

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

# BIG CAT TIMES

WINTER 2015



[BIGCATRESCUE.ORG](http://BIGCATRESCUE.ORG) SUNDARI - LEOPARD





## A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

*Jamie Veronica*

The newly redesigned Big Cat Times was a roaring hit! Our supporters have been flooding us with calls and emails telling us how much they loved the most recent issue.

We wish we could say everything went off without a hitch. However, soon after the Big Cat Times hit mail boxes we started receiving notices that some people received more than one copy. You can read more about this little mishap and

what we are doing to correct it on the next page.

Things have been so busy here at the sanctuary. We have been absolutely inundated with rain, so projects have fallen behind. Any time the weather is clear the sanctuary is abuzz with staff, volunteers, and interns who are sprucing up enclosures and keeping the property landscaped.

The biggest and most exciting project that has been slowed by the daily downpours is the construction of the Little Cat Fun Enclosure. This massive enclosure will have a huge cave den, fun new toys, climbing platforms, lots of soft grass, plenty of bushes to play in and will be completely roofed. The little cats will take turns vacationing in this new space as will the leopards (because they must be housed in a roofed enclosure). We are excited for the completion of the Little Cat Fun Enclosure and are happy to report the walls are finished and work on the roof has begun.

In other exciting news, we are providing shelter to 4 new big cats; 3 tigers and a leopard. These cats and others are the subject of a lawsuit involving a state agency who confiscated them. Big Cat Rescue is providing a home during the lawsuit and hopes to provide a permanent home for them when the suit is resolved. We will share more details about these 4 big cats when we can.

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



Big Cat Rescue, one of the world's largest 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 85 lions, tigers, bobcats, cougars, servals and other species of exotic cats, most of whom have been abandoned, abused, orphaned, saved from the fur trade, or retired from performing acts.

The sanctuary, located on 67 acres in the Citrus Park area of north Tampa, was founded in 1992 and is a 501c3 charity.

Big Cat Rescue is accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries, certified by Independent Charities of America as a "Best in America Charity", a member of the World Society for Protection of Animals, rated 4 Stars by Charity Navigator, and is part of a global coalition including HSUS, IFAW, WWF, GFAS, Born Free and other animal protection groups working together to end big cat abuse.

Read more about Big Cat Rescue and the cats who call it home at: [BigCatRescue.org](http://BigCatRescue.org)

Tour Info: [Zerve.com/BigCatRescue](http://Zerve.com/BigCatRescue)

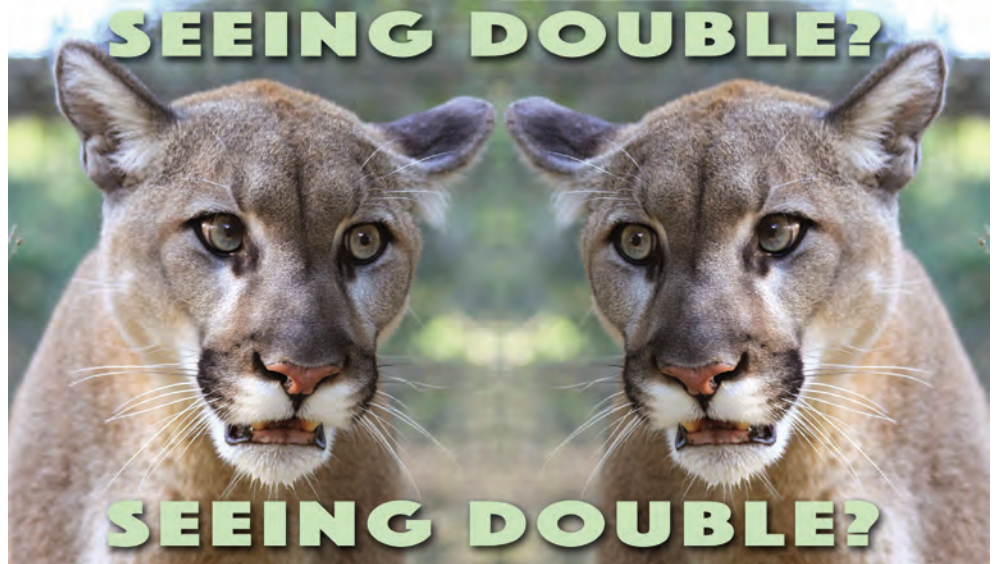


## DID YOU RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE ISSUE?

Last month you received the first issue of the Big Cat Times in the new format with an article about the change. The new format has gotten wonderfully positive feedback.

What we did not explain at the time was that in addition to changing the format, and therefore the printer and mailing service, we were also in the process of changing our donor information software that generates the mailing list.

Vendors always say these transitions will be "seamless." Unfortunately, they rarely are. Despite doing testing on the list generated, we found that the process of "deduping" did not work well and quite a few people received more than one issue.



We are now going through a manual process to correct these duplications. If you received more than one issue this time, it would be hugely helpful and lower our cost if you could email [Info@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:Info@BigCatRescue.org) and let us know. If the way the issues are addressed is different, it would help if you can advise how the names appeared and which you prefer.

The new format also delayed the Fall issue from being mailed on schedule, which is why you are receiving this Winter issue without much time having passed.

Now we will be back on the usual quarterly schedule. Thanks so much for your understanding and help in correcting the mail list and for your support of Big Cat Rescue.

*Cameron does not share his turkey with Zabu*



*Keisha checking to see if her turkey is ready*

## TURKEY TIME



*Alex*





# FEDERAL BILL

**If you take just ONE action for  
big cats this year, this should be IT!**

*"In the End, we will remember  
not the words of our enemies, but  
the silence of our friends."*

*- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

It typically takes building momentum over a number of congressional two year sessions to get a bill through Congress. Building that momentum is exactly what we are doing with your help. The Big Cat Public Safety Act was first introduced late in the 2012 session but still ended the session with 60 cosponsors in the House. By the end of the 2014 session the number had almost doubled to 119 cosponsors, over 25% of the House members!

In late July Carole and Howard went to Washington to meet the aides who work for our bill sponsors.

On September 17, 2015 the bill was reintroduced in the House. In addition to our lead sponsors, the six Republicans below stood up boldly for animals by signing on as "original" cosponsors before the bill was introduced.

Blake Farenthold R-TX-27

Michael Fitzpatrick R-PA-8

Rodney Frelinghuysen R-NJ-11

David Jolly R-FL-13

Frank LoBiondo R-NJ-2

Fred Upton R-MI-6

In addition, the following Representatives have signed on to cosponsor after the bill was introduced as of the date this issue went to the printer.

Duncan Hunter R-CA-50

Dennis Ross R-FL-15

Zoe Lofgren D-CA-19

Julia Brownley D-CA 26

Joyce Beatty D-OH-3

To see a current list of cosponsors go to **[BigCatRescue.org/House](http://BigCatRescue.org/House)**

If you live in the district of Representatives Jones or Sanchez or any of these cosponsors, it would be a huge help if you would call or email and thank them for

supporting the bill. It is very important that they hear that their support is important to their own constituents!

Your support makes a big difference!



*Howard meeting with aide Maggie Ayres in the office of our Republican lead sponsor Rep. Walter Jones*



*Howard & Carole with aide James Mikolowsky in the office of our Democratic lead sponsor in the Senate, Sen. Richard Blumenthal*





*Howard meeting with aide Kyle Glenn in the office of Rep. Dennis Ross who represents FL District just east of Big Cat Rescue and has cosponsored the bill*



*Howard meeting with aide Wendy Hamilton who works for our own Representative Kathy Castor*



Questions? Email: [Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org)



StopBigCatAbuse



CongressLookUp

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# BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT (H.R. 3546)

**Your calls and emails to Congress can end the abuse. Please take 5 minutes to speak up for captive big cats!**

Big cats – an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 – languish in deplorable conditions in backyards, roadside zoos and traveling exhibits throughout the United States. Tigers and lions should not be pets. They should not be bred and exploited just to make money. While some states have regulations that attempt to protect big cats, decades of experience have proven they are not working. The only solution is to ban private breeding and ownership of big cats. Below are facts about the problem and about the solution – the Big Cat Public Safety Act. **YOU** can help end the misery these big cats endure every day of their lives by taking just a few minutes to follow the easy instructions listed here. Let your federal legislators know **YOU CARE** about these magnificent animals and urge them to cosponsor this bill. Please be their voice!

**Why Federal Regulation Does Not Work:** At the federal level, the Animal Welfare Act charges USDA with creating “minimum standards” for keeping big cats and enforcing those standards. But these very weak rules only apply to owners who “exhibit” the animals, i.e. charge the public to see them. The rules still allow

conditions those of us who love animals would consider cruel and abusive. When an exhibitor violates the rules, USDA may issue a citation but horrible facilities are often cited year after year with no consequences. A few are finally taken to court, but because USDA has limited legal resources, most court cases are settled for minimal fines. Very few owners ever lose their exhibitor’s license. Even worse, there are no federal rules for people who keep the animals as pets in tiny cages in backyards.

Even when an exhibitor’s license is revoked, the animals are not usually confiscated – they remain in the same horrible conditions. And some of these owners just continue to operate under another person’s license. Meantime, tiger cubs are routinely ripped from their mothers at birth, deprived of sleep and physically punished so exhibitors can make money charging people to pet them, take photos with them, and forcing cubs to swim with people – despite the “regulations” that are supposed to protect these innocent cubs. USDA inspectors do not conduct undercover investigations, so they don’t see most of the abuse cubs suffer, such as being punched in the face. But undercover videos by others show it.

**Why State Regulation Does Not Work:** At the state level, the trend has been to ban private ownership, recognizing these dangerous animals should not be pets. But most state laws exempt people who have a USDA exhibitor’s license. A 2010 audit of USDA by the Office of

Inspector General found 70% of private owners with 4 or less cats were actually just pet owners. They obtained a USDA exhibitor license simply to evade the state law.

A few states in recent years have passed better bans that do not exempt USDA licensees. But owners can just move to another state with lax regulations. Some states still have no laws whatsoever. But even in states with “regulations,” the efforts to insure proper care of the big cats suffer from the same ineffectiveness as the federal regulations.

We taxpayers spend millions each year to inspect tigers living in miserable conditions in tiny cages in back yards and road side zoos and still the animals suffer. Decades of very expensive experience shows that for the reasons outlined above, regulation simply does not and cannot work.

**Public Safety - the Spark That Lit the Flame:** The debate over private ownership of big cats garnered front-page national media attention in 2011 when the owner of a backyard menagerie in Ohio opened the cages of his tigers, leopards, lions, wolves, bears and monkeys before committing suicide. Local police, who were neither trained nor properly equipped to deal with such a dangerous situation, were forced to shoot and kill nearly 50 animals – 38 of them big cats – before the animals could reach populated areas. For many in America, it was the first time they had considered



the deadly consequences of private ownership of big cats. America's eyes were opened. In the past two decades alone, U.S. incidents involving captive big cats have resulted in 23 deaths – 5 of them children – and an additional 252 people being mauled. During that time 266 big cats escaped their cages, 146 were killed and 133 were confiscated.

### **Key Provisions of the Big Cat Public Safety Act:**

This bill will end private possession and breeding of big cats with very limited exemptions. Current owners will be grandfathered in but must register their cats. This will allow first responders called to a fire or burglary to know how many dangerous cats they may face. Zoos which meet the accrediting standards of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums are also exempt. AZA zoos meet the highest standards of care in the industry and only breed pure subspecies of big cats that genetically may have conservation value. Sanctuaries that meet the definition in the bill (i.e. true sanctuaries, not road side zoos claiming to be sanctuaries) are also exempt.

**YOU can make a difference by taking a few minutes to ask your House Representative to Co-Sponsor the Act. It's easy!**

**Step 1:** GotoStopBigCatAbuse.com and enter your zip code. You will see a pre-written email message and the name and contact information of your House Representative.

**Step 2:** Call the phone number listed and one of your Representative's aides will answer. If you prefer, you can call at night or on the weekend and just leave a voice message. Phone calls are ENORMOUSLY effective because so few people call Congress! Say the following or something similar: "I live in the district in zip code \_\_\_\_\_ and I want to urge your boss to cosponsor the Big Cat Public Safety Act. The bill number is HR 3546. Thank you."

**Step 3:** Fill in your contact information beneath the pre-written email message. **NOTE:** Your message will be much more effective if you change the Subject line a little bit (keep the bill numbers in it though) and add your own simple first sentence so it will not be perceived as a "form" letter, which has less impact. Hit the submit button.

### **EVERY CALL AND EMAIL HELPS!**

If enough constituents (VOTERS) call and email, legislators will take notice. Legislators have many bills coming at them. The best way this bill will get their attention is for them to know that MANY of their constituents care. The only way they know you care is through your calls and emails.

These abused animals like the tiger pictured at right cannot speak. They need us to speak up for them.

**PLEASE BE THEIR VOICE!**







*Artemis, Orion, and Ares, born October 2005, were orphaned after a hunter shot and killed their mother in Idaho*

## COUGAR CUB ENCLOSURE PROJECT

The enclosures at Big Cat Rescue are constructed of welded steel wire panels. These panels are double galvanized which helps protect the metal from the elements. However here in Florida we get a LOT of rain and humidity. So we take the preservation of our enclosure wire one step further and seal the enclosures with a paint that is specifically designed to prevent rusting. The dark brown paint not only helps protect the wire it also softens the look of the caging making it easier to see the beautiful cats who call Big Cat Rescue home.

As you can imagine, painting the enclosures can be a tedious and messy project. We are so grateful for our dedicated team of volunteers, interns, and corporate and social club work groups that give their time to help us keep our enclosures in peak condition.

In order to paint the enclosure the resident cat must be locked away in a separate part of their enclosure or moved to another temporary enclosure. Moving the cat can be very enriching as he or she will have an entirely new area with different views and lots to investigate.

Preparation is one of the most time consuming components of painting the enclosures. The

walls and roof must be cleared of sticks, leaves, vines, and all of the nearby vegetation must be trimmed back. In many places trees are growing up through the roofs of the enclosure. These are inspected and the wire around the trunk of the tree replaced as needed to allow for the future growth of the tree. Then all of the wire is scrubbed by hand to remove any dust or dirt. Dens and ponds are covered with tarps to prevent paint from getting on them.

Next the enclosure is painted using rollers. This is the messiest part because the rollers rolling over the wire drips and sprays paint onto the painter. In order to protect the painter's clothes and skin "fashionable" disposable gowns are worn.

Once all of the enclosure walls and the roof have been rolled with paint the seams where the wire panels are connected to one another are spray painted. The rollers don't quite get into the nooks and crannies of the seams. The spray paint completely covers and seals these areas.

After the entire cage is completely painted all of the leaves on the ground are raked up and the



*Orion, Ares, and Artemis celebrated their 10th birthday this October*



foliage is carefully inspected for paint. Any plants that may have been splattered with paint are trimmed back or removed.

Lastly the enclosure is prepared for the return of its resident. Log forts or jungle gyms may be installed, toys will be swapped, and enrichment thoughtfully placed.

Our most recent enclosure to be painted was that of the three "cougar cubs". Ares, Orion, and Artemis are 10 years old now, but they have affectionately been referred to as the "cubs" their whole life. (This is amusing in a way because baby cougars are actually called kittens, not cubs.)

The cubs' enclosure is very large with approximately 40,000 square feet of wire panels. Due to the massive size it took the combined

sections of their enclosure. This meant that they were not visible from the tour path and could not play with one another nor snuggle together in their dens as they often do.



efforts of volunteers, interns and work groups months to complete the project due to persistent rains. Because there was not another enclosure suitable to house all three cougars they were locked into three separate and smaller

We were so happy when this project was finally completed. The tour path was not the same without their chirping cheerful faces. Ares, Orion, and Artemis were happy too. They made quick work of exploring every inch of their regained territory and wasted no time greeting one another with mews and purrs.

For information on how you can help us with important projects like this visit us online at:

**[BigCatRescue.org/get-involved](http://BigCatRescue.org/get-involved)**

## CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND THE CATS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR TREES & PRESENTS





# BIG CAT RESCUE INTERNS

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Big Cat Rescue's Intern Program is comprised of 5 levels of training that brings individuals from around the world to learn vital skills in animal husbandry. While some are looking to gain experience to pursue a career in the animal field others are simply grasping the opportunity to work with big cats.

Volunteering is a great addition to any resume, can be highly rewarding and a way of gaining new skills. Below are testimonials from two former BCR interns about their experience and how it helped them take the next step in their chosen field.

### Alex Walsh - England, UK Interned 2013-2014

"What attracted me the most to Big Cat Rescue



*Operant training session at Big Cat Rescue*



*Alex in Kuiburi National Park, Thailand*

*"Last week I set camera traps in a tropical rain forest with WWF! Something I've dreamed of doing ALL my life!" - Alex Walsh*



was the mission statement, which completely reflects my own beliefs. While interning there I felt a new sense of purpose and the most fulfilled I have ever been. I developed valuable skills working both around the animals and the public, I was able to learn and then educate others about

the plight of these animals and share my passion. Following my BCR internship I was accepted for an internship with the World Wildlife Fund. I am currently two months into a communications internship with WWF's

Tigers Alive Initiative living in Bangkok, Thailand. Working for WWF means that I am constantly reading, hearing and talking about nature. There is so much amazing field work being undertaken every day and lots of inspiring projects across the globe. It's great to be able to take the knowledge I gained at Big Cat Rescue and apply it to my future career"



*Eliza Oquaye - Pre-Vet at UK*

### Eliza Oquaye - Kentucky, USA Interned in 2015

"I am currently a biology student at the University of Kentucky with plans to become a wildlife veterinarian. I interned at Big Cat Rescue during summer vacation. For veterinary school it



*Big Cat Rescue Interns show their team spirit at our annual Wildcat Walkabout*



is beneficial to have experience in the field you wish to pursue and Big Cat Rescue provided me just that. I was able to observe veterinary procedures on the big cats and speak with the two volunteer veterinarians to gain advice and guidance for my future career. Having the 12 weeks of



Eliza assisting with veterinary exam of Apollo lynx

voluntary work is great for my vet school application. Aside from working with the cats, Big Cat Rescue helped to build my confidence as an individual and develop my interpersonal skills. I highly recommend both the sanctuary and intern program."



If you are interested in becoming an intern at Big Cat Rescue or would like to find out more information, visit our website

**BigCatRescue.org/intern/**



VISIT OUR ONLINE GIFT SHOP AT [BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ](http://BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ) - WINTER 2015 - BIG CAT TIMES 11

**YOUR SUPPORT  
PROVIDES THEM  
A GREAT LIFE**



**2015  
IS ALMOST  
OVER**

**KEEP THE CATS IN MIND WHEN MAKING  
YOUR YEAR END DONATIONS**







## BEASTLY APPETITES

Zeus tiger

Big Cat Rescue is home to 85 cats who consume a combined 500 lbs of food every single day. Each day there is a different menu geared towards meeting the nutritional needs of every cat from 300 lb tigers to a 3 lb sand cat as well as providing variety for mental stimulation.

The staple of most every day's menu is a ground diet that is comprised of muscle and organ meat and fortified with vitamins and minerals. This ground diet is complemented with chicken leg quarters for the big cats and chicken wings or necks for the little cats. On alternating days the boned chicken is replaced with boneless chicken to switch things up and give the cats a different texture to enjoy. The big cats also receive large slabs of beef and some of the little cats

with bigger appetites dine on smaller beef chunks. The chicken and beef fed to the cats is USDA inspected and labeled for human consumption. Only the best will do for our resident felines. Two days a week are whole prey days. On these days the cats receive humanely euthanized whole prey. This part of their diet is very important as vitamins and minerals can not exactly mimic the quality nutrition provided from consuming whole prey. In addition to the benefits of the bone and organ meat consumed, the fur helps to clean out the digestive tract as it moves through the intestines and colon.

Some of our cats are on special diets because of

dietary restrictions, additional supplements, dental issues (no longer having teeth needed to crush bones), or just plain pickiness. For instance Genie the sand cat cannot digest big bones. In the wild sand cats would eat thin boned animals like lizards or gerbils. Because of this Genie does not get chicken wings or other pieces chicken with big bones. Sheena the serval has chronic digestive issues. She cannot keep many kinds of food down, however, she does seem to both enjoy and tolerate fish. Little Feather is a very old bobcat at 22 years. She has had several bad teeth removed over the years and has become quite a finicky eater. Little Feather demands a variety of several types of food, multiple times a day. Each morning and evening keepers present her with a plate of chopped up beef, chicken, pork, lamb, or livers that she picks over. The food is weighed before and after each meal so that keepers can make sure she is eating enough. Aspen the cougar has mild arthritis. To



Amanda & Karma prepare special diets

help maintain healthy joints she receives a supplement every day called Cosequin. This supplement is added to the food ahead of



time and kept separate from the rest of the food for the cats on her feeding route.

Food preparation is a big task that must be completed daily in order to ensure that each cat's meal is ready to go at feeding time in the morning.

We have two large freezers where the meats are stored and a large walk in cooler where the meat is thawed. Every day Big Cat Rescuers must pull the



appropriate types and amounts of food from the freezers and move it to the cooler for thawing. Thawed foods are counted and divided into buckets labeled for each feeding route. Meanwhile all of the special diets, 13 in total, are prepared and stored in individual bins.

Breakfast time is when all of the cats are the most active as they await the arrival of their meal. The entire sanctuary is divided into four feeding routes. 2-4 volunteers and interns are assigned to each route and are responsible for feeding every cat on their route. Every route has a daily feeding sheet that lists the animal's name and the types and amounts of food it is supposed to



receive that day. Keepers refer to these sheets throughout the feeding process to ensure that every cat receives the correct diet.

Because the cats are up and active just before being fed this is the best time for keepers to observe overall behavior. As the cat approaches the feeding lockout (a small cage attached to the side of the enclosure) the keeper can observe for limping or changes in gait. Once the cat is in the feeding lockout the keeper can see the cat from all sides and inspect for injuries and check the condition of the skin, eyes, and ears. Once the cat is fed the keeper will observe the first few bites to ensure that the cat's appetite is normal and there are no problems with chewing the food.

After all of the cats have been fed the volunteers and interns log any necessary observations on each individual animal's chart. These observations are checked multiple times a day by staff and relevant observations are reported to our veterinary team.

The feeding of the cats is a coordinated effort among volunteers, interns, staff, and veterinarians, each playing a critical role. In addition the support of donors like you ensures that we are able to provide a high quality diet to keep every single cat happy and in peak condition.

If you would like to shadow our keepers and observe the cats being fed while learning about their dietary needs and how they hunt in the wild you should consider our Feeding Tour. This 1 hour tour is the purr-fect way to see the cats up close when they are the most active. Gift certificates for this tour also make grrr-reat holiday gifts.

**FEEDING TOUR TICKETS**  
**1-888-316-5875**  
**Zerve.com/BigCatRescue**

**GIFT CERTIFICATES**  
**BigCatRescue.biz**





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Green or Orange S, M, L, & XL  
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S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



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Medium Socks fit Women 6-11 & Men 5-10  
**\$9.49 ea.** Choose Shorty Tiger made with  
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BCR Photo Collage License Plate Frame  
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2-sided acrylic key chain is 2"  
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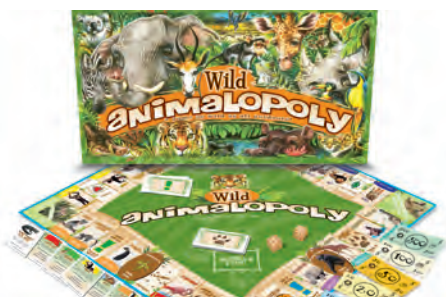
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# **THE GREAT PUMPKIN VISITS BIG CAT RESCUE**







# WAYS TO HELP

[bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/](http://bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/)

## VISIT THE CATS

### TOUR TIMES & PROGRAMS

Reservations Required For All Tours

[www.zerve.com/bigcatrescue](http://www.zerve.com/bigcatrescue)

**(888) 316-5875**

Closed Thursdays, Thanksgiving & Christmas

Tours may be canceled due to inclement weather

### KIDS TOUR

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

### DAY TOUR

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

### FEEDING TOUR

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

### BIG CAT KEEPER TOUR

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

### GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR ALL TOURS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ](http://BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ)

*Prices and availability for all tours are subject to change. Visit us online for the most current tour information.*

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## PROJECT CATER-WALL

The perimeter of the sanctuary is 7,200 feet. We have completed construction on 2/3 of this project, and need your help to finish the remaining 2,300 feet. You can sponsor 1 linear foot of wall for \$100. For your donation you will receive a BCR screensaver, 2-for-1 Tour Pass, and name listed on donor sign.

## BIG CAT WISHLIST

Donate a new or used item from our wishlist online at: <http://tinyurl.com/n42yjmh>



## AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop on Amazon? Select Big Cat Rescue as your designated charity at: [smile.amazon.com/](http://smile.amazon.com/)

Everything is the same as it is at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that a donation will be made to the big cats for every purchase you make using this portal. It's a free and easy way to give without any extra cost!





# THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM Winter 2015

**BILLING ADDRESS** (please print)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE
AUTOMATIC GIVING PROGRAM - SUSTAINING DONOR SOCIETY	Please charge my card this amount each month:			
PAVE THE WAY BRICK (See description and instructions below)		4X8	\$100	
PAVE THE WAY BRICK (See description and instructions below)		8X8	\$200	
PERIMETER WALL		1 FOOT	\$100	
			<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD INFO:**



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

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

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

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

**PAVE THE WAY BRICK:** Laser engraved bricks line the paths leading to our Trading Post Gift Shop and to the entrance of the tour path. 4" x 8" Brick: 29 characters per line, total of 5 lines OR heart or paw print symbol, 14 characters, total of 5 lines. 8" x 8" Brick: 14 characters per line, total of 6 lines OR With heart or paw print symbol, 14 characters, total of 4 lines. To order complete form above and include personalization in provided area.

**PERIMETER WALL FUND:** To best protect our big cats we have constructed a solid perimeter wall surrounding the property. While the construction is complete we are still below our fundraising goal. \$100 funds 1 linear foot of wall. Donors will be recognized on a permanent sign at the sanctuary.

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



# DONATIONS

Received Jul 1st - Sep 30th

The Spurlino Foundation \$40,000  
 Estate of Margerie Rhodes \$35,864  
 Charles Rutenberg Realty Inc. \$10,000  
 Thomas M Neal Foundation Trust \$7,500  
 Ferguson Foundation \$5,000  
 Piper Mongan Properties LLC \$5,000  
 S. Balolia Family Foundation \$5,000  
 Stanley & Lucy Lopata Charitable Foundation In Memory of Katie Rose Borenstein \$5,000  
 Lawrence & Pamela Trissel \$5,000  
 Candida & Dennis Covington \$2,600  
 Emily Landecker Foundation Inc. \$2,500  
 Brian & Martie Zuckerman \$2,500  
 Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill \$2,264  
 Lutheran Church of the Cross Day School \$2,238  
 Stefanie Kraus \$2,125  
 Linda LaMaire \$2,000  
 Peter Mynard \$2,000  
 Pankhurst House, Charters School \$1,980  
 Pamela Rodriguez \$1,500  
 Mary Yang \$1,500  
 Royal Manticoran Navy \$1,185  
 Lorelei & Robert Hickman \$1,030  
 George Antaki \$1,000  
 Barrette Family Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation \$1,000  
 Susan Dockery \$1,000  
 Jon & Cynthia Gruden \$1,000  
 Linda Harris \$1,000  
 Nikki Holbrook \$1,000  
 Virginia Johnson, DVM \$1,000  
 Dwight & Kimberly Lowell \$1,000  
 Lynn Russell Advised Fund at Aspen Community Foundation \$1,000  
 Sole Marittimi \$1,000  
 Joseph J. Marotti Jr. \$1,000  
 June Mayeda \$1,000  
 Lisa Mustapich \$1,000  
 Sharon Panasuk \$1,000  
 Carol Partridge \$1,000  
 Philip Paustian \$1,000  
 ResQWalk through Pet360 Media Inc. \$1,000  
 Jennifer IDEXX Tampa Lab \$1,000  
 Pete & Tracy Snow \$1,000  
 Shari Sawyer \$925  
 Akbar Ali \$900  
 Suzanne & Alan Lucas \$900  
 CrossFit Jaguar \$750  
 Tony Ficarra \$750  
 Carolyn Inman \$750  
 The Body Shop Foundation \$730

Kirk & Aileen Davis \$700  
 Frank & Mavis Ainsleigh \$600  
 Carrollwood Area Business Assoc. Inc. \$600  
 Steven Carter \$600  
 Sunshine Benoit \$550  
 Aaron's Inc. \$500  
 Caroline Abrom \$500  
 Philip & Christina Berler \$500  
 William & Donna Brown \$500  
 Critters In Need Inc \$500  
 Shirali & Jigar Desai \$500  
 Linda Dipane \$500  
 Janice Elliott \$500  
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 Victor Herrmann \$500  
 Kathleen Jolliff \$500  
 Los Alamos National Security LLC \$500  
 Carol McGehee \$500  
 Shelley McVicker \$500  
 Marina Newby \$500  
 Arthur (Thor) Ostergard \$500  
 Karen Page \$500  
 Sheila Sideman & Jerry Palin \$500  
 Theresa Patterson \$500  
 PennyMac Loan Services LLC \$500  
 Maya Rainey \$500  
 Stephen & Alice Valentine \$500  
 Linda Van Valkenburg \$500  
 Athena Wallinder \$500  
 Glenn Williams \$500  
 Sindhu Mathew \$450  
 Matthew Glass \$405  
 Anne & Bob Holdredge \$400  
 Robert Irvin \$400  
 Victor Lebedovych \$400  
 Larry Sam Moore \$400  
 Betsie Scott \$400  
 Susan Vorchheimer \$400  
 Mei Mei Wong \$400  
 Charity Challenge Inc. \$375  
 Robert Fish \$365  
 Tracy Bruce \$350  
 William Konopaske \$350  
 Jennifer Marler \$350  
 David Fulk \$340  
 Alberto G. Canton \$330  
 Eugenia VanBremen \$330  
 Ellen Bunch \$300  
 Patty Cake \$300  
 Ruth Childers \$300  
 Danielle Cugini \$300  
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 Alex Drugos \$300  
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 Kathleen Walker \$250  
 Kristen Wilhelm \$250

Diane Worley \$250  
 Debora & Virginia Greene Modra \$225  
 Florida Estates Winery \$223  
 James Aikens \$200  
 Kirsten Belgum \$200  
 David & Kim Blasco \$200  
 Amy G. Brown \$200  
 Tjoman Buditaslim \$200  
 William Cuff \$200  
 Greg (PHS) Deiser \$200  
 Lois Dixon \$200  
 Sally Dowdle \$200  
 Albert Duro \$200  
 Tracey Folsom \$200  
 Gayle & Richard Franta \$200  
 Robert Glowacki \$200  
 Carol Good \$200  
 Darla Haines \$200  
 Laura & James Hampton \$200  
 Robin Hays \$200  
 Arvin & Susa Heilman \$200  
 Michael Heintze \$200  
 Meghan Hendricks \$200  
 Terry Hess \$200  
 Lori Hicks-Postar \$200  
 Dawn Howell \$200  
 Christopher Jordan \$200  
 Wendy Love \$200  
 Jim Lynch \$200  
 Lynn Matoush \$200  
 Mary Elizabeth McCahon \$200  
 Reuben McGlynn \$200  
 Jill McGrath \$200  
 Martha Morandi \$200  
 Sheila & Brent Morgan \$200  
 Mary Nall \$200

Jeffrey & Roberta Newton \$200  
 Barbara Orloff \$200  
 Alison Pepper \$200  
 Rajiv & Anjly Rajani \$200  
 Mary Raymond \$200  
 Rita Reimer \$200  
 Ron & Erin Rinto \$200  
 Sean Robbins \$200  
 Michele Ross \$200  
 Lesley Sigall \$200  
 John & Margaret Skenyon \$200  
 Ed & Laura Strickland \$200  
 Tanya Tetu \$200  
 Mark Thomason \$200  
 Starla Trivilino \$200  
 Robert C. Tullius \$200  
 Louise Wilker \$200  
 Michael & Rebecca Winters \$200  
 Jessica Woehle \$200

Thank you for your support! If your donation came toward the end of the quarter, it may not have been entered into our database in time for this newsletter and will appear in the next. Donation data entry is manual and subject to occasional errors, so if your donation should appear and does not, please email:

Chelsea.Feeny@BigCatRescue.org

so we can investigate and correct our records if there is an omission.

What has made possible our continued efforts to give the best possible care for the cats, including investments like the new cat hospital and the vacation rotation enclosures, is the steady increase in the number of supporters. The challenge this has created is that the list of supporters donating \$100 or more during the quarter has grown to a point where it is not practical or cost effective to print all of the names in the printed issue of the Big Cat Times. To manage this but still show our appreciation, from this issue forward, donors of \$200 or more will be listed in the print edition, and donors of \$100 - \$199 will be appended to the digital version which is emailed and available permanently online. Thanks so much, first for your generous support, and second for your understanding this effort to limit our printing costs. - Howard Baskin, Treasurer



# GR-R-REAT GIFT IDEAS

## SPONSOR A CAT



All kits include: 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. The sponsor levels below include these additional benefits and donor recognition:

**\$25 BIG CAT BUDDY – KIDS:**  
Wildcat coloring pages,  
1 Kid Tour Pass

**\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER:**  
10% off card

**\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND:**  
10% off card, 1 Day Tour Pass

**\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR:** 10% off card, 2 Day Tour Pass, 30 mailing labels

**\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR:** 10% off card, 2 Day Tour Pass, 60 mailing labels

**\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR:**  
Conservator benefits plus 4"x4" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 6"x12" engraved sign displayed on tour path, Private Tour for 10

**\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO:** Conservator benefits plus 6"x6" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 9"x12" engraved sign displayed on tour path, Private Tour for 10

**\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION:**  
Conservator benefits plus 8"x8" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 12"x12" photo donor sign displayed on tour path, Private Founder Tour for 10

**\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS:**  
Conservator benefits plus 12"x12" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 18"x24" photo donor sign displayed on tour path, Private Founder Tour for 10

**NEED A LAST MINUTE GIFT?**  
**DOWNLOAD KITS ONLINE AT**  
**BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ**

## PAVE THE WAY

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

**ORDER TODAY!**  
8"x8" \$200  
Your Name or Company Logo Here

4"x8" \$100  
Your Name Here

**BigCatRescue.biz**  
Now available Heart Bricks!

*The Roar Reserve*

[www.BenefitWines.com/bigcat](http://www.BenefitWines.com/bigcat)

## NEW ARRIVALS & HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

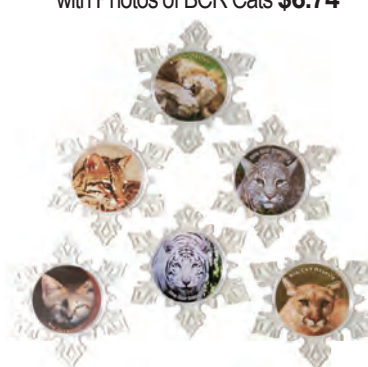
Big Cat Collage Mousepad **\$15.84**



Joseph Paw Painting Mug 15oz **\$15.84**



Acrylic Snow Flake Ornaments with Photos of BCR Cats **\$6.74**



Bronze Photo Realistic BCR Ornament **\$11.56**





# RUTENBERG CASINO NIGHT RAISES \$10,000 FOR THE CATS

In September Charles Rutenberg Realty held a wonderful casino night that drew over 300 people filling the space to capacity. The room was filled with whoops and laughter as guests gambled away the night on casino tables provided by DanMar Productions, including the customized big cat roulette wheel and table. Guests enjoyed



Rewards, a local nonprofit devoted to providing benefits to returning veterans. Each

offices located in Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and Clearwater with over 4,000 agents. They also have offices in Chicago, Manhattan and Long Island.



Our sincere thanks to JoAnn and John Nestor and their staff for holding this wonderful event to benefit the cats!

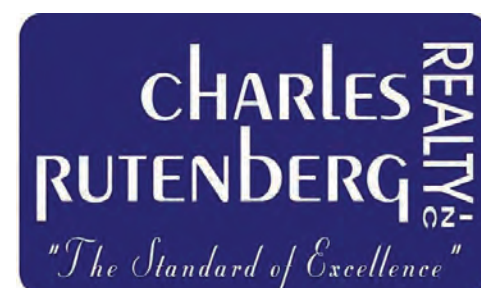
a fabulous buffet provided by Safety Harbor Resort and Spa and raffle prizes announced all during the night. The cat themed table décor with the adorable boot centerpieces gave the entire event wonderful big cat elegance.



The event had two beneficiaries, Big Cat Rescue and Troop

nonprofit received \$10,000 in proceeds from the event. Charles Rutenberg Realty is a sponsor of TJ the tiger, seen here returning to his enclosure after his turn on "vacation" in our 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation Enclosure.

Charles Rutenberg Realty is the largest Real Estate Company in Florida, with three







Sabre the Black Leopard

## C1 BANK OPERATIONS STAFF VISIT

C1 Bank gave their operations staff a break from the number crunching and transaction processing to organize a day where staff and their families toured Big Cat Rescue and then had a picnic with face painting and games for the youngsters. C1 has been a major donor to Big Cat Rescue, helping to fund both of our solar panel projects and sponsoring Sabre the black leopard. We were delighted to have more of their employees see firsthand the wonderful animals the bank has helped us give the best possible home. Pictured here is some of the group with Kali the tiger posing cooperatively.

## VOLUNTEERS AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION

Congratulations to the following Big Cat Rescuers who have been recognized for their outstanding commitment to the mission of Big Cat Rescue. In honor of this service they were each presented with 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, Scratch, whose lifespan reached 30 years, the SAVE Award is presented to one outstanding volunteer or intern each month. Please join us in congratulating the following S.A.V.E. winners!

There are so many important tasks here at Big Cat Rescue and Senior Keeper Maureen Calderon has



gone above and beyond to manage one of the most important and most fun duties, enrichment. Maureen has stepped up to lead the enrichment team in their efforts to design and make enrichment for all of the big cats every Wednesday night. In addition she has also taken on the responsibility of keeping the enrichment building clean and organized.

Big Cat Rescuer Angie Gabor is a stellar example of our dedicated



volunteers. Angie has dedicated nearly 8 years towards the care of the cats and during this time has also taken on the role as coordinator on the weekends. She is a positive role model for those that report to her and truly cares for each and every cat. Thank you so much and congratulations!

Big Cat Rescue is so lucky to have outstanding volunteers and interns who give not only their time to help the big cats, but also go above and beyond.

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

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



## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: LEOPARDS



**Population:** The leopard is an adaptable, widespread species that nonetheless has many threatened subpopulations. While still numerous and even thriving in some marginal habitats from which other big cats have disappeared in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, in North Africa leopards are on the verge of extinction.

There are no reliable continent-wide estimates of population size in Africa, and the most commonly cited estimate of over 700,000 leopards in Africa (Martin and de Meulenaar 1988) is flawed. In India, based on pugmark censuses, 9,844 leopards were estimated in 2001.

In general leopards are listed as "Near Threatened" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Sub-species in Central Asia and Sri Lanka are classified as "Endangered" and those in the Middle East, Russia, and Java are listed as "Critically Endangered".

**Size and Appearance:** The leopard is the smallest member of the 4 "great cats". With a body length of 3-6 ft and a tail length of 2-3.5 ft these cats can

weigh 60-100 pounds depending on location and if male or female. This spotted cat has short powerful limbs, a heavy torso, thick neck, and long tail. Its short sleek coat varies greatly from pale straw and gray buff to bright ochre and chestnut, and sometimes black

(found mostly in wetter, dense forests).

**Habitat:** The leopard has the widest habitat tolerance of any Old World felid, ranging from rain forest to desert.

**Distribution:** Approximately 75 countries across Africa and Eurasia.



**Reproduction and Offspring:** Leopards are capable of breeding between 2-3 years, and produce 1-3 cubs after a 90-100 day gestation. The cubs become independent between 13-18 months, and siblings may remain together for several months before separating. Females in captivity have produced offspring as old as 19 years, but the average age of last reproduction is 8.5

years. In captivity, leopards have lived over 20 years, as compared to 10-12 in the wild.

**Social System:** Leopards are solitary cats, and define their territory by scent marking, and through feces and scratch marks. It has a variety of vocalizations including grunting, growling, hissing and meowing. One of their most recognized sounds is their distance call which sounds like someone sawing wood.

**Hunting and Diet:** Leopards are very opportunistic animals and have an extremely flexible diet. They will consume protein in almost any form, from beetles up to antelopes twice its own weight. It readily eats carrion, and caches sizable kills in trees, returning nightly to feed on them. Their diet consists of over 90 species.

**Threats:** The leopard is likely the most persecuted big cat in the world. Extinct in six countries and possibly extinct in six additional countries, leopards have vanished from

at least 49% of their historic range in Africa and 84% of their historic range in Eurasia.

The species is threatened by illegal killing for their skins and other body parts used for ceremonial regalia (an estimated 20,000 according to Panthera), conflict with local people, rampant bushmeat poaching, and poorly managed trophy hunting.



Sabre - Male Leopard  
Born: 1992 Rescued: 1995

Sabre was abandoned by his owner at Big Cat Rescue when he was 3 years old. He was one of the lucky ones that found sanctuary. There are many more like Sabre who met a worse fate when their owners no longer wanted the responsibility of an exotic pet.





# BAD NEWS FOR THE FL PANTHER



On September 2nd the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) held a public meeting where commission members voted 4 to 1 in favor of adopting a new policy regarding the future protections of the Florida Panther.

Commissioner Ron Bergeron was the sole opposing member. Before the vote he showed commission members and the attending public a short film in support of continued protection of the Florida's wildcat. Despite his efforts as well as the dozens of citizens that spoke out at the meeting opposing the new policy, the FWC has made a move that could bring about the end of the Florida Panther.

Those in support of the new policy were developers and ranchers, some of whom run pay-to-hunt game farms. They claimed that Florida has enough panthers (estimated 100-180) and the cats are getting in the way of their business.

In June of this year, Nick Wiley, executive director of the FWC and FWC commissioner Aliese Priddy co-authored and submitted a proposal aimed at weakening the protections for the endangered Florida panther and benefiting large land owners.

A team of biologists employed by the state for the sum of \$1 million dollars a year was not even consulted during the development of this proposal, the wording of which lent itself towards the future allowance of hunting FL Panthers.

This came in the wake of the FWC reversing a 21 year ban on bear hunting, a decision made in spite of the current estimates of just 3,000 bears remaining in the wilds of Florida.

Public outcry over Wiley and Priddy's proposal was so fierce that the FWC agreed to work with their team of biologists to revise the plan and vote on its adoption at the meeting scheduled for September.

The new version is posted in its entirety on the FWC's website. While some language has been removed and some altered, the underlying motive remains. The new policy calls for federal officials to lessen their criteria for taking panthers off the endangered list. Also still included is wording which would allow for the "dealing with" panthers that become a nuisance to ranchers and other land owners.

The FWC has decided to steer

its focus towards maintaining the current population of FL panthers in southwest Florida and dump the responsibility of establishing the two additional populations of panthers elsewhere in the state (a requirement for delisting) on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The new policy ignores the need to establish more habitat for the current FL Panther population as well as the necessity to slow or halt development of nearby lands.

Without a real effort to preserve habitat and establish secondary panther populations Florida is at risk of losing its iconic wildcat.

The panther is already feeling the pinch of nearby development and in an effort to find new territory are being wiped from existence at an alarming rate. So far this year 30 FL Panthers have died, 21 were struck by cars.

Not only does the current population need more space to grow into, having all of the panthers living in one secluded area sets the population up for serious risk of being wiped out by disease.

In an effort to appease the public the FWC has agreed to revisit their new policy in 12 months to discuss any changes that should be made. We will keep you up to date with the latest online at:



**BigCatRescue.org/FLPanther**



# Sad Farewell

Taking care of 85 exotic animals is a roller coaster ride of emotions as we try to provide the best possible life for them and yet deal with the gut wrenching decisions of life and death. Of our 85 animals, 68 are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 59 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 21 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts we must say good bye to this beautiful cat who has touched our hearts forever.

## LEVI



1995 - 2015

**Levi** came to live at Big Cat Rescue in 1995 along with 10 other bobcats who were destined to be the next year's fur harvest. BCR's Co-Founder had stumbled upon a facility in Omaha, Nebraska that was raising bobcats and Canada Lynx for the purpose of harvesting the cats for their fur.

In order to spare these cats, all of them were purchased from the breeder and brought to live at

the sanctuary. (Over the years we have learned that you can't pay an animal's ransom to rescue them, because that just fuels the trade. We no longer pay people to release their wildcats to us, and now require they contract with us to never own another exotic cat.) Levi was neutered and lived with Tiger Lilly.

He was a feisty bobcat. He delighted in luring keepers close to his enclosure with his wide eyed gaze and then launching himself towards them with a terrifying bark.

In Levi's later years he was diagnosed with high blood pressure and hyperthyroidism. He received daily medications to even out his levels. However at the age of 20 his health declined. In the end his medical conditions along with anemia and kidney disease took Levi away from us.



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NOT  
PUPPETS.**



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# VET REPORTS:

## SURVIVAL TACTICS

A wild animal must never show weakness because the weak and vulnerable will most certainly fall prey to another animal higher up the food chain. This makes the care of exotic animals in captivity incredibly difficult. While an injury may not be easily hidden, often times a wild animal will not show any symptoms of being ill until it is too late. That is why we are diligent with tracking the daily health and wellbeing of every cat here at the sanctuary. When any of our cats appear to be ill we take immediate action. Sometimes there is something serious wrong including kidney disease or cancer. Sometimes the ailment is less severe like a simple upset stomach from eating lizards.



Intern Martin helps Dr. Boorstein examine Zeus

Zeus, a Siberian lynx, and Gilligan, a Canada lynx, were both recently reported as acting unusual, just a week apart. They seemed uncomfortable and were not interested in their food at breakfast time. These two cats are always anxiously waiting for breakfast, so when they were found off hiding

in the bushes in their enclosures keepers knew something was not right. They were sedated and examined onsite at the Windsong Memorial Cat Hospital by Dr. Boorstein.

Zeus is an 18 year old male. Upon his physical exam Dr. Boorstein felt a large hard area in his abdomen. X-rays showed that there was a large amount of feces in his digestive tract. Apparently Zeus was constipated.

He was given an enema and the blockage was massaged to help break it up for easier passing. Over the next few days Zeus would have to remain indoors in the West Boensch Cat Hospital where he would be observed and receive medications to help move along the feces.

Housing Zeus in a recovery cage was a challenge as he is notorious for chewing and eating stuff he should not. Because of this he could not have blankets, hay, or even cardboard to lay on in his cage. Newspaper was the only thing that we could give him and as you can imagine newspaper plus an angry lynx equals a big shredded mess.

After a few days and much to the relief of his keepers Zeus finally pooped! He was feeling much better and was moved back to his permanent enclosure where he was observed for another week



Jamie Veronica monitors Gilligan

before being reunited with his brother Apollo.

Gilligan had a very similar story. He too had become constipated and had to be treated and housed indoors for several days for observation. Thankfully after he finally evacuated his bowels he was back to his usual self.

So why did these two lynx become constipated in such a small time frame? We do not know for sure, but can speculate that perhaps they had not been keeping hydrated enough during a time that it was exceptionally hot and humid. The good news is that Zeus and Gilligan have both been doing just fine and have had no further issues.



Gale & Kathryn releasing Gilligan into his enclosure

## 2 TIGERS, 1 DENTIST

Tigers TJ and Alex both love to eat and are always eager for their next meal. When they started leaving portions of their diet Big Cat Rescuers became concerned and evaluated what types of



food were being left. It seemed that both cats were avoiding foods with bones. This led to the assumption that they must have dental issues that need addressing.

We have two very dedicated volunteer veterinarians who donate their time to care for all of the cats at the sanctuary, Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein. They do everything from vaccinations, to routine exams, surgery, and dentals.

Sometimes it is necessary to have a specialist visit for more complicated procedures. Dr. Peak and his staff have visited in the past and performed root canals on several of our big cats, Dr. Miller is our go-to eye specialist, and Dr. Hay is the master of bone and joint repairs.

Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein visit the sanctuary an average of once or twice a week. They come on their days off, or before or after their day jobs. This is very convenient for both the staff and the cats here at the sanctuary. Unfortunately to get a specialist

out to perform a procedure it often requires them to bring all of their own equipment and shut down their own practice for the day.

Big Cat Rescuers and the vet team made a plan to sedate TJ and Alex for preliminary exams. This way the blood work, x-rays, and physical could be done in advance and dental issues could be confirmed before booking a specialist to come out. Dental work on the big cats can be very time consuming, so getting a routine exam completed ahead of time would mean less time under anesthesia the day of surgery.



Dr. Wynn and Jeff give Alex fluids

seen on x-ray near the heart and lungs. Otherwise Alex did very well under anesthesia and awoke without any complications. A dental surgeon was contacted and a date selected for Alex's dental work. At the same time we have also made arrangements for an ultrasound specialist to take a closer look at the mass and collect a needle sample of it to be tested for malignancy. The discovery of the mass was completely shocking as Alex has displayed no outward signs of discomfort.

Soon after TJ was sedated and examined. He too had a bad canine, otherwise he was in good health.

In order to make the most out of the dental surgeon visiting we have made arrangements for both tigers to be sedated and undergo surgery back to back. Stay tuned for updates on how the procedures went in our next issue of the Big Cat Times.



Dr. Boorstein & Dr. Wynn take x-rays of Alex

Nineteen year old Alex was the first to be sedated and examined. During his exam it was confirmed that he would need at least three teeth extracted, all canine teeth. Sadly many cats that are raised in captivity are not cared for properly, especially when they are young and growing. Being separated from their mom and bottle fed inferior milk replacer take their toll on the development of strong teeth and bones. Blood work indicated that he has moderate kidney disease. In addition a bad knee was discovered upon the physical exam and a mass was



Dr. Miller examines Alex's eyes



# VACATION FUN FOR BIG CATS

Many of you have visited and seen the large Vacation Rotation Enclosure for our big cats in person. So you know how awesome this space is for the lions and tigers to explore. For those of you who have not yet had the privilege, the Vacation Rotation enclosure is a massive



*TJ being transported by Gale, Kathryn, and Martin*

2.5 acre paradise with wide open space, cave dens, jungle gym platforms, trees, climbing logs, lots of toys and a swimming pond with a water fountain.

We rotate our big cats through this enclosure, each lion or tiger receiving a 2 week vacation in the wildcat wonderland. Because our population of lions and tigers is relatively small each big cat enjoys several vacations a year.

The most recent big cats to enjoy 2 weeks of fun were TJ the tiger,



*TJ runs at full speed through the Vacation Rotation Enclosure*

the Texas Tigers Andre, Arthur, and Amanda and Joseph the lion.

Most of the big cats have narrow runs that connect their enclosure directly to the Vacation Rotation Enclosure. So shifting these cats out into the enclosure is as easy as securing the run and opening a door.

TJ, however, does not; his enclosure is located on the opposite side of the property. Lucky for us TJ is very inquisitive and readily hopped up into a transport cage that was secured to the opening of his enclosure. He seemed to enjoy the short ride being pulled by a golf cart through the sanctuary out to the Vacation Rotation Enclosure. He looked at the other cats that he passed and chuffed at keepers along the path.

Just as quickly as he loaded up, he immediately exited the transport cage and began exploring his temporary digs. He patrolled the perimeter of the enclosure, checked out the platforms, and finished up with a dip in the pond.

One of TJ's favorite things to do while on vacation is to stalk and chase after golf carts

that pass by throughout the day. If TJ could have one thing in this world, he would probably wish for a golf cart of his very own!



*TJ splashing in the swimming pond*

Joseph recently had an operation on his eye to remove the lens which had become detached. Following the procedure keepers had to put eye drops in his eyes three times a day for several weeks. Amazingly he was quite tolerant of this.



*Joseph surveys his kingdom from atop his den*

He would be lured into his feeding lock out and fed meat treats off the end of an operant stick. Using the treats to get him



*TJ is all smiles while on vacation*



to look up, keepers were able to squeeze the drops over the top of his lock out and into his eyes.

Once his eye was healed and he no longer required eye drops, Joseph got to go on a much needed vacation.

Joseph enjoyed the freedom his vacation allowed him. He spent most of the time lounging way out in the middle by the cave den. How freeing it must feel to be a big cat in this enclosure, to be able to gaze up at the clouds in the day and stars at night with an unobstructed view.



*Arthur & Andre lounge on the platform while Amanda prowls around*

While we were happy that he was doing exactly what he wanted it did prove difficult to coax him over to the side of the enclosure twice a day to take his medicine. Joseph has arthritis and to help keep him comfortable he receives pain medication daily.

Next in line for vacation were Keisha and Zeus the tigers, however, the Texas tigers must have formed an alliance to skip the line.

They were having way too much fun splashing and playing in their concrete swimming pool and as a result of their shenanigans managed to crack the pool in



*The Texas Tigers shifting through the run into the Vacation Rotation Enclosure*

several places. The pool was leaking water out onto the surrounding area.

To repair the pool it would need to be completely drained and then a new layer of concrete laid over

the entire surface. This would prove challenging as it had been raining almost daily and clear dry weather is needed for the concrete to

cure. In order to accomplish any of this the Texas tigers needed to be moved out of their enclosure and into the Vacation Rotation.

Keepers got together and secured the run while Andre, Arthur, and Amanda eagerly paced back and forth in anticipation. The doors were opened and the trio galloped towards their vacation. They seemed quite pleased with themselves, prancing around with glee at their triumph.

Once a few days of dry weather was predicted in the forecast, staff members Vern & Chuck Stairs got to work repairing the pool. A new layer of concrete was spread and left to cure for several days. Lucky for us the weather cooperated and the pool was soon ready to be filled. Unbeknownst to them, the Texas Tigers' vacation will be cut a little short so we can get back on schedule.

*Arthur loves playing with this super sized tiger toy*







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## WATCH the Cats 24/7 on 6 Live Web Cams!

Explore.org has invested \$108,410 to bring Big Cat Rescue to the world via 6 state of the art, live cameras. Views include the 2.5 acre Vacation Rotation Enclosure where you can see different lions and tigers every two weeks, as they run, swim and lounge in the sun.

There will also be a camera on our big cat feeding station, the

rehab bobcat area, the foster kitten play room, Nikita lioness and in the Windsong Memorial Hospital. You will be able to log in to see what's happening online and interact with our chat room monitors any time you want.

### **A huge shout out to the team at Explore.org!**

Led by founder Charles Annenberg Weingarten, the Explore team embarks on fact-finding missions to meet the courageous leaders of the non-profit world and document their work through live cams, images

and films. By sharing their knowledge, Explore seeks to connect people to extraordinary cultures and ideas.

To date, over \$15 million has been awarded to over 100 non-profit organizations worldwide.



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



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