

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

# BIG CAT TIMES

SPRING 2017



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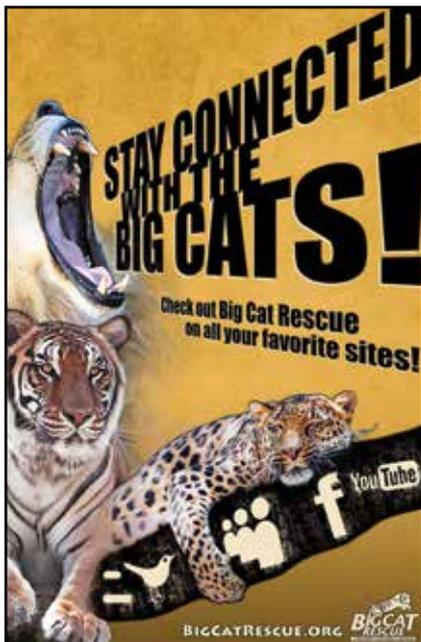
## A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

*Jamie Veronica*

The busy holiday season is behind us, but things have not slowed down at Big Cat Rescue.

Check out the awesome rescue story of 5 new tigers; Gabrielle, Seth, Priya, Andy and Charaka who were part of the largest big cat rescue in U.S. history. These majestic big cats spent a lifetime of exploitation in inadequate living conditions. Now, thanks to you they have a new life filled with comfort, happiness and love.

Spirit Feather an orphaned wild bobcat has been released back



into the wild. Just a few weeks following her return home we answered the call to take in two new bobcats into our rehabilitation program. One an orphaned kitten, the other a youngster who was hit by a car and rescued by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department. These two bobcats will be the first to be rehabilitated in our brand new Bobcat Rehabilitation Center.

The Big Cat Public Safety Act has been reintroduced and we need your help to champion this bill! Calling your representative and requesting support for this important piece of legislation is the single most important thing that you can do to help all of the big cats in captivity. Get all of the details on page 22. You can also help spread the word by posting the centerfold of this issue in a breakroom, office, classroom, etc.

Big Cat Rescue interacts with millions of people through a variety of social media outlets. You can only imagine the number of questions our staff answer on a daily basis. Some questions are asked more frequently than others, so we are going to dedicate an article in each issue to answer those burning questions. In this issue we explain how the cats get their names.

There is so much more to read in this issue of the Big Cat Times, so go ahead, dig your claws in and devour it!

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](http://BigCatRescue.org)

Tour Info:  
[BigCatRescue.org/Tickets](http://BigCatRescue.org/Tickets)

# LARGEST BIG CAT RESCUE IN U.S. HISTORY ACCREDITED SANCTUARIES UNITE



Karen and Nick Sculac started Big Cats of Serenity Springs on 320 acres near Calhan, CO in 1993 with the intent to breed and sell big cats. However, after the rescue of 12 tigers in 1995 they announced that they were going to be a sanctuary instead of a breeding center.

Nick Sculac had a long history of breaking the law and was charged with theft on multiple occasions between 1984 - 2002. In 2009 Sculac bilked a former volunteer, who had been mauled by a tiger, out of \$40,500 claiming that sanctuary would be shut down and the animals killed. In 2010 Sculac was sentenced to 6 months in a halfway house following his third felony theft conviction.

Financial strain over the years meant selling off much of the land until the sanctuary was decreased to just 11 acres housing 140 exotic animals.

After the passing of Karen, Nick Sculac remarried and changed the name of the operation to Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. The facility morphed from a sanctuary for big cats in need to a breeding center churning out a never ending supply of cubs for profit by way of photo ops. Cubs were also purchased from other known animal abusers across

the country. For over a decade the Serenity Springs Wildlife Center violated the animal welfare act and endangered the public, but no real action was taken to end the suffering of the animals.

Horrifying allegations and citations were made against Sculac over the years, a few of which included:

Sculac, who has no veterinary training, diagnosed a tiger as having cancer. He unsuccessfully attempted to inject her with euthanasia solution, before ultimately killing her with a knife.

A leopard and her cage mate died tragically after the female was observed in distress. Sculac incorrectly diagnosed her as being in labor and failed to contact the veterinarian. The leopard was discovered dead an hour later but not removed from the cage. The following morning, the male leopard was lying on top of the female, vocalizing and in distress, whereupon Sculac administered tranquilizers to the male leopard and affixed a noose around his neck to remove him from atop the dead female leopard. Sculac then injected the male leopard with a reversal drug, and removed the noose. The male leopard entered the shelter,

appeared to have trouble breathing, and was bleeding from his nose and mouth. He was discovered dead the following morning.

An employee was mauled by two tigers named Duke and Merlin. Both tigers were later shot and killed.

Several animals were found frozen to death over the years including three tigers and a cougar cub.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture cited Serenity Springs for eleven inadequate cages, which held a total of twenty-two animals. This was a repeat violation from inspections conducted on twenty-two separate occasions. The violations included numerous cages with protruding nails, shredded and splintered wood, and broken wires with sharp protruding edges.

In 2012 USDA sued Sculac and Serenity Springs citing chronic and egregious violations of the animal welfare act. Three years later USDA sued Nick Sculac again. Neither lawsuit was ever completed.

It seemed that the abuse and over breeding would continue on forever. That was until Sculac was diagnosed with cancer.

Sculac and his wife sold Serenity Springs Wildlife Center and all of its animals to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge who partnered with Tigers In America. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Tigers In America, and several accredited sanctuaries across the United States, including Big Cat Rescue, worked together over the course of 4 months to re-home 110 animals, 75 of which were tigers. This rescue operation would become the largest big cat rescue in U.S. history and highlights the dire need for more effective legislation.

The facility was in shambles. Cages were in desperate need of repair. Overcrowding made it impossible to shift cats so their filthy cages could be cleaned and rid of dangerous materials. Wooden pallets had been shredded and used as flooring in the desolate cages. Metal nails and staples from the pallets were not even removed leaving a plethora of sharp rusty debris.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge moved several of their staff to the property to make necessary repairs to enclosures as well as to remove dangerous ground cover. They cared for the animals providing them a healthy diet, enrichment and toys, and veterinary care until each one was transported to their new homes.

Big Cat Rescue took in 5 tigers from Serenity Springs; Gabrielle, Seth, Priya, Andy, and Charaka.

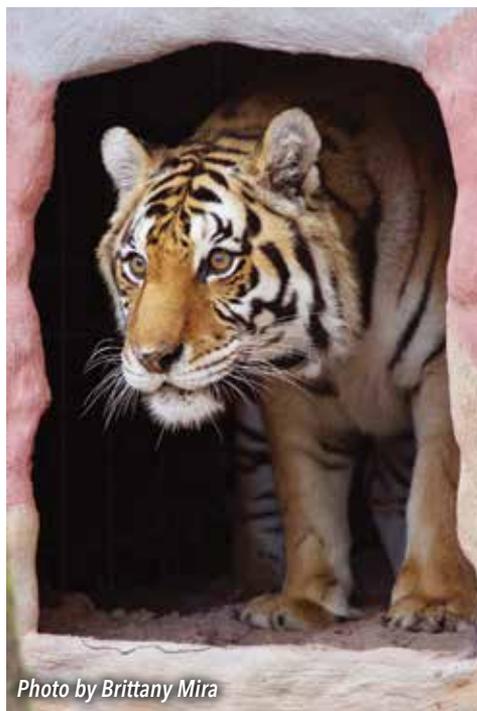


Photo by Brittany Mira

## GABRIELLE 20 YEARS OLD

Gabrielle's story can be traced back to a private collection of big cats at a facility called Wesa-a-geh-ya in Warrenton, MO. The owners of the facility forfeited their license to keep exotic animals when faced with multiple animal welfare violations in addition to financial strain. Gabrielle was transferred to Serenity Springs in 2008 at the age of 11 along with her mate, a male tiger named Zeus. Zeus was euthanized two years later. Gabrielle was then moved into an enclosure with another resident named Seth for the purpose of breeding. Their cubs were used for photo ops and frequently

transferred to other facilities with similar operations.

When Gabrielle arrived at Big Cat Rescue she was separated from Seth. A few weeks after her arrival she was scheduled to be sedated for an exam and to be spayed.

It was our intention to reunite Gabrielle with Seth once she recovered from her surgery. We housed the pair in neighboring enclosures so they could remain close during their separation. However, Gabrielle absolutely hated Seth. She completely avoided the side of her enclosure nearest to him. Anytime she would even see Seth next door she would roar and charge at him to keep him away.

In general big cats are solitary so Gabrielle's insistence on being housed alone was not unusual. Gabrielle was given her own large natural enclosure all to herself. Because Gabrielle would not be housed with Seth the vet team decided against spaying her. At her age an invasive procedure such as being spayed would be hard to overcome and would not be a necessity as she would be living alone.

Gabrielle was the most timid of the group when she first arrived, but has since blossomed into a healthy happy tigress.

Rescuers transport Priya to her new home.



Priya gets a long drink from the pond in the Vacation Rotation enclosure.





## **SETH** 10 YEARS OLD

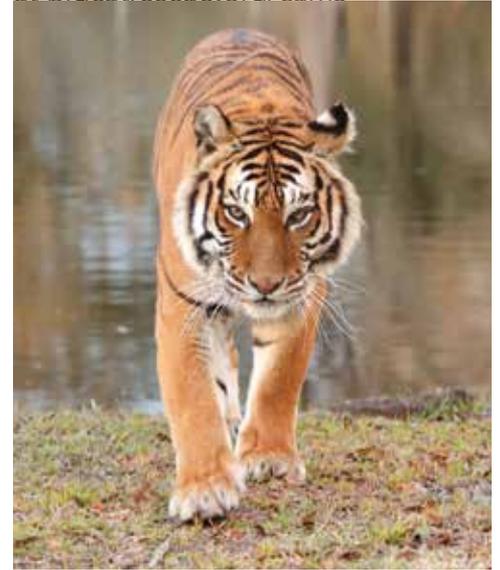
In December of 2006 Seth and his sister arrived at Serenity Springs presumably after outgrowing their usefulness as pay to play photo props at a facility called T.I.G.E.R.S. in Myrtle Beach, SC. When Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge took over Serenity Springs they noted that Seth had a swollen ankle. TCWR staff sedated Seth for a basic exam to be neutered, however, X-ray was unavailable to them.

When Big Cat Rescue was presented with a list of cats in need of placement Seth was chosen specifically due to his swollen ankle. Here at the sanctuary we have X-ray, ultrasound, and a well rounded team of specialists, so we knew that we could provide Seth with the best veterinary care possible.

While Seth does not seem to be bothered by his ankle and has only a mild limp, it turns out something much more serious was going on under the surface. X-rays showed that Seth had suffered from a broken ankle some time in the past. The joint had only partially healed and was now riddled with arthritis and fluid as a result of inflammation. Fractures of this type within the joint were most likely caused as a result of having his foot caught in something. When and how Seth broke his ankle remains a mystery. In smaller domestic pets this type of injury would usually be treated by fusing the joint. This procedure involves removal of the cartilage and placing bone grafts in the joint. The joint is then stabilized using metal implants. Seth weighs nearly 350 pounds and this procedure would be incredibly difficult on an animal his size, not to mention the logistics of aftercare following surgery. Seth would need a cast or splint to stabilize the joint for a minimum of 6 weeks post surgery.

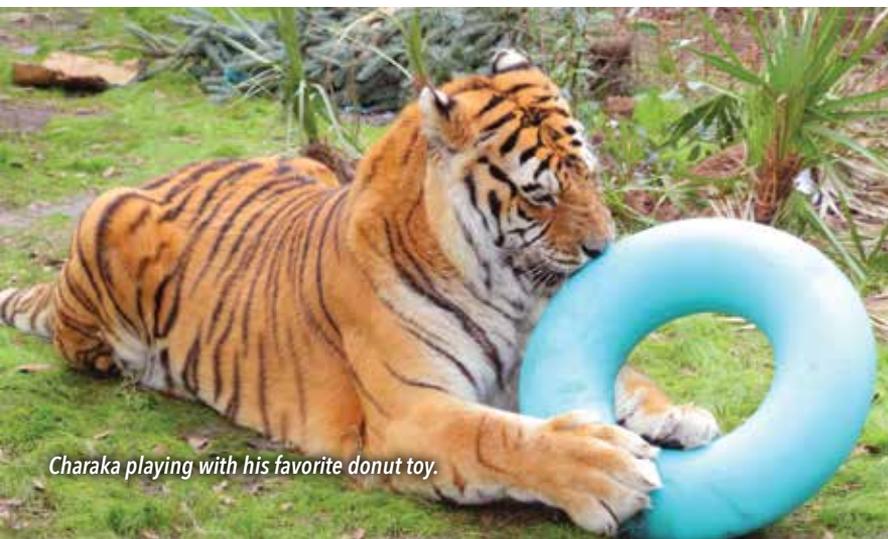
After reviewing the radiographs, a board certified orthopedic surgeon recommended treating Seth with medication to control pain and inflammation. Arthritis had already partially fused the joint and since Seth was using his ankle (even running and jumping) it would be best to leave it alone. The vet team will re-evaluate should Seth become impeded by his injury.

How sad that this sweet tiger had to suffer for so long without veterinary care. Despite the neglect Seth endured his spirit remained warm and welcoming. He settled right into his new home and is now neighbors to TJ on tiger lake. You can check in on Seth via a live streaming camera at [biacatrescue.org/cams](http://biacatrescue.org/cams)

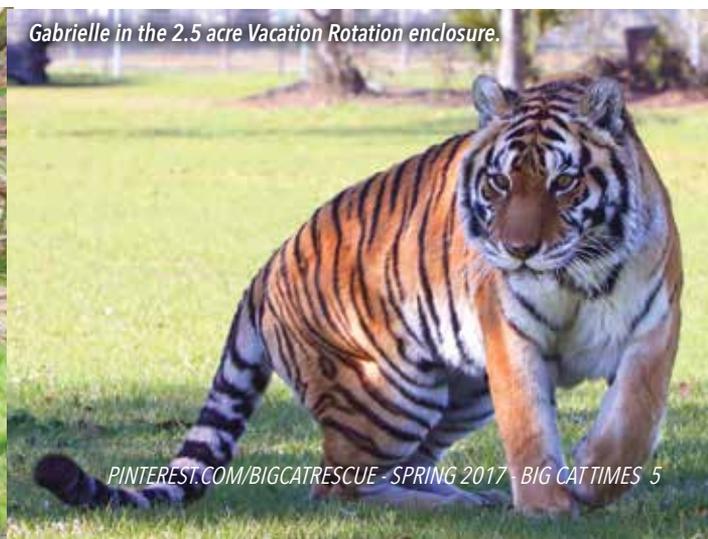


## **PRIYA** 14 YEARS OLD

Priya was born at Serenity Springs in 2003. She and Charaka were used as breeding stock to fuel the facility's photo op business. Priya gave birth to 4 documented litters totaling 12 cubs (3 of whom died) between March of 2010 and the Fall of 2011. It is unknown how many litters she had before and after this time period as record keeping at the facility was spotty.



*Charaka playing with his favorite donut toy.*



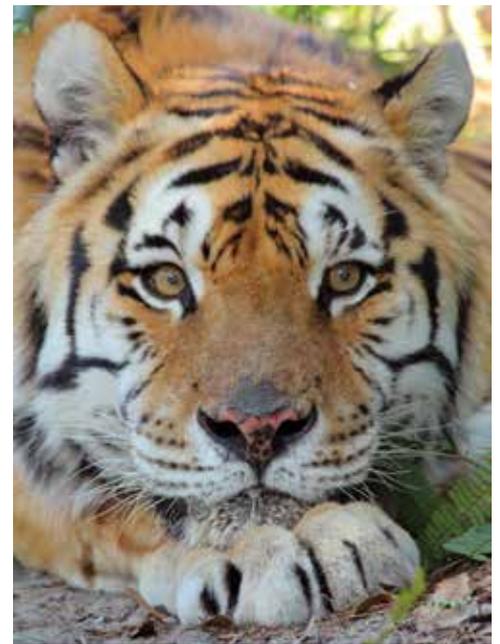
*Gabrielle in the 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation enclosure.*



*Dr. Boorstein & Dr. Bard  
remove a 20 pound  
hydrometra from Priya.*

of the fluid, causing fatal peritonitis. The surgery took nearly two and a half hours.

Priya had a very large incision in her abdomen that would take several weeks to heal. She recovered in a concrete hospital cage in order to keep her surgery site clean during the healing process.



**ANDY**  
**13 YEARS OLD**

All of Priya's cubs were kept at Serenity Springs with the exception of one which was sent to a Las Vegas magician who regularly filed down the teeth and removed the claws of cats used in his acts. The cubs who remained at Serenity Springs were exploited for cub petting until they were too old to be safely handled. At that time, they were relegated to small, barren enclosures to live out the remainder of their lives.

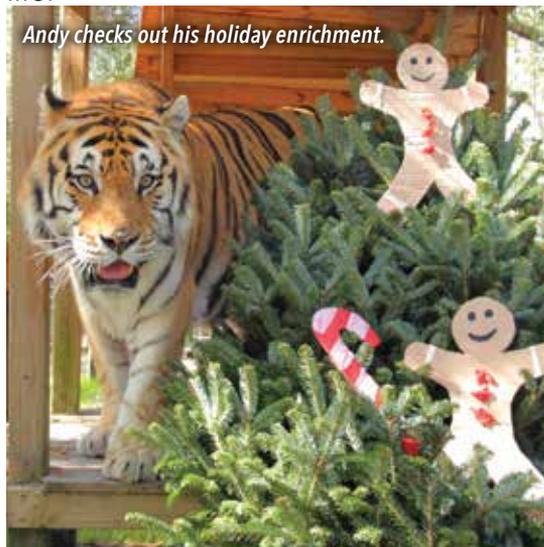
The day after Priya's arrival at Big Cat Rescue she was rushed into our onsite Windsong Memorial Hospital to be evaluated by Dr. Justin Boorstein, Dr. Liz Wynn, Dr. Tammy Miller and Dr. Bard. Priya was sedated and examined due to her extended belly, inappetence, crankiness and inability to lay comfortably on her side.

An ultrasound and X-rays confirmed that Priya was not pregnant, but there was something very big in her abdomen that did not belong. With no other choice the vet team performed an exploratory surgery and it was a good thing they did. Priya's uterus was filled with fluid, otherwise known as a hydrometra. Removal of the uterus is basically a spay, however, this surgery was complicated by the presence of this twenty pound hydrometra. If left untreated Priya could have died from exhaustion or the walls of the womb could be ruptured from the pressure

Five weeks after surgery Priya was moved to her permanent enclosure next to Charaka. Again, we hoped for a happy reunion, however, like Gabrielle, Priya wanted nothing to do with her past mate.

Priya has had a long hard road to recovery following her rescue. This first impression of her new home could have had an adverse effect. Despite the obstacles Priya bounced back quickly and has embraced her new life. She takes joy in pouncing after her keepers and had a blast in the Vacation Rotation enclosure.

Priya was fortunate to be one of the first cats to be moved from Serenity Springs to a facility that was capable of discerning her distress and acting quickly. You can all be proud to have been part of the team who saved her life.



*Andy checks out his holiday enrichment.*

Andy was acquired by Serenity Springs in 2004 from Jungle Land Zoo in Kissimmee, FL. Jungle Land Zoo had removed its animals from public view in late 2002. The owners claimed they were another victim to the post 9/11 economy, but the local Channel 6 News reported the zoo was being investigated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Andy was shipped to Serenity Springs with 2 lions, 2 cougars & 2 other tigers when Jungle Land closed, along with two binturongs that died during the trip from FL to CO.

We do not know much about Andy's life at Serenity Springs. A formal complaint filed by USDA against the facility noted on Nov. 5, 2013: "Respondents failed to provide adequate veterinary care to a tiger (Andy) that was observed to be limping on his right hind leg and in thin body condition ... respondents had not communicated with their

attending veterinarian about Andy or had Andy examined or evaluated by a veterinarian." Upon Andy's arrival here no limp was noted so whatever injury he sustained in 2013 has since resolved.

Andy has a youthful appearance with his big golden eyes and prominent fuzzy ruff that frames his face. He loves lounging high atop his platform or napping beneath the ferns that cover his den mountain.



## **CHARAKA** **16 YEARS OLD**

Charaka arrived at Serenity Springs in 2001 when he was 5 months old from Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Wichita, KS. He was later paired with Priya. At some point he was neutered, most likely to deter him from fighting with other males that were housed with him and Priya due to overcrowding.

Charaka was an old soul with the inquisitive and playful nature of a young cub. From the moment he was released from his transport crate into this new lush home, Charaka was at ease. Wide eyed, he checked out every square inch of his enclosure chuffing all along the way. Charaka loved his toys and loved enrichment of all kinds. He was an instant hit with our followers due to his enthusiasm for anything fun and new.

Shortly after his arrival keepers noted that Charaka occasionally vomited his food. He was otherwise alert and active and had a good appetite. In an effort to determine the cause of his stomach upset a food trial was conducted. Certain types of foods were removed from his diet to determine if there was one food in particular that was the culprit. Over the course of several weeks his diet was adjusted, yet still his upset stomach persisted.

Charaka was sedated for an exam. X-rays and an ultrasound could not confirm nor rule out an obstruction in his digestive tract. With no other significant findings Charaka was awakened and moved to the cat hospital recovery cage for close observation. A few days later Charaka started to decline. His abdomen had become distended and he refused to eat.

Charaka was sedated again this time for an exploratory surgery performed by Dr. Justin Boorstein and Dr. Bard. His stomach was engorged with undigested meat and fur. The contents of his stomach were removed and his entire gastrointestinal tract checked over for a blockage. The stomach contents were sifted through and a very compacted golf ball sized amount of fur was found. This could

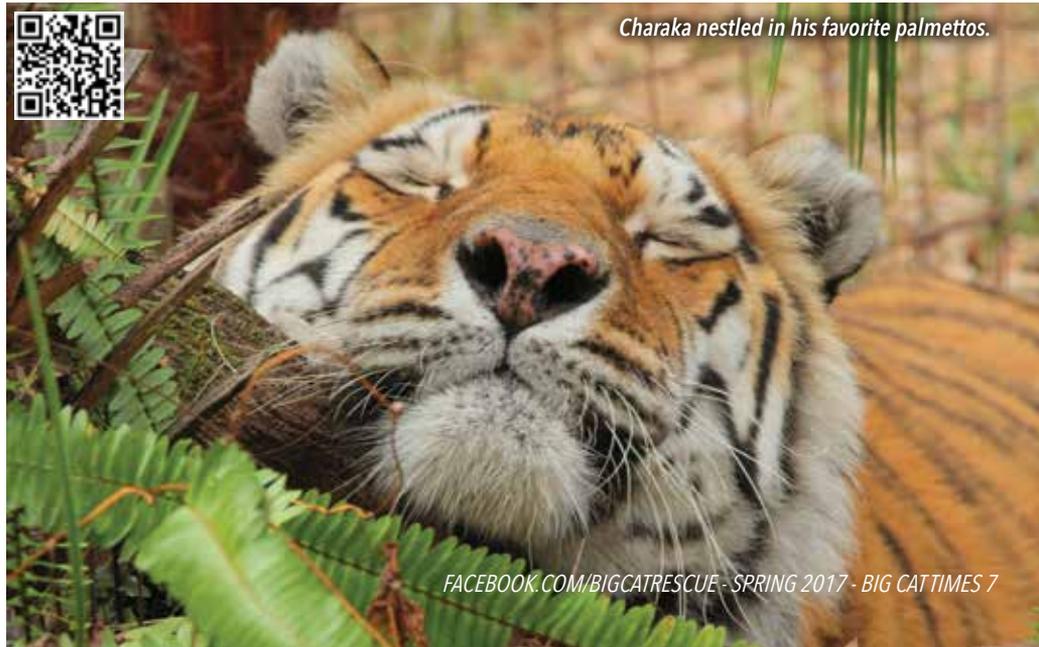
have potentially plugged up the exit from the stomach into the intestines, but there was no way to know for sure this had been the case.

A week passed by and it appeared as though Charaka was going to make a full recovery. He began eating smaller meals and was able to keep them down and his energy level had returned to normal. However, tragedy struck when Charaka, without warning, passed away.

Shocked by Charaka's passing Dr. Boorstein performed a necropsy. Nearly every organ sampled came back with some sort of anomaly or defect. Most of the findings were incidental, but peculiar nonetheless. Charaka's cause of death was determined to be either a cardiac or pulmonary event.

We were all heartbroken from the loss of this amazing tiger. He touched so many hearts during his short time with us and will be remembered fondly. Our only consolation is that Charaka had a chance to experience true sanctuary and real love in the final months of his life on this earth.

It is thanks to generous supporters like you that make rescues of cats like Gabrielle, Seth, Priya, Andy, and Charaka possible.



*Charaka nestled in his favorite palmettos.*

# BOBCAT REHABILITATION PROGRAM UPDATES

## SPIRIT FEATHER'S BIG DAY!

We are so thrilled to announce that Spirit Feather has been released back into the wild!

Spirit Feather, a female Florida bobcat, was orphaned when she was two months old. She was rehabilitated at Big Cat Rescue for several months in order to receive the necessary training to survive on her own.

Thanks to our partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Spirit Feather's new home is comprised of nearly 5,000 acres of pristine habitat.

The morning of the release volunteers were all abuzz with excitement.

Spirit Feather was loaded into a transport crate and weighed before making her two hour journey to her

and volunteers from both Big Cat Rescue and The Nature Conservancy.

A drone was sent high up in the air to get a completely different perspective of a rehabilitated bobcat bounding towards freedom. Everyone was poised and ready.

Bobcat Rehab Team member Karma Hurworth slid open the door as fellow teammates Becky, Gale, and Jamie stood nearby. Within a few seconds Spirit Feather launched

new home. The two pound kitten had grown into a ten pound wildcat.

Once we arrived at the preserve Spirit Feather's crate was unloaded and flanked on either side by staff

from the crate and made a beeline to the forest edge. She slunk into the thick brush and disappeared.

We wish Spirit Feather all the best!



Big Cat Rescuers release Spirit Feather on 5,000 acre preserve thanks to The Nature Conservancy



Big Cat Rescuers snap photos as Spirit Feather bounds towards freedom

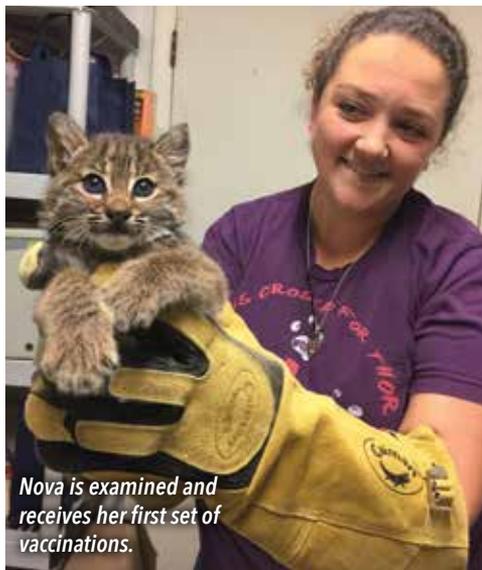


Big Cat Rescuers celebrate Spirit Feather's release



Spirit Feather darts passed a well placed GoPro camera, photo byk Brittany Mira

## FIRST BOBCAT TO UTILIZE NEW REHAB FACILITIES



*Nova is examined and receives her first set of vaccinations.*

Three weeks after Spirit Feather's release we received a call from a facility in Arcadia that had a young bobcat kitten surrendered to them.

This seven week old kitten had become separated from her mother during a storm. A well intentioned person found her and kept her for five days before giving her to an officer with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.



*Nova's first day in the new rehab enclosure.*

The kitten was then taken to a local facility that houses unreleasable native wildlife.

Due to her fierce disposition the animal care supervisor and a

volunteer at the facility thought that there might be a chance for the kitten to be a candidate for release, and so they contacted Big Cat Rescue.

We gladly agreed to take in the little bobcat and named her Nova. Nova means "new" in Latin and "chases butterflies" in Hoppi. This name was quite appropriate as Nova would be the first bobcat to be housed in our newly constructed bobcat rehab enclosures.

When Nova first arrived she was overloaded with parasites including hookworms and roundworms. She was treated for both and remained in the Cat Hospital until she was cleared of the infestation.

During this time she quickly won the hearts of animal lovers world wide with her silly antics streamed live via a camera attached to her cage. Nova is very playful and spent hours chasing and wrestling with her toys, climbing all over her cat tree, and running around her cage at full speed. Her energy is endless.

Despite her fun loving spirit, Nova is very wild. At the first sound of a keeper entering the building she would burrow under the blankets, or tuck herself high up on the cat tree to hide. This is a good thing as we want her to stay away from humans once she returns to the wild. When she had to be shifted from one side

of her hospital cage to the other for cleaning she became a spitfire. Nova hisses, growls, and sometimes charges the side of the cage letting her keepers know she is no house cat!

Nova was recently transferred to the outdoor rehab enclosures and is loving the fresh new space. She has a long road ahead of her, but thanks to the support of hundreds of donors we have the perfect facilities to train her how to survive on her own.

## HERO DEPUTY SAVES BOBCAT STRUCK BY CAR



*Deputy Wyeth saying goodbye to the young bobcat he rescued.*



*The bobcat is named Wyeth in honor of her rescuer.*

At 11:30 PM the night before Valentine's Day Big Cat Rescuers received a call from Pinellas County Sheriff's Deputy Wyeth Whitehurst. The deputy had responded to the scene of an accident involving a car

and a bobcat. Having been on a tour of Big Cat Rescue previously he thought that we could help. Deputy Whitehurst loaded the injured bobcat into the back of his vehicle and drove it to the sanctuary where he was met by staff member Barbara Stairs. He reported that the bobcat appeared to have a broken leg.



Dr. Boorstein, Jamie Veronica, and Gale Ingham arrived moments later and sedated the bobcat for an exam at the onsite Windsong Memorial Cat Hospital.

The bobcat was a young female estimated to be eight months old. Overall she was in pretty good shape and appeared to have no major injuries. X-rays were taken of her entire body and revealed she had no broken bones. Blood and urine were collected and sent to the lab for analysis. She had two minor injuries; a couple of lacerations to her inner right thigh and a single laceration on her tongue. These wounds were thoroughly cleaned and sutured closed.

It appeared as though this little bobcat would make a full recovery. In honor of her hero the young bobcat was named Wyeth.

The next morning our hearts sank as we watched Wyeth moving about her hospital cage dragging her right rear leg. This type of injury could be muscle or tendon damage, or, worse,

a spinal or brain injury. In hopes that her inability to use the leg was due to swelling she was started on a course of steroids.

The following day she started using her leg little by little. She was unsteady but making progress. The Bobcat Rehab Team kept a close eye on her throughout the next few days. Each day she grew stronger.

Meanwhile she was kept amused by her neighbor in the Cat Hospital, Nova. She was mesmerized by this tiny rambunctious version of her self.

A couple of weeks after her arrival Wyeth had made a near full recovery. She was doing so much better in fact that she was moved to the outdoor rehab enclosures. She will spend a few weeks there continuing to heal and gaining back her strength.

Wyeth's release date is fast approaching and we are in need of a release site. The site must be a minimum of 40 acres in Pinellas County. If you have any leads please email:

**[jamie.veronica@bigcatrescue.org](mailto:jamie.veronica@bigcatrescue.org)**



My Bobcat's in Rehab at Big Cat Rescue Tee available in 2 cuts and 28 colors exclusively at:

**[BigCatRescue.biz](http://BigCatRescue.biz)**

Proceeds help fund the care of injured or orphaned Florida bobcats.

# NEW BOBCAT REHAB CENTER

We are so very excited to announce the grand opening of the new Bobcat Rehabilitation Center. Construction of four massive enclosures each spanning 230'x20' (4,600 square feet) of natural habitat have been completed.



**[BigCatRescue.org/rehabfund](http://BigCatRescue.org/rehabfund)**



# BATTLING ANIMAL ABUSERS IN THE DARK

By Jennifer Leon, Director of Outreach

On February 3, 2017, animals across the U.S. were dealt a devastating blow when the USDA removed public access to inspection reports for approximately 9,000 facilities.

Big Cat Rescue immediately went into action, thoroughly examining the USDA website for any remaining information that we could capture before it was scrubbed. Thankfully we had just completed a massive records download in January – so we had up to date reports and inventories for the big cat facilities.

The USDA's unexpected and alarming decision to hide records not only cripples Big Cat Rescue's work to track and stop the worst big cat abusers in our country, it also stymies other animal groups and advocates who rely on these records to battle puppy mills, horse abusers, and other bad actors who profit from the mistreatment of animals.

## WHAT WAS THE USDA SEARCH TOOL?

The USDA is charged with upholding and enforcing the Animal Welfare Act [AWA] and Horse Protection Act [HPA], laws that impact the lives of millions of animals nationwide. The AWA is the only law that requires basic standards of care and treatment for captive big cats and other iconic species such as orcas, elephants, and bears. Inspectors enforce the law by conducting routine facility inspections.

Inspection reports and other records were made publicly available via an online search tool on the USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] website. Reports were usually available 28 days after the inspection was completed and remained available online

for three years. Big Cat Rescue is among several groups that regularly checked these reports for instances of abuse and violations of the law. Inspection reports have helped us determine who owns big cats, where they are located, how they have been treated, and how effectively the USDA enforces the law. Without access to these reports, we are battling big cat abusers in the dark.

## ANIMAL ADVOCATES FIGHT BACK

The Humane Society of the United States [HSUS] was the first to fight back arguing that the blackout is a violation of a 2009 agreement they made with the USDA to make records public. Their action likely resulted in the USDA's recent decision (as of writing in mid-February) to repost a handful of research lab inspections.

A week later the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine joined the Mass. SPCA, PETA, and Delcianna Winders (the Academic Fellow of the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program) in filing a complaint to put the records back online, stating "the government should not be in the business of hiding animal abusers and lawbreakers from public scrutiny."

Many other organizations whose missions have been thwarted by the blackout have created petitions calling on the USDA to reinstate the complete site. A formidable group of U.S. Representatives and Senators, from both sides of the aisle, submitted a joint letter to the USDA urging transparency. Even Dan Ashe, the current CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums [AZA] and former Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], has insisted that the records be made public. Plus a variety of notable media outlets highlighted the USDA's record purge in front-page reports and on popular news segments.

## WHY WERE THE RECORDS REMOVED?

Last year horse owners who had been caught soring their horses sued the USDA. Among their arguments, they said the USDA violated their privacy by making their inspection reports publicly available online. The USDA then began a comprehensive review of their posting policies and is said to have removed records as a result of this review.

## TAKE ACTION

Over the past few years, Big Cat Rescue has collected inspection reports on 147 licensed big cat exploiters. In addition to demanding that the records be returned to the USDA website, we have made over 3,000 inspection reports and related records publicly available at [thememoryhole2.org/blog/aphis](http://thememoryhole2.org/blog/aphis). The USDA blackout is a victory for big cat abusers. But rest assured, it will not stop us from ending the abuse of big cats in captivity!

Join us in demanding transparency from the USDA! Contact your representatives and demand that they help restore these records. Don't know who they are? Find them at [House.gov](http://House.gov) and [Senate.gov](http://Senate.gov). Contact the White House at [www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact).

Stay up to date on the blackout and other big cat issues by signing up as a Big Cat Rescue AdvoCat at

**[bigcatrescue.org/advocat](http://bigcatrescue.org/advocat)**



*This cage is typical of how big cats are housed all across the country; small, barren, & depressing.*

# 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.



MasterKeeper **Becky Gagliardo** aka Momma Becky (because she treats all of the cats at BCR as if they were her beloved children) will celebrate 18 years of volunteering this March. Becky is a true Big Cat Rescuer! We are so happy to honor such a wonderful lady in this special way.

In honor of Becky a donation of \$1,000 was made to the Wildlife Conservation & Ecology Lab at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak & Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation to conserve the Flat Headed Cat, Leopard Cat and Marbled Cat.

There are only five species of cats in



Borneo but little is known on their exact occurrence and their habitats are increasingly being reduced for oil palm and other land use. The Ulu Sebuyau National Park in Sarawak in Malaysia has an area totaling 70 square miles, consisting primarily of peat swamp forest. The National park is currently not open to visitors as it has no infrastructure and is located far from human settlements but is a prime research spot for these small cat species.

Dr Mohd-Azlan J. Azad and his team have set infrared censored cameras in Ulu Sebuyau National Park to investigate the ecology of, in particular, the Flat-Headed Cat. Camera trapping in this area started in late 2015, and to date 1,314 camera captures have assisted in documenting carnivore occurrences and understanding habitat preferences in this protected habitat. Species recorded have included Binturong, Banded Linsang, Leopard Cat, Marbled Cat and the rare and Endangered Flat-Headed Cat.

The next phase of the project, started in 2016, is to add more camera traps over a wider distribution of forest to increase data collection and improve understanding of the ecological needs of the species.

[sarawakwildlifecon.wixsite.com/wceunimas](http://sarawakwildlifecon.wixsite.com/wceunimas)

**Melanie Moore** is an exceptionally hard working, self starting intern. She is thoughtful and considerate. Her participation in the foster kitten program has been extraordinary, especially considering the health issues her charges have faced. We thank Melanie for her unending dedication.

To celebrate Melanie a \$1,000 donation was given to the Oncilla Project & Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation to save the Oncilla, Margay and Jaguarundi.

The Oncilla Project Team are developing previous work in the threatened and fragmented ecosystem of the Interior Atlantic Forest in Brazil. In this habitat live three small neotropical felidae, the oncilla (*Leopardus guttulus*), margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) and jaguarundi (*Puma yaguaroundi*). These species are included in the Brazilian and IUCN



threatened species list because of the decline in their habitat and food availability. In the interior Atlantic forest, these species reside next to farmers who are increasing their land use and colonization, changing the ecosystem as a result.

The Oncilla Project Team aim to protect the small feline species by:

- Educating people living near the forest areas about the small cat species and the biodiversity of the ecosystem.



- Training students to organize, develop and put into action biodiversity preservation programs.
- Gaining information on habitats in the ecosystem using GPS collars.
- Encouraging nearby landowners that possess remaining forest spots on their property, to create conservation areas.
- Indicating important ecological spots to environmental authorities in addition to the landowners, to create further conservation areas.
- Providing assistance for farmers who develop human-animal conflicts with the small felids over domestic livestock

[sites.google.com/site/leopardusmallcats/](https://sites.google.com/site/leopardusmallcats/)

Keeper **Candy Couser** has taken on special duties in the gift shop and

is ALWAYS eager to help. She has a keen appetite for learning and a positive attitude. Candy has been an excellent addition to our volunteer family.

To show Candy our appreciation of her service a donation in the amount of \$1,000 was made to African Parks for the protection of lions, leopards, and cheetah.

African Parks focuses on effective law enforcement measures, conflict mitigation, and community engagement in order to protect threatened species such as lions, leopards and cheetah, along with providing them with the habitat and security of core areas the animals need in order to thrive.

African Parks monitor individual animals, through collaring or alternative tracking devices, to gather critical information on ecology, behavior, survivorship and mortality to advance knowledge of the ecosystem as a whole in order to better manage the wildlife.

Research is a vital part of monitoring the health of the ecosystem and an important way to track the management of the park. Regular censuses provide essential information on wildlife trends. Even with the best monitoring programs it can take several years to acquire sufficient data to determine if wildlife management programs are successful.

Finally African Parks has the largest counter-p o a c h i n g force in Africa with over 600 rangers on staff.



Frequent and effective training is provided to the rangers to create an able and well-disciplined team. These rangers deploy on foot and horseback or by boats, vehicles and planes to conduct year round patrols providing security for the wildlife against poachers and other illegal activities.

[african-parks.org](https://african-parks.org)

Do you want to help the big cats and make new friends? Big Cat Rescue is always looking for volunteers and interns. Keepers clean enclosures, feed the animals, and landscape. Partners work in the gift shop and guide tours of the sanctuary. Get all the details at:

[BigCatRescue.org/volunteer](https://BigCatRescue.org/volunteer)



# GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS



Roaring Motors Lion Tee  
S, M, L, XL **\$25**



Tiger Wearing Sunglasses  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



Lion wearing BCR Beanie  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



I see LIONS Periodically  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



Tiger Poop Brewed Daily at BCR  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



Tiger Face Composed of Words  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



Panthera Tigris V-neck Purple  
S, M, L, XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



Rhinstone Tank Snow Leopard  
S, M, L, XL **\$27**



Mosaic Lion  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



Racerback Leopard Tank  
S, M, L, & XL **\$25** XXL **\$27**



BCR Logo Caps  
Pink or Green Trucker **\$25**  
Black & Gold **\$18**



Board to Be Wild Kids Tee  
XS, S, M, & L **\$17**



Cool Cats Kids Tee  
XS, S, M, & L **\$17**



Kids Super Hero Tees  
Superman or Lion Mane

XS, S, M, & L **\$17**

Tiger in Text Light Weight Hoodie



S, M, L, & XL **\$34**  
XXL **\$36**



Medium Socks fit Women 6-11 & Men 5-10 **\$10 ea.** Choose Shorty Tiger made with recycled materials, White Lion w/BCR Logo, Black Tiger w/ BCR Logo, or Lion March



Tigers 15 oz Mug \$16



Big Cats 15 oz Mug \$16



Bobcats 15 oz Mug \$16



Joseph Painting Mug 15oz \$16



BCR Tumbler 16.oz \$17



Photo Collage Mouse Pad \$16



BCR Bracelet \$4



Zabu Earrings \$15

I Support BCR Window Decal Diecut, no background Choose Black or White \$9



CHECK OUT OUR ENTIRE SELECTION AT: BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ



**BELOW ITEMS ONLY AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ**



All I Care About Is Rescuing Tigers, and Like Maybe 3 People and Beer

Check out these paw-some online exclusives as well as hundreds more in our online gift shop!



Paw Prints & Paw Painting Reproductions



BCR Racerback Tank



Big Cat Pillows Paw Paint Paw Print Photo



Luggage Tag Choose White Tiger, 3 Cougars, Bobcat, Black Leopard, Tiger, or Lion \$6.74 each



Crazy Cat Lady Toy 5.25" comes with 6 cats \$16



Stretch Fit 8" Tiger Eye Bracelet - \$15 Goes Towards the Big Cats \$25



Leopard Clicky Pen Rotating message w/ each click \$4



Crazy Cat Lady Board Game \$27



I Heart Big Cats - Features Actual Paw Prints from Past & Present Residents of BCR



I Helped Rescue Hoover Tank



There are only 3,900 tigers left in the wild. So help us pass the Big Cat Public Safe

**TIGER**  
*(Panthera tigris)*



ety Act before they become history. Visit [BigCatAct.com](http://BigCatAct.com)



# VISIT THE CATS

## TOUR & PROGRAMS

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**BIGCATRESCUE.ORG/**

**TICKETS**

**(813) 920-4130**

## YOU SHOP - AMAZON GIVES

Select Big Cat Rescue as your designated charity and every purr-chase can help the cats. Everything is the same as it is at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that a donation will be made to the big cats for every purchase you make using this portal. It's a free and easy way to give without any extra cost! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3330495>



## 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

### 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.

### GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR ALL TOURS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ

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 Spring 2017

**BILLING ADDRESS** (please print legibly)

**ORDER DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

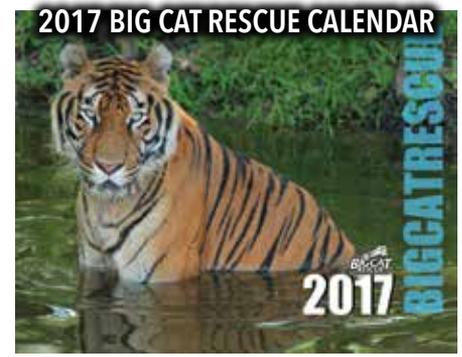
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECIPIENT ADDRESS** (if different than above)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



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

DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE
CALENDAR			\$18.05	
SPONSORSHIP KIT:				
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	
			<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD INFO:**



Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date (MMYY): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CCV# (back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTOMATIC GIVING PROGRAM - JOIN THE SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY:** Big Cat Rescue makes it easy and convenient to donate monthly with no worry. You can do this either by credit card or by direct debit to a checking account for as little as \$5/month. For credit card donations, just fill in the highlighted line on the order form above and provide your credit card information. For checking account direct debit email [finance@bigcatrescue.org](mailto: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.

Big Cat Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, FEID 59-3330495. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR BIG CAT RESCUE CORP., A FL-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH 11409), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OR BY VISITING [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Big Cat Rescue does not utilize the services of professional solicitors, 100% of all contributions go directly to Big Cat Rescue Corp. The Big Cat Times is distributed quarterly in Tampa, FL at no charge to our donors. If you have any questions, please email [info@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:info@BigCatRescue.org) or call 813-920-4130.

# DONATIONS

Received Oct 1st - Dec 31st

Estate Of Eugene T. Bowman \$105,920  
Estate Of Michael Vines \$73,882  
Estate Of Jean Thompson \$60,460  
Bernice Brooks & Jennie Jamison \$44,964  
Harry & Debra Stonecipher \$38,704  
Copperhead Charities \$37,072  
Hogwarts Running Club \$25,583  
The SHARE Foundation \$25,000  
The Shepard Milner Wardlaw Foundation \$20,000  
Herbert Wilson \$15,150  
Knopf Family Foundation \$10,000  
Oliver S. & Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust \$10,000  
Piper Mongan Properties \$10,000  
Lawrence & Pamela Trissel \$10,000  
Fields-Gordon-Galley Private Foundation \$8,000  
Royal Little Family Foundation \$8,000  
Emily Landecker Foundation Inc. \$7,500  
Thomas Neal \$7,500  
Jim & Susan Hammersley \$7,000  
Pollio Family Foundation \$7,000  
Jennifer Barrett \$6,000  
Brett & Hannah Harrison \$6,000  
Judy Lester \$6,000  
Mireille McGail \$5,152  
Cooper Family Foundation Inc. \$5,000  
Jean Fraley \$5,000  
Lilian Giraldo \$5,000  
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP \$5,000  
Litter Quality Propane \$5,000  
PetPartners \$5,000  
Whitney Charitable Foundation \$5,000  
Quality Carriers Inc., Jason Wright \$4,200  
Mark Smith & Maxine Harris \$4,000  
David Keller \$4,000  
Robert & Doretta Marwin \$4,000  
Alan Shneour \$3,389  
Gunst Family Foundation \$3,000  
S. Balolia Family Foundation \$3,000  
Linda Van Valkenburg \$3,000  
Candida & Dennis Covington \$2,500  
FedEx \$2,500  
Pat & Etoy Trammell \$2,500  
Caye Kim \$2,426  
Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill \$2,170  
Phillip & Christina Berler \$2,100  
Janis Barrows \$2,000  
Robert & Susan Cochran \$2,000  
Michael Gras \$2,000  
Aaron Link \$2,000  
John Ficken & Laura Lorenzen \$2,000  
June Mayeda \$2,000  
Diane K. Randall \$2,000  
Karen Waller \$1,750  
Betty Schino \$1,700  
The Royal Manticoran Navy \$5,124  
James Bailey \$1,500  
Beverly Diehl \$1,500  
Virginia Johnson \$1,500  
Sole Marittimi \$1,500  
Marvin & Melissa Gill Family Foundation Inc. \$1,500  
Peter Mynard \$1,500  
Paul Cichocki & Cynthia Ostrowski \$1,500  
Janice Elliott \$1,350  
Coldwell Banker, Stephanie Cutter Group \$1,330  
Cynthia Evans \$1,300  
Mit Grimes \$1,300  
James Grant \$1,250  
Lynn C. & Stuart G. Lang \$1,250  
Muriel Jopling & Valerie Glowinski \$1,200  
Bruce Gran \$1,200  
Clyde & Nancy Gelderloos \$1,136  
Cari Losch-Papier \$1,100  
William & Marie Cooper Family Partnership \$1,087  
George Antaki \$1,000  
Rocky & Shelly Barbanica \$1,000  
David Benson \$1,000  
Jordan Berlin \$1,000  
Cynsa Bonorris \$1,000  
Susan Borst \$1,000  
Christa D. Brolley \$1,000  
Joy Burchuk \$1,000  
Erin Connors \$1,000  
Brad Cox \$1,000  
Rudolf Dankwort \$1,000  
Laurel Davis \$1,000  
Doug Fisher \$1,000  
Gerson Family Foundation \$1,000  
Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund \$1,000  
Bert & Val Harrop \$1,000  
Sarah Humphries \$1,000  
Island Foundation Inc. \$1,000  
CrossFit Jaguar \$1,000  
Pamela Johnston \$1,000  
Joseph & Lisa Kciuk \$1,000  
Barnston-Koutsaftis Family Foundation \$1,000  
William Lachman & Gregory Ward \$1,000  
Dwight Lowell \$1,000  
Keith Lutsch \$1,000  
Joseph J. Marotti Jr. \$1,000  
Carol McGehee \$1,000  
Candice Miller Azurmendi \$1,000  
Edward Moylan \$1,000  
Vidya & Jagannathan Narasimhan \$1,000  
Cathy Palladino \$1,000  
Philip Paustian \$1,000  
Janet Gayle Phillips \$1,000  
Don & Penelope Pray \$1,000  
Press Box Sports Emporium \$1,000  
Jeremy Pritchett \$1,000  
Wendy Raulin \$1,000  
Virginia Roeder Wenger Foundation Inc. \$1,000  
Suzi Schultz \$1,000  
Bruce Shanzer \$1,000  
Sherloq Solutions Centennial, Larry & Angela Tartaglino \$1,000  
Brett Simmers \$1,000  
Nicole Skerry \$1,000  
Gregg Smith \$1,000  
Sheri Sussman \$1,000  
The David Charles Family Fund, Franklin Templeton Investments \$1,000  
The Kors Le Pere Foundation \$1,000  
Colleen Then-Kern \$1,000  
Finn Thompson \$1,000  
Patricia Wade \$1,000  
Dean Carroll \$950  
Suzanne & Alan Lucas \$900  
Shari Sawyer \$900  
Mihaly Szigeti \$900  
Timothy Smith \$867  
Barbara Orloff \$850  
Karin Anderson \$832  
Frank Uebel \$779  
John Kane \$750  
Linda Marder \$750  
Diana Monteith-Rubin & Fredric Rubin \$750  
Keith Salvata \$750  
Betsie Scott \$750  
Christine Sheen \$750  
Lawrence Solomon \$750  
Renee Toporek \$750  
GFV Charitable Fund \$750  
Kayla Tapply \$744  
Stephen T Chupack \$700  
Lois Dixon \$700  
Susan McBride \$700  
Elaine Peterson \$700  
Maya Rainey \$700  
Kenny & Alicia Reutlinger \$700  
Frank & Mavis Ainsleigh \$600  
Ballen & Company, Inc. \$600  
Lee Beer \$600  
Steven Carter \$600  
Charlie Cochet \$600  
Cosmo Donato \$600  
Meredith Frazer \$600  
Judith Hall \$600  
Sheila Morgan \$600  
Roland Roland \$600  
Heather Walsh & David Sigalow \$540  
Charleen Kramer \$505  
Melanie & Vincent Abruzzo \$500  
Sonja Andersen \$500  
Hal Arbit \$500  
Donna Ardizzone \$500  
Linda Becker \$500  
Karen Bensingher \$500  
Karan And Bill Beynon \$500  
Geoff Blades \$500  
Matthew Boettger \$500  
Elise Branson \$500  
Linda Brotherton \$500  
Derek Bruening \$500  
Robert Butler \$500  
Barbara Butler \$500  
Matthew Clarke \$500  
Vincent Cohan \$500  
Fiona Crawford \$500  
Frank Crockett \$500  
Marianne Cufone \$500  
Harriet Damesek \$500  
Linda A. Davis \$500  
Tina Della \$500  
Shannon Downey \$500  
Patrick Dunn \$500  
Gregg Eddie \$500  
Jan Edenfield \$500  
Don Eyres \$500  
Mary Fields \$500  
Virginia Franta \$500  
Richard Franta \$500  
Lynn Franzoi \$500  
Deb Freed \$500  
Enid Galliers \$500  
Luis Garcia \$500  
Ann Glucroft \$500  
Barbara Green \$500  
Richard & Aline Grimes \$500  
Christopher Haag \$500  
Jill Haley \$500  
Cassandra Hammond \$500  
Marguerite Hark \$500  
Shirleyann Haveson \$500  
Charles Hayward \$500  
Janice Heckert \$500  
Victor Herrmann \$500  
Gerald Hill \$500  
The Larry G. and Darlane Hoffman Gift Trust \$500  
James Holtzman \$500  
Matthew Horsfield \$500  
Timothy & Leigh Hunt \$500  
Rebecca Jacobson \$500  
Alejandro Jaen-Vinuales \$500  
Jennifer S. Johnson \$500  
Daniel Ernst Jonsen \$500  
Alice Kachman \$500  
Louise And Mitch Kanaan \$500  
Mark Kerschner \$500  
Wayne Kosfeld \$500  
Philip Thomas & Elizabeth Koshi \$500  
Laura Lavrack \$500  
Ruth Lay \$500  
Mary Lelouche \$500  
Valjean Lemoine \$500  
Courtney Lesnick \$500  
Stacie Matschinsky \$500  
Dan & Melissa McCance \$500  
Gwen McCarthy \$500  
Gillian McPhee \$500  
Milind Mehta \$500  
Jonathan Meisner \$500  
Roger Mick \$500  
Jose F. Morales \$500  
J. Thomas & Linda Morris \$500  
Jennifer Morrison \$500  
La Veda & Michael Myers \$500  
Danielle Myers \$500  
James & Maikie O'Rourke \$500  
Keith Ohrberg \$500  
Elizabeth Pagel \$500  
Anne Pawsat-Dressler \$500  
Lauren Pery \$500  
Andrew Perry \$500  
Christina Pickett \$500  
Chris Poole \$500  
Judith Randal \$500  
Joe & Sue Reina \$500  
Michelle Rhea \$500  
Roger Richmond \$500  
Scott Riddles \$500  
Margaret Riley \$500  
Jan & Bill Riley \$500  
Ryan Rosenberg \$500  
Craig Rothburd \$500  
Ellen Ryan \$500  
SAD Foundation \$500  
Shiloh Schrantz \$500  
Jonathan Segal \$500  
Joel & Betty Sue Shane \$500  
Scott Shaw \$500  
Peggy & Murat Shekem \$500  
Jacob Simmons \$500  
Georgia Simon \$500  
Six Ten Brewing LLC \$500  
Skyemar Foundation \$500  
Tina Specht \$500  
Hollice Stander \$500  
Diana Stanius \$500  
Patricia Stephens \$500  
Michael Sutton \$500  
Merry Sutton \$500  
The Kutch Family Fund Of The Dallas Foundation \$500  
The Raffiani Family Foundation, Inc. \$500  
Cindy Thomas \$500  
Jackie's Ark \$500  
Jennifer Traff \$500  
Shawn Tripet \$500  
Jihan Udall \$500  
Ann Vacanti \$500  
Suzanne Waldron \$500  
Jennifer Walker \$500  
Ashley Walker \$500  
Maxine Weinstein \$500  
Angelique Welker \$500  
Lucinda Westhafer \$500  
Joseph Woodford \$500  
Benson Yang \$500  
Rebecca Cadima \$450  
Lolo Eckert \$450  
Christina Farah \$450  
John Garland \$450  
Suzanne Spantidos \$450  
Marilyn Sydow \$450  
Kathy Lesser \$402  
Donna Abersman \$400  
Leslie Ackel \$400  
Carolle Bendle \$400  
Llora Darrah \$400  
Matthew J. Glass \$400  
Linda Greer \$400  
Louise Hillock \$400  
J. M. Smith Foundation \$400  
Jill McGrath \$400  
Shelley McVickers \$400  
Jack & Gail Parker \$400  
Patty Tomolonis \$400  
Lowell & Nancy Walker \$400  
Robin & Martin Wright \$400  
Brenda Young \$400  
Jackie Lashinsky \$375  
Nathan Edwards \$360  
Stephen Ballen \$355  
David Collins \$354  
Gloria Bernier \$350  
Kirk & Aileen Davis \$350  
Christopher Dockery \$350  
Brenda Esposito \$350  
Barry Flagg \$350  
Robert Irvin \$350  
Edward McAllister \$350  
Kim Moore \$350  
Joseph Ross \$350  
Celeste Sales \$350  
Carol Sasseville \$350  
Ann Zaharis \$350  
Deborah Coffey \$330  
Rachel Janner \$330  
Eugenia VanBremen \$330  
Donna Gilbert \$325  
Richard Hearn \$315  
Sara Al-Monaye \$300  
Steven & Priscilla August \$300  
Heidi Blechar \$300  
Carol Boyse \$300  
Kevin Burke \$300  
Nancy Cohea \$300  
Mary Davis \$300  
Jennifer Depew \$300

Michele DeVincentz \$300  
 Lisa & Doc Donaldson \$300  
 Christine Edwards \$300  
 Edward Ellis \$300  
 Nancy Faber \$300  
 Gary E. Fisher \$300  
 Janet Forman \$300  
 Nicolas Franzetti \$300  
 Cynthia Geddes \$300  
 Lenore Giraud \$300  
 Barbara S Griffin \$300  
 Fran W Hamilton \$300  
 Sally Hammond \$300  
 Helmut Heidemann \$300  
 Christina Heinle \$300  
 Nevin Hoke \$300  
 Bob & Anne Holdredge \$300  
 Marsha & Thomas Hopkins \$300  
 William Horton \$300  
 David Hupke \$300  
 Jennifer Jones \$300  
 Michele Kirk \$300  
 Marianne Schmidt & Kenneth Koontz \$300  
 Lawrence & Jane Kulik \$300  
 Barbara Lewis \$300  
 Dorothy Lewis \$300  
 Alexandra And Jack Liebster \$300  
 Terry Luke \$300  
 Greg Lutzen \$300  
 Nicki & Paul Lyford \$300  
 Sasha Martin \$300  
 Sandra McClaeb \$300  
 Joseph Miletta \$300  
 Daniel Pursel & Lisa Minich \$300  
 B. L. Monroe \$300  
 Claudia Mullin \$300  
 George Nacos \$300  
 Jeff & Roberta Newton \$300  
 David Nugent \$300  
 David Owens \$300  
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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



*A young tiger named Tigger languishes in a barren cage housed inside of a shed with no access to the outdoors in Ocala, FL.*

## HOW DO U.S. CAPTIVE BIG CATS IN PRIVATE HANDS HURT EFFORTS TO PREVENT EXTINCTION OF TIGERS IN THE WILD?

There are many reasons for banning private ownership of big cats that are easy to understand. One is the misery experienced by innocent tiger cubs that are bred incessantly to use to charge people to pet them, take photos with them or swim with them. The cubs are ripped from their

mothers at birth, physically punished for doing what comes naturally to them, and deprived of much needed sleep. Another reason is where these cubs end up a few months later when too big to pet. If they survive, they are often condemned to spend the rest of their lives in tiny barren cages and used to breed more cubs.

But one of the most important reasons to stop the nightmare of breeding and misery is not so obvious – it is the contribution that our captive population in the US makes toward the tiger going extinct in the wild. The single greatest threat to the tiger in the wild is poaching. Dead tigers are valuable for their parts. Their fur is used for rugs. And they are valuable for what are called “derivatives,” i.e. products made from their parts, like tiger bone wine, that is wrongly believed to enhance libido. A 16 ounce bottle

of tiger bone wine is reported to sell between \$150 and \$500. Tiger parts such as eyes, whiskers, and teeth are used in alleged medical compounds to treat ailments ranging from insomnia to meningitis, malaria to bad skin.

So what does this have to do with tigers in the U.S.? The Chinese want to “farm” tigers like we do cattle. Breed and raise them, then slaughter them to make these products. They argue that if they supply the market for these products from the farms, it will reduce poaching.

There are two flaws with this argument. First, the wild tiger will always be considered the premium product, more potent. Second, it is cheaper to poach a tiger than feed one for years until it is large enough to slaughter for its parts. So, if tiger farming is legalized, it will greatly

expand the market for parts and derivatives, and in doing so increase the demand for the premium product, providing even greater incentives to poach.

There is an international treaty called CITES that prohibits tiger farming. But, the Chinese continue to urge legalizing it. So far we have been successful in resisting these efforts. But, the captive tiger situation

in the US weakens the ability of US government representatives to effectively lead the defense of the tiger. Why? Because when we stand up to oppose tiger farming, the Chinese point to our rampant breeding and lack of tracking of our tigers and say "at least we know where our tigers are – you have no idea where yours are or how many of yours are being slaughtered to supply the illegal trade in parts and

derivatives." Sadly, they are right. So in addition to all the misery endured by the cubs and adults kept in miserable conditions in private hands in the US, another very important but not so obvious reason to pass the Big Cat Public Safety Act. That reason is to strengthen the ability of the US to resist the tiger farming that will increase poaching and put the tiger at even greater risk of extinction in the wild.



*Handling cubs can be detrimental to their health as they are not fully vaccinated and their immune systems are not fully developed.*



*An exhausted tiger cub well over the legal age restrictions imposed by state regulations rests between paying customers.*



*Two adult tigers relentlessly pace back and forth in this rusty desolate transport crate housed on the back of a semi truck while their screaming cub is handled all day long for photo ops at a Christmas tree stand in Tampa, FL.*

# BODY SHOP FOUNDATION WORKERS CAME FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This past year the Body Shop Foundation – you know, the cool shop in the mall that sells environmentally friendly personal products – issued a challenge. Employees who conducted personal fundraisers to pay for their



trip and also raised enough to make a significant donation to the cats would come as a group to spend four days volunteering at the sanctuary. Participants came not only from their home base in England but from as far away as Australia. They spent their days here helping refurbish the enclosure for our two bobcats known as the Howells and

working on the new bobcat rehabilitation enclosures. And on top of all that work, the funds they raised from their individual efforts to donate to the cats ended up totaling over \$21,000! Thanks so much for all the hard work both here and in your fundraising efforts!



**PAVE THE WAY**

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

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Now available Heart Bricks!



## FED-EX CARES ABOUT BIG CATS

Thank you team TAMPA and ST PETE HD for your hard work and dedication to making a difference. These FedEx Cares teams raised \$2,500 towards the bobcat rehabilitation program. They also arranged a work group to plant 15 shade trees, a dozen shrubs, and grass seed in the new rehab enclosures. These plantings will give the bobcats a natural place to call home until they are ready to be released back into the wild. Great job everyone!



## RETURN OF THE TIGER TEMPLE



After decades of calling attention to the abuse at the Tiger Temple in Thailand, there was finally enough public pressure and evidence to shut down the pay to play scheme. Last year the Thai government seized 147 tigers and moved

them to government owned facilities. Sharon Guynup, broke the story in National Geographic of the trafficking in tiger parts and monks fleeing the scene with carloads of tiger parts. Now read her breaking news that there are plans for a 500 tiger "zoo" to be built right next door, complete with cub petting, even though the zoo has not been issued a permit to breed.

<https://tinyurl.com/hbzx8s5>

## ACTION ALERT - BE THEIR VOICE

When Big Cat Rescue learns about cubs or big cats being abused as photo props, exploited for entertainment, or used for profit, we urge our world-wide supporters to take action speaking out for these majestic cats by sending emails or making phone calls. Most of our Action Alerts are posted on our Facebook page and at CatLaws.com.



Right now high-end fashion brand Gucci is using real tigers, lions and leopards posing with models in their Spring 2017 advertising campaign. Please contact Gucci headquarters and politely let them know that animal lovers do not want to see big cats used as photo props and exploited to sell clothing.

**Contact Gucci:** 877-482- 2430 then press 3  
clientservice-europe@it.gucci.com  
195 Broadway, New York, New York 10007

# Sad Farewell

Taking care of 77 exotic cats 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 77 cats, 56 are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 44 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 28 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.

## ZOULETTA

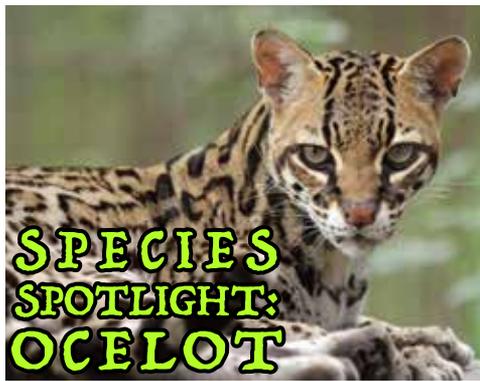


1998 - 2016

Zouletta was kept as a pet in a basement of a New York suburb. Her owner was diagnosed with cancer and could no longer care for Zouletta and 4 other pet servals. All 5 servals were rescued in 2011. For the first time in their lives they had a large natural space outdoors with bushes to lounge under,

platforms to perch on, bugs and lizards to chase and the warm sunshine overhead. Zouletta lived to the ripe age of 18 before succumbing to advanced kidney disease.





**Fun Facts:** Ocelots use similar habitat and show similar abundance patterns to Jaguars and Pumas. Population densities seem to increase with rainfall and decrease with latitude, with the highest densities in tropical areas. In captivity, ocelots have lived more than 20 years, as compared to 7-10 years typically in the wild.

**Population:** The ocelot has a wide distribution, from northern Argentina to the southwestern United States, being the most common felid species in most of the tropical and subtropical habitats of the Neotropics; it is listed as "Least Concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

**Size and Appearance:** The ocelot is much larger than its cousins the margay and the oncilla, although they bear a striking resemblance. Ocelots weigh between 28-35 pounds, stand 16-20 inches tall, and reaches lengths of 28-35 inches. It's coat tends to be more blotched than spotted, and the chain-like blotches and spots are bordered with black and have a light colored center. These markings run the entire length of the cat. The base color varies between whitish or tawny yellow, reddish gray and gray. The belly is white, and the backs of the ears are black with a central white spot.

**Habitat:** The ocelot occupies a wide spectrum of habitats types, ranging from scrublands to

tropical rain forests. What all these habitats have in common is a well-structured vegetative cover. Ocelots have been recorded in mangrove forests, coastal marshes, savanna grasslands, thorn scrubs, and tropical and subtropical forest.

**Distribution:** Southern Texas and every country south of the U.S. except Chile.

**Reproduction and Offspring:** After a gestation of 79-85 days they produce a litter of 1-2 young. Kittens weigh approximately 8.5 ounces at birth. Females reach maturity at 1½ years and males at 2 ½ years. Ocelots become independent at approximately 1 year of age, but seem to be tolerated in their natal range for up to 2 years.

**Social System:** Ocelots are solitary and territorial. Females defend their exclusive territory, which can be as much as 9 square miles. Males have a much larger territory ranging upwards of 35 square miles which overlap that of 1 or more females. Ocelots communicate by use of

scent markings which tell the males when she is ready for mating and by vocal communications such as meows and yowls (in heat).

**Hunting and Diet:** The ocelot is a terrestrial hunter and most active during the night (nocturnal).



While the mainstay of it's diet are nocturnal rodents including mice, rats, opossums and armadillos, they will sometimes take larger prey such as lesser anteaters, squirrel monkeys and land tortoises. Ocelots will also take advantage of seasonal changes and the abundance of fish and land crabs during the wet season.

Occasionally, they will hunt birds and reptiles. However, the majority of prey items for this cat weigh less than 1-3% of its body weight.

**Threats:** Ocelots have a small litter size, one of the longest gestations and growth rates among the small felids, and a high infant mortality rate. Add this difficulty in sustaining it's own population with deforestation, habitat destruction and poaching and the survival of this beautiful little species becomes even more difficult.

**Status:** IUCN: Least Concern, CITES: Appendix I, USFWS: Endangered



**BigCatRescue.org/  
ocelot-facts**



Ocelots spend most of their time on the ground despite being strong swimmers and excellent climbers.

**Purr-fection - Female Ocelot**  
**Born: 1996**

# VET REPORTS:

## DENTAL EXAM LEADS TO SIGNIFICANT FINDING

### NALA SERVAL UPDATE

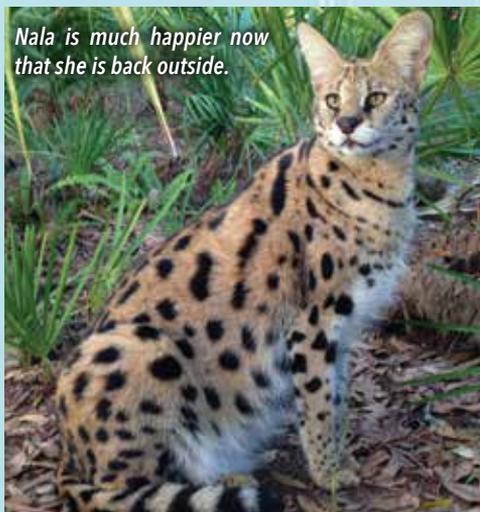
In our last issue we brought you the story of our playful young serval named Nala who broke her leg. Nala is very athletic. We presume her injury was most likely caused by chasing after a bird, climbing the side of her enclosure, then jumping down and landing wrong.



*Nala hiding under the bed in the Cat Hospital.*

Her leg was repaired by Dr. Boorstein with a permanent steel plate and screws. She recovered in small quarters inside the Cat Hospital for two months. Overall she was a good patient, but she was definitely ready to get back to her outdoor home.

We are happy to report that her leg healed nicely and Nala is back to chasing after bugs and lizards. Due to her propensity for climbing the side of her enclosure we moved Nala to an enclosure with a lower roof.



*Nala is much happier now that she is back outside.*

In 2001 a baby bobcat was abandoned at our front gate. He was given the name Moses. Moses was approximately four weeks old at the time. He will be celebrating his 16th birthday this April. Moses is neutered and lives with a female bobcat named Bailey. The duo are complete opposites, however they are inseparable. Bailey is as fiery and fierce as a wild bobcat while Moses is very laid back and friendly.

Moses is notorious for chewing up the plants in his enclosure. Occasionally he gets a stick or a small palm frond stuck across the roof of his mouth. In the past we have been able to successfully remove these using a home made device.

Towards the end of January Moses presented with the classic signs of having a stick stuck in his mouth. He was making faces that seem as though he is smiling and he was pawing at his face.

Despite our best efforts we were unable to budge the intruder in Moses' mouth. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Moses was sedated so that we could remove the stick. During his exam Dr. Boorstein found that most of the upper molars in Moses' mouth were bad and needed to be removed. This would mean that Moses would only have chewing teeth on the bottom jaw making it impossible for him to chew chunks of meat or bone. It is a good thing that Moses' favorite food is our base diet of ground meat



*Dr. Boorstein, Alex, & Gale prep Moses for surgery.*

and vitamins because he will be on a soft food diet for the rest of his life. Incidentally, because the upper molars were removed, Moses' will no longer get sticks stuck across the roof of his mouth either.

During the dental surgery BCR President, who was monitoring anesthesia, noticed a large lump near the pad of Moses' rear foot. The lump was nearly impossible to see through the fur, but very obvious when felt. A biopsy was taken and sent to the lab for analysis.



*Moses was a very good patient.*

A week later the results came back as a Myxofibrosarcoma. This type of malignant cancerous tumor is comprised of soft tissue and is most



*The mass on Moses' rear paw under the foot pad.*

## EYE EXAM FOR 22 YEAR OLD OCELOT

commonly found on the extremities of older animals. These tumors are usually not painful, which explains why Moses had not been limping or otherwise showing signs that his foot was bothering him. He most likely was unaware of the tumor's existence.

Myxofibrosarcomas are classified as high grade, intermediate-grade, or low-grade. Moses' tumor was low-grade. Surgical removal of the tumor should have a good prognosis.

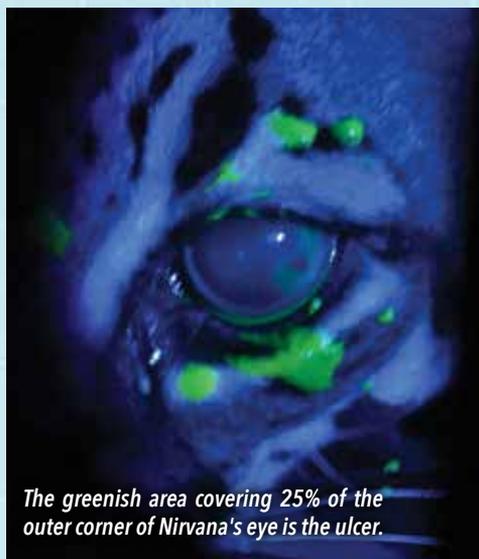
Moses underwent surgery to remove the tumor. Because of the size of the mass and the precarious location there was not enough skin to close the gaping wound. Dr. Boorstein was left with no other viable choice than to amputate two of Moses' toes in order to use the skin from those toes to close up the hole. The loss of these two toes was a small price to pay considering the only other option would be to amputate the entire foot.

We were really concerned about how Moses would react when he awoke from his surgery. Not only had his foot undergone extensive changes, but Moses would also wake up to wearing an E-collar to prevent him from licking at the surgery site. To our amazement Moses really didn't seem to be affected by either.

After a few weeks recovering indoors Moses had made a full recovery and was reunited with Bailey.



*The mass was removed & two toes were amputated to get enough skin to close the surgery site.*



*The greenish area covering 25% of the outer corner of Nirvana's eye is the ulcer.*

Nirvana has been no stranger to the vet team as of late. She has gradually become a very picky eater. Keepers do their best to entice her with a buffet of special meats throughout the day, but Nirvana showed less and less interest.

The vet team decided an exam was in order to evaluate her overall health. It turns out Nirvana had significant dental disease despite having shown no issues with chewing her food. Six bad teeth were removed. Bloodwork indicated she had an overactive thyroid (which can lead to other health problems) and significant kidney disease.

In the weeks following her dental exam Nirvana regained a healthy appetite. She was also started on medication to control her thyroid.

Several weeks later

Nirvana came out of her den for breakfast and her keepers noticed she was squinting.

She was brought into the Cat Hospital where Dr. Wynn applied special drops to her eyes that highlight cuts or ulcers. Within a few moments the issue was very clear. Nirvana had an ulcer on her eye covering nearly 75% of the surface.

Treating an eye ulcer in a wild cat is no easy feat. Medicated eye drops must be applied to the eye up to four times a day. Imagine trying to do that with a domestic pet, much less a wild cat!

After weeks of treatment Nirvana's eye showed some improvement, but should have completely healed. Dr. Miller examined her eye and performed a procedure to remove the damaged corneal surface. We should know in approximately two weeks if the procedure was a success. Meanwhile, Nirvana will continue to get eye drops daily.



*Dr. Miller removes the damaged corneal surface.*



*Burring away the damaged tissue with a tool similarr to a dremel.*



# 19 YEAR OLD ORGANIZES CIRCUS PROTEST TO SPEAK OUT FOR TIGERS

By Ashley Geiger

Hello to all of the AdvoCats out there. I myself am very new to this calling, but wanted to share with you how I took action in my own community against a

traveling circus tiger show. I think it may be something that other people could recreate with success, and hey, if a 19 year old like me with zero experience doing this can make an impact, so can you!

I found out that the Martin County Fair in my small town of Stuart, FL was hosting an act called, Nerger's Splendid Tigers. I was instantly shocked and disappointed.

To be honest, I had not been to a fair or circus in years, so I had no idea that there were still traveling acts involving big cat species like this one. I regretfully decided to go to the fair one night with a friend. There were approximately 14 tigers pacing back and forth repeatedly in their small metal cages. I could not help but feel deeply disheartened to know that this was the life these stunning animals were being subjected to live, a life so different from the respect and dignity that they deserve. The trainers made the tigers do a series of tricks which included leapfrog and jumping through hoops, even a flaming hoop! It did not take an expert to see that the cats were not enjoying what they were being forced to do. Many of them would flatten their ears and bare their teeth at the trainers when they were being asked to do a trick, and some would just refuse.

Reports alleging a tiger escaped the circus ring flooded social media and made the local news. Several audience members claimed that a tiger got loose from the trainer momentarily while on its way back to its cage.

Frightened fair goers stampeded to get away.

This incident exemplifies the danger of this type of show. A quick google search about this particular act and others like it left me feeling disturbed and helpless. I was disgusted, and soon found out that I was not the only one who was outraged by this barbaric exploitation.

After making several calls trying to figure out what I could do, I came across Big Cat Rescue. I received advice, help and encouragement. I decided to take action. Below I've listed the steps I took in order to accomplish my goal of preventing this act from coming to my local fair again, hopefully this will inspire you.

1. Organize a protest - Pick a date/time/location that allows for optimum exposure.
2. Contact your county property management department to find out whether you will need a permit for the location you have chosen. In my case I decided to hold our protest on the public sidewalk outside of the fairgrounds, so I did not need to worry about a permit.
3. It is a very good idea to contact your local Sheriff's Department ahead of time to notify them about your peaceful protest, inform them about what your intentions are, and to receive guidance on ensuring safety.
4. Create an event page on Facebook. This will be vital to building awareness of your event. This is the one I created <https://tinyurl.com/hndv98z>
5. Create an online petition, I used care2petitions.com to create this one <https://tinyurl.com/j6gk7b8>
6. Have your protest participants make signs that clearly get your message across to people and cars going by.
7. Contact the media. Most news stations have a tip-line email.
8. Call/Email the General Manager of the fair or event venue and politely inform them about why these types of acts involving wild animals are not something your community would like to support.
9. Contact Big Cat Rescue if you need help or advice. Email [Susan.Bass@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:Susan.Bass@BigCatRescue.org)



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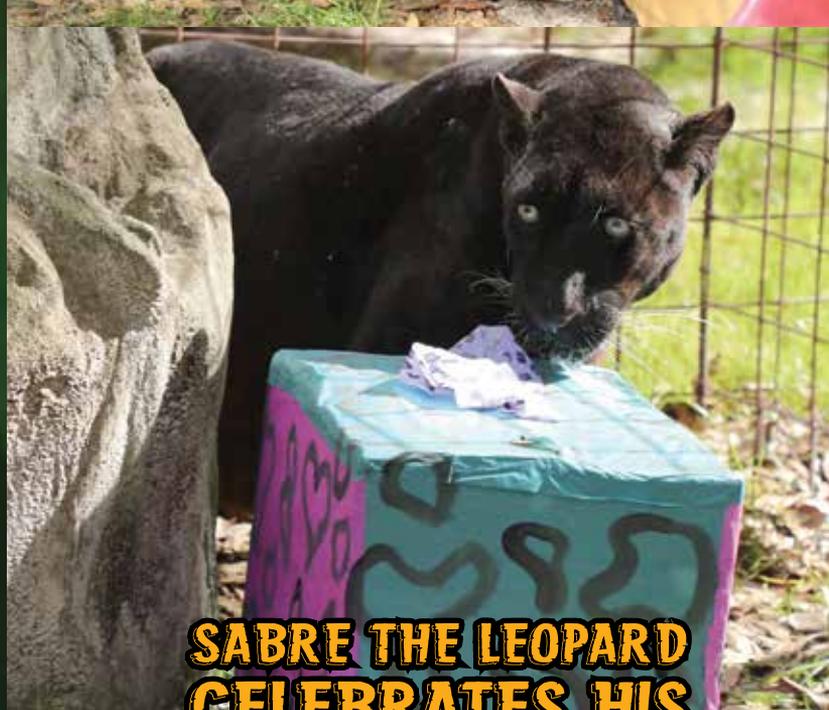
Supporters who make a provision for the cats in their estate planning become members of our Legacy Society. The donations that result have played, and will in the future play, a huge role in making sure we can meet our commitment to care for the cats to the end of their lives as we have promised. In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

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

\* represents deceased. This list is maintained manually and errors can occur. If you are not listed or listed incorrectly, we ask your forgiveness and request that you email:

[Finance@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:Finance@BigCatRescue.org)



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## WHO NAMES THE CATS?

One of the most common questions that we are asked is - Who names the cats?

If the cat already has a name when it arrives, we try to keep that name. It is confusing for a cat to be in a new environment and surrounded by strangers. Keeping their name provides them with some sort of comfort during their transition.

In the early days of the sanctuary we rescued large groups of bobcat and lynx from fur farms. At the time BCR President Jamie Veronica was just a child and assigned names from Disney movies to the cats.

There are some very common names that we come across frequently including; Cleo-Cat-Tra, Nakita, and Sassy. In order to keep our veterinary and observation records

in order the spelling of a name may be altered or a last name assigned. For instance Sassy Cougar and Sassy Caracal or Nakita (tiger) and Nikita (lion), note the different spellings.

Occasionally the name of a cat has on arrival is mean. One animal arrived with the name of Stupid, so we changed his name to Cupid. Sounds similar, but not demeaning.

Some cats come here as members of the witness protection program, so their names are changed to protect them during litigation.

Wild bobcats rescued as part of our bobcat rehab program are named to reflect circumstances surrounding their rescue; Gator (found in Gainesville, home of the UF Gators) or Coptor (rescued from an island and flown in a helicopter to the mainland). Otherwise the bobcat is given a name that reflects a positive feeling like Faith, Hope, and Chance.

The person who led the rescue may choose the name or the entire team will brainstorm ideas.

Sometimes the cats are left at the gate (Moses), found in the desert (Desiree) or have been abandoned by their owners and their names are unknown. In these situations we may hold a naming contest. However submissions are vetted to avoid naming three legged cats Tripod, black cats Shadow and white cats Snowball.

So there you have it, the many ways in which the cats get named!



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- Howard Baskin, Treasurer