-Wills \$100
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Pharaoh serval on the prowl in the 22,000 square foot Funcation enclosure.



Rusty & Sassy caracals soaking up the sunshine on their joint vacation.

LITTLE CATS HAVING BIG FUN!

Since the grand opening of the Funcation enclosure, 22 little cats have enjoyed vacations in this massive new space. Over the past several months these little cats have rotated through the 22,000 square foot enclosure. During their week long getaway they have lots of fun new things to do and plenty of room to roam. Large multi-level platforms offer high vantage points from which they can survey their kingdom, and oversized rock dens are the purr-fect place to take long leisurely cat naps. Many of the little cats do most of their exploring from the early evening hours throughout the night and into the morning.

At this writing 14 little cats remain on the list to have a turn in the new Funcation enclosure. Once each has vacationed in the Funcation enclosure we will begin rotating the leopards through this wildcat wonderland.

It is thanks to wonderful supporters like you that this fun and exciting home away from home is possible!



Windstar bobcat takes in the view from atop the massive jungle gym platform.





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Vacation Rotation - Feeding Station - Kitten Cabana - Nikita Lioness - Bobcat Rehab - Cat Hospital

7 MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Below are questions we hear many times every day. They are the most common questions that people ask. Please check out the links to get the complete answer to each question.

Do You Have Babies? No real sanctuary will have baby animals. Exploiters use cubs for pay to play schemes; then they are discarded. If you see a facility that often has baby animals, then you know they are part of the problem, not the solution. **BigCatRescue.org/breedingkills/**

Can I Pet Them? No legitimate facility will let you or anyone else pet exotic animals. They won't post pictures of themselves, their staff, or their volunteers doing it either. It's dangerous, sends a bad message, and is the number one reason for the abuse of exotic

animals. **BigCatRescue.org/cubs/**

Why Can't They Go Free? Our goal is a world where all wild cats live free, but until we are able to stop the captive breeding of wild cats for exploitation, get more info on why cats born in cages can never go free at: **BigCatRescue.org/gofree/**

Who Else Can I Donate To? Because people know and trust us they often ask us if there are other good organizations they can donate too. This page gives you details on how to make those important decisions: **BigCatRescue.org/donatetoo/**

Don't They Need a Friend? Cats are solitary by nature. Find out why they are happier to have their own space at: **BigCatRescue.org/solitary/**

Do You Have Cheetahs or Jaguars? These cats almost never end up in need of rescue. Cheetah are so inbred and fare so poorly in captivity

that they never end up in need of rescue. Zoos have to rely primarily on importing them from the wild to keep them in cages. Jaguars are also rarely found in captivity and due to their power and intelligence are almost never kept as pets, so they don't often end up in need of rescue. **BigCatRescue.org/cheetah-jaguar/**



What Would You Do in a Hurricane or in case of an Escape? Find out how Big Cat Rescue prepares for the worst and works to keep the cats and surrounding community safe: **BigCatRescue.org/critical-incident-hurricane-and-disaster-plan/**

Can't wait for the next issue? Sign up for our monthly e-zine the AdvoCat at: BigCatRescue.org/join 32