



SUMMER 2012 ISSUE



Big Cats & Public Safety Act
page 2



Cats Roar Car to be Auctioned
page 5



Blind Bobcat Rescue
page 5

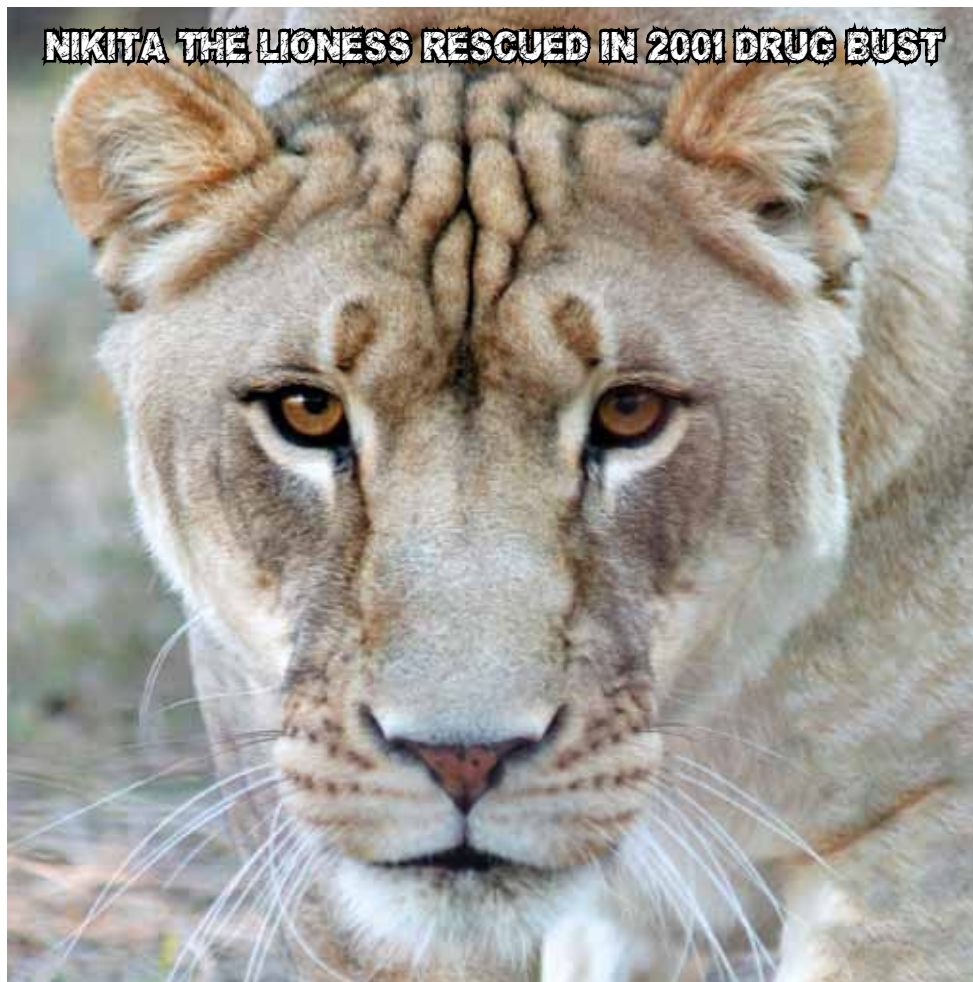


Big Cat Easter Fun
page 11

Photos by Jamie Veronica unless noted.

THE BIG CAT TIMES

NIKITA THE LIONESS RESCUED IN 2001 DRUG BUST



9 MONTHS OLD IN 2001



NOW 11 YEARS OLD

THE BIG CAT MATCH FOR AN ENCLOSURE FIT FOR A QUEEN

Nikita, a 9 month old lioness, was found chained to the wall in a crack house during a drug bust in Tennessee. Because she had been confined to a concrete floor, with nowhere soft to lay, she had huge fluid filled swellings on her elbows that took months to heal. She had been grossly underfed and was emaciated. Her diet was limited and lacking in essential vitamins causing a plethora of health issues as well. The authorities took her to the Nashville Zoo at Grasmere, but she had been declawed by her previous owner and could not live with the zoo's other lions who were fully clawed. She would be unable to defend herself within the pride. The zoo had to find a new home for Nikita. We agreed to take her in, as well as three bobcats, in November of 2001.

Nikita has flourished since her arrival, growing tall and filling out. She is very playful, often acting more like a kitten than a deadly predator. She joyfully gallops about her 3,000 square foot enclosure, smashing through the brush and swatting around her 60 pound toy ball as if it weighed nothing at all. Though we wish she had the freedom she deserves, we're so happy that she survived her earlier ordeals to enjoy the blissful days we strive to provide for her here.

We have big plans to improve upon Nikita's enclosure with a 3,750 square foot addition that will more than double the space for this 400 pound lioness to romp. Two of the sanctuary's most generous and sustaining donors have leaped forth to help support this expansion in a BIG way!

Lawrence and Pamela Trissel have very generously presented the sanctuary with a \$10,000 matching grant to

help raise the \$19,000 necessary to supersize Nikita's Cat-a-tat! Any donation made to Big Cat Rescue for this project will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. This 100% match means your donation has twice the impact!

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE 3 WAYS:

Online at <http://tinyurl.com/79j5154>

By scanning the QR Code at right with your smart phone.

Or you can send a check to Big Cat Rescue,

12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625 with

"Nikita Match" in the memo section or in an enclosed note.

Any funds raised in excess of the cost of the expansion of Nikita's Cat-a-tat will be directed to the sanctuary's general fund in support of all of the magnificent animals that call Big Cat Rescue home.



Above: Nikita pounces after her big yellow ball, Photo by Julie Hanan

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REP. CASTOR COSPONSORS BIG CATS AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTION ACT! THE BEST WAY FOR YOU TO HELP STOP ABUSE

By Howard Baskin

Those of you who have been following our efforts to stop big cat abuse through federal legislation know that on March 1, 2012 Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA) and Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) introduced the bipartisan **Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act, H.R. 4122**. The bill bans private possession and breeding of big cats, limiting the breeding primarily to AZA zoos. This bill is truly the only way to stop abuse of big cats in captivity. Experience has proven emphatically that trying to “regulate” to insure the cats are kept in humane conditions is simply impossible.

The task at hand now is to build momentum for the bill by asking members of Congress to “cosponsor” the bill. Cosponsoring simply means that the Representative is announcing their support for the bill in advance of the vote. Only about



4% of bills introduced pass in a given year. Often it takes years of building support to get a bill passed. By adding cosponsors as quickly as we can, we significantly increase the chances that the bill will move forward more quickly.



The bill has been in the works for a number of years and we are thrilled to see it finally introduced!

We are delighted to announce that Rep. Kathy Castor, who is the U.S. Representative for the district our house is in, quickly signed on as a cosponsor. Rep. Castor has been wonderfully responsive to animal welfare issues throughout her time in Washington. The Humane Society Legislative Fund keeps a “scorecard” showing

how many of the important animal protection bills each Representative and Senator has cosponsored or voted for in each session. We are very proud to tell you that Rep. Castor has a 100% record in the latest scorecard!

At this writing the bill has 16 cosponsors in addition to Rep. McKeon who introduced the bill:

You can track the progress in building cosponsors at:

<http://capwiz.com/bigcatrescue/issues/bills/> and select **H.R. 4122**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The single most important thing you can do if you want to help stop big cat abuse is ask your Representative to cosponsor this bill! Very few people actually contact their Representatives, so you really can have a real impact by doing this. You do not have to be an “expert” on the bill. We have a simple fact sheet that can help, and would be very happy to give you guidance on how to do this.

*Above: Flavio demonstrates just how dangerous tigers can be
At Left: Representative Kathy Castor*

If you would be willing to make this effort on behalf of the cats, I am happy to talk with you and make it easy for you to do. Please email:

Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org

All Cosponsors from All States			
Bill Name: Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act			
Bill Number: H.R.4122			
Cosponsor?	Cosponsor Name	Cosponsor Date	Send Mail
Arizona			
YES ✓	Raul Grijalva (D 7th)	03/26/2012	✉
California			
YES ✓	Barbara Lee (D 9th)	04/16/2012	✉
YES ✓	Sam Farr (D 17th)	03/01/2012	✉
YES ✓	Elton Gallegly (R 24th)	03/08/2012	✉
YES ✓	Howard McKeon (R 25th)	03/01/2012	✉
YES ✓	Howard Berman (D 28th)	04/25/2012	✉
YES ✓	Loretta Sanchez (D 47th)	03/01/2012	✉
Florida			
YES ✓	Kathy Castor (D 11th)	03/29/2012	✉
Guam			
YES ✓	Madeleine Bordallo (D At-Large)	04/16/2012	✉
Illinois			
YES ✓	Jan Schakowsky (D 9th)	05/09/2012	✉
Massachusetts			
YES ✓	Edward Markey (D 7th)	04/26/2012	✉
Ohio			
YES ✓	Dennis Kucinich (D 10th)	03/01/2012	✉
YES ✓	Tim Ryan (D 17th)	04/25/2012	✉
Oregon			
YES ✓	Earl Blumenauer (D 3rd)	04/16/2012	✉
YES ✓	Peter DeFazio (D 4th)	05/09/2012	✉
Virginia			
YES ✓	James Moran (D 8th)	03/26/2012	✉
YES ✓	Gerald Connolly (D 11th)	03/26/2012	✉
Legend: NO = not a cosponsor YES = is a cosponsor ✓ = we support this member's cosponsorship position ✗ = we do not support this member's cosponsorship position			

SAVING BIG CATS BY CHANGING LAWS & MINDS

The Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act (HR 4122) is the most important piece of legislation to ever be introduced that will protect lions, tigers and other exotic wild cats from being kept as pets and in miserable roadside zoos. You always find out about the important big cat news first because you are one of our most valued supporters, but we have to get the message out to others too.



There are more privately owned tigers languishing in horrible conditions across the United States than exist in the wilds of India.

Big Cat Rescue Founder and CEO Carole Baskin presented to the Massachusetts School of Law during their annual Animal Law Day on April 7th to a crowd of 100 attendees and then tabled the rest of

the day speaking to nearly 600 guests. The presentation was on the Timeline of the Big Cat Crisis in America and what Big Cat Rescue has been doing to end the suffering and abuse of big cats, through legislative and educational efforts. The presentation was well received and 3 people actually came up to the podium in tears because they could not believe the horrible conditions that most big cats in private hands suffer.

Because the **Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act** is the key bill to ending backyard breeding and the resulting overcrowding and neglect, Big Cat Rescue has decided to be the Diamond Level sponsor of the Taking Action for Animals Conference in D.C. this July 27-30. We will be presenting

in the training sessions of the conference on Volunteering, Fatal Attractions: Ending the Private Possession of Captive Wildlife and Winning Single Issue Campaigns. This is THE conference to attend if you want to be surrounded by people who love and protect animals and to learn how you can be the most effective voice for animals. We hope to see you there!

Meanwhile, visit this link to find out more and send a letter in support of the most important bill to protect big cats ever:

<http://tinyurl.com/cadrf5k>

CATLAWS.COM

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SAD FAREWELL TO FOUR GREAT CATS

By Jamie Veronica

Big Cat Rescue was founded 19 years ago and 82 of our 100+ sanctuary residents are now over the age of 15 (90+ in cat years). It is with great sadness that we must say goodbye to these four wonderful felines.

COOKIE



1994 - 2012

COOKIE was rescued from a backyard cage in Mississippi in December of 2008. She came from a failed facility called Cougar Haven, which at its peak was home to 38 big cats. There was never much local support for the facility since it was nothing more than an eccentric's private collection. The owner eventually abandoned the cats, leaving their care to a volunteer who couldn't stand by and watch the cats starve to death. Many had already died before Cookie, Alex, and Freckles came to Big Cat Rescue. Once at Big Cat Rescue, Cookie enjoyed life to the fullest. She was one of the favorites of all the volunteers and guests. She could always be counted on for a friendly greeting, whether it be a chuff, an affectionate rub against the enclosure, or just following her keepers as they walked around outside her enclosure doing their daily chores for her. Cookie was diagnosed with a cancerous and inoperable tumor in her throat. We said a tearful goodbye to her on March 12, 2012. Her beauty, her playfulness, her sweet disposition will be missed by so many.

MODNIC was rescued from Savage Kingdom, a deplorable breeding facility that was finally shut down by officials in 2006, 5 years after a worker was killed by a tiger there. Modnic seemed to relish life at Big Cat Rescue. Her fresh water pool with a lake view, her mounds to climb and rest on, the shade of the oak trees around her enclosure, the perfume scented toys she played with - all these things gave Modnic experiences she had never enjoyed before. Unfortunately Modnic fell victim to mammary cancer. Last summer heroic efforts were made to give Modnic another year of happiness, however when her tumors recently returned, they were worse and another surgery would have taken a great toll on the elderly tigress.

MODNIC



1993 - 2012

LUCKY



1993 - 2012

LUCKY arrived at Big Cat Rescue in 1993 from an auction in Okeechobee, Florida. She was named Lucky because she was very lucky to find a home like Big Cat Rescue where she can do all the things that come naturally to her and not be forced to conform to the role of a house pet. She was 19 years old when a mass was discovered on her side that turned out to be massive, cancerous mammary tumors. Lucky hated to be confined in any way. Rather than subject her to an extremely complicated, invasive surgery that would have only prolonged her life by months, we had to make the sad decision to say goodbye and set her spirit free.

RUFUS was found injured and in a comatose state on the side of the road and taken to the Carolina Wildlife Center in South Carolina last December. The two month old bobcat had a broken jaw that was repaired, however, once he awoke his caregivers discovered he was blind. In the weeks following his rescue Rufus also battled seizures. Knowing that he would not be a candidate for release, the center contacted Big Cat Rescue to find a permanent home for the kitten. Upon his arrival Rufus was seen by a variety of specialists to determine the cause and the severity of his blindness and brain damage. Thanks to the gracious generosity of our supporters Rufus had an MRI that helped narrow down the possibilities for which a supportive treatment plan was put into place. Unfortunately his brain damage that was the cause of the seizures could not be healed completely and on April 26th Rufus had a massive seizure and died suddenly. Every attempt was made to resuscitate him, but sadly they were unsuccessful. Rufus will be missed dearly by everyone who got to know him. He was a special little kitten who touched many of our hearts.

RUFUS



2011 - 2012

BIG CAT VET CARE CHALLENGES SUBDUED

Providing veterinary care to more than 100 wild cats can be challenging so Big Cat Rescuers have to get creative. Our Operant Conditioning program is crucial to providing such care in an efficient and effective manner. Volunteers participate in this program in which the cats are given food rewards for doing simple tasks such as approaching the side of the enclosure, sitting or laying down, and even going into their food lockouts (a small cage attached to their enclosure in which they are fed) and allowing a door to be shut confining them in the lockout. The latter of these tasks has been extremely helpful to our veterinarians Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein with their tasks of drawing blood and administering vaccinations.



Dr. Wynn was able to shut Bengali the tiger into his lockout and while he was happily accepting a constant supply of snacks from his keeper she successfully drew blood from his back leg without him noticing. The blood work was sent to the lab for routine screening. The results were great for a tiger his age (17).

To better facilitate routine vaccinations Dr. Boorstein constructed a device called the Cat-a-comb which is basically a comb made of 2x4's that can be placed through the top of the lockout and pivoted to pin the cat to the side of the lockout. Once pinned, vaccinations and microchips can be given and flea treatment can be applied. Big Cat Rescuers were surprised at how calm the cats were during this process and because of this the vet team is even able to perform a basic physical exam.



The Cat-a-comb has proven to be an extraordinary and stress free alternative to netting or sedating the cats for this routine veterinary care. The only downside to the new contraption is its weight. Constructed of wood, the Cat-a-comb weighs nearly 70 pounds!

Above: Operant conditioning with a tiger, Dr. Boorstein, Jamie Veronica and Gale Ingham use the Cat-a-comb to perform a physical exam and draw blood from Fluffy the serval



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BE A COOL CAT THIS SUMMER!

Summer is almost here! Have you made plans yet? Register now for Big Cat Rescue's **Cool Cat Summer Camp** and **Young Adult Expedition**. Weekly camp sessions run from June 18th to August 9th. Kids ages 8-15 and young adults 16-18 can join us for one wild time this summer! This unique opportunity comes around just once a year for future Big Cat Rescuers to enjoy behind-the-scenes activities, having fun and learning at the same time. Young adults considering careers in biology, conservation, or animal care will have a chance to experience a working sanctuary and test the water for their future pathways at our **Young Adult Expedition**.



Comments from previous campers say it all: *"The first day of camp she talked all night not just about the fun she had, but about what she learned"* and *"My child loved it more than I ever thought he would!"*

Young adults report: *"I have grown to love the outdoors and now want to be a conservation activist and major in Environmental Sciences at University of Central Florida...I would use the knowledge gained to its full capacity and put it towards my efforts in saving our planet!"*

Camp spaces are limited, so don't miss out! To register contact: Willow Hecht at education@bigcatrescue.org or 813-323-3265

KIDS FOR KATS

Ian McFadden is a 14-year-old boy who has always had a passion for animals. He wants to become a zoologist when he grows up and would like to work specifically with big cats. After going on a tour of Big Cat Rescue, Ian's love for big cats intensified. He wanted to help the cats, and was able to raise \$128.87 in donations! He enjoyed raising the money for the sanctuary, and the cats appreciate it very much!



Puppy Pals recently gave the gift of a new Boomer Ball to Arthur, Andre, and Amanda, three tigers rescued from sanctuary that had gone bankrupt in Texas. As a special treat the group was invited to come to Big Cat Rescue for a tour and to watch as the ball was given to the tiger trio—it was quite the event, as Amanda rushed up to the new toy roaring in appreciation! Thanks, Puppy Pals!



WILD WORD SEARCH

E	N	P	Z	V	Z	H	Z	T	I	G	E	R	E	Y
K	C	O	U	G	A	R	B	L	I	Z	N	I	U	V
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G	T	O	L	E	C	O	N	S	I	Z	F	U	E	E
A	T	A	C	Y	O	R	F	F	O	E	G	W	R	L
S	X	Q	H	A	D	R	A	P	O	E	L	I	T	A
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G	P	L	I	O	N	H	I	W	X	R	L	U	C	R
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F	S	U	M	M	E	R	C	A	M	P	V	P	I	S
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Z	B	B	U	B	O	B	C	A	T	W	I	L	D	I

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 ENRICHMENT GEOFFROY CAT JUNGLE CAT
 LEOPARD LION OCELOT SANCTUARY
 SERVAL SIBERIAN LYNX SUMMER CAMP
 TIGER VOLUNTEER WILD Answers on page 11

IN ROARING SUPPORT OF THE BIG CATS



Meet Cats Roar Magnum, The World's First Hybrid Hemi featuring one of the most elaborate paint jobs to date by globally renowned Airbrush Artist Mike Lavallee.

Cats Roar Magnum is a spectacular 2005 Dodge Magnum show car that has been awarded First Place, Best of Show, and Best Graphics at over two dozen prestigious events during the course of the past year.

This car will be auctioned off in support of Big Cat Rescue during car week in Monterey, CA August 2012 with 50% of the proceeds being very generously donated to Big Cat Rescue in support of the magnificent animals that call the sanctuary home. <http://www.montereycarweek.com/Events.html>

The art work (by Mike Lavallee of Overhauling fame) is 18 layers of House Of Kolor Shimrin Paints with the last half almost entirely hand painted airbrushing. 6 layers of clear tops it off and keeps it looking like art under glass. Mike Used a few new formats and due to the spectacular nature of the car H.O.K. requested that it be submitted into their Preferred Painters Award Competition.

The orange in the nose is representative of the sunrise in Africa with the fire, urban grunge (oil spotting), cracking, and lighting meant to call attention to the strife and turmoil plaguing the country and the natural dangers faced by African Wildlife. The colors fade through sunset and into the deepest of nights as you reach the back of the car. The leopards and lions are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as Near Threatened and Vulnerable respectively. The artwork is meant to bring attention to both Africa's wildlife and the plight of big cats around the world. Every view the car receives brings attention to the organizations supporting these beautiful animals.

This car is over 80% fully sponsored with about \$150,000 in makeover parts and labor.

Owner/Director: John D. Callison, Artist: Mike Lavallee (Joint Design)



Everyone at Big Cat Rescue would like to extend a **ROAR** of gratitude to the participating Sponsors of the Cats Roar Magnum Project:

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You may get the chance to see the Cats Roar Magnum auctioned live during the "Mecum Auction: Muscle Cars & More". This televised event will air on Velocity, a Discovery Communications Channel on August 19th. Check your local listings.



BLIND BOBCAT HAS PERMANENT HOME



Tommie, a female bobcat, was rescued earlier this year. She had been found wandering in search of food at a mine an hour north of Big Cat Rescue. She was emaciated and appeared to be blind. Tommie, named after her rescuer

Cemex Manager Tommie Deaner, was seen by Dr. Miller, a Board Certified Ophthalmologist. Her retinas had detached resulting in her blindness. Her condition was most likely due to disease, but after a battery of blood tests still no answer has been found. Tommie tested negative for every known disease that could be the culprit, with the exception of Lyme Disease, which in rare cases can cause blindness. Until

a few weeks ago, Tommie had been living in quarantine in our onsite Cat Hospital. She has been on series of medications with the hopes of restoring her sight, none of which have been successful. Otherwise Tommie is the picture of health. She has doubled in weight since her arrival, her coat is sleek and glossy and her teeth are pearly white. Unfortunately because she is blind and no treatment has worked she will not be a candidate for release back into the wild. She will have a permanent home at the sanctuary and is now living in a 2,000 square foot enclosure that provides her with a life as close to the wild as we can give.



*Left: Tommie
underweight when
she first arrived
Right: Tommie in her
outdoor enclosure*

REP. BILIRAKIS VISITS BIG CAT RESCUE

In April we were honored by a visit from U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis and two of his sons, Manuel and Nicholas. They are pictured here with Zabu the white tigress lounging in the shade behind them.

"I was impressed with my visit to the Big Cat Rescue program, particularly with how humanely all of their animals are treated," Bilirakis said. "The education Big Cat Rescue provides to adults and kids alike is both informative and interesting, and it is a true treasure for Tampa Bay." He promised to return with his other two sons, which we look forward to very much.

The sanctuary is in Rep. Bilirakis' district. Based on the way Bengali rubbed his head against the wire in approval, if tigers could vote, it looks Bilirakis would have won Bengali's support!





THE BIG CAT TRADING POST - GIFT GUIDE

Proceeds from your gift purchases help take care of the big cats. Order these gift items using the order form on page 10 or visit **BigCatRescue.biz** to see all of our gift items and purchase online. S & H within the US as well as tax has already been included in the prices listed here. You can also upgrade your shipping to Priority for just \$3 for your entire order. For luxury cat themed gift items visit **BigCatLuxeGifts.com**



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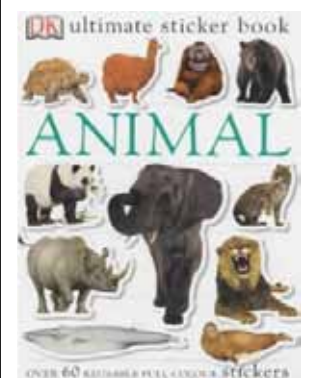
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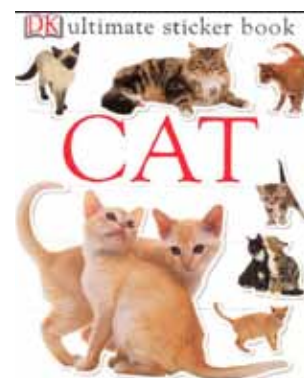
7" Aurora Babies Choose Nemara the Leopard, Leo the Lioness, Terrance the Tiger, or Lil Lehi the Bobcat **\$9.49 each**



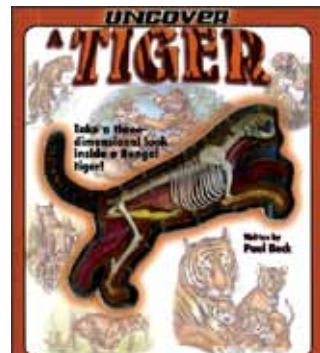
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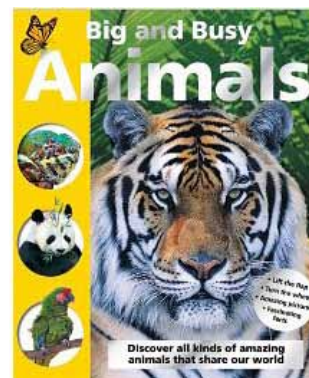
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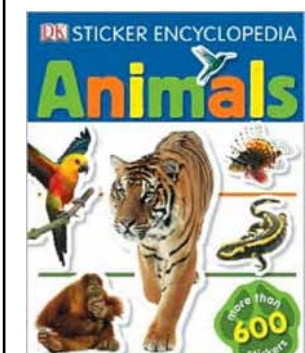
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400 Reusable Animal
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Over 600 Stickers **\$19.60**

 <p>Big Cat Rescue Fidel Cap Embroidered with BCR & Running Cat Choose Black or Khaki \$20.12</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Cadet Cap Embroidered Big Cat Rescue text Choose Blue or Pink \$20.18</p>	 <p>Embroidered Adams Cap Choose Navy with Khaki Logo White with Blue Logo \$22.40</p>	 <p>Eco Bag with BCR Recycle Logo on Front 13" W by 10" D by 15" H \$13.70</p>	 <p>Khaki Green Canvas Bag Embroidered Logo \$29.75</p>	<div><p>1" Tiger Face Pin \$11.70</p></div> <div><p>1" Tiger Pin \$7.35</p></div> <div><p>Big Cat Rescue Tiger Watch \$28.75</p></div> <div><p>Photo Necklace Choose Any Species \$45.00</p></div>
 <p>Big Cat Rescue Compass & Lion Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Skip - FL Bobcat Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL & XXXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Bobcat Rehab Program Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL & XXXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>BCR Papyrus Tee Red or Aqua Ladies Tee S, M, L, XL \$19.05 XXL \$21.19</p>	 <p>Property of BCR Tee Available in Blue or Gray S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	
 <p>Yellow Ladies Polo with Navy Trim and Embroidered Logo S, M, L, XL \$39.45 Blue Polo with Navy Trim and Embroidered Logo S, M, L, XL \$40.45 XXL \$43.66</p>	 <p>BCR Baseball Tee Gray & Black S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Rhinstone Fitted Tee in Black Choose Tiger, Snow Leopard or Leopard S, M, L, XL \$24.40 XXL \$26.54</p>	 <p>Rhinstone Ribbed Tank in Black with Snow Leopard S, M, L, XL \$22.26</p>	 <p>Haunting Eyes Tee Black with BCR Logo on Sleeve, Bengal or Siberian Tiger, Snow Leopard, or Sand Cat S, M, L, XL \$24.40 2X or 3X \$26.54</p> <div><p>Big Cat Rescue Tiger Shoe Laces \$9.49</p></div>	
 <p>Chocolate Rhinstone Junior Fitted Tee S, M, L, XL \$24.40</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Logo Tees Available in Royal, Charcoal, Azalea, Teal, Purple, and Pistachio S, M, L, XL \$18.05 XXL \$20.19</p>	 <p>Longsleeve Hooded Knit Tee Available in Eggplant or Black S, M, L, & XL \$31.89 XXL \$34.03</p>	 <p>Longsleeve Tee with Tiger Stripes on Chest & Sleeves & Big Cat Rescue on Back S, M, L, & XL \$29.75 XXL \$31.89</p>	<div><p>Medium Socks fit Women 6-11 & Men 5-10 Shorty Pink Tiger \$9.49 Shorty Recycle Tiger \$9.49 Lion March \$9.49 Cat Silhouette \$9.49 Tiger Facts \$9.49 BCR White Lion \$9.49 BCR Black Tiger \$9.49 BCR Brown Tiger \$9.49 Shorty Tiger \$9.49 Shorty Leopard \$9.49</p></div>	
 <p>Orange/White Tiger Baby Creeper BCR on Front XS, S, M & L \$13.70</p>	 <p>Big Cat Rescue Tiger Kids Tee Available in Blue or Pink XS, S, M & L \$15.91</p>	 <p>Paws Off Lion Kids Tee S, M & L \$16.91</p>	 <p>Jeweled Lion Kids Tee XS, S, M & L \$16.98</p>	 <p>Zipper Hoodie with Tiger Art on Front Black S, M, L, & XL \$42.52 XXL \$45.73</p>	

BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS			Big Cat Sponsorship Levels and Benefits	
\$5,000 Conde Nast <i>Nominated by client</i> <i>Roman & Williams (Robin Standerfer & Stephen Alesch)</i> \$2,500 Diane & Robert Klingel \$2,500 Christine Newsom \$2,500 Community Bank \$2,100 Royal Manticoran Navy: <i>The Official Honor Harrington Fan Association</i> \$2,000 Arlene Braga \$2,000 Panther International, LLC \$1,950 Sole Riley Marittimi \$1,000 Justin Carpenter \$1,000 William Kuni \$1,000 Andrew, Julia & Gigi Menard \$1,000 Lynn Russell \$1,000 Robert & Joann Tod \$1,000 Mary Yang \$1,000 Aveda Store Earth Fund Grant \$914 Whiskey Joe's \$900 Suzanne & Alan Lucas \$900 Cathy McLean \$873 Cars 4 Causes \$855 Brookwood Companies Inc. \$800 Pamela Olson Koonts \$750 Rocky & Shelly Barbanica \$750 Michele Yeager \$700 Charlene Boden \$700 Joseph Flanigan \$600 Pamela Rodriguez \$600 Jason Van Patten \$545 Theresa Cooper \$500 Rich & Beth Ann Bluder \$500 Vicky Cole \$500 Kenneth P. Gould \$500 Cassandra R. Hammond \$500 R. A. Hetherington \$500 Daria Kiselica \$500 Dan "Tiger Claw" Lafever \$500 Karen J. Large & Eric Eisenberg \$500 Dwight Lowell \$500 Lyla Messler \$500 Claire Mooers \$500 Diana Rao \$500 Richard Rose \$500 Jane Rosenthal Horvitz \$500 Beckie Tomlyn-Litten \$500 Barry Vaughan \$450 Sindhu Mathew \$400 Fred & Aleta Fisher \$400 Larry S. Moore \$400 Barbara Pope \$400 Premier Legal Experts \$360 Kimberly Hastings \$350 Kirk & Aileen Davis \$350 Derek Scott \$340 Christina Bond \$316 Skipaholic \$300 Annarosa Berman \$300 Stacie Carpenter \$300 Michelle & Scott Chamberlin \$300 Mary Ewell \$300 Diane Freeman \$300 David Nugent \$300 Carl & Betty Schino \$300 Jason C. Sosinski \$300 Starla Trivilino \$278 Brooksville/Spring Hill City Council \$275 William Konopaske	\$270 Laura Moreno \$250 Robert Davis \$250 Assana Fard \$250 Scott P. Fuhrman \$250 Cindy Gruden \$250 Neil Hodge \$250 Earl McDaniel \$250 Judi Pate-Rodriguez \$250 Peter Rosenstein \$250 Helen & Bryce Samson \$250 Nancy Schneider \$250 Joe Sokolosky \$250 Eugenia Van Bremen \$250 Patricia & Lon Wojtowicz \$250 Peter & Kathleen Muller Family Fund \$225 Elizabeth McBroom \$201 Gloria D. Cox \$200 Rob Abrom \$200 Doug Barton \$200 Clayton Coash \$200 Rob Dolecki \$200 Jennifer Downe \$200 John & Debby Galenski \$200 Robert & Beatrice Kastenbaum \$200 Mark & Tanya Kemp \$200 Barbara & Ralph Kruse \$200 Suzanne & David Long \$200 Anthony Malafronte \$200 William & Meda Maxwell \$200 Mary Louise McKelvey \$200 Phyllis S. Middaugh \$200 Ronald & Gale Nicodemus \$200 John Poulton \$200 Paul & Susan Raybould \$200 Thelma & Gary Smith \$200 Gregg & Tarra Stocker \$200 Ronald & Renee Vaughn \$200 Patricia Webber \$200 Specialized Bicycle Components \$181 Creative Horizon Inc. \$150 Jan Ancker \$150 Alan Coleman \$150 Brandy L. 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Black \$106 Justine & Shyler Oras \$105 Kerry Gilbert \$105 Pattie Quinn-Bennett \$105 Fauna Tomlinson \$104 Susan Countryman \$100 Theodor Andresen \$100 Michael Atzmon \$100 Jane August \$100 Kimberly Baxter \$100 Jacqueline Bensaid \$100 Tammy Berry \$100 Sharon & Andy Birmingham \$100 Laura Branchini \$100 Barbara B. Bunn \$100 Anja Burse \$100 James S. Carpenter \$100 Virginia L. Carter \$100 Nick Casciano \$100 Marie & James Chase \$100 Matthew Clarke \$100 Dennis & Marcia Coakley \$100 Laura A. Cottrill \$100 Emily Craddick \$100 Edward & Kathleen Cross \$100 Janice Cummings \$100 Charlene Czajkowski \$100 Helen & Hernry Davila \$100 Lori DeFelice \$100 Frank & Bernice Docherty \$100 Joe Dulle \$100 Krista English \$100 Paula Kathleen Estes \$100 Jorge Estrada \$100 Geoff Friske \$100 Rose Gabella \$100 Barbara Ganschow \$100 Connie Gee \$100 Can Giddling \$100 David Gill \$100 Kelly M. Goode \$100 Douglas Graham \$100 Timothy A. Hagood \$100 Marie & Ray Hahn \$100 Larry Han \$100 Ashley Hardison \$100 Christopher Harkness \$100 Cheryl Hayes-Farrell \$100 Michael R. Heintze \$100 Kentaro Higashi \$100 Donna Howie \$100 Ken & Wendy Huber \$100 Diana Hunt \$100 Anne-Louise Hyatt \$100 Luben Ikononov \$100 Tobias Kebbelle \$100 Jean Kernus \$100 George & Catherine Kozieradzki \$100 Janet R. Krause \$100 Nancy & John Leclerc \$100 Carole Lee \$100 Danielle Lewis \$100 R. D. Liddell \$100 Nicki & Paul Lyford \$100 MacKenzie Macklin \$100 Elfriede Maclean \$100 Michael Malbran	\$100 Carol & John Malone \$100 Jace Mande \$100 Francis E. McGovern \$100 Diane Mick \$100 Kristin & Bradley Mikesell \$100 Margo Miller \$100 Randall Miller \$100 Henry Miranda \$100 Mike Moses \$100 Hiroshi Myoraku \$100 Claire Nardone \$100 Elizabeth Newsom \$100 Kelly O'Connor \$100 Mark O'Donnell \$100 Linda O'Leary \$100 Adam Perrin \$100 Jerome Pollitt \$100 Nancy & Dal Raimondi \$100 Alice Raum \$100 Mark Reed \$100 Mark Reutlilinger \$100 Thelma Rodriguez \$100 Barbara Rogers \$100 Paul & Lisa Romanowski \$100 Tedford Rose \$100 Virginia Rosen \$100 Suzanne A. Rosenberg \$100 Shari Sawyer \$100 Robert & Chin Sekac \$100 Heather Seville \$100 Phil Shell \$100 Steven & Cynthia Smith \$100 Rodney & Judy Snow \$100 Richard & Martin Streett Jr. \$100 Pamela Timmerman \$100 Chrystal Todd \$100 Samantha Tran \$100 Pamela Turbo \$100 Christine Turso \$100 Michelle Umbarger \$100 Roger Vanderlip \$100 Patricia M. Voight \$100 Lynne Waite \$100 Judith Walker \$100 Ann Wallinger \$100 Pauline Ward \$100 Jennifer Waring \$100 Jennifer Wellins \$100 Sandra B. Wells \$100 Robert Wells \$100 Stephen R. Winter \$100 Guy & Kay Woodworth \$100 Damien C. Young \$100 Jean Zegadlo \$100 Body Fitness by Aris \$100 Citris County Fair Association \$100 HSW Engineering, Inc. \$100 Score Suncoast Pinellas Chapter #115	<div>  </div> <p>All kits include the following appreciation gifts: 4-page color fact sheet about the species, Big Cat Rescue logo window decal, Registration Card to select the cat of your choice. 8x10 color photo of the cat you choose to sponsor with the cat name and your name as sponsor printed on it.</p> <p>The sponsor levels below include these additional benefits and donor recognition:</p> <p>\$25 BIG CAT BUDDY – KIDS SPONSORSHIP Coloring pages featuring wild cats and 1 Kids Tour Pass.</p> <p>\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER 10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop.</p> <p>\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND 10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop and 1 Day Tour Pass.</p> <p>\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR 10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop, 2 Day Tour Passes, 30 big cat mailing labels, Donor name and gift amount listed in the Big Cat Times and on the donor page of bigcatrescue.org.</p> <p>\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR 10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop, 4 Day Tour Passes, 60 big cat mailing labels, Donor name and gift amount listed in the Big Cat Times and on the donor page of bigcatrescue.org.</p> <p>\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR Conservator Benefits above plus: 4"x4" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 6"x12" Engraved plaque on the tour path with donor name displayed for one year</p> <p>\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO Conservator Benefits above plus: 6"x6" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 9"x12" Engraved plaque on the tour path with donor name displayed for one year, and Private Tour for up to 10 people.</p> <p>\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION Conservator Benefits above plus: 8"x8" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 12"x12" color plaque on tour path with cat photo and donor name displayed for one year, and Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.</p> <p>\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS Conservator Benefits above plus: 12"x12" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 18"x24" Sign with big cat photo and donor name displayed on the tour path for one year, Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.</p>



BIG CAT BAN IN OHIO

By Carole Baskin

I knew that I was going to be surrounded by exotic animal owners who make both veiled and not so obscure threats such as, "before you bring me down...you will stop breathing!" I knew that they would be out en masse to object to a proposed law that would require that they register their wild animals and begin to act responsibly and humanely toward them. In April, the Senate committee voted 30 to 1 for a ban on owning big cats as pets. But rumor had it the House might be more inclined to perceive tigers as property rather than a danger and I felt that it was important to show them just how dangerous the conditions are where lions, tigers and other dangerous wild animals are kept in backyards.

I asked Marie Collart if she would be willing to testify. Marie had a unique perspective that was important for the decision makers to hear. Back in 2003 she had first met Joseph and Sasha 2 lions, along with 6 tigers who were



in the back yard of a Gambier, OH woman. Seeing the lack of funding, which was resulting in the inadequacy of housing and vet care, Marie did what she did best and started a non-profit organization called the Siberian Tiger Conservation Foundation. Her intent was to bring in a professional board, raise funds, and provide these big cats with proper care. Unfortunately Marie's efforts were taken advantage of by the owner, who used a lot of the money raised for the cats for herself, squandering the funds on plastic surgery.

Despite the fact that Marie was working on her largest grant writing

project of the year, she immediately agreed to testify on May 8th. She showed the House members adorable baby photos of Joseph the lion and contrasted them to the full size lion that he had grown into by age 3. Her point was to illustrate how people make bad decisions to buy these predators when they are cute and cuddly babies, only to find themselves in danger for their lives a few years later as the cats mature. Marie testified as to how often these owners had been trapped and in fear for their lives by the lions that they had bottle raised. She relayed a heart thumping account of how one of their trainers had been dragged across the compound by his foot.

Others, including Karen Minton of HSUS, Patty Finch the Executive Director of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, Cathy Cowan-Becker and her husband, the mother of a young man who was mauled to death at an Ohio compound by a bear, and the Sheriff who was in charge during the catastrophe in Zanesville gave excellent testimony as to why this bill is so necessary and so long over

due. My testimony was accompanied by 11 pages of photos; many from Ohio, of the conditions where lions, tigers and other wild cats are kept in backyards.

Animal lovers like us were, by far, in the minority at the hearings, which ran for 3 days straight. However the compelling testimony and example after example of inadequate living conditions and horrifying incidents state wide will surely persuade the House to support this ban on the trade of big cats, bears, giant pythons and other dangerous wild animals.

Stay tuned to see how the House votes. Check out CatLaws.com to see how you can help the big cats too.



Left and Above: Joseph lion, and Simba & Nikita tigers in Ohio back yard prior to being rescued by Big Cat Rescue in 2007

BIG DONATIONS FOR THE BIG CAT CLINIC!

Thanks to the very generous support of some wonderful friends in the healthcare industry as well as a Big Cat Rescue volunteer, our onsite Big Cat Hospital is now better equipped than ever to tend to the medical needs of the precious animals that call Big Cat Rescue home.



Employees at St. Anthony's and St. Joseph's Baycare hospitals recently heeded the call for medical equipment and literally leaped into action! Dean Waters at specialty healthcare supplier Tri-Anim and our friends Dave Wagner, Brigitte Ordonez, Brian Craig and Robyn Anderson helped provide a cordless/rechargeable set of electric clippers and 50 replacement blades as well as a Nonin 2500A Pulse Oximeter with lingual clips. The pulse oximeter is used to closely monitor a cat's heart rate and blood oxygen level while under sedation.

Our very own Senior Partner volunteer Pam Rodriguez generously funded the purchase of a Cardell BP Vet Specific Blood Pressure Monitor from Wendi Sitzmannm, Sales Representative with Midmark Corporation.



Also leaping into action in support of the cats was Mr. Stanley G. Tangelakis, Chairman, CEO of Mercury Medical in Clearwater, Florida and Product Specialists Dave Mieras and Steve Tyson. Their very generous donation of a Datascope Passport 2 Multi-parameter monitor and a Colin Blood Pressure and Pulse Oximeter will enable the sanctuary to provide the highest level of care for the big cats both in the Big Cat Hospital as well as in the field.

Everyone at Big Cat Rescue (especially the cats!) would like to extend a HUGE ROAR of gratitude in recognition of the generous support of these individuals and organizations!

FREE BIG CAT E CARDS BIGCATFUN.COM

Visit www.BigCatFun.com for tons of free e-cards, screensavers, wallpapers, games and more. Send the purrfect e-card for Fathers Day (6/17), and Independence Day! It's fun and free! There is always logs of new stuff being added, so check it out today and visit often!



PAVE THE WAY: HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

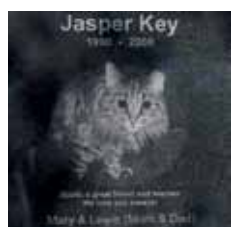


Engraved pathway bricks make a great gift for the purr-son in your life who has everything. The laser engraving changes the brick color to create the letters deep into the brick and will never wear off. There are two sizes, 4x8 for a donation of \$100 and 8x8 for a donation of \$200. What a great way to support the cats and create a memory for yourself or someone else. You can order on page 10, or online:

<http://tiny.cc/k8ey0>

FOREVER REMEMBERED

Permanently remember a beloved pet that has passed with an 8"x8" engraved granite plaque displayed on our memorial wall. These elegant plaques are normally \$500, but for a limited time, until July 31st, we are offering them at a reduced rate of \$250! <http://tinyurl.com/6tvoapv>



BIG CAT EASTER FUN!



From top: Jade leopard, Aspen cougar, Jumanji black leopard, Sassyfras cougar and Reno leopard



2012 S.A.V.E. WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Big Cat Rescuers who have been recognized this year for their outstanding commitment to the mission of Big Cat Rescue. In honor of this commitment they were each presented with an award called the S.A.V.E. and allotted \$500 to spend on their favorite feline friends.

S.A.V.E stands for Scratch's Award for Volunteer Excellence. Named for an outstanding cougar named Scratch, whose lifespan reached 30 years, the SAVE Award recognizes one volunteer or intern each month who is doing an outstanding job.



January - Barbara Riddle February - Becky Gagliardo



March
David
Putney

April
Kathryn
Quaas



Join our family - www.BigCatRescue.org/volunteer

SPRING BREAKERS TURN BIG CAT RESCUERS

The month of March is one of our busiest of the year due to Spring Break. This year we were lucky enough to be chosen by the University of Missouri's "Alternative Spring Break" program. Alternative Spring Break is a program where 12 students choose a place to help out and make a difference, all while having fun! In the past they have been involved with current issues like degradation of the environment, urban poverty, and helping the physically disabled.

Collectively, the Alternative Spring Breakers raised about \$4000 to cover all their expenses involved with their trip and were here for four days from early morning until late afternoon every day. They were such hard workers! Just when you'd think they would be ready to throw in the towel for the day, they'd turn to us with all smiles and say, "What's next?" They helped in nearly every area of the sanctuary, from preparing diets, assisting with tours and even cage building. It was such a pleasure having them here and we can't thank them enough!

BIG CAT RESCUER DR. B PARTICIPATES IN ACT SPAY DAY

Big Cat Rescue is proud to support local spay and neuter clinics with our Spay and Play Program. This program rewards individuals that have their pet spayed or neutered with a free tour pass to visit the sanctuary. So it was a natural fit to sponsor recent vet school grad Dr. Boorstein to participate in A.C.T.'s monthly Spay Day in April & May. More than 70 cats were spayed on Easter Sunday and 70 on Mother's Day thanks to the events.



<http://bigcatrescue.org/2011/spay-and-play>

BIG CAT TRUCK GETS OVERHAULED



The Toyota Tundra, which Big Cat Rescue won as part of the 100 Cars for Good Challenge, has been overhauled making it the purr-

fect vehicle to transport our furry charges to the vet. An extra tall topper was installed on the bed with limo tinting on the windows to keep the cats cool and provide a darkened space to make them feel safe. The entire bed of the truck was insulated, to muffle traffic noise and maintain cooler temperatures, and then covered with washable outdoor carpeting. The solid rear window of the cab was replaced with a sliding panel window that can be opened so cool air can pass into the back of the truck with the help of two custom fans. These modifications came at a price tag of nearly \$3,500, but are well worth it to provide the cats with safe and comfortable transportation.



University of Missouri's "Alternative Spring Breakers"

TINY GEOFFROY CATS TO MASSIVE TIGERS THEY ALL GET GREAT DENTAL CARE

From a 3-pound Geoffroy Cat to a 500-pound tiger, our dentists do it all. Dr. Peak has donated his services and that of his assistants for many years and we just cannot thank him enough. He has handled the bigger cats' teeth as his equipment is more specially designed for big teeth. If you need an expert, who just happens to love animals and be an awfully nice guy, then check him out at:

<http://thepetdentist.com/>

and was in the room at that awful moment. Dr. Boorstein, who was on the property, also rushed to the scene. Dr. Wynn leaped up onto the operating table and began chest compressions while the other vets administered reversal agents to try and bring him back.



During an extensive root canal on four of Andre the tiger's canines the very worst thing that could happen, did happen. Andre the tiger died on the table.

Later, after successfully reviving him, Dr. Miller said, "With that many vets in the room, nobody gets to go to the light."

Only two of Andre's canines were completed but temporary measures were made with his other two teeth and now that he is completely recovered we will be rescheduling the rest of his dental work with Dr. Peak very soon.



Our primary vet, Dr. Liz Wynn, is always here to assist during dentals and it just so happened that Dr. Miller, our eye expert, was here to check on some of her patients



Dr. Wynn does plenty of dental work in pet practice, so when Nico the Geoffroy Cat had an abscess on her cheek she was taken to Ehrlich

Animal Hospital. What made it very delicate work is the fact that Nico is the size of a domestic cat kitten and yet is 19 years old. Nico is very old for a Geoffroy Cat, so it was pretty scary to think of her being sedated, but she did



amazingly well. Due to her advanced age Dr. Wynn wasn't sure how well or quickly she would heal. But just a few days later Nico was back to her old self and was ready to go back outside to her enclosure. Nico's abscess has since completely healed and she appears to be feeling much better.

Clockwise from left; Andre, Dr. Miller examines Andre's eyes for research, Nico, Dr. Wynn extracts Nico's tooth, Dr. Peak performing a root canal on Andre

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE
WILD NEWS AT BIG CAT RESCUE**



WARNED IN 1983 AZA FINALLY CALLS FOR AN END TO THE PRACTICE OF BREEDING WHITE TIGERS AND WHITE LIONS

In June 2011 the board of directors for the American Zoological Association (AZA) formalized their 2008 ban on the breeding of white tigers, white lions or king cheetahs by their member zoos. Their report said,



"Breeding practices that increase the physical expression of single rare alleles (i.e., rare genetic traits) through intentional inbreeding, for example intentional breeding to achieve rare color-morphs such as

white tigers, deer, and alligators, has been clearly linked with various abnormal, debilitating, and, at times, lethal, external and internal conditions and characteristics, which are outlined in this paper." This change in policy came more than 12 years after Big Cat Rescue first released Dr. Laughlin's expose here: <http://tinyurl.com/7ymcug>

Because of the inbreeding and resulting genetic defects the American Zoological Association barred member zoos from breeding white tigers, white lions and king cheetahs in a white paper adopted by the board of directors in July 2011.

It is noteworthy that the first person to speak out against the displaying of white tigers was William Conway, director of the NY Zoological Association, which later became known as the Bronx zoo when he said, "White tigers are freaks. It's not the role of a zoo to show two headed calves and white tigers." He warned AZA in 1983 of the harm to

the zoo's credibility in catering to the public's fascination with freaks, but went unheeded until 2008 when AZA issued a request to their members to stop breeding white tigers and then later in July 2011 when the AZA formally adopted that stance as policy. Conway was attacked by Ed Maruska of the Cincinnati Zoo and other zoos that were profiting by inbreeding tigers to get white coats, but in the end Conway's belief was validated.



Left: White tigers are often born with a variety of defects associated with inbreeding. This tiger has major defects in the constructions of his face and jaw. Above: Scan the QR code to discover the truth about white tigers, Zabu the tiger discarded by the zoo industry