

# Big Cat Chronicles

Fall 2021



Featured Animal

## Bagheera

Male Jaguar  
(Panthera onca)

Born 5/10/18

Rescued 5/17/21

Read more about Bagheera on page 15.



An update from Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge: A USDA Licensed Facility for the Vanishing Breeds of Big Cats.



# Letter from the President

Founder Tanya Smith

It's hard to believe that the Fall of 2021 is already upon us. A year ago, we faced an extremely scary and uncertain winter. Rescuing animals during this pandemic and ensuring them lifelong care would have been impossible without the support of each and every one of you. I especially want to extend heartfelt thanks to all of you who've answered our call for recurring donations! You are providing our mission with a strong foundation. We'll tell you on page 18 how you can ensure their future even further through legacy giving. While this spring and summer brought a renewed surge of visitors to the Refuge, we are aware of how quickly things can change.

Despite the challenges we humans face, our mission at TCWR demands that we continually strive to improve the quality of life for the animals we care for. In this issue, we'll update you on our latest enrichment project that's bringing a huge splash of joy to both animals and humans at the Refuge, and the new equipment that's going to open our access to natural resources and save donor funds over the coming years. We'll also tell you about how we've made the Refuge safer for humans with paved hills to improve your visitor experience!

In addition, I'm sure many of you have been wondering about the 10 new animals we rescued this May when we aided federal authorities in seizing 68 animals from the Tiger King Park in Oklahoma. You'll get to meet them all here! You'll read about the challenges they face and the long hours our team has put in to help them. While we are prohibited from discussing any theories on the 'why' of their condition, their photos speak volumes.

Throughout this year we've seen federal authorities continue to take out the major players in the Big Cat Trade, and seen amazing progress made on the Big Cat Public Safety Act due to your advocacy work. We'll tell you why NOW is the time to 'POUNCE' into action for big cats, and exactly how you'll be able to help!

None of the progress we've made over the past 29 years would have been possible without our TCWR Family of supporters. You give me hope that our vision is within reach – together, we will end the Big Cat Trade!

Until next time,



*Tanya Smith*

Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder



What contentment  
looks like . . .

# POUNCE NOW!

#PounceNow - a monthly \$5 gift can save the lives of animals in need!

# You can Add a Splash of Happiness!

**T**CWR's animals rely on our team to provide them with fresh drinking water three times daily, year-round. Hot weather adds another vital way this essential element can enrich captive animals' lives. Each summer we've filled stock tanks for water-loving animals to cool off in and relieve boredom with natural behaviors, like 'drowning' their enrichment toys as 'prey'. However, replacing the tanks irreparably damaged by big cats and bears gets costly.

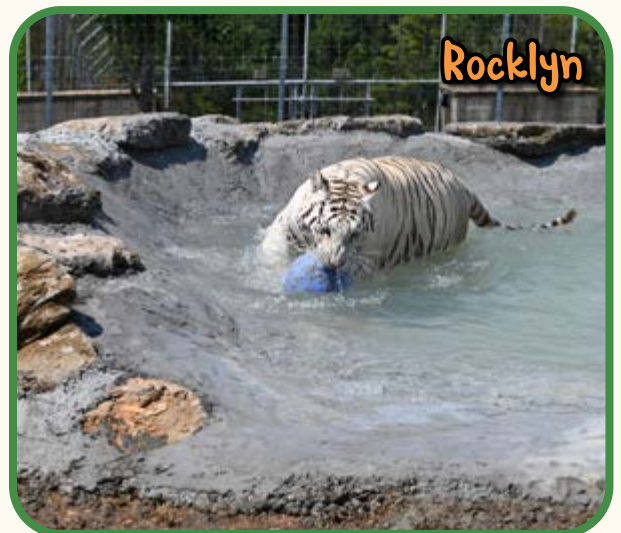
This spring we began a project to replace the stock tanks with in-ground pools in each of our 64 habitats. The pools are constructed of a waterproofed cement that will last decades, and are designed for easy filling and draining. (Saving valuable staff time emptying tanks with buckets and shovels!) Each pool design will fit the topography of the habitat, using boulders to provide natural 'scratching posts', while allowing animals easy access with graduated depth.

Since kicking off the project, nine donors have already stepped up to fund 10 pools! Pool #1 was made available to BB King and Mack this 4th of July weekend. Pool #2 was constructed for Blackfire, Rocklyn and Peyton with the support of their habitat sponsors, Bill and Nancy, in mid-August. Let's keep the momentum going and help all our animals to live much as they would in their natural habitats! Our most recent pool was gifted to bears, Thunder and Harley, by our friend Heather, in honor of her late father.

You can add a major splash of happiness by sponsoring a pool! Please email [sandy@tcwr.org](mailto:sandy@tcwr.org) or call **479-253-5841 ext. 711**. If you're unable to sponsor an entire pool, you can join others making a pool possible by donating to our pool project fund! Just write the word "pool" in the notes — no amount is "too small." Remember: together, we can keep changing lives!



*Since kicking off the project, nine donors have already stepped up to fund 10 pools! Pool #1 was given to BB King and Mack.*



*Pool #2 was constructed for Blackfire, Rocklyn and Peyton. Constructed of durable and waterproof cement, they are designed for easy filling and draining and offer animals easy access with graduated depth.*

**Thunder**

*Please email [sandy@tcwr.org](mailto:sandy@tcwr.org) or call 479-253-5841 ext. 711 to sponsor a pool, or go to [tcwr.org/donate](http://tcwr.org/donate) to make a partial contribution. Just write the word "pool" in the notes — no amount is "too small." Remember: together, we can keep changing lives!*





# The Tiger King Park Rescues

A female liger named Mani is lying in a grassy field, looking towards the camera. The liger has a mix of orange and white fur with faint stripes. The background is filled with green foliage and trees.

**Mani**  
Female, Liger

The Oklahoma heat beat down on rescuers as the trailer door slid to a close; the last big cat Turpentine Creek team members would transport from Tiger King Park was safely inside. This rescue was far from over, but team members could breathe a slight sigh of relief that all big cats were safe and accounted for. Soft grass, cool pools, and delicious food awaited the lucky felines.

Months of silent preparation had cultivated into a few days worth of boots-on-the-ground rescuing. Before making their first trip to Oklahoma, TCWR had been contacted by the federal government and asked to assist with the seizure of 68 big cats from Tiger King Park. TCWR President, Tanya Smith, would spend countless hours coordinating with the Department of Justice and members of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance. The Refuge's Animal Care Team prepared habitats and stocked extra supplies into our Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital while Vice President, Scott Smith, evaluated roll cages used for loading animals.

The ongoing court case against the park owners made discretion of the utmost importance while coordinating the rescue. While an undertaking in which the Refuge would be bringing home at least 10 new animals and assist in the transport of eight others to accredited sanctuaries across the country would typically warrant some much-needed requests for support, there was no way to ask. Thankfully, TCWR could rely on the already-incoming donations from recurring donors, adopters, and sponsors, as well as assistance from IFAW. From the beginning, you were supporting animals in need, without even knowing it.





## Priscilla Female, Tiger

Only two team members made the first trip to Oklahoma, taking a number of precautions. The situation was considered precarious enough that United States Marshall Service swept the park property before allowing any rescuers on site. TCWR team members wore plain clothes and brought trailers free of tell-tale logos. Because this was the first in a series of animal seizures, only a few people were allowed to enter the park. Our team waited several miles up the road while those familiar with the layout of the property loaded animals; hours went by before the big cats were able to be safely handed off.

Escorted by officers, a handful of TCWR team members were able to enter Tiger King Park property on the second trip. All who were present assisted in loading big cats. Then, half of our team headed back to Arkansas with new animal residents in tow while the others drove felines to different accredited sanctuaries.

At the time of this article, we remain limited on what information can be disclosed. We can tell you the animal residents who had been at the Refuge before the arrival of the 13 Tiger King Park Rescues are loving their new neighbors.

*See next pages for more photos of the Tiger King Park Rescues!*

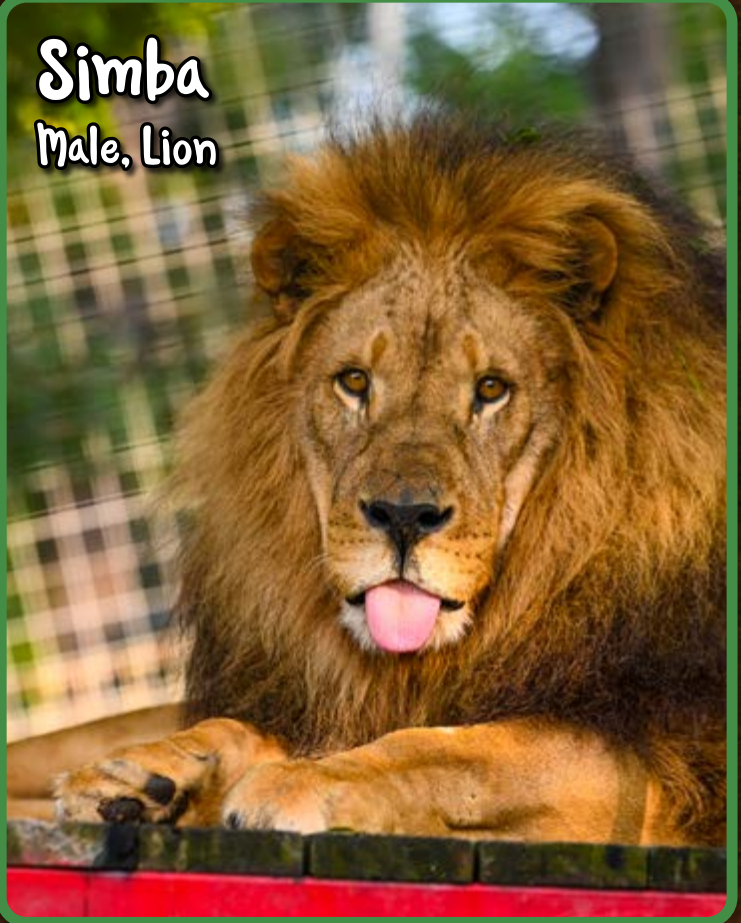
Share your love of TCWR. tell a friend about our mission. share our social media.



**Bagheera**  
(bah-gee-ruh)  
Male, Jaguar



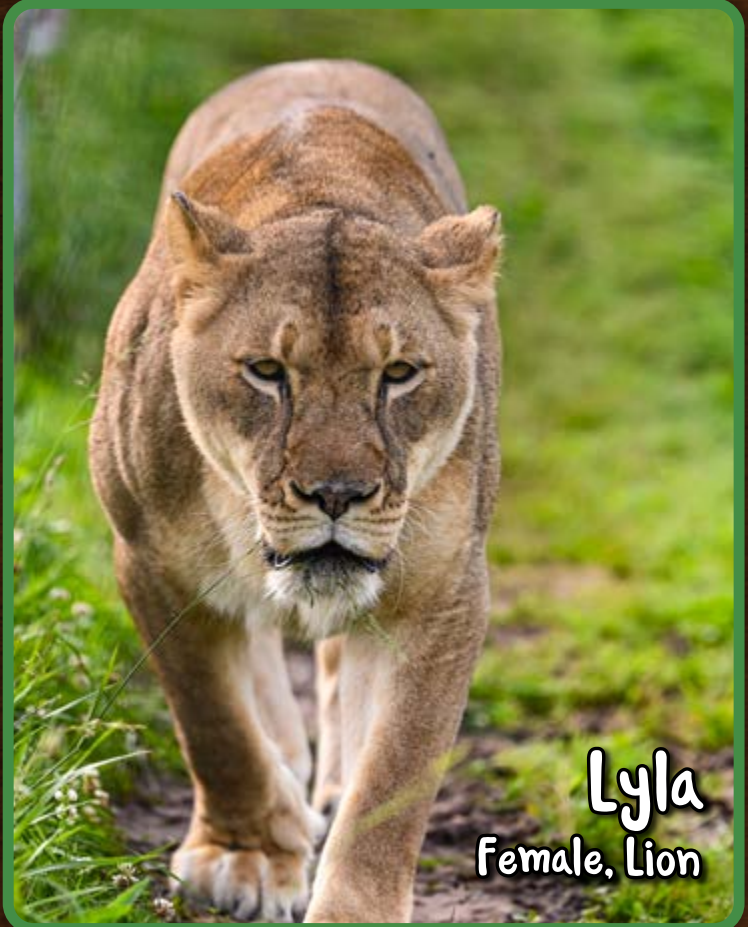
**Simba**  
Male, Lion



**Opie**  
Male, Tiger



**Lyla**  
Female, Lion





**Stevie**

Female, Tiger



**Samira**

(sam-er-uh)

Female, Lion



**Kyro**

Male, Liger



**Jagger**

Male, Tiger



Donate today to be a positive change for big cats!



## Just POUNCE! - #PounceNow

As the final quarter of 2021 draws near, we need each one of you to seize the moment. It's time to POUNCE on this long-awaited opportunity and secure the future of big cats!

Why now? The Big Cat and Public Safety Act is positioned better than ever for passage into law. Federal authorities and the courts are taking down significant players within the Big Cat Trade, their animals seized and placed in accredited sanctuaries like TCWR for the lifelong care they deserve. In addition, we're expanding our Public Education & Advocacy programming to ensure better lives for big cats nationwide.

NOW is the time to POUNCE into action and end the Big Cat Trade forever! In the coming weeks and months, you'll see the "POUNCE NOW" theme on signs around the Refuge and sprinkled throughout our communications. Just scan the QR codes to learn what vital action we need you to take, what great deals we may have for you, or what film we want to show you that will provide the tools you need to make a difference for all big cats.



*NOW is the time to POUNCE into action and end the Big Cat Trade forever! The Big Cat and Public Safety Act is positioned better than ever for passage into law. #PounceNow and contact your representatives, asking for their support: [TCWR.org/advocacy](https://www.tcwr.org/advocacy).*

## There's a Big Cat Problem in the U.S. - You can Fix it

Many problems don't have a clear solution. There are some things that can only be band-aided with temporary fixes. The Big Cat Trade is not one of those things; with your help, we can end it in our lifetimes.

Major wildlife criminals are finally being held accountable for their actions. The hype surrounding tigers and other big cats has garnered the attention of law-makers. It's time to use this momentum to push for change! The Big Cat Public Safety Act, H.R. 263, will end the profitable business of hands-on-interaction with cubs. Since this industry is fueling the unregulated breeding of big cats, it could be the beginning of the end for the Trade and its abusive practices.

Our animal residents felt the pain of exploitation before their rescue. They suffer from mental and physical scars to this day. You know their stories. It's time to write the next chapter. Join the Turpentine Creek Task Force at [TCWR.org/turpentine-creek-task-force/](https://www.tcwr.org/turpentine-creek-task-force/).

*Marisa and Louisa were born into the cub-petting trade and felt the pain of exploitation before their rescue. It's time to end the abusive Big Cat Trade now, with passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act!*



# Letter from the Curator: Your View Inside the Rescue

Emily McCormack

Animal rescue is unpredictable and can be extremely dangerous. Large-scale rescues often force us to leave cats behind, knowing we'll return to relive the danger multiple times. While today's major rescues afford our team protection from numerous law enforcement agencies, earlier ones did not. Your support makes all of our rescues possible. You deserve to know what it's like on the inside.

A call comes in; the woman doesn't even know how many cats she has. What does that mean?! Rising early, I hug my rescued dogs and cat hoping it's not the last time I see them, and join the rescue team to board our loaded trucks and trailers. Anticipation builds as we pull away, discussing possible scenarios based on rumors we heard. I paint a picture in my mind, but it pales next to the images that confront us at the scene.

Pulling up a rickety dirt road, we're immediately concerned to see run-down, dilapidated enclosures with fencing barely 6 feet tall, no recurve, and no roof! The sheriff and his two deputies drew their weapons. We attempt to count the big cats but cannot figure out the maze of cages and overgrown brush. Was that the same tiger we already counted? Another tiger comes aggressively running out of a rotting collapsing den and hits the fence wall. I thank God the fence held, and he didn't jump over. Are there other cats loose that weren't found? Tarps are lying on the ground. We lift one up to find a tiger carcass decomposing under it. Now we notice many tarps lying on the ground. We have to get these cats out of here! Sadly, it would take multiple trips, hoping each time we would all make it out safe. On the last day, we drove down that mountainside, tears ran down our faces. We did it. We made it.



*Rising early, I join the rescue team to board our loaded trucks and trailers. Anticipation builds as we pull away, discussing possible scenarios based on rumors we heard.*



*This time, our lives and the animals' lives are under threat. Rescue teams are escorted by officers after the SWAT team swept the property.*

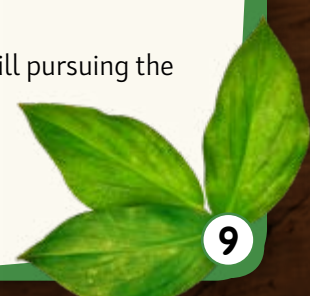


*Once the animals are safely loaded, we pull away, and tears stream down my face. We are safe, they are safe, but most importantly, we are finally winning the battle!*

Another, more recent call. Finally, we can rescue two tigers after waiting almost two years. Initially, there were four tigers, but horrifyingly two escaped from where they were held awaiting judgment and were shot and killed. When authorities went to inspect the incident, a lion escaped. This time the cat was sedated but overdosed and died. As our rescue team pulls in, we question, have any more escaped or been purposely let loose? Security was with us, but I didn't see them carrying anything that would protect us. Adrenaline is always pumping, but our luck held, and once again, it was a successful rescue.

Another call, this time, our lives and the animals' lives are under threat. The owner allegedly had sniper training and was suspected of planting pipe bombs around property and cats' enclosures. We arrived the night before and stayed at a hotel at an undisclosed location. We gather in the lobby at 4:30 AM, then we are directed to where we meet up with another sanctuary rescue team and the members of the US Marshal Service. As we plan the operation, the SWAT team prepares their weapons. Both rescue teams are escorted by multiple sheriffs and police officers to another location while the SWAT team sweeps the property. Anticipation builds for us to arrive and get these animals out! Once the animals are safely loaded, we pull away, and tears stream down my face. We are safe, they are safe, but most importantly, we are finally winning the battle! It has been monumental to be part of taking down these "bad" people.

Our most recent call, similar situation. This time, we can't tell you about it because law enforcement is still pursuing the case. Just know the animals and the team are safe. Again, tears run down my face. Please know we will share their story exclusively with you when we can. You've earned the right to know. Your faith in our team along with your belief in the animals and the Refuge gives us the strength and resources to continue our mission. Together, we are changing their future! Join the pride, become a recurring donor today.





# My name is Rocklyn



I am a female white tiger born on the tenth of May 2016. This is my story.



Along with my brother Black Fire and my sister Peyton, I was pulled from my mother immediately after my birth. I was brought into a room where I was handed to strange people. They took turns holding me to take photos and passed me around. I was deprived of my mother's milk, and as a result, I developed Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD).



When I was rescued, and x-rays were taken of me at five months old, I had a bi-lateral femur fracture healing and a fractured left humerus. I demonstrated aggressiveness if my hindquarters were touched, and I was unable to stand. My eyes were crusty, and I was infested with ringworms. My brother and sister were in just as much pain and shared my condition.



Sadly, my story is not unusual. Cub-petting schemes are highly profitable. Different states have different laws, but those that allow cub interaction typically require the practice to cease once the cub is 40 pounds or larger or more than 12 weeks in age. It pays these facilities to keep their cubs underweight to maximize the time they can use them to collect revenue. Poor nutrition, lack of rest, and stress lead to weakened immune systems, placing these cubs at risk.



Handling cubs puts humans at risk, as well. I was diagnosed with a ringworm infestation when rescued, as were my siblings. Ringworm, a fungal infection, is zoonotic and can be passed to humans. Furthermore, due to the Metabolic Bone Disease, our pelvises are deformed and too small to pass bones without complications. We will require a special boneless diet for the rest of our lives.



My story has a happy ending thanks to the hard work of the team at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. With proper nutrition and medical care, we overcame our rough start. We still have noticeable limps and will always have health issues. Since our arrival, we have participated in a pain management program and will

continue throughout the remainder of our lives. Today, I share a spacious, grassy habitat with my brother and sister. The Refuge installed a new inground water feature for us this summer. It's much easier to enjoy than the stock tank we had previously!



Please **#PounceNow** to help other little cubs like I once was.  
Educate: [tcwr.org/sanctuary](http://tcwr.org/sanctuary)  
Advocate: [tcwr.org/advocacy](http://tcwr.org/advocacy)  
Donate: [tcwr.org/donate](http://tcwr.org/donate)



## If Not You, Then Who?

Most people would not think twice about calling 911 if they saw an infant or a dog in a locked, hot vehicle. Yet, many of those same people may feel reluctant to report suspected animal abuse. It is even more complicated when suspected abuse occurs at a facility where the public is flowing through in what may seem an endless stream.



*At TCWR, we've saved animals from unimaginable neglect and abuse. If you have visited a facility and seen questionable things, ask yourself: if you don't speak out, who will?*



*If you suspect abuse or neglect, try to document your findings and contact one of the agencies listed in this story, or locate a local group that may help take action.*

Here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we've been involved in some horrific rescue stories, saving animals from unimaginable neglect and abuse. These animals do not have a voice to tell us of their pain and suffering. If you have visited a facility and seen questionable things, ask yourself: if you don't speak out, who will?

A caring voice spoke out and started a groundswell movement that eventually resulted in the Union County Sportsmen's Club in Pennsylvania releasing a grossly obese and psychologically traumatized bear named Dillan. Dillan lives happily now at an accredited Refuge, far from the sounds of gunfire that were his daily accompaniment at the Club. Dillan achieved national fame, which led to the overwhelming pressure to change his conditions, but most victims of animal abuse languish in anonymity.

Fear of involvement, fear of retaliation, fear of confrontation can all be reasons a person chooses not to speak out. It is not easy to know where to report the abuse. Local law enforcement is typically not the best resource as they may not have much power to take action. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing abuse. So is the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Both accept anonymous tips. You can report animal abuse at attractions to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the state Fish & Game Department. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) accepts reports anonymously through their website.

It is never easy when we are called to make a stand and be a voice for those who have none. If you suspect abuse or neglect, try to document your findings and contact one of the agencies above or locate a local group that may help take action. Many citizen-organized cruelty task forces work with officials to investigate and prevent abuse. Remember, though, that it only takes one voice, one step, to start that groundswell of change. If not you, then who?

**Donate to create a better future for the animals that call TCWR home.**



# Wild About Wildlife

## Membership Tier Program

Help the animals that call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge home and make it easy to visit them often with friends and family by signing up for one of our membership options, which include valuable discounts on gift shop inventory and lodging!

### The Hilda Jackson Society \$10,000+\*

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Hilda Jackson Society decal
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive HJS Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 50% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- Senior Staff Liaison

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 8x10 photo of favorite animal
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- The Hilda Jackson Society Travel Mug

### Bam Bam Benefactors \$1,250 - \$2,999

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Bam Bam Benefactor's Fellowship Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Bam Bam Benefactor's decal
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive BBB Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 20% off of lodging
- 20% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 5x7 photograph of Bam Bam
- Bam Bam Travel Mug

### The Kenny Fellowship \$3,000 - \$9,999\*

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Kenny Fellowship decal
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive KF Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 30% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report
- A Senior Staff Liaison

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 8x10 photograph of Kenny
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Kenny Travel Mug

### Friends of India \$300- \$1,249

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Friends of India Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Friends of India decal
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive FOI Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 10% off of lodging
- 10% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 5x7 photograph of India

\*To be part of a membership tier you must sign up for that Tier, donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level and are encouraged to pledge to make a similar donation the following year.

\*\*Limitations on lodging dates may apply.



**Yes, I will help the animals!**  
**Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:**

**DONATE ONLINE**



**Donations:**  \$25  \$35  \$50  \$100 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to make my loving donation recurring:**  Repeat monthly. 

**Pre-order 2022 Calendars:** \$20 each X \_\_\_\_\_ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor A Pool:** \$5000 each. X \_\_\_\_\_ pools = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose your Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier**

A membership with TCWR is the perfect opportunity to help support the amazing work that the Refuge does every single day and also gives the opportunity to visit multiple times a year!

**\$45 The P.A.W. Club, Kid's Membership (Ages 6-13)** Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_  
 See TCWR.org/kidsclub for more info. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100 Pride Membership** You and 3 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

**\$300+ Friends of India**

**\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors**

**\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship**

**\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society**

Shirt Size (circle one) S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Shirt Size (circle one) S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

**Total:**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Opt Out of Membership Signup Gifts
- Opt Out of Membership Card

**Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!**

**Printed Animal Adoption:**

- \$150/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
- \$150/yr - Small Cat/Monkey
- \$150/yr - Cougar/Leopard
- \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

**Animal Sponsor:** One sponsor per animal. New Sponsors, please check to see if desired animal is available for sponsorship.

- \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
  - \$1,000/yr - Small Cat
  - \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard
  - \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear
- Membership includes membership. Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.
- Membership Opt Out
- Monthly payments available for sponsorships, See website: TCWR.org

Adopted/Sponsored Animal's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATE ONLINE**

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail with included envelope. Thank You!



# Book Your Fall / Winter Stay!



A gentle breeze wafts through the Ozarks, causing bright orange and red leaves to skitter across the rolling hills. In the background, the lions sing their special carol. Maybe you're steaming off the late fall/early winter chill in the hottub at our Zulu Lodges. Perhaps you're sipping coffee on the treehouse deck, breathing in a view that can only be found in our beautiful region. Soon, you'll take a walk through the Discovery Area, where frisky felines feeling refreshed by the chilly reprieve from the hot summer will be frolicking in their habitats. You might take another tour, but you haven't decided yet; there's no rush because our slice of "Africa in the Ozarks" is much less busy this time of year. It's even easier to social distance and even easier to slip in a last-minute tram ride around the tour loop.

By booking your fall or winter retreat with us, you'll experience the Refuge like never before. The animals are often more active this time of year. You can watch them bounce through leaf piles or zip through the snow! **#PounceNow** to take advantage of our lovely scenery and the soundtrack of lion carols to make memories you'll never forget: [TCWR.org/stay-with-us/view-all/](https://TCWR.org/stay-with-us/view-all/).

## Pre-order Now: 2022 Calendars

Each year we design an all new calendar featuring every resident's birthday, Refuge events, wildlife holidays and other major occasions. Big, vibrant 12-by-9-inch pages featuring Refuge inhabitants will brighten the months ahead and keep your favorite big cats close to your heart.

Turpentine Creek calendars make excellent gifts for animal lovers in your life, pre-order yours today using the enclosed form or through our web store: [Shop.TurpentineCreek.org](https://Shop.TurpentineCreek.org)





# Featured Animal:

## Bagheera

Male Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)

Born 5/10/18

Rescued 5/17/21



### A New Species for You to Learn About

**B**agheera is a black jaguar who now resides in the habitat adjacent to our other slinky black resident, Spyke, a male leopard. Bagheera came to us as a result of our most recent rescue. The two seem to have an ongoing infatuation with each other, which is understandable, given their similar appearance. They routinely alternate between exchanging inquisitive glances and predatory stalking behaviors, which can be pretty entertaining to watch. Spyke isn't the only one who seems to have noticed Bagheera's similar appearance to him. It seems the pair have a number of our animals doing a double-take and questioning if Spyke has a new body-double or has simply multiplied. We can never really know what's going on in the minds of our animals - but it sure is fun to speculate!

These two need more space. We are building a new habitat for these two leopards in the near future to accommodate them better. Please donate to help us make this a reality.

Spread the word, talk to your friends about the dangers of cub petting today!



# The Indiana Eight: One Year Later

September marks one year since rescuing the Indiana Eight from “Wildlife-In-Need.” Animals Chief, Mauri, Savanna, Miles, Hurricane, Avalanche, Glacier, and Ungowwa were provided a lifetime home at the Refuge following a federal court order. The rescue was dangerous, requiring assistance from SWAT teams and the US Marshals. The big cats were struggling with the impacts of painful declaws, worm infestations, and malnutrition. Your support has transformed them, both physically and mentally. **#PounceNow** to save more animals in need: [tcwr.org/donate](https://tcwr.org/donate).



Chief



Mauri

**Chief**, who was in the worst shape during the rescue, with muscle atrophy, dehydration, and depression, now gallops across his habitat. He loves marking his territory and caroling with the other lions. He and his former mate, **Mauri**, were briefly reintroduced to each other; unfortunately, Mauri’s vigor overwhelmed the older lion. They enjoy having their own space. Mauri’s favorite activity is following the tram tours along the fence; when the tour pauses at her habitat, she will often walk from one end to the other, greeting guests.



Savanna

**Savanna** was initially shy and reserved, but we quickly realized she’s a playful lady. Amid a large habitat packed with every type of enrichment under the sun, her favorite form is: sticks! Like a mythological dragon guarding a dungeon of gold, she hoards her sticks. Sometimes, she’ll bring pieces of her collection up to the fence, but you better not look too closely. Being too interested is suspicious to Savanna and will earn you a growl!



## Miles



**Miles** took to her caregivers fairly early on. She's earned the nickname "Smiles," because of the grins she gives our team. Miles loves rolling in the grass and frolicking through her habitat.

**Hurricane** and **Avalanche** were the shyest animals we rescued. They first called the tour loop home and made a little progress towards adapting to their surroundings. However, they truly blossomed after being relocated to the peace and quiet of Rescue Ridge. They even offer up chuffs every now and again!

## Hurricane & Avalanche



## Glacier



## Ungowwa



**Glacier** and **Ungowwa** are quite the pair. They were kept together for breeding at the Wildlife in Need Facility. We neutered Glacier so the pair could be ethically reunited. The couple is loving Refuge life! Ungowwa is more reserved than her mate and enjoys lounging under the trees in her habitat or atop her bench. Glacier is chatty, offering groans and chuffs to anyone and everyone. He loves showing off his enrichment items to guests and will often display his strength by rolling a Boomer Ball up to the fence and "killing it" in front of visitors.

Choose your Membership Tier today and create a better future for our animals!



# Paving a New Future

When COVID-19 forced Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge to close to the public in March of 2020, it was clear a change to the business model would be necessary when we reopened. Tigers are susceptible to the virus, and we need to protect them and our guests. Being an outdoor facility means we are a safe venue to visit, but it also means extra care is needed to ensure social distancing.

We adapted by reducing the number of guests on property and offering guided hourly tours. When temperatures rose in July and August, it was clear that our half-mile walking tour was too strenuous for all guests to enjoy. That was when we introduced the open-air tram tour, which has been a big success with guests. The downside was that it kicked up quite a bit of dust. The increase in dust and noise was not so good for our animal residents. This past spring, we took steps to eliminate this issue and paved both inclines at the start and end of the tour loop. This improvement came with a price tag of \$26,000, not covered under any COVID assistance.

We've seen an immediate improvement in the tour experience, as the paved surface is much smoother, resulting in a quieter ride. Most importantly, there has been a significant reduction in dust, improving conditions for the animals.

Be sure to plan a visit soon to see all the improvements we've been making and pounce on a tour! We aren't allowing a virus to slow down our progress from paving our tour loop to installing inground pools for our animals. Won't you please consider donating so we can continue to improve the lives of our animal residents and the experience for our guests? Together we can build a better future.



*Since paving our tour loop, we've seen an immediate improvement in the tour experience, as the paved surface is much smoother, resulting in a quieter ride. Most importantly, there has been a significant reduction in dust, improving conditions for the animals like newly rescued, Kyro, who lives along the tour loop.*

# Your Legacy Ensures Their Future

Robert and Susan H. toured the Refuge several years ago, well before the construction of Rescue Ridge. They both were impressed by the level of knowledge and the work ethic exhibited by the young men and women they spoke with that day, along with their passion for the animals. They learned that their tour guides were part of our intern program, with undergrad degrees in biology, zoology, and other animal sciences. They were gaining real-life experience working with exotic animals at TCWR for a 6-month period. "We were so taken with your internship program and how you were influencing animal care nationwide with the valuable experience and training your program was affording them," commented Susan.

They got the idea of a legacy gift from a gentle suggestion of the TCWR interns. While they have contributed to a TCWR online auction and sent support to help with damages from the ice storm last February, the pandemic and extreme weather got them thinking, "We realized how important the assurance of future funding is to the future of your mission, and that's important to us."

For more information on how you can assure the future of TCWR, please visit:

[TCWR.org/support-us/legacy-giving/](https://TCWR.org/support-us/legacy-giving/)



*Robert and Susan H. were impressed with how the valuable experience and training afforded by our intern program is influencing animal care nationwide.*



*Legacy gives Robert and Susan H. realize how important the assurance of future funding is to the future of the TCWR mission.*





## One of your previous interns is becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine!

Dalia Badamo did two six-month consecutive internships with TCWR in the fall of 2018 and spring 2019. She applied during her training and was accepted to LSU (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge) School of Veterinary Medicine. She has just completed her first year and made a recent visit to TCWR. "I really miss being here." She shared, "You form a bond with these animals, spending a whole year seeing them every single day... it's weird to go home. I walk through this door, and it's almost as if I just left yesterday."

Dalia has three more years of schooling to go before completing her degree. She hasn't quite made up her mind about the specifics of her specialty within the scope of veterinary medicine. Whatever she decides, zoology, pathology, or oncology, we hope she continues to play a role in the future of the animals that she has come to know and love. We wish her all the best.

## Meet the Team: Melody Gamache, Lodging Housekeeper

Meet Melody! She's been with us since 2019, after moving from New Hampshire. She's stuck with us through the complications of the pandemic, which lead to long hours and staffing shortages. She shows up with a smile on her face each day and does an incredible job of ensuring each guest has a cozy, clean room for their unforgettable stay.

Previously, Melody spent 21 years in the dental field. Her natural love of animals and the desire for a more physical, low-stress job drew her to the Refuge. She formed a special bond with rhesus macaque, Goober, before his passing. Melody started and ended each day by conversing with our beloved old man Goob. She said he always made her smile and she misses him greatly.

She loves the family-feeling that comes with working at TCWR. She returns home each day to her own family: Maynard, an 11-year-old Bernese/chocolate lab and George, her "bucket list dog," a 4-month-old Bernese puppy.

We adore Melody and wouldn't be where we are today without her dedication. If you see her on your next visit, please feel free to give her a "hello," and don't forget to ask to see cute puppy photos!



*Melody shows up with a smile each day and does an incredible job of ensuring each guest has a cozy, clean room for their unforgettable stay.*

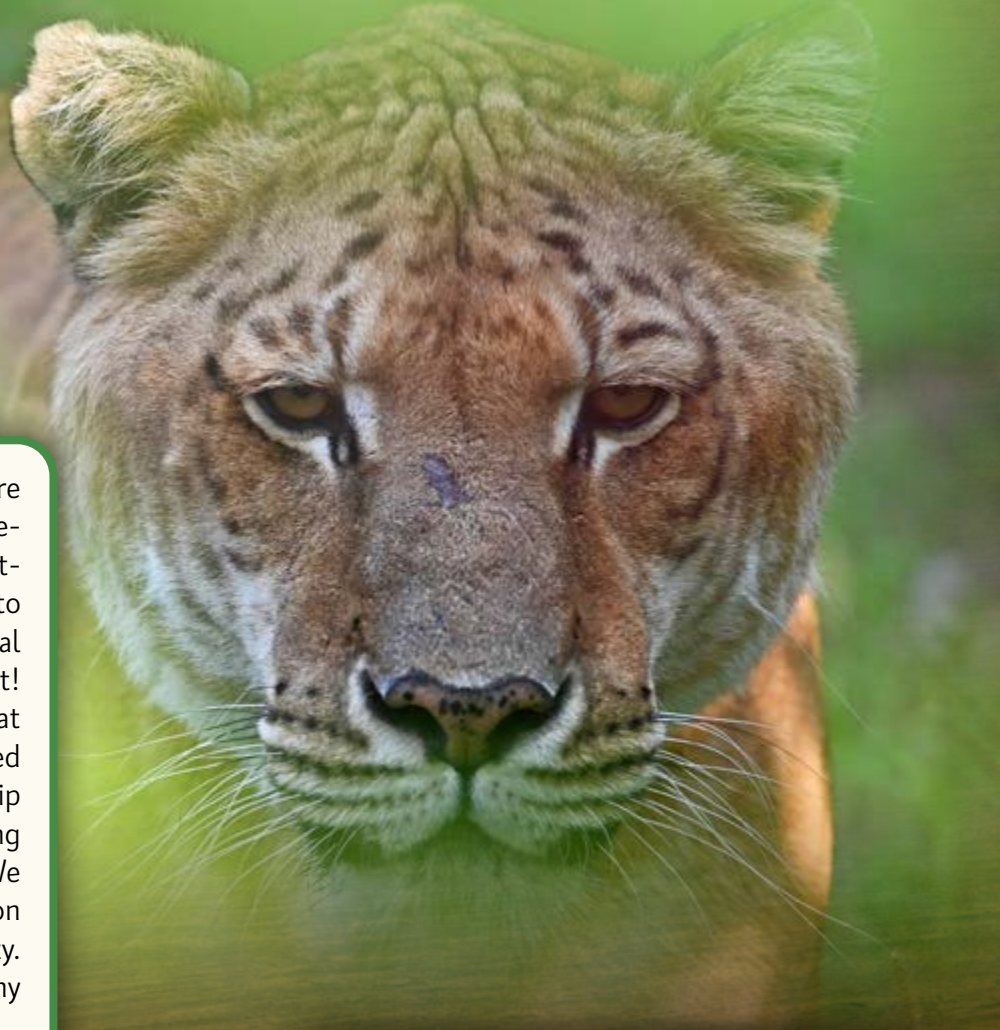
Your donation means more than ever for the animals depending on us. Donate today!



# Membership Enhancement!

*Pride memberships give you and any 3 guests the opportunity to see animals like Lakota as often as you want, with an option to book tour reservations online using a personal code instead of calling to get your discount!*

At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we are always looking for ways to improve your experience with us. We are implementing an exciting new option that will allow members to book tour reservations online using a personal code instead of calling to get their discount! Enter your unique code in the promo field at checkout online to receive the credit based on your membership level. New membership cards will include the unique code, and existing members can call today to receive theirs. We are happy to give you this self-service option and hope you enjoy the increased flexibility. As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions! **(479) 253-5841**



## Recurring Donors are Silent Heroes

The Tiger King Park Rescue wasn't the first we've had to covertly prepare for. The rescue of African Servals, Sammy and Enzo, and Tigger the Savannah Cat, was especially complicated. While we were able to provide details at first, we were abruptly ordered to scrub any mentions of the animals from our communications, due to a sudden development in their court case. The small, sickly servals needed extensive medical care at the time, but we were unable to fundraise for it. That's where our recurring donors came in.

Recurring donations provide stable support for new rescues, especially when we can't rely on public requests for donations. You can be our first line of defense for combating complicated rescues, complex medical conditions, and other emergencies. We have set a goal to build a 600-person-strong recurring donor base by October 1. This means, we need to add 212 new donors to our existing base.

No amount is too small to donate. Having 600 supporters giving \$5 a month means if one person can no longer give, there are still 599 who are able to help our animal residents. **#PounceNow** to save lives at [tcwr.org/donate](http://tcwr.org/donate).



**Tigger**

*While at first we were able to provide information on the rescue of Tigger, Sammy, and Enzo, we were abruptly ordered to scrub all mention of them due to their court case. This is where recurring donors came to the rescue.*



**Sammy**

*Animals like Sammy need your help. We have set a goal to add 212 new donors to our existing base. No amount is too small to donate. **#PounceNow** to save lives at [tcwr.org/donate](http://tcwr.org/donate).*



# Small Steps Change Lives

## Tigger's Tiny Limp Helped Us Prevent Further Damage



*Having a well-stocked, onsite veterinary hospital is a blessing made possible by people like you. If you'd like to save lives and give life to the over 90 survivors of the Big Cat Trade who call TCWR home, please become a recurring donor at [tcwr.org/visit](http://tcwr.org/visit).*



*We noticed Tigger had a tiny limp; thanks to you, we were able to quickly get him examined at our onsite Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital. Though minor injuries are often no more than that, they can sometimes indicate something more serious. Ignoring a tiny limp could mean ignoring a more significant disease or illness.*



*Thankfully, Tigger's limp was nothing more than an expected complication from the four-paw-declaw done by his previous owner. We will continue to monitor him and manage his pain. Today, he is no longer limping.*

**W**e believe small steps can change lives; sometimes, we mean it literally. We recently noticed Tigger's (the Savannah Cat) small steps now included a tiny limp. Thanks to your support, we were more than able to get him to our onsite Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital for a complete exam. Though minor boo-boos are often just that, in large carnivores, they can indicate something more serious. Ignoring a tiny limp could also mean ignoring a more significant disease or illness.

We conducted a complete set of x-rays on Tigger and performed blood work to search for abnormalities. Thankfully, there was no indication of a significant problem. The limp, which went away as quickly as it came, was attributed to him being declawed on all four paws. Because of his previous owner's decision to do this cruel amputation, Tigger is more than likely going to develop arthritis at a young age. We'll be able to give him a long, comfortable life at the Refuge because of his supporters, who provide medication, treatment, and of course, an amazing habitat.

Having a well-stocked veterinary hospital, as well as a behavioral management program to make vaccines and blood draws less stressful for our animal residents, is a blessing made possible by people like you. If you'd like to save lives and give life to the over 90 survivors of the Big Cat Trade who call TCWR home, please become a recurring donor at [tcwr.org/donate](http://tcwr.org/donate).

**Change the life of a big cat: join our mission today!**



# Your BB King Update

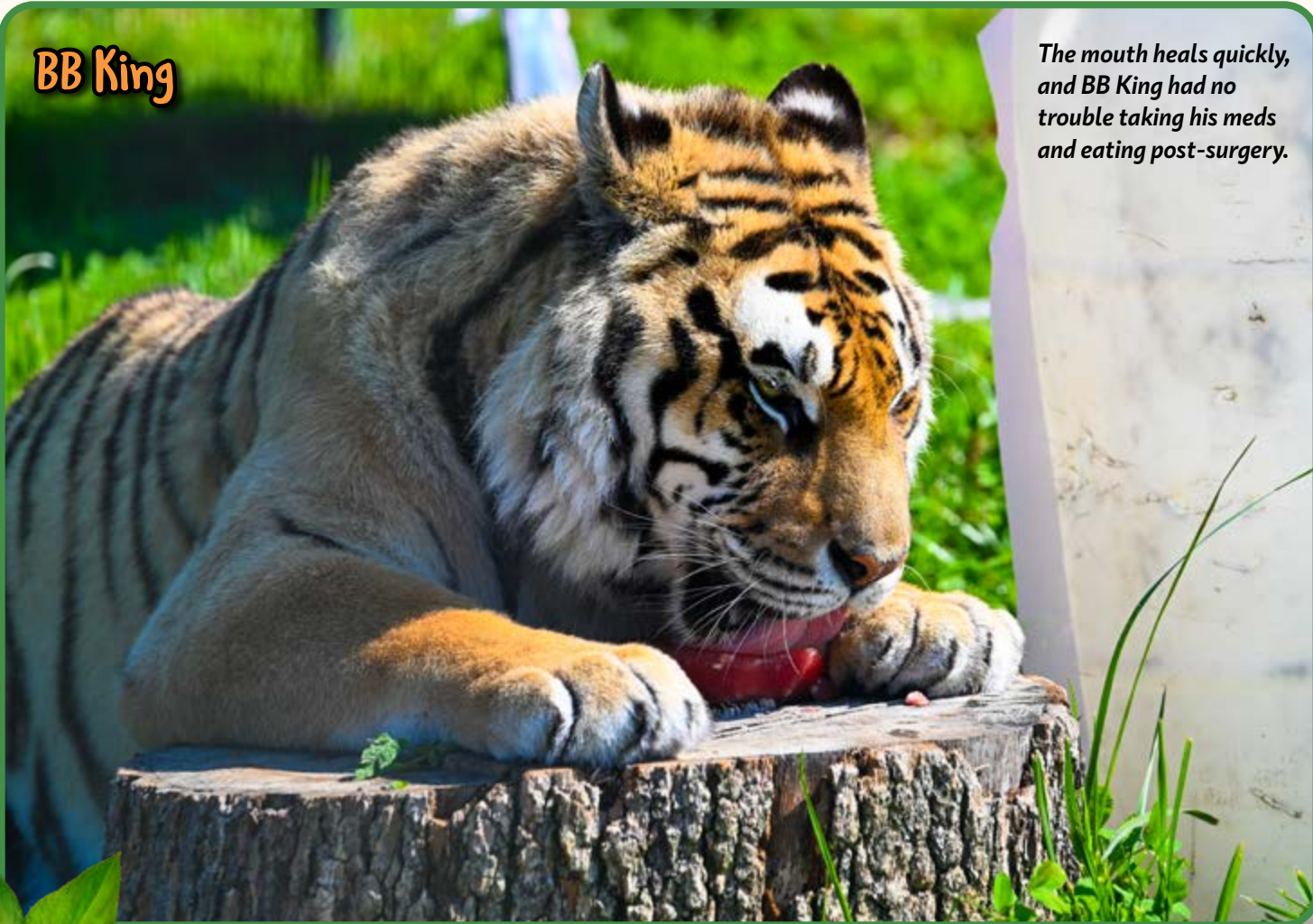
When Dr. Kellyn examined a 12-yr-old tiger, BB King, last summer due to a sore mouth, she found a growth on his tongue. Lab tests, unfortunately, revealed aggressive cancer, called hemangiosarcoma, that can spread quickly. The tumor's size made full removal of all margins impossible. However, Kansas State veterinary oncologists recommended chemotherapy.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that intravenous chemotherapy has been used to treat cancer in a tiger. BB King was an excellent candidate because of his relatively young age and total trust in our team. For each of his five treatments, BB King remained calm and showed no signs of discomfort.

This July, during BB King's 9-month post-chemo exam, Dr. Kellyn discovered the growth had begun to reappear. This time, by catching it so early, Dr. Kellyn believed she could include all margins by removing an area about ½ the size of a half-dollar. The mouth heals quickly, and BB King had no trouble taking his meds and eating post-surgery. Within days he'd adapted to drinking with his modified tongue.

The days ticked by slowly as we awaited lab results. Finally, good news arrived: Dr. Kellyn got all the margins of the tumor!! We will do another exam in 6 months to make sure it didn't metastasize, but for now, your support has given BB King a new lease on life, and he's enjoying every moment. Your donations save lives!

**BB King**



*The mouth heals quickly, and BB King had no trouble taking his meds and eating post-surgery.*

Build a stronger foundation for big cats by setting up a monthly recurring donation.





**BB King**

*For each of his five treatments, BB King remained calm and showed no signs of discomfort.*



*Your support has given BB King a new lease on life, and he's enjoying every moment!*

**BB King**

**Schedule your next trip to the Refuge to see these beautiful animals in person!**





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