

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

BIG CAT TIMES

FALL / WINTER 2021



BIGCATRESCUE.ORG

GILLIGAN - CANADA LYNX



A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

Jamie Veronica

We have been up to a lot around here since our last issue of the Big Cat Times. The rehab program has been busier than ever with 7 bobcats, 2 bunnies, 8 squirrels, and our first ever flying squirrel. Some of our interns have joined the rehab team to help share the workload which is a great experience for them and helps us to help more wild ones as well.

In other exciting news, we are excited to share with you a brand new docu-series featuring our Founder and CEO Carole Baskin. The show is set to air on November 13th on Discovery+ so be sure to subscribe now so you do not miss this epic program.

Big Cat Rescue currently has more than enough enclosures to house our population of aging cats so there is not a lot of new construction going on anymore. However, we are constantly improving these habitats with new platforms, plantings, and other furnishings to make life that much more comfortable for our wild cats. One recent addition to Manny jaguar's enclosure is

particularly exciting. He got a pool! Not just any pool, but a 2 level waterfall pool featuring large rock boulders, 3 waterfalls, and lush tropical foliage surrounding it. You can check out the photo collage of his new pool and his reaction in this issue on page 12. And to see what Manny is up to 24/7 tune in to his cam. The link is at the top of his bio page bigcatrescue.org/manny It is thanks to your continued support we are able to provide these wonderful enclosures filled with enriching experiences to our resident felines.

In addition to improving the enclosures here at the sanctuary our staff, interns, and volunteers also maintain the 67 acres of grounds which means a lot of mowing, weed-eating, tree trimming, and raking. Recently an even bigger project has risen to the top of our list; saving Tiger Lake. Our 18 acre lake has been infested with a very fast growing and invasive aquatic plant called hydrilla that threatens to choke out the native fish and leave our wild birds with little usable habitat. We have an action plan that is going to take a lot of man hours and will be quite expensive, but it is necessary to save this natural habitat and body of water our tigers and other cats depend on to feed their circulating pools.

Because this will be our last issue of the Big Cat Times for 2021 we along with all cats would like to wish you a happy holiday season and new year. Your contributions and support have helped us to do so much good this year and we are so very grateful for that. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



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 40 big cats including tigers, bobcats, servals and other species of exotic cats, most of whom have been abandoned, abused, orphaned, saved from the fur trade, or rescued 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 Animal 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, AWI, IFAW, WWF, GFAS, Born Free USA, ALDF 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

Donation Info:
BigCatRescue.org/Donate

CAROLE BASKIN'S CAGE FIGHT

BY HOWARD BASKIN BCR TREASURER

Last issue we introduced you to two documentaries we participated in that we encouraged you to watch when they became available. Before updating you on those, I am excited to tell you about our new TV series called CAROLE BASKIN'S CAGE FIGHT that was just announced. The series follows us, along with a former homicide detective we brought in as an investigator, as we work to expose the cub petters.

None of this is faked like it is in "reality" shows. The threats and the guns pointed at our team all really happened as we did what we have done for many years to expose the abusive cub petting and roadside zoo industry. And what we uncover during these visits really happened.

The first two episodes will air on Discovery+ on November 13th. Over the years you may have read or heard about our investigative work. Now for the first time you can see firsthand what actually happens "behind the scenes" as we work to expose the bad guys. We hope you will subscribe and tune in!

Updates on two previously mentioned documentaries:

One, titled SHOOTING JOE EXOTIC, is by renowned UK documentary maker Louis Theroux. He had visited Joe Maldonado Passage back in 2011 for a film he did then about owning dangerous animals in the US. That film contained only a small portion of the footage shot at GW Zoo back then, so he had a lot of never-



Howard and Carole Baskin wrapping up filming Shooting Joe Exotic with Louis Theroux



before-seen footage of Joe Maldonado. What the previous film did not reveal, but the new documentary does, is that even back then Joe was raving about his obsession with Carole and talking about someone dying. The show played to very strong viewer numbers and very positive reviews in the UK back in April. We are told they are working on US distribution but still do not know when or on what network it will air here.

The other documentary, THE CONSERVATION GAME, by Michael Webber, exposes the "celebrity conservationists" you see on talk shows with young cubs, people like Jack Hanna, Dave Salmoni, Jared Miller, and Boone Smith. It reveals how they lie to the talk show hosts and viewers about where the young animals come from and where they end up. The film has won awards, garnered fabulous reviews, and is currently making the rounds in small theaters. Carole and I attended the premieres in Washington, D.C. in June and in Los Angeles in August.

Although the film has not been distributed widely yet, it has already had a very significant impact. Under prior management and Jack Hanna's influence, the Columbus Zoo had opposed the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA). That made it difficult for Senator Portman of Ohio to cosponsor the bill.

The film appeared at a time when Columbus Zoo had recently brought in new management after the prior management were accused of financial improprieties. After the film came out, to their credit, the new management at the Columbus Zoo acknowledged the impropriety of the behaviors by Jack Hanna and his sidekick Susie Rapp that are documented in the film and came out in support of the BCPSA, for which we are very grateful. Shortly thereafter, Senator Portman became our third Republican cosponsor of the bill. In early October, the zoo lost its accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the organization with the highest standards in the zoo industry. Here is a report from the Columbus Dispatch:

The AZA expressed concern about "inappropriate financial management issues by former leadership" at the Columbus Zoo, but said the zoo's repeated animal transfers with non-AZA members to supply baby animals for entertainment purposes are "more substantial and concerning."

The recent documentary film, "The Conservation Game," raised questions about the way celebrity conservationists, including longtime Columbus Zoo director Jack Hanna, acquire exotic animals. The film alleges baby tigers and snow leopards that appeared with Hanna on late-night talk shows often didn't come from or return to accredited zoos, but were instead shuffled among backyard breeders and unaccredited zoos that don't have to adhere to the same strict animal care standards and ethics rules as accredited facilities.

The zoo has made substantial changes to address both the financial issues and the animal issues. According to reports plans to appeal the loss of accreditation based on those changes having been made before the inspection. Our own Zoo Tampa, then called Lowry Park Zoo, lost its AZA accreditation many years ago but earned it back after making changes. The Columbus Zoo and AZA will have to sort out how this evolves. But meantime, again, we applaud the zoo for the animal policy changes and particularly for their support of the Big Cat Public Safety Act.



Last, and in this case definitely least, TIGER KING SEASON 2 has been announced as airing on November 17. The formula the producers used to draw viewers and make money was to make Joe Exotic out to be a sympathetic victim and, absurdly, Carole out to be the villain. In our view, what they did in the first season was not just unethical and wrong, it was cruel. We expect more of the same from the producers, who we view as totally devoid of ethics. The difference is that this time we will not be surprised like we were by their lying betrayal in the first season. This will not be a "fool me twice" situation.



CELEB KATE MCKINNON SET TO PLAY CAROLE BASKIN IN UPCOMING PEACOCK SERIES

In other "mews", the Peacock is set to come out with their own Tiger King series based off the Wondery podcast Joe Exotic which is starring Kate McKinnon who plays BCR's Carole Baskin. Carole has not been involved with this production, however, the costume designer for the series did not disappoint. McKinnon was recently photographed while filming on set and it's got everyone asking "What Does Carole Think About Kate McKinnon's Wardrobe?"

Carole states, "I was stunned because I have almost exactly that same wardrobe, right down to the necklace, and yet haven't worn them on Tiger King or since. I can't even think of photos of me out there where she might have gotten the idea; so perhaps she is channeling her inner cat lady. Kate nailed the

flats, jeans, sunglasses, purses and messy hair that are typical of my day to day life."

"Speaking of Howard, he never wears short sleeve button up shirts and he doesn't wear a wedding ring, but aside from that, Kyle's look was close. We both wear Apple Watches and have since they first came out, so I noticed that tiny discrepancy as well. I saw they were using my same model 2012 Toyota pick up truck in the shot, so that's a nice nod to my parents who gave it to me in 2015." Carole continues.

According to reports, the series, for which McKinnon is Executive Producer, aims to flesh out the relationships between the characters. That will be nice if they do, because Carole and Howard have such a great one. However, since Carole has never spoken to Joe Schreibvogel, it is unclear how they will be able to create any sort of relationship from that for the show. We really hope this new series will portray the truth and be an asset to ending the exploitation of big cats everywhere.



HEY ALL YOU COOL CATS AND KITTENS!

Carole Baskin's opening greeting of her Daily Big Cat update videos has gone viral and now there's merch. She has partnered with a select few companies making masks and bobbleheads. We also have a large variety of cool cat gear and autographed photos in our online shop. Check out this paw-some gear on our online shop or one of our partners' websites.

BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ

AUTOGRAPHED
CAROLE AND
JASMINE TIGER
8X10 PHOTO

PROCEEDS GO
TO THE BIG CATS!



TONS OF STYLES AND COLORS
AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ



PARTNERSHIPS

BOBBLES AT BOBBLEHEADHALL.COM



MORE AT AREYOUKITTENME.BIZ



VET REPORTS:

ORPHANED SQUIRREL GETS LIFE SAVING BONE REPAIR



Splinter weighed just 3.5 ounces when he had surgery to repair his broken leg

Splinter, a 4-week-old Eastern gray squirrel, came to Big Cat Rescue in early May in need of rehabilitation. He had been found orphaned after it appeared he had fallen from a tree.

When he first arrived it was apparent that he had suffered an injury to his right rear leg. He was unable to put any weight on it and when we held it the limb dangled awkwardly just above the knee. It was obviously broken and xrays confirmed the diagnosis.



Sedated for surgery

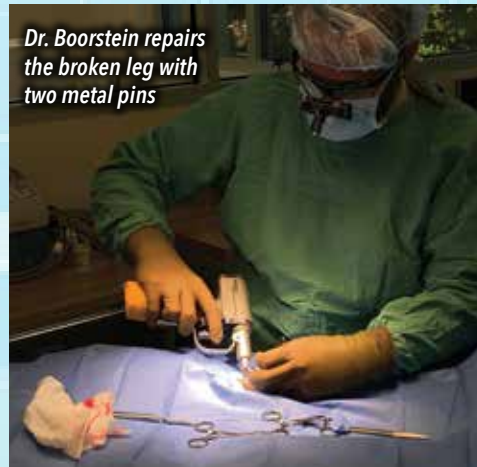
In the past we had rescued another orphaned squirrel with a broken front leg which was repaired using a splint. In Splinter's case, this would not be an effective treatment option. Thankfully, Dr. Boorstein agreed to examine him and see if a surgical repair would be a possibility.

Splinter was taken to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay where Dr. Boorstein and his excellent team of surgical technicians performed life saving surgery to give this little squirrel a second chance at life in the wild. Splinter, who weighed just 3.5 ounces, became Dr. Boorstein's tiniest bone repair patient to date.



Surgical techs Shelby and Chelsea prep Splinter for surgery

The surgery was a success! Dr. Boorstein realigned the broken bones and stabilized them using two permanent pins. Splinter would now require several weeks of rest to allow the bones to fuse back together.



Dr. Boorstein repairs the broken leg with two metal pins

Splinter was an excellent patient throughout the recovery process. He rested a lot and took it easy on his newly repaired limb. Over the course



Permanent metal pins stabilize the bone

of the next two months he grew by leaps and bounds, becoming more and more squirrely along the way.



Carrots were a favorite snack during recovery

Two months after Splinter's surgery, he was ready for release. He was soft released meaning his outdoor cage was opened for him to come and go as he pleased. Food and water was provided until he became comfortable with his surroundings and was able to fend for himself.

After just a couple of days, Splinter was fully acclimated to his new surroundings and his life of freedom. He stopped by every once in a while to visit his rescuer during the weeks following his release. It has been so good to see him thriving in the wild.



Splinter on his release day checking out his new home

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT CONTINUES GAINING SUPPORT IN CONGRESS!

BY HOWARD BASKIN BCR TREASURER

With the significant help of your calls and emails to Congress the Big Cat Public Safety Act continues to hit landmark achievements in Congress. In the House, at this writing the bill has 232 Cosponsors, which is a majority. Very importantly, the bill is now even more bipartisan than in the past, with 45 Republican cosponsors, more than in any prior session.

A significant factor in this success has been the endorsement of the bill by so many first responder organizations around the country. As Sheriff Lutz from Zanesville, OH, who had to deal with the release of 38 big cats by Terry Thompson, has said, "our deputies go through immense training, a lot of different training on how to handle emergencies. But handling exotic animals is not part of our training, and neither should it be." First responders should not have to face down 200+ pound dangerous predators.

Below is a list of first responder organizations that have endorsed the bill. If you are a first responder or have any connection at all to your local or state organizations and would like to brainstorm about how to approach them for an endorsement, please email me at Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org.

National Sheriffs' Association
Fraternal Order of Police
Small & Rural Law Enforcement
Executive Association
Arkansas Sheriffs' Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Iowa State Sherriffs' & Deputies' Association
Kansas Sheriffs' Association
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

Maine Sheriffs' Association
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (Ohio)
Texas Municipal Police Association
Vermont Sheriffs' Association
West Virginia Sheriffs' Association
National Animal Control Association
Florida Animal Control Association
Illinois Animal Control Association
Texas Animal Control Association
Virginia Animal Control Association
City of San Antonio Texas Animal
Care Services Department

In the Senate we are FAR ahead of any previous session. As previously reported, for the first time the bill was introduced on a bipartisan basis. Sen. Collins (R-ME) joined Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) as co-

lead to introduce it on a bipartisan basis, and Sen. Burr (R-NC) and Sen. Carper (D-DE) joined as original cosponsors the day the bill was introduced. Since then, two more Republican Senators have cosponsored, Sen. Portman from OH (see the article in

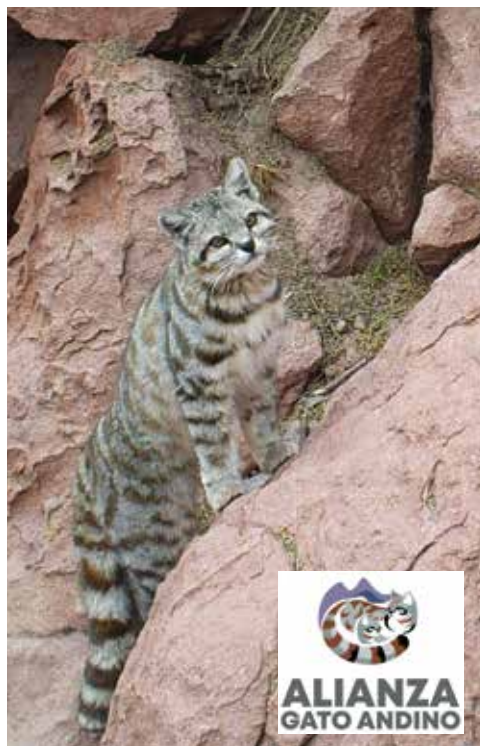
this issue about The Conservation Game) and Sen. Marshall from KS, a state from which we rescued a number of cats from horrible conditions.

Your calls and emails to Congress are WORKING!

Please keep up the momentum by visiting **BigCatAct.com** and continuing to let your legislators know this bill is important to their constituents. The legislators are inundated with bills. Your constituent emails and calls are what keeps this bill from slipping off the radar. You have been very successful at moving the bill "down the field" so to speak. Please keep up the momentum so we can make this session the one in which it crosses the goal line and becomes law, ending so much misery for these magnificent animals who deserve so much better from us. Again, that URL for taking just a minute or two to make the call or email is **BigCatAct.com**. Thank you!!!



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: ANDEAN CAT



Fun Facts: The ecology and behavior of these cats is barely known. Most of the reported sightings of Andean cats have been during daytime. However, current studies through camera traps and observations of a radio-collared animal indicate the activity is mainly at night or dawn and dusk. The activity pattern of the Andean cat is likely related to feeding habits of its main prey species.

Size and Appearance: Its coat is predominantly ash gray with reddish-yellowish brown spots that are arranged vertically on both sides of the body giving the appearance of continuous stripes. It is characterized by having a very long tail (66 to 75% of the length of the head and body), thick, cylindrical, with a mat-like appearance and with 6 to 9 wide dark brown to black rings. Their legs also have bands or dark spots that are thinner but do not form complete rings.

Habitat: Andean cats have specialized habitat requirements, having been found in the rocky arid and semi arid zones of the Andes. Vegetation consists of small scattered dwarf shrubs and clumps of grass, with numerous rocks and boulders. Valleys with patchily distributed rock walls are the preferred habitat. Rock piles and boulders are the only type of cover available at such altitudes and are also important for its main prey species.

Distribution: The Andean cat is found in the Andes of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru, and in the northern part of Argentine Patagonia. It is a species with very low population densities, and it is estimated that throughout its entire distribution there are less than 1400 adult individuals.

Reproduction and Offspring: The Andean cat is solitary, but may be seen in pairs or with kittens during mating season and after births.

Social System: Very little is known about the social structure of the Andean cat.

Hunting and Diet: The Andean cat feeds on small mammals, birds, waterfowl and lizards. Its primary prey is the mountain vizcacha (a medium sized rodent). Previously mountain chinchillas were the

most important prey but those are now locally extinct and have been extirpated from most of their range due to over hunting for their fur.

Threats: The Andean cat is considered one of the most threatened felines in the Americas and is among the 5 most threatened felines in the world. Habitat loss and fragmentation, caused by mining, resource extraction for fuel, expansion of agricultural activity and inadequate livestock management impact this species greatly. Andean cats are also hunted for fur and stuffed as specimens used for spiritual ceremonies. The Andean cat is considered sacred to indigenous communities and associated with rich harvests, abundance and fertility of livestock, transferring of supernatural power to hunters.

IUCN Red List: Endangered

Conservation: Since 1999, the Alianza Gato Andino (Andean Cat Alliance) has been working in all range countries. Beside national conservation, education projects for the protection of the Andean cat and its habitat, some multi-national projects exist. Due to these efforts, the information about this rare and unknown species is increasing.

bigcatrescue.org/andean-mountain-cat-facts/

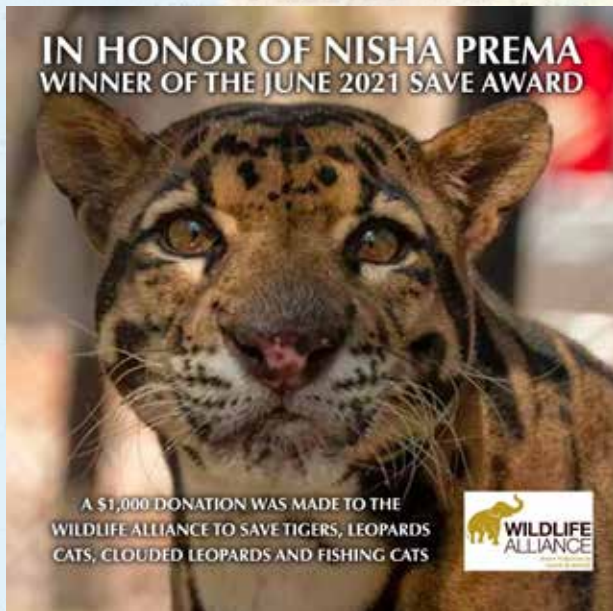




In 1865 the Andean cat was first described, and until recently, almost all data about this animal were based on 3 samples of skulls, 14 samples of skin and 2 photographs.

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. A \$1,000 donation was made by BCR towards wild cat conservation in honor of each recipient.



A roar of a-paws to Level 5 Intern and Coordinator **Nisha Prema**. Nisha is so friendly and welcoming and trains others with positivity and attention to detail! Congratulations, Nisha! Well Deserved!

In honor of Nisha, a \$1,000 donation was made to the Wildlife Alliance to save leopard cats, clouded leopards, fishing cats and tigers.

Wildlife Alliance is a non profit organization that provides on the ground protection to one of the

last unfragmented rainforests in Southeast Asia. The illegal wildlife trade is one of the biggest threats to wildlife globally. Estimated to be worth more than \$20 billion annually, this trade has escalated from a conservation issue to a worldwide criminal enterprise that is devastating wildlife populations. Cambodia is a source, transit country, and destination for many of the world's most trafficked and valuable species. In 2001 Wildlife Alliance partnered with the Cambodian government to implement a complete approach to combating the illegal wildlife trade through their award-winning wildlife police unit – the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team. The team investigates trade networks, apprehends wildlife

traffickers, and rescues and releases animals that have fallen victim to the trade. By combining governmental authority with Wildlife Alliance oversight the team represents a unique model for tackling the illegal wildlife trade in Asia and is the only law enforcement unit in the region to be specifically dedicated to cracking down full-time on wildlife trafficking. Wild animals in Cambodia are classified as state property, and to trade in them is

illegal. Wildlife includes all wild birds, mammals and reptiles of Cambodia.

wildlifealliance.org/
wildlife-police/

Keeper **Susan Ford** has an affinity for all the old lady cats, wild AND domestic! She is very sweet for giving animals a chance when others may not. You are the best Susan!

To recognize Susan, a \$1,000 donation was made to the Primero Conservation to protect jaguars, panthers, and ocelots.

Primero Conservation is a nonprofit that works with ranches, landowners, and other organizations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Sonora to improve wildlife habitat and provide alternative solutions to wildlife conservation and natural resource management. In 2015 they initiated Project WILDCAT focusing on protecting and increasing threat mitigation for native wildcats, including Jaguars, Cougars and Ocelots. Jaguars are perhaps the most powerful cultural icon for wildlife and wildlands in Latin America. They are also an umbrella species in that the maintenance of jaguar populations requires the conservation of large areas of habitat, which protect an immense diversity of other species. Jaguars face severe problems, primarily related to direct illegal killing throughout its range and habitat loss and fragmentation. Cattle ranching has been important in northeastern Sonora for 300 years, first in New Spain, and after 1821, Mexico. Unlike large areas in central Mexico, where all of the medium and large mammals disappeared as human populations increased, the fauna of northeastern Sonora is relatively intact. Primero



Conservation are working with local landowners to develop new management practices that will benefit cattle raising, decrease retaliatory killings due to livestock loss and protect the wildlife at the same time.

primeroconservation.org



We are so very happy to recognize Partner **Diana Rao** for 15 years of service. Diana always makes sure there are plenty of yummy cicles made for the cats and is always happy to be a "buddy" for any keepers who are doing enrichment or operant training. Diana is a wonderful part of the big cat family.

To celebrate Diana, a \$1,000 donation was made to the Ocelot Working Group and Animal Karma to save ocelot, margay, and jaguarundi in the wild.

These groups started their work in 2020, to better understand the threats to small cats in the study area of Morelos. Morelos has registered all 4 of the small cat species that reside in Mexico, but this is one of the first conservation projects to be initiated for their benefit. The team started educational campaigns through local newspapers & social media,

provided community workshops to local people and their children and outreach programs about the small cats that live in Morelos, to increase awareness and local support. In addition one of their main focuses is to mitigate the presence of feral/community dogs, who share habitats with the small wild cats and have been detected at 100% of study sites, through camera traps. These dogs can carry diseases such as distemper, that if contracted by the cats can be fatal, so the team is working to vaccinate at least 75% of the population annually and sterilize to reduce breeding. The services are offered to local pets at no cost to encourage participation. Part of their team is made up of local

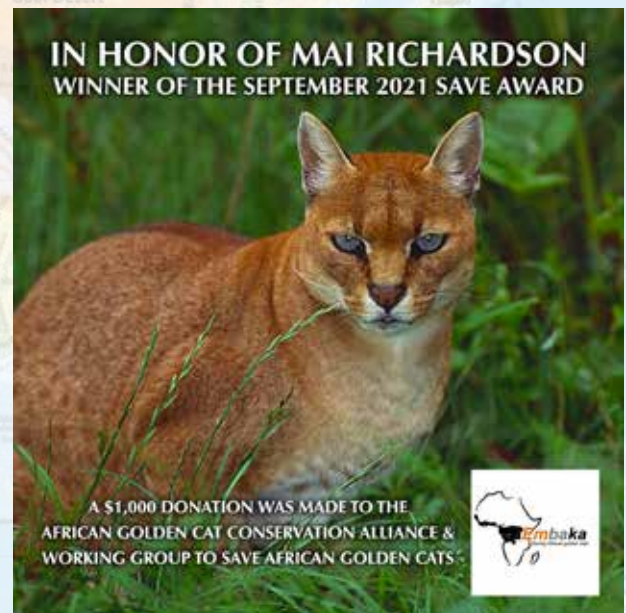
students who receive training and on the ground training to become future conservationists.

Keeper **Mai Richardson** is always smiling and cheerful. She is a regular weekend volunteer who has become a vital member of the big cat team. We love that she is always willing to help out and are so happy to have her as part of the Funday Sunday crew.

To recognize Mai, a \$1,000 donation was made to the African Golden Cat Conservation Alliance and Working Group to protect African golden cats.

The AGCCA & WG aim to reduce human-related deaths of African golden cats, specifically due to snare poaching. The root cause of poaching is poverty, lack of employment and

lack of income for local communities. In an effort to mitigate snares and poaching, AGCCA & WG focuses on improving socio-economic status of local people by providing alternative sources of income and meat through livestock farming. AGCCA & WG provide a mature reproductive animal, that is the "seed" animal, along with necessary training, to a local family, which pledges to stop poaching. When that animal has offspring, at least one female offspring is given to the nearest household (regardless if it partakes in poaching or not) in exchange for voluntary community policing against poaching and other threats to AGC (and wildlife in general). That



way, the benefits gradually cascade across the community. By winning over and supporting locals, AGCCA & WG is able to raise awareness of the small cat species, instill interest in its protection and create long term conservation strategies.

savingafricangoldencat.com

Do you want to help the big cats and make new friends? Big Cat Rescue is always looking for volunteers and interns. Get all the details at:

BigCatRescue.org/volunteer

manny jaguar

gets a pool and he is loving it!



The first step of building a pool is to frame it out with wire and run plumbing



The framework is then covered with a waterproof liner to prevent leaks as the concrete ages.



More than 2,500 pounds of concrete is then sculpted by hand over mesh wire.



Large boulders are added and secured in place with concrete to give the pool a more natural appearance. Lastly landscaping is added to complement the pool.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) DONATES OVER \$40,000!

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 \$40,000 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. At the same time we would like to thank the estimated 500 others who have donated anonymously. Your contributions truly make a difference in allowing us to give the best possible care to the cats.

THANK YOU ALL!



Clifford Ackman
Barbara Altera
Mary Arndt
Nikki Bachelder
Stephen Barker
Jennifer Barron
David Becher
Matt Blasinski
Kristin Bogue
Annika Bolander
Lisa Bollig
Kathryn Boucher
Carolyn Bradley
Tracey Bridges
Andrea Burdick
Cheyenne Bure
Wilburn Carlile
Sandra Carlson
Tamara Carlson
Sissy Carter
Richard Choboy
Patricia Clemans
Susan Cornwall
Rene Coughenour
Maureen Craig
Vicki Dennis
Susan Deth
M Diaz
Susan DiGiacomo

Charles Douglass
Edward Durell
Kerman Eckes
Debra Edge
Sandra Ehni
David Ellis
Elizabeth Engquist
Deborah Evans
Vincent Ferrini
Barbara Flaxington
Paul Floroff
Barbara Freeby
Mary Frias
Meredith Fuentes
Lori Fuller
Rita Gambrell
Robert Garcia
Kimberly Gates
Traci Grazier
Vivienne Halpern
Scott Hamilton
Gary Hand
Holly Hardy
K. Harer
Nathan Heimler
Max Hemphill
Byron Ho
Sarah Hoffman

Amanda Hosbach
Teresa Hosford
Barbara Jamieson
Dan Johnson
Annette Jones
Leora Joyce
Karen Katich
Valerie Kost
Valarie Kusiak
Kathy Laudenslager
Elaine Lauer
Susan Lehman
Linda Mackey
Cheryl Malecki
Thomas Mccubbin
George McHugh
Christy McKeen
Marcia Metzger
Angela Micheli
R. Michelle Poulos
Matthew Milford
Cheryl Milliner
Rosemary Mills
Gidget Moffett
Maryjo Mosca
Richard Murphy
Mary Myers
Steven Naber

Daniel Nichols
Kerry Nichols
Tina Nilo
Kelly Norwood
Moran Nusbaum
Michelle Oconnor
Esin Ozden
Ilseleore Passalacqua
Carolyn Paurowski
Joe Pcola
Andrea Peters
Joseph Petruzzo
Robert Pfister
Dana Phillips
Laura Potts
Donna Rogers
Barbara Ross
Craig Salvas
Jessica Salyers
Jillian Scheibeck
Kristen Schipper
George Schmidt
Stephanie Scott
Timo Seppalainen
Richard Shelton
Suzanne Sheppard
Marsha Shoemaker
Melissa Showers

Judi Slakter
James Smith
Paul Stabile
Mariah Steele
Odilie Stenard
Christine Stewart
Jennifer Stockett
Sharon Sullivan
Gregory Swensrud
Robyn Sye
Debra Taylor
Brian Thomas
Patty Thomas
Sally Thompson
Karen Thornley
Danielle Throop
Monja Vadnais
Kathleen Vogel
Thomas Wallett
Nanette Warnecke-Flood
Breanna Weaver
Paul Wentworth
Sean Weston
C Wild
Julie Wilkinson
Esther Williams
Regina Zayda
James Zechman
Charles Zimmerman

NFTS SUPPORTING BIG CAT RESCUE

BY CAROLE BASKIN BCR FOUNDER & CEO

I've loved Non Fungible Tokens since I first learned of Crypto Kitties in 2018 but I'm always leaning as far out into the future as I can, and sometimes that is a pretty lonely place. I was thrilled when NFTs caught their second wind in 2020 and wanted Big Cat Rescue to benefit from the phenomenon. I've been learning as much as I can about NFTs, crypto currencies, tokens, coins, metaverses and all things digital. In April I sold my first NFT of a Seth Tiger art piece for \$933.59 and knew there was money to be made for the cats in this space.

My primary goal in purr-ticipating in all of these NFTs is to reach a new audience of crypto savvy people who want to use this technology to do good in the world. As a result we now have our own line of Big Cat Rescue NFT's at bigcatnfts.vercel.app/ where we get 80% of the proceeds. Most NFTs use what is called a Road Map whereby they agree to support us at certain levels, based on sales. We've partnered with StrayCats.io who plan to donate to the sanctuary when they are sold out.

We've partnered with ntcclub.com/ who has already sold enough of their cute tigers to donate about \$15,000 to Big Cat Rescue. Once they sell out, they say they will double that! We have a new line of NFT's coming out very soon (maybe by the time you are reading this) called Cool Cats & Kittens and I think this launch can raise a lot of money and awareness for our mission. Keep checking the nftjunglecollective.com/ for more on these generative characters.

Collect & Trade some of the coolest cats around and help support Big Cat Rescue.

BIG CAT RESCUE COLLECTIBLE NFTS



TRENDING NOW

CHECK OUT
OUR SELECTION
OF "NOT SO UGLY"
CHRISTMAS APPAREL

[BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ](https://bigcatrescue.biz)





**Your holiday purchases on Amazon Smile
could help feed this tiger at no cost to you.**

Just select BCR as your charity on Amazon Smile
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Visit **BigCatRescue.org/amazon-smile** to learn more
and get our cats grinning from ear to ear.





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jasmine



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& flint

happy
holidays



mouser



kali



jinx



flint



aria



zucari

WAYS TO HELP

bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/

ADOPT - A - CAT AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ

All adopt-a-cat kits are available in download form in our online gift shop only. Kit includes the following that you can download and print: Four-page color fact sheet about your chosen species, sponsorship certificate photo with a blank to fill in your name, financial breakdown of how your donation helps the cats, Sponsored cat profile and rescue story. Sponsorships of \$100 or more include additional benefits.

\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER

\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND

\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR: Donor name listed in digital version of the Big Cat Times

\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR: Donor name listed in print version of the Big Cat Times

\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR: Donor name listed in print version of the Big Cat Times, 4"x4" photo donor plaque, 6"x12" engraved sign displayed for 1 year on tour path and private tour for 2 guests

\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO: Donor name listed in print version of the Big Cat Times, 6"x6" photo donor plaque, 9"x12" engraved sign displayed for 1 year on tour path and private tour for 4 guests

\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION: Donor name listed in print version of the Big Cat Times, 8"x8" photo donor plaque, 12"x12" photo donor sign displayed for 1 year on tour path and private tour with behind the scenes peek, and meet the founder for 6 Guests

\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS: Donor name listed in print version of the Big Cat Times, 12"x12" photo donor plaque, 18"x24" photo donor sign displayed for 1 year on tour path, founder tour for 10 guests



YOU SHOP AMAZON GIVES

**YOUR PURCHASES ON AMAZON
CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE CATS
AT NO COST TO YOU.**

[BIGCATRESCUE.ORG/
AMAZON-SMILE](http://BIGCATRESCUE.ORG/AMAZON-SMILE)

AMAZON WISHLIST

**YOU CAN CHOOSE SOMETHING
DIRECT FROM THIS LIST TO
PURCHASE AND HAVE SENT TO
THE SANCTUARY.**

<https://tinyurl.com/4kwetad5>

**FOR MORE WAYS TO HELP VISIT
ONLINE:**

[BIGCATRESCUE.ORG/
GET-INVOLVED](http://BIGCATRESCUE.ORG/GET-INVOLVED)

SHOP CLEARANCE ITEMS ONLINE

**BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN
UNABLE TO OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC FOR TOURS OUR GIFT
SHOP MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN
LINGERING FOR LONGER THAN
USUAL. WE HAVE A GREAT
SELECTION OF CLEARANCE
ITEMS AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ**



THE BIG CAT TIMES DONATION FORM FALL/WINTER 2021

BILLING ADDRESS (please print legibly)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

DONATION OPTIONS

I would like to make a **one time** donation in the amount of: \$ _____

I would like to make a **monthly** donation in the amount of: \$ _____

Please charge my card for this amount each month.



CREDIT CARD INFO

Card #: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

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

Signature: _____

GIFT SHOP MERCHANDISE: Due to the limited supply of gift shop merchandise, inability to ensure stock on an ongoing basis, and frequent updating of designs we are no longer offering merchandise ordering through the Big Cat Times. You can see all of our merchandise and shop at our online store at BigCatRescue.biz

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 donate@bigcatrescue.org, or leave a message for Katie at 813-920-4130. This is a G-R-R-eat way to spread out your donations and provide steady support that is so meaningful for the cats.

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KIMBA



FLINT



SHEENA



NIKITA



DES



MOUSER



JASMINE



ARIA



HUTCH

SUMMER MELON ENRICHMENT PHOTOS BY BRITTANY MIRA

Saving Tiger Lake

Big Cat Rescue is home to a sprawling 18 acre spring fed lake. The lake is at the heart of the sanctuary and its waters feed the pools for our tigers, Manny the jaguar, Servie the serval, and Max and MaryAnn the bobcats. In addition to providing a cool retreat from the summer weather to our big cats, the lake is also home to a plethora of wild birds from bald and golden eagles as well as osprey to whistling ducks, ibis, spoonbills, woodstorks, kingfishers and more.

Over the past year, our lake has become infested with an invasive aquatic weed called hydrilla that is choking out the surface of the lake. Hydrilla is native to India. It was introduced into Florida water bodies in 1950-1951. It was thought to have been introduced to the Tampa and Miami areas as discarded aquarium plants. By the 1970s, it was established throughout Florida waters and in most drainage basins. The plant is rooted in the bed of the waterbody and has long stems (up to 25 feet in length) that branch at the surface where growth becomes horizontal and forms dense mats. These mats block out the light to the bottom of the body of water which leads to the death of native plant species. Hydrilla is considered the world's most invasive aquatic plant. Plants grow 1-4 inches per day! It can grow in water as shallow as a few inches and up to 20 feet deep and can grow in as little as 1% of full sunlight. The weed takes over rapidly, eliminating fish spawning areas and feeding sites for water fowl. Lack of oxygen in the water eventually leads to the death of resident fish.

Each year in Florida, millions of dollars are spent on herbicides and mechanical harvesters in an effort to place hydrilla under "maintenance control." Without management, hydrilla slows water flow and clogs irrigation and flood-control canals. Dense infestations can alter water chemistry and dissolved oxygen levels.



We have been forced to join the fight against Hydrilla to save Tiger Lake and the process thus far has been expensive and time consuming. Our strategy for eradicating this invasive weed from our beloved lake is three fold; herbicides, dredging, and fish.

We have sourced out herbicides used to kill hydrilla yet are safe for the waters circulating through our big cat pools as well as for the native fish and birds. Granules and liquid herbicides are spread by hand over the areas of our lake where the hydrilla is the most dense. This is the most expensive of our management plan costing a minimum of \$500 each time the lake is treated.

In addition we have dredged some areas of the lake, specifically the large section that Priya and Dutchess have access to. Our maintenance team devised a mechanical rake and winch system to physically remove the weeds that were obstructing the tigers' access to the water. Now that their swimming areas have been cleared we will be moving on to the smaller section of lake where Jasmine, Kali and Max reside. This is a very tedious and back breaking process. When the rake is winched to the shoreline large, heavy, water-logged mats of hydrilla must be removed from the rake and disposed of.

Our final approach is the use of grass eating carp. These non-native fish feed specifically on this weed and can help manage its growth and spread dramatically. Because the fish are not native to our state a special permit is required. We have applied for and been granted this permit and have ordered our fish from a licensed dealer. We are awaiting the arrival of our first 100 fish which will cost \$15 each. They are in the process of being imported and grown to a sustainable size before we introduce them to our lake.

We hope by implementing these three measures we will be able to, not only manage the hydrilla, but eventually eradicate from Tiger Lake completely.

GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS

2022 BIG CAT RESCUE CALENDAR



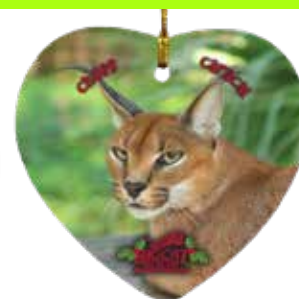
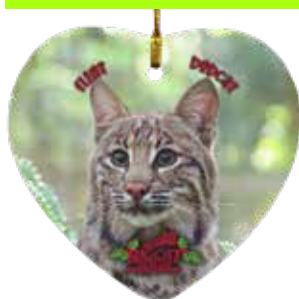
STOCKING STUFFERS



GRAPHIC TEES



HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS



ORDER ONLINE AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ

HOWARD AND CAROLE SUE NETFLIX AND GOODE PRODUCTIONS

Literally just as this issue was going to print Howard and Carole personally filed a lawsuit against Netflix and the producers of Tiger King in an effort to stop the use of film of them taken for the first Tiger King series last year from being used in the upcoming "Season 2." Howard says, "this may be a bit like little David flinging a rock at giant Goliath, but we believe we are on very solid legal footing." Below is the press release they issued and link to the filings if you care to review them. We decided to include this smiling photo in the release to show that nothing Eric Goode can do to in what we believe is his cruel and intentional campaign to trash Carole is going to keep us from enjoying each other and our mission.

BASKIN LAWSUIT OBJECTING TO USE OF FOOTAGE IN TIGER KING SERIES TWO

BY HOWARD BASKIN

**ALL OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW
ARE THE OPINION OF MR. BASKIN**

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Today Carole and I filed a motion in Federal Court in Tampa asking for a temporary restraining order against Netflix and Royal Goode Productions from showing Tiger King Season 2 (TK2) based on our belief that the Producers Eric Goode and Rebecca Chaiklin do not have the right to use any video or audio taken of us during their filming for Tiger King, Murder, Mayhem and Madness (TK1).



We believe that TK1 showed Goode and Chaiklin to be devoid of ethics, integrity, and any concern for the welfare of big cats.

When we were first approached by Goode and Chaiklin in 2014, they told us that they were making a documentary to expose the illicit big cat trade akin to the renowned Blackfish documentary. Yet, as we now know from seeing TK1, their work is anything but a legitimate documentary.

Our agreement to participate with Goode and Chaiklin was expressly limited to using our film footage in a single documentary motion picture. Even giving them the benefit of the doubt that TK1 is a legitimate documentary motion picture, that was the extent of our agreement. We made it very clear to Goode and Chaiklin that we had no desire or intent to be involved in TK2. When Netflix released its Official Tiger King 2 Trailer last week, we were

shocked to see that we were going to be a central theme of the sequel and they were using the film footage again without our permission.

While we cannot stop Netflix and Royal Goode Productions from producing low-brow, salacious and sensational programming, we do believe that we have the right to control footage filmed of us under false pretenses. We like to believe that most Americans will agree that we should be entitled to protect our reputations in this manner and hold entertainment giants to their word.

Because this is an active litigation matter we will not be doing any interviews about it at this time. If you would like to read the complaint or declarations or keep up with pleadings in this case please visit this Dropbox link:

<https://tinyurl.com/nr26fnp9>

Sad Farewell

Taking care of 47 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 47 cats, 26 are over the age of 12, which is as long as they usually live in zoos or the wild. An amazing 17 are over the age of 15 (76+ in human years). More incredible, 7 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts we must say goodbye to these beautiful cats who have touched our hearts forever.

AMANDA



1996 - 2021

Amanda and her two brothers Arthur and Andre were born in 1996 in New Jersey. They were born with the intentions of using them as pay-to-play photo props and sadly, that is exactly what happened. It never makes sense to breed more cubs just so that you can raise enough money to pay for last year's cats, however,

that is all too often what happens. The facility in which these three were born into eventually fell into disrepair and was ultimately shut down. The USDA revoked their license following the escape of a tiger.

In 2003, Wild Animal Orphanage in Texas took in the 24 tigers from the facility. Unfortunately, many places forget to factor in the cost of taking in each cat, and a tiger has a BIG appetite. It was not long before WAO fell into financial troubles. By the year 2010, they were filing for bankruptcy.

It took over a year and a half to find permanent homes for all the cats. This was largely because it can cost an average of \$10,000 per year in food and vet care per cat.

Amanda, Arthur, and Andre were three very lucky tigers! An anonymous donor couple who had known these tigers as cubs fortuitously stepped in to fund the rescue and ongoing care for all three who would be coming to live at Big Cat Rescue.

Amanda was the fierce spirit among the trio. While her brothers were lumbering and goofy she was always stealthy and serious. In her later years following the loss of her siblings she warmed up a bit giving the occasional chuffs to her keepers. Yet still she was quite particular about whom she allowed into her circle. We love that despite being captive her whole life Amanda

was true to her wild roots. Her last days were spent in our 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation enclosure living her best life lounging under the tall oaks and cooling off in the natural pond. In the end Amanda's kidney disease had progressed significantly and the decision to humanely euthanize her was made with a heavy heart.



PURRFECTION



1996 - 2021

Purr-fection lived to be the oldest ocelot Big Cat Rescue has ever had. At the age of 25 she was still quite active up until her final few days. She was known for being quite the skilled hunter. She had an uncanny knack of being able to lure just about any raccoon, opossum, bird or squirrel that ventured nearby into her

grasp. She ate "off the menu" nearly every week of her life. Purr-fection was just that. She was small in stature,

sleek and muscular. Her spotted coat was the most beautiful of all the cats. Sadly, Purrfection was the last of the ocelots who called Big Cat Rescue home. While we will miss her dearly we take comfort in knowing that she is no longer bound to the confines of wire walls. Her spirit is free at last.



STRIPES AND CHANGING PATTERNS

BY CAROLE BASKIN BCR FOUNDER & CEO

We have all felt the loss of Amanda Tiger with perhaps a greater sense of sadness than usual. I think that is because even though she lived to be one of the oldest tigers ever at 25 and a half, we can't think of her without remembering her brothers, Andre and Arthur who have passed on. The end of Amanda's life, in this form, thus feels like the end of a quarter century of work. That work has had great results, but the gravity of the price we all (especially the cats) had to pay to get to where we are, weighs heavy on the heart. The wins the cats have had during this time have included:

- The end of inbreeding white tigers in accredited zoos after our long campaigns to educate the public about the birth defects and how these cross bred tigers served no conservation value.
- The US Fish & Wildlife Service rescinded their generic tiger loophole that fostered rampant private breeding of tigers and ligers.
- The end of circus acts that use big cats, almost everywhere, except the U.S., but with the biggest one folding their tents.
- The fur industry became a horrid thing of the past.
- All but four states passed bans or

partial bans on the private ownership of big cats.

- A federal bill that is poised to pass this year to finally close the loophole in the Captive Wildlife Safety Act and end cub handling and private ownership of big cats.

The biggest win however is the shift in public perception of how wild cats should be treated. Just like most of the wins above, this change happened one person at a time.

When a couple reached out to us in 2011 looking for cubs they had known in 1996 at a tiger mill in Pennsylvania, they only had

and hundreds of other wild animals. Jamie Veronica went to Texas and took photos of the remaining 7 tigers. Using her Photoshop skills and sharp eye for detail she highlighted the facial stripe patterns on the cubs against the remaining cats and found matches for Amanda, Arthur and Andre.

On our tours we would often talk about how a tiger's stripes are as unique as fingerprints but never before had I seen it made obvious to the untrained eye through the use of digital matching. Today I read an article at <https://bit.ly/3iTwXz> that gave me great satisfaction. The reporter had noticed that several celebrities were posing with the same cub across their social media platforms and realized that there must be someone illegally pimping out this cub. It's illegal in the UAE where this was happening. They used digital enhancement tools to point out the matching stripes.

It made me realize that mainstream media has gone from just saying, "Ooooh, look how cute!" to being the ones to out the lawbreakers. We aren't the only ones to notice the shift; "Our team has recognized a change in behavior online; more people are calling out exotic pet owners and more are aware of the negative impacts of owning a dangerous animal, to the individual keeping it, the community around it and the wild where the animal comes from", explained Elsayed Mohamed, Regional Director for

the Middle East and North Africa for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). When you read this article, and remember the rescue story of Amanda, Arthur and Andre, I hope you also feel that sense of accomplishment from being their voice.



photos of the cubs as babies. They suspected that in 2003 the tigers had been part of a rescue mission where they ended up in Texas and asked if we could find them. That TX facility had gone bankrupt in 2010 and all of the legitimate sanctuaries were scrambling to rehome 75 big cats

DONATIONS

JULY - SEPTEMBER

Estate of Cathleen Conway \$131,828
 Estate of Betsy Pheil \$100,000
 Fund 4 Habitats \$100,000
 The Spurlino Foundation \$30,000
 Alice & Stephen Valentine Charitable Fund \$25,000
 Candis Stern \$20,330
 Thomas Neal \$15,000
 Rebecca Sjouwerman \$10,000
 Heidi Blechar \$8,000
 Eric Guerrazzi \$5,000
 Litter Quality Propane \$5,000
 Lynn Russell Advised Fund at Aspen Community Foundation \$5,000
 Pat B Wade \$5,000
 Roger Richmond \$4,000
 Ann Zaharis \$3,050
 Sandra Kerth \$3,000
 Leslie W MacDonald \$3,000
 Larry Minerich & Melanie M Shea \$3,000
 Mary Nall \$2,775
 Chisick Family Foundation \$2,500
 Dr. Joyce Fitch \$2,500
 Margaret Solobay \$2,500
 Patricia Hamilton \$2,402
 Geoffrey Zoeller \$2,030
 Shelly Barbanica \$2,000
 Franco Bugnano \$2,000
 Claudia Kersey \$2,000
 Peter Mynard \$2,000
 Chris Rice \$2,000
 John Slater \$2,000
 Anton Stankowski Jr. \$2,000
 Jeffrey Grant \$1,800
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 The Manny & Ruthy Cohen Foundation \$1,500
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 Diane Amison-Loring \$1,250
 Paula Drechsler \$1,158
 Wilhelm Hoefflinger \$1,095
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 Citrus Park Investors LLC \$1,000
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 Duane Karvonen \$1,000
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 George & Sheila Marshall \$1,000
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 Phillip Thompson \$1,000
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 Lynn Farley \$850
 David Nicoletto \$800
 Shari Sawyer \$800
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 Kris Gallegos \$750
 Jon Ohman \$750
 Edith Eckert \$730
 Renee Farrell \$701
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 Carol Boyse \$660
 Mavis & Frank Ainsleigh \$600
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 Marion Wynn \$200

OKLAHOMA UPDATE

BY HOWARD BASKIN BCR TREASURER

Last issue we reported to you that we had sold the GW Zoo and that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had confiscated all of the remaining tigers and lions and hybrids, 68 of them, from Jeff Lowe's Thackerville

buildings. They somehow managed to place an old box truck far into the field at the back of the property and left what appeared to be rotting carcasses wrapped in plastic in the back of the truck creating a horrible odor. They left trash all over the property, inside and outside the buildings. And they failed to pay

their impairment of the property. On September 28 the Court granted our motion and ordered the Lowes to pay us \$24,735 within 30 days to reimburse these expenses. Unlike a "judgment" where we would have to collect from the Lowes, this is a Court order, or "charging order." If they fail to pay it, they could be held



Nearly every building at the former site of the GW Zoo was graffitied by the staff of Jeff and Lauren Lowe following their eviction

operation. We are pleased to report two subsequent events.

First, even after the confiscations there were approximately 60 animals left at the Thackerville property in Lowe's "care," if you can call the way he treats animals care. These included some of the smaller exotic cat species like caracals and a Canada lynx and an array of non-cat species. On August 13 the Lowes formally abandoned their rights to all of these animals, turning them over to the DOJ who found other homes for them.

Second, when the Court ordered the Lowes to leave the GW Zoo property we owned, the order included requirements to remove all personal property and not to impair the property's value or encumber it with debts. The Lowes defied this order in numerous ways. They scattered an enormous amount of rotting chicken around the property that smelled so bad the neighbors were complaining. Their staff painted crude graffiti inside and outside the

almost \$4000 in back water bills that we had to pay in order to turn on the water to provide it to the 11 wolves, 3 tigers and 2 bears that they left on the property.

Sometimes bad behavior actually does catch up with people. We asked the Court to find the Lowes in contempt of the order to leave the property in good condition and to have them reimburse us for our costs and legal fees associated with

in further contempt. They failed to pay on time and we now wait for the next actions by the court.

We have a few other claims involving the Lowes that we are awaiting hearings on, after which we hope the litigation in Oklahoma will finally end. It has been a long eleven years since we first sued Joe Schreibvogel for misusing our name. But, directly or indirectly, the outcome is that neither Schreibvogel, who is in jail, nor the Lowes, have animals anymore. Hundreds of cubs that would have been born into their abusive cub petting operations for years to come and would have suffered miserable lives if they survived the cub petting have been saved from that horror. Was it worth it? In our view, absolutely!

We could not have had the staying power to achieve this victory without the incredible support from so many of you. On behalf of all of those cubs who will now NOT suffer in the clutches of these awful people.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



Boxes of rotting meat were intentionally strewn throughout the property. Leaving behind a huge and stinking mess.

BOBCAT REHAB UPDATES

SOLE SURVIVOR OF CALICIVIRUS OUTBREAK MAKES A NEW FRIEND



In our last issue of the Big Cat Times we shared with you the tragic loss of three young bobcat kittens Lilly, Denali and Ambrose who were infected with a fatal virus. Despite our best efforts we were unable to save these three young souls.

Cahira, a slightly older kitten, had been living with the trio and she too contracted the virus. Thanks to the tireless dedication of our vet team and the rehabbers Cahira overcame the virus after 3 weeks intensive care. She was restrained twice a day for oral medications and nose drops and monitored closely via cameras throughout her recovery process. Because she was older and stronger her body was able to combat the virus more successfully than her fallen friends.

Her recovery was a win for the rehab team, but her loneliness was heartbreaking. This sadness would not last for long as not a month later we took in a similarly aged kitten that would be her future friend.

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD US ABOUT BYRDIE

A couple sat on their porch near sundown enjoying the birds coming to fill their bellies before bed when all of a sudden they saw a small figure emerge from the tree line that bordered their property. A tiny kitten frail and weak stumbled across the driveway towards the hedges at that bordered their home. Once there it collapsed

on its side. They approached the kitten as the sky grew dimmer and to their surprise it was a young bobcat just 3 months old. The poor thing was nothing but skin and bones. They snatched up a small cage and picked up the limp whimpering kitten and put her inside. They gave her some food and water and left her overnight.

The next morning she had perked up, but was still in need of help. The rehab team rushed to the site to pick up the little girl who was affectionately named Byrdie.



Had her finders not been out watching their birds they may not have seen her and she would have likely passed away had she not had access to food and water.

Byrdie was quarantined and fed small meals twice a day. After completing her 2 week quarantine, anti-parasite protocols and vaccinations she was introduced to Cahira. Cahira was a bit bigger and domineering



but still had the heart of a kitten and all she wanted in the world was a friend to play with. After a bit of investigating one another the kitten zoomies were in full effect. They spent hours chasing and pouncing on one on another and in the months following their introduction have now become inseparable. The pair will be released together in the near future.

PIA AND VENKMAN'S EPIC JOURNEY

Pia and Venkman, two 6-month-old female bobcats, came to us in early May from another rehab facility that



was in the process of moving and could not house the bobcats at the moment. The pair had been captured by animal control in an area of new development along the Myakka river and the Carlton Reserve. They were emaciated and covered in mange. Left untreated they would eventually succumb to infection brought on by this parasitic infestation.



Mange is a surface parasite and is treated with topical flea medication. After Pia and Venkman were treated they were housed under strict quarantine protocols in our Rehab Hospital. Keepers wore gowns and gloves when caring for them to protect themselves from the creepy crawly bugs and foot baths were utilized to clean their shoes upon exiting their hospital room to prevent the spread of the parasite to other areas of the building. After four weeks of recovery the pair were ready to move

to our outdoor rehab enclosures. During their time indoors they had put on weight with daily meals, but their muscle mass was depleted from lack of exercise. They would have much more room to roam in their 4,600 square foot habitat outside so they would be in tip top shape when their release day came.

Meanwhile BCR President and lead rehabber Jamie Veronica developed a relationship with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Panther Project Team and happily agreed to participate in a bobcat collaring initiative. The goal of the project would be to



learn vital information regarding the natural behavior of our native bobcats specially breeding and kitten rearing.

Pia and Venkman were perfect candidates for this project. After decades of rehabilitating and releasing bobcats we would finally learn what happens next. To date Big Cat Rescue's Bobcat Rehab Program has



rescued 89 bobcats and has successfully released 43. (While the number of released bobcats may seem low at first glance, the number of rescued bobcats includes every call we have responded to which includes a lot of critically injured bobcats that do not survive transport or treatment following a car strike.)

Big Cat Rescue's vet team collaborated with FWC's panther team in a coordinated effort to sedate Pia and Venkman for pre-release veterinary exams so they could be fitted with their tracking collars.

The collars work using both radio telemetry and GPS to track the movements of the cats. Data is collected by flying over the cat's territory using radio telemetry and manually entering the information into a mapping application as well as by uploaded GPS pinpoints transmitted from the collars. The collars are designed to have a generous fit to allow future growth of the cat. The collars feature a special band of leather that is weaker in structure, allowing for it to weather and break away after a given amount of time.

In addition to the collars, both Pia and Venkman were photographed and given ear tags so they could be identified on trail cameras should the collars fail or break away too soon.

This is a very exciting new venture for our Bobcat Rehab Program. It is our hope to follow the movements of Pia and Venkman as they establish their own territories and throughout their first breeding and kitten rearing season. Stay tuned for updates!

TRoublesome BOBCAT GETS IN A TANGLE

On July 1st we received a call of a young bobcat that appeared to have gotten into a tangle with some equipment or maybe even another animal. His right front paw had a deep laceration that exposed muscle, tendons and bones. He was found on the grounds of a



Nakoa had a deep wound on top of his paw that required surgery



Dr. Boorstein preps the wound for surgical closure.

commercial plant nursery napping under a bush.

A nursery worker had approached him thinking it was a domestic cat. The young bobcat awoke and darted in the opposite direction limping along the way before seeking shelter under a truck. A few of the nursery employees worked together to capture the bobcat so he could get the help he needed.

The 3 month old bobcat was named Nakoa, meaning brave one. He had sustained a great injury yet would not show his captors his debilitating pain.

Nakoa was sedated for an exam with Dr. Boorstein in our Windsong Memorial Hospital. Xrays showed he had two broken toes, and upon further examination, it was discovered one of the tendons leading to his dewclaw was damaged. Because the broken toes were flanked by toes that were intact, no splint or bone repair was necessary. The wound was cleaned thoroughly and surgically closed. He would be prescribed 4 weeks of cage rest to allow for the bones in his paw to heal.

Confinement to a small area for an inquisitive, playful and highly energetic kitten is an extremely trying task. Nakoa was easily bored and became quite destructive. In order to alleviate this captive boredom we reached out to our followers and supporters who inundated us with interactive toys to keep Nakoa entertained. He had a large variety of toys that were laid out in piles on the floor of his recovery room. Every day when his

hospital cage was cleaned the toys in the cage were swapped out for a new pile of toys. Ensuring there was something new or some new combination of toys each day was very successful in keeping Nakoa happy and out of trouble during his healing process.

Following 4 weeks of cage rest Nakoa was graduated to the nursery room for an additional 4 weeks. This much larger space gave him more room to explore and exercise. After 8 weeks of recovery and a follow-up exam Nakoa was finally healed and ready for his next phase of rehabilitation. He moved to the outdoor rehab enclosures and became a neighbor to Cahira and Byrdie. For the first time in months Nakoa finally got to see another bobcat and the three became fast friends.



Nakoa doesn't know it yet, but he is about to go home

They run along their enclosures chasing after one another and showing off their silly bobcat antics.

After months of recovery Nakoa was finally ready to be released and we could not be happier for the little guy. He was taken to the same site past rehab bobcats Lucky, Clover and Shamrock were released back in 2018.



Rehab team members Karma, Jordan, Nisha, Kat, Jamie, Victor, Erin, Brittany and Lauren celebrate another successful release.



Intern Nisha opens the door to freedom for Nakoa

Watching him bound towards freedom brought tears of joy to the eyes of the rehab team. Another wild one back where he belongs.



Nakoa leaps from his crate and bounds towards the treeline

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BCT COVER CAT RESCUE STORY: GILLIGAN LYNX

Gilligan and his crew; Skipper, Mr. Howell, Lovey, Ginger and MaryAnn were rescued from a dilapidated backyard collection in Kansas.

Their cages were tiny and dirty and the cats neglected. Their owner had abandoned them without food, water, or shelter from the freezing temperatures.

The Atchison County Sheriff's Office seized one tiger, two cougars, three

bobcats, two lynx, a serval and two skunks under the state's Dangerous Regulated Animals Act and the animal cruelty code. The Humane Society of the United States, Big Cat Rescue, the Kansas City Zoo and another rescue facility worked together to remove the animals from the property and transport them to sanctuaries around the country.

Gilligan had been living in the worst conditions at the site by far. His cage



Gilligan's 35 square foot cage in a backyard hoard of wildcats in Kansas

was a mere 5 feet by 7 feet and had not been cleaned in months resulting in enormous mounds of waste. It was an unbelievable and horrid sight.

Gilligan is living his best life now at Big Cat Rescue. He has a massive natural enclosure with large jungle gym platforms, lush foliage, a rock climbing wall and an air-conditioned cave den. He is well loved by his keepers and his fans across the world. It is thanks to supporters like you we are able to give cats like Gilligan the care they deserve.



Gilligan having a blast exploring the Funcation enclosure

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- Howard Baskin,
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