

Big Cat Chronicles

Spring 2022

Read about the
Tiger King Survivors

Featured Animal

Rosie

Female Tiger
(*Panthera tigris*)
Born 5/20/21
at the Refuge

Read more about Rosie, DOJ,
and Jinx on page 10.

POUNCE NOW!
Donate Today!



Letter from the President

Founder Tanya Smith

As we begin our 30th year of nationwide rescue due to the American Big Cat Crisis, I want to thank each of you for your support, and your belief in our team. You have made it possible for us to transform the lives of over 450 big cats and bears since 1992, giving them the best quality of life possible in captivity.

We have had many milestones these past three decades; from “crashing the compound” and building our large grass habitats, to achieving “accredited” status by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. In recent years YOUR contributions have allowed TCWR to create an on-site state-of-the-art veterinary hospital, add heat to the majority of our animal dens, install a public service water well and storm shelters for our team, and build all-natural bear habitats. This past spring, we broke ground on a project that will put an in-ground pool in every habitat to enrich animals’ lives. Along the way our organization has evolved, and come out stronger than ever before. We’re thrilled to tell you about our exciting future plans for the Refuge property on page 20.

Throughout this past year, we’ve watched miraculous things unfold, as awareness of the plight of exploited big cats became a national sensation and a ‘hot button’ topic for many people. Several well-known animal abusers have been held accountable for their crimes, the Big Cat Public Safety Act is positioned better than ever to pass, and eighteen animals were given lifetime peace at Turpentine Creek. In this issue, you will finally learn all about the ten big cats that came to us last May from the Tiger King Park in Oklahoma, along with the twelve big cats from earlier rescues who also originated from Joe Exotic. In addition, we give you the full story regarding the difficult and miraculous undertaking that allowed cubs Rosie, Jinx and DOJ to lead normal lives at TCWR.

As we enter this historic year, I especially want to thank all of you who’ve answered our call for recurring donations! Your dependable support is providing our mission with the strong foundation we need to begin the *next* 30 years. Only with your help can we make a better future for not only our animal residents, but others still trapped within the Exotic Wildlife Trade.

Here we go – welcome to 2022, together we will make a difference!

Until next time,



Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder



President Tanya Smith, with her parents, Don and Hilda Jackson. Thirty years ago, they founded TCWR in answer to the Big Cat Crisis in this country.

Don't Miss our Free KiteFest Event

March 26, 10am - 4pm.

Family Fun for All!

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

Your Advocacy Will Make 2022 the Year of the Big Cat!



With your help, this year we will get the Big Cat Public Safety Act passed and change the lives of thousands of big cats across the US!

The US Senate convened on January 3rd and the US House convened on the 10th. This begins the final year of the 117th session and gives us 10 months to get the bill passed through the house and the senate before finally landing on the President's desk to be signed.

Please continue to send messages to your House and Senate representatives. We cannot let this important bill fall into the backs of congress's minds. We must allow time for this bill to get through the House and the Senate before the last quarter of 2022.

Email your Representatives now, even if you have done so before, this is the year that the Big Cat Public Safety Act gets passed! TCWR.org/advocacy/



Your Invitation to our 30th Anniversary Celebration

Join us at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, April 30th as we celebrate TCWR's 30 Years of Rescuing Big Cats and Bears Nationwide. We encourage you to bring your entire family — there will be something for all ages to enjoy! It all kicks off at 9am. Our Team will be on-hand in the Discovery Area to greet you for a day filled with interesting and informative Educational Presentations and a special tour schedule. The festival lawn will host our vendors with food, beverages, and offer fun-filled activities for kids, from a magic show to face painting, and more. Bring your lawn chairs. Then from 1-3pm your family will be entertained watching past and present TCWR Interns compete in the Intern Olympics! Afterwards we'll have live music and more! You can find event details and the special event tour schedule, as well as purchase your tickets, on TCWR.org/30thAnniversaryEvent.



It's been 30 years since Hilda Jackson and family founded Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge; thanks to you, we are able to continue upholding the values for animal welfare she held dear. Please join us April 30th at 9 AM to celebrate our 30th anniversary!

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

Meet the Cats from the Tiger King Park



Stevie

Female Tiger, born 10/1/13 rescued 5/6/21 – Stevie loves to stalk her animal care team, especially from inside her den! She enjoys running back and forth with Karma next door, and talking to Jagger through the fence.

Female Lion, born 4/1/14 rescued 5/6/21 – Lyla loves treats! She was shy at first, but has come to love certain keepers, and adores playing 'stalk and play.' This girl loves to carol, and is very loud for her small size. She thoroughly enjoys all enrichment, especially boxes!



Lyla



Mani

Female Liger, born 8/22/08 rescued 5/6/21 – Mani is always watching what's going on around her. She shows her love for Simba through the fence, and also loves to talk to her keepers.

Male Li-Liger, born 7/12/18 rescued 5/6/21 – Kyro loves the whole world! He loves people, running for the pure joy of it, and being a goof. He is very affectionate with Samira through the fence.



Kyro



Priscilla

Female Tiger born 5/27/15 rescued 5/6/21. Priscilla is just a bit snobby, but a great mom, very patient and gentle with her three cubs Rosie, Jinx and DOJ. She comes to say 'hello' to her keepers, but mainly to see if they have a treat, then leaves!

Male Lion born 10/20/05 rescued 5/17/21 Simba adores exploring his habitat and relaxing on his bench. He walks much better now than when we rescued him, due to our pain management program. This boy loves to carol with the other lions!



Simba

Female Lion born 7/22/08 rescued 5/17/21. Samira is very sweet for a lion, and obviously loves Kyro. She also likes to chase and run with Chuff next door, even though we suspect she wants to 'get him'! This pretty lioness also loves to carol.



Male Tiger born 3/20/14 rescued 5/17/21. Opie loves to destroy logs, and to stalk everyone, neighbors and staff alike. This big boy gets very hangry at feeding, but is a friendly chuffer otherwise. During warm months Opie loves spending time in his pool.

Male Tiger born 9/9/10 rescued 5/17/21. Jagger is a soft chuffer, who acts like he doesn't need us. He loves sleeping in his habitat, and enjoys playing in his pool during the summer.



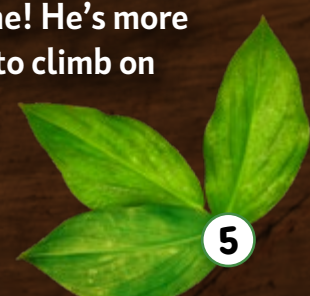
Male Jaguar born 5/10/18 rescued 5/20/21. Bagheera is very food motivated, and today is much less stressed than he was upon arrival at the Refuge. This gorgeous boy loves to watch the cubs next door. His favorite spot to recline is the highest bench in his habitat. He also enjoys destroying his benches! Bagheera loves all his toys, but especially the balls.

Priscilla cubs born 5/20/21 – All three adored the Christmas trees! This trio is always up to something. They love their mom and enjoy annoying her, as kids will! They like their keepers and are not a bit shy; they're already stalking and pouncing at their care team.



Tigress Rosie is the first to approach keepers; she's always stalking, and loves, loves her mom. Jinx tiger loves food almost too much. He's sometimes a bully to his sister Rosie, and is usually the second one to approach their keepers. DOJ tiger makes the craziest noises at feeding time! He's more skeptical of their keepers, and is always the last to approach. However, he's the first to climb on the top tier of their bench - the other two haven't figured it out yet!

Help us provide their lifelong care by adopting or sponsoring today!



Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack



The call this time was from the U.S. Government. They had applied for, and received, one warrant for all animals on the property, but the US Marshals could not accommodate the full scale rescue schedule due to other pressing commitments. Therefore, a second warrant was obtained for the seizure of six suspected pregnant females, to prevent the cubs from being sold before they could be rescued. Of the six, TCWR was called upon to take five big cats, four being possible pregnant females, and one male with serious health concerns. One tiger went to another Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) accredited sanctuary.

This was put in motion after another sanctuary had been contacted by the U.S. Department of Justice and USDA in January of 2021 to seize and rescue fourteen cats from the Tiger King Park in Thackerville, Oklahoma. The court case was still ongoing, and the owners were instructed to cease breeding big cats. Nonetheless, they continued to permanently house males and females together. On May 6th, due to Jeff and Lauren Lowe again violating court orders, the seizure of six big cats took place.

Tanya & Scott Smith made the trip to Oklahoma. They were not permitted to be on the premises. Instead, the five cats were loaded into TCWR crates, and brought to them at an undisclosed location. There, they were transferred into TCWR's rescue trailer. Tanya and Scott then proceeded on the 6-hour trip back to the sanctuary.

Ten days later, the rescue team was back on the road, this time with three trucks and trailers, to assist with the largest "Tiger King" seizure. Sixty-three big cats would need to be removed and transferred to sanctuaries across the country. The United States Marshals were involved for this operation, to provide safety for all the animals and the rescue teams present. All the sanctuaries met that evening after arrival, to discuss the plan and mission. Afterwards, we all spread out, having been asked to stay in hotels a certain distance from the Tiger King Park, to hopefully not alert anyone that the seizure was about to take place.

The next morning, May 17th, we headed to the staging area. As the day progressed, the heat and humidity did as well. The road down to the animals was steep, and there was barely room to turn around a truck and trailer. Not only that, at the bottom were ruts and pretty much all sand, so a 4-wheel drive was a must. There was only enough room to squeeze and back in a few trailers at a time. We'd been told by USDA Inspectors that beyond the perimeter fence, the place was in shambles. The cats were being kept in metal and wire shipping containers with sand or a piece of rotting plywood for a floor.

Some of the big cats had to be sedated before being loaded into their assigned crates. There were three sanctuary veterinarians present, as well as multiple USDA veterinarians. With the heat and humidity, sedating can become a bit dangerous, but we had to work fast as the court order was only for three days.

The TCWR rescue team, composed of three trucks and trailers, were ready and waiting to load the cat's crates, as we continually wiped the sweat streaming down our faces. First, one TCWR trailer was loaded, and headed out on a long journey to North Carolina, delivering four cats to another GFAS sanctuary. Then, another TCWR trailer was loaded, and the team headed off for their journey with four more cats to a GFAS accredited sanctuary in Indiana. The final TCWR trailer, sadly, got



Samira



held up. Samira, a 13-year old female lion we were trying to load, began having continual small seizures under the anesthesia. Thankfully, there were veterinarians there to help us monitor her. The USDA team was very pleased that Samira's destination was TCWR, due to our amazing veterinary hospital and staff. Two hours later, she finally recovered and was responsive enough; our third rescue team was able to begin their 6-hour journey back to TCWR. Of course, this journey turned out longer than planned, as it was getting dark and we would need to stop every 30-45 minutes to check on Samira. She did great on the expedition. We finally arrived back at the refuge just after midnight. The following day, we would unload five more big cats into natural habitats at the sanctuary. The other two teams' journeys were much longer, but everyone arrived at their destinations safely. Team exhausted.

Mission complete! At least for now, because there are still more "bad guys" out there breeding and abusing these magnificent creatures. TCWR not only rescued ten big cats, which turned into thirteen (read the cubs' story on page 10), we also transported eight other big cats to their forever homes. With your support, we are able to save so many of these big cats' lives. The time has come! We can tell their story, as they move from the "witness protection" cats to the permanent TCWR residents you are all going to fall in love with. Thank you again for your continued support and working together with us to rescue big cats nationwide!



Cryptorchidism: Casualties of Cub-Petting Exploitation

Frankie, a 7-yr-old male white tiger, was rescued in January of 2019, along with five other survivors of the cub petting industry. These tigers were originally used for cub petting at the now defunct Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park in Oklahoma and another infamous facility in South Carolina. When they'd grown too old and large to be publicly handled for profit, all six were set to be destroyed. Instead, a former employee took them in. When we received the call in 2019, all six tigers were living in the man's backyard and his landlord was terminating his lease. As they needed immediate rescue, we jumped into action; within the week all six were brought to their forever home at Turpentine Creek.



Our initial exam revealed that Frankie had cryptorchidism, along with Floyd, another tiger rescued alongside him. Cryptorchidism is a medical condition where either both or one of the testes do not descend into the scrotum. Testes are developed in the abdomen near the kidney and typically make their way down to the scrotum by two months of age. For Frankie and Floyd, neither of their left testicles descended. An undescended testicle can lead to a variety of health issues, putting males at a higher risk for testicular neoplasia (testicular cancer), developing a hernia near the groin, and testicular torsion (a twisting that cut's off the blood supply to the testicle causing sudden pain and swelling).



In October of 2021 we brought Frankie to our vet hospital for surgery. Luckily his teste had descended further from his abdomen, so removal was relatively easy. Once an overall exam was completed, he was brought back down to his habitat to recover. He recuperated very well and was immediately exploring his new habitat and investigating his neighbors.

Frankie required surgery to remove undescended testicles, or "cryptorchidism." Left untreated, this condition can result in cancer. This condition is thought to be genetic.

No one knows exactly what causes cryptorchidism in felines. Genetics are thought to be a main factor, specifically a gene that can be passed on. Other influences may include maternal health conditions that disrupt the hormones, and/or nerve activity that influence the development of the testes. While we are unsure of the specific cause, cryptorchidism is a rare enough condition that when two animals from the same rescue both exhibit it, we must pause and question why.

Common practice for prevention of cryptorchidism is to remove the affected animals from any breeding program, including female offspring that may be a carrier of the gene. Unfortunately, in unscrupulous breeding facilities used to supply the cub petting industry, animals are bred repeatedly for the sole purpose of profit, with no regard to their genetics and subsequent quality of life.

In this coming year we will bring Floyd to our vet hospital to remove his left undescended testicle. At TCWR we strive to provide our animals with the best possible lifelong care and will continue to do so. Luckily, Frankie and Floyd, both survivors of the cub petting industry, can live out their life at Turpentine Creek healthy and happy.

You Make a Difference!

Fergy



Chuff



Donner



Thank you to everyone who treated our big cats to new toys during the holidays!

Joey



Lana



Kiamin



Michael



Khaleesi



Lakota



An easy way to put a smile on the face of every lion, tiger, and bear is to sign up for Amazon Smile Charities at smile.amazon.com. Just search for "Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc."

Montana



Chief



Kiara



Scheduling a spring visit at tcwr.org/visit is another fun way to support our animal residents!

The Miracle Made Possible by YOU

Early last May, we unloaded five animals seized by the US Department of Justice from the Tiger King Park in Oklahoma. We had been told the four females could be pregnant, so we were looking closely for signs. Big cats hide pregnancy exceptionally well to deter predators, and normally do not 'show' until they are very near delivery. From the moment we saw tigress Priscilla, she appeared ready to 'pop'.

In preparation for the event, we rigged a camera inside her den to allow us quiet 24-7 monitoring. Two weeks later, on the morning of May 20th, Priscilla gave birth to three cubs! We followed strict AZA guidelines on how to allow a female to raise her young. Since it was only twelve days after her rescue, we were very concerned about her stress level. To give her maximum privacy and allow her to focus on her cubs, we closed off her area and only allowed senior staff in to ensure the cubs were nursing and she was caring for them properly.

By day four, it became shockingly clear to Dr. Kellyn that the cubs were not normal. "I saw this tiny cub dragging its hind limbs behind, with its ankles twisted backwards and stuck in that position." All three cubs had flexural tendon contracture of their hind limbs. This condition, colloquially termed 'club feet' or 'twisted leg', involves more than the tendons; it is a shortening and hardening of the soft tissue structures including tendons, ligaments, and muscle leading to deformity and rigidity to the affected joints, in this case, the ankle joints.

It was soon apparent that all three cubs suffered from this condition. While the cause of flexural tendon contracture has never been scientifically proven, nor has it been previously documented in tigers (speculation as to causes documented in house cats includes nutrition of mother, genetics, inbreeding, and dispositioning in utero), one thing was 100% clear: If left untreated, these cubs would likely not be able to use their hind limbs, resulting in poor quality of life and early euthanasia.

Even with treatment, results can vary widely. To give them the best chance, we needed to start treatment as early as possible and be aggressive about it. The mainstay of treatment is physical therapy multiple times a day and splinting of the limbs into the proper positioning. While rehab was urgent, we needed their mother to nurse and raise them. To build her trust in our team, senior staff brought Priscilla meat treats and spent time talking to her, while continuing to keep her area quiet. Finally, we were able to start therapy at four weeks of age. Starting this early, we hoped to fix the condition enough to minimize long-term effects and grant the cubs fairly normal lives.



The cubs were born with "clubfoot" and required therapy for a chance at a normal life. After building Priscilla's trust, we began their therapy at our onsite veterinary hospital when the cubs were 4 weeks old.



Dodge
(Dodge)

Each session began with warm water massage followed by flexibility exercises and then walking/ placement exercises.



Rosie

After the morning session, their little limbs were splinted into proper position until the afternoon therapy.

We began with two sessions daily, at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. returning the cubs to their mother in between. Sessions lasted from one to two hours. After the morning session, their little hind limbs were splinted into the proper position until the afternoon therapy. Each session began with warm water massage followed by flexibility exercises and then walking/placement exercises. Jinx did amazingly well; within a month he'd built up strength, and was walking successfully.

By the second month, due to the severity of their condition, Rosie (who was most concerning) and DOJ remained in splints when not in therapy for two full weeks, to build up their abdominal muscle strength to support their hind limbs. It was a landmark moment, when Dr. Kellyn first saw Rosie walking alongside her mom in those splints!

After six weeks, we progressed to sessions four times daily, and no splinting required. By this point, eight people were needed during each session to constrain and work with the growing cubs. Every staff member that could spare time was coming down to the vet hospital to help. The therapy obviously brought some discomfort for the cubs, but no cat enjoys being restrained on its back for thirty minutes to an hour: they wiggled and vocalized, attempted to nip, and scratch! Even with muzzles, we realized that once they hit 40 or 50 lbs. they would become much too dangerous to work with. We were racing against time. Thankfully, Priscilla seemed to realize we were trying to help her cubs and only refused to let us take them on a couple occasions.

Fast forward to six months after their birth. It's taken a lot of time, effort, many staff members, one trusting tigress, and three tough little tiger cubs. When asked to describe Rosie, Jinx and DOJ's dramatic and incredible improvement at 60 lbs., Dr. Kellyn becomes very emotional. "When I approach their habitat and call them, my heart just explodes to see them racing up the hill to see me."

Miracles really happen at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, because of your support. Our special thanks to ifaw for their contribution to veterinarian care.



Priscilla (top) came to Turpentine Creek due to our assistance with the federal government's seizure of big cats from Tiger King Park. She and three other females were suspected of possible pregnancies, due to the breeding done at the Tiger King Park.



Watch the trailer
"Uncharted"



It's taken a lot of time, effort, many staff members, one trusting tigress, and three tough little tiger cubs.



The cub's recovery was miraculous, and they are doing well to this day.

Wild About Wildlife Membership 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!

Renew your membership in 2022 to receive your members-only 30th Anniversary T-shirt!

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:

Your Contribution: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

I would like to make my loving donation recurring:

..... → **Repeat Monthly**



Order 2022 Calendars: \$10 each X ____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$ _____

Choose your Wild About Wildlife Membership

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
- \$150/yr - Cougar/Leopard/Jaguar
- \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear/Hyena

Animal Sponsor: TCWR no longer limits the number of sponsors per animal because sponsorships help all rescues.

- \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
 - \$1,000/yr - Small Cat
 - \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard/Jaguar
 - \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear/Hyena
- Sponsorship 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): _____

Total Contribution Today: \$ _____

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!

More Tiger King Cats From Around the Country

Currently, twelve of the cats rescued by TCWR prior to the Tiger King Park seizure in 2021 were bred by Joe Exotic. All but five were born at his facility while they were making the “Tiger King ” documentary. After breeding them, he sold the cats to other exhibitors as exploitative as himself, such as Tim Stark and “Doc” Antle, along with other individuals looking to profit from their existence. Our records show some cubs were sold when they were only a week old to be used for cub petting, while others were sold when they had aged out of Joe Exotic’s own cub petting operation, to be used in entertainment or as exhibits.

Joey, Lakota ti-liger, Khaleesi, Naula, Tommie (RIP), Floyd, Tigger, and Diesel (RIP) were all born at Joe’s between 2014 and 2017. They were then sold to private zoos, breeders, and individual owners. Shakira liger, Kiara, and Jasmine were born and sold before “Tiger King” was filmed.

These are only the animals that we actually have been told came from Joe Exotic. Many of our older animals and deceased animals were born at Joe’s then sold to other breeders, road-side zoos, and private owners and eventually required rescue by Turpentine Creek. Over the years we have offered safe transport to a known 32 big cats bred at Joe’s facility, rehoming them to other accredited sanctuaries while participating in major rescues.

The Colorado Project

In late August of 2016, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge began negotiations to rescue 115 animals from a breeding and exhibitor park in Colorado. With only twelve acres housing all the animals, the park was breeding specifically to support the cub petting industry. The owner, who had opened the park in 1993, was known to buy and trade animals with Joe Exotic, Jeff Lowe and ‘Doc’ Antel.

Over six months, all 115 animals were successfully rescued and the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance was formed. TCWR brought thirty-four animals to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and the remaining animals found a home at fourteen other reputable sanctuaries across the nation. Twenty-four of the 115 animals originated from Joe Exotic, three from ‘Doc’ Antle. Five of the cats that originated from Joe came to TCWR: Joey, Lakota ti-liger, Khaleesi, Fergie and Shakira liger. Fergie originally came from Joe, went to Colorado, then went to Dirk Arther in Las Vegas to be used in his magic show, then back to Colorado! We believe that Priscilla, Opie, and possibly Lyla were also at Colorado, then taken by Jeff Lowe. Priscilla and Opie’s estimated ages do match up. Lyla’s age does but paperwork says she was a tiger. It’s impossible to know, as these unscrupulous breeders constantly changed cat’s names and used the same names repeatedly!

Jasmine was born and sold before “Tiger King” was filmed. Jasmine came to live at a zoo with her sister. When she and her sister stopped getting along the zoo decided to rehome Jasmine and called Turpentine Creek. To this day she doesn’t like loud noises or big crowds; to give her the peace she deserves, Jasmine lives at Rescue Ridge where she enjoys enrichment and loves her habitat.



Oklahoma Six Rescue

In January of 2019, we rescued six tigers from a run down petting facility in Oklahoma. James Garetson, another Tiger King character, was being run off the property and reached out to Turpentine Creek to take over the care of his six tigers. All six had once been part of the cub petting pay-to-play scheme at Joe Exotic's Zoo and were scheduled to be euthanized after they could no longer make a profit. The owner of the facility where TCWR staff picked up the cats saved them from that fate, but they all suffered from severe obesity and malnutrition when we rescued them from him.

Diesel and Tommy came from Doc Antel; both had highly compromised immune systems which contributed to their premature deaths. Floyd and Frankie came from Joe, both suffered from undescended testicles. (See article on page 8).

Naula and Kiara Rescue

Naula and Kiara were rescued from a zoo that was forced to close due to the owner's illness just before Valentine's Day of 2020, TCWR was contacted by the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance, as TCWR was the closest true sanctuary in the vicinity to accommodate the animals. The Previous owner said he'd rescued both "from a bad place in Oklahoma" when they were cubs. Both Naula & Kiara came from Joe Exotic originally.

Indiana eight

On September 19, 2020, after years of court litigation, a facility in Indiana owned by Tim Stark was ordered by the courts to relinquish its animals. Turpentine Creek took in eight cats – 4 lions (Chief, Mauri, Savanna, and Ungowwa) and 4 tigers (Avalanche, Hurricane, Glacier, and Miles). Mauri had been purchased from Joe Exotic according to the paperwork, which also revealed that Tim Stark had traded cats back to Joe over the years. All of the animals were infested with intestinal parasites and had many health issues. Chief was by-far in the worst condition. This 13-year-old male lion had stopped eating and drinking five days before rescue, yet, according to staff no vet had been called. Upon administering fluids, he willingly entered our transport cage, stumbling from his atrophied hind legs. All eight of the rescued animals were given a nutritious diet, dewormed, and examined upon arrival. Many were scared and aggressive but once they settled into the safe haven provided by TCWR they transformed into happy, healthy animals. Many of the cats were declawed so our team had to put them on pain management.

Complex government seizure cases leave us without the liberty to share information about rescues with our supporters. Thanks to our recurring donors, we are continuing to build a solid foundation to lean on when we can't ask for specific donations due to ongoing court cases. #PounceNow and help us build a strong recurring donor base; your monthly support will allow us to work behind-the-scenes when necessary to rescue vulnerable animals from the clutches of the Big Cat Trade. While making your next donation, mark the recurring box to help us build a strong foundation for the animals to come...



Jake's Journey - A New Rescue

Many of our survivors took a miraculous journey, but you have to read this one! The road a cat may travel to reach Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and lifetime sanctuary can be long and winding. In July of 2021, the Norman Police Department confiscated 356 animals from Rock Creek Farm in Norman, Oklahoma. According to a complaint filed by the Oklahoma Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the owner, a veterinarian practicing in Oklahoma City, was planning to open a petting zoo and did not have a license for the exotic species kept illegally within city limits. The Oklahoma Wildlife Department was called in to assist along with several other agencies. There was a single African Serval on the manifest of animals removed. Thus began Jake's journey.

Wildcare Oklahoma, based out of Noble, Oklahoma, took temporary charge of the young male serval until the conclusion of the court case. Wildcare Oklahoma typically works to rehabilitate native wildlife for eventual return to the wild. They needed to find this serval a forever home. That's when the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance received the call. It was now early December, and cold weather was right around the corner. As an African animal, this cat had special needs. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge was the nearest facility that could provide the necessary housing of a heated den. On December 4, Tanya and Scott Smith drove to meet the Wildcare Oklahoma team.

Jake is settling in and, on warm days, can be seen exploring his new habitat. Like most servals, he is shy and very hissy with the team. Mauri, the female lioness in the next-door habitat, is fascinated watching him, and he's learning to accept her presence. Now's the time to pounce on an opportunity to come to visit Jake and Mauri and all the other cats here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge!

Jake the African serval was rescued from Oklahoma where his owner was illegally hoarding 356 animals.



Jake



TCWR President, Tanya Smith, who also serves as Rescue Committee Chair for the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance, worked to find a safe place for Jake.

TCWR was the best fit for Jake because we had a heated den available for the winter.



Jake enjoys exploring his habitat and like most servals, hisses in displeasure when he wants his space. #PounceNow to visit Jake this spring!

A Mountain Lion Living In a Bronx, NYC Apartment? Sasha Update

Sasha, our beautiful cougar from the Bronx, is continuing to adjust nicely to her new forever home. She has definitely settled in and is absolutely loving her habitat! She has become much more active and social, rather than having to be coaxed out of her night house, as she had initially. We recently relocated her from a spot at the far end of her habitat, to one that is adjacent to Marissa and Louisa, to allow them to share walls with each other. Although we are not quite ready to attempt a full introduction of the three, they have become increasingly friendly through-the-fence neighbors.

Sasha lives in a habitat adjacent to cougar sisters, Louisa and Marissa. We are allowing them to get to know one another through the habitat wall and may attempt to introduce them in the future.



Sasha cougar continues to blossom following her rescue from a Bronx apartment. She loves darting around her habitat and "chirping" at guests!

Sasha can be seen enjoying her various enrichment items in the habitat most of the time. She is routinely spotted running, chasing, and greeting our staff photographer, while offering friendly and cheerful high-pitched chirps to her animal care team! She also seems to enjoy onlookers, responding to their presence with various positive vocalizations such as purring. It's such a joy to witness this happy girl making the most of every day, and exercising her new-found freedom!

Raising Up Wildlife Advocates - One Child at a Time

TCWR's *Protect All Wildlife* (PAW) Club is a great way to do just that... The youth of today are the key to the future of wildlife everywhere! The PAW Club offers a variety of digital activities each month, focusing on practices that support preservation and species survival using coloring sheets, animal fun facts, games, puzzles and more. Membership also includes a subscription to our quarterly Big Cat Chronicles newsletter, monthly TCWR animal birthday reminders, educational activities sent via email, and a personalized membership certificate. All for a nominal cost of only \$45 per year; it's an ideal way to foster compassion, personal achievement, and community involvement in your budding wildlife advocate!

Learn more at:

Education.TurpentineCreek.org/paw-club/

Or, scan this code with
your smartphone camera!



Your Legacy Plan Provides for TCWR Animals Beyond Your Lifetime!

Cari Mustard decided to join the TCWR Legacy Giving program in January of 2021. "As a Lover of all animals, I have always wanted to help them. There are so many Animals in need. Often I would find out too late about an Animal that needed help. I decided to become a part of the Solution. I don't need a bunch of new purses or shoes- I need to help animals. True happiness comes from giving to those that need help. What better feeling to have, then to know that your Memory will live on and will help as many animals as possible!"

By joining our Legacy Giving program, you can continue to help Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge rescue animals, and provide them with the best quality of life possible in captivity. Your legacy gift will help ensure that all our current animal residents, along with those animals we rescue in the future, will be able to live out their lives in peace and safety, cared for and respected as wild animals.

Legacy Giving happens when a supporter decides to leave a portion of their estates to Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. To learn more about leaving a Legacy of Giving to ensure a brighter future for the animals we all love, visit:

TCWR.org/support-us/legacy-giving/



Romantic Memories - Create Yours at the Zulu Safari Lodge!

Lisa and Rob Francis, of Missouri, have been giving \$10 monthly in addition to their other financial support to Turpentine Creek since answering our call for recurring donations in June of 2020. They've visited the Refuge many times, but Lisa still vividly remembers their overnight stay back in October of 2015, in one of our Safari Lodges.

"We could hear lions caroling during the night and enjoyed sitting outside of our lodge in the morning, listening to them. It was the highlight of our trip!" They also enjoyed using the fire pit and jacuzzi on the deck, and felt that the lodge decor was beautiful and the perfect theme for the refuge.

Another aspect of their stay they loved was the inclusion of the Educational Tour, with unlimited time to explore the Discovery area while it was open. Both Lisa and Rob felt very welcomed by TCWR staff and enjoyed talking with them during their visit.

"TCWR was one of our favorite places we have ever stayed! We've recommended it to many people and are hoping to come back soon with friends," said Lisa. Until they are able to visit again, she enjoys watching the recorded Facebook lives each evening. "I love seeing the animals we met when visiting the Refuge. We have pictures of baby Bam Bam from when he first arrived. To see him in his natural habitat now is so heartwarming!"

You can book a stay at one of our Safari Lodges and learn more by scanning the QR code!



Lisa and Rob still cherish vivid memories of their overnight stay in the TCWR Safari Lodges in October of 2015.

The couple enjoyed both the fire pit and jacuzzi located on the deck just outside their lodge, and felt that the lodge decor was beautiful and themed perfectly for the refuge.



Another aspect of their stay Lisa and Rob loved was the inclusion of the Educational Tour, with unlimited access to explore the Discovery area.

JOIN US FOR NORTHWEST ARKANSAS GIVES DAY!

Northwest Arkansas Gives 2022!
April 17th, 8 AM - 8 PM (Central Time)
Your online chance to donate!

Help us meet our goal of \$50,000 in a single day to support our mission. If you are able, please donate \$5, \$10, \$100... Remember, every donation helps and you don't have to live in Arkansas to participate.

We'll be giving away prizes throughout the day, as we meet fundraising goals. Prizes include free tickets for a behind-the-scenes specialty tour (\$100 value each), a paw painting, gift cards & assorted TCWR merchandise.

#PounceNow and pledge to donate to Poncho and his friends on #NWAGives Day, April 17th!



Alumni Perspective on TCWR Animal Care Internships

Nikki Adams was an Animal Care intern at Turpentine Creek from 2015 through 2017, serving multiple internships here. Like so many of our graduates, she remains in contact with TCWR Animal Curator Emily McCormack. These days, Nikki holds the crucial position of Hospital Keeper at the Oakland Zoo in California. She reached out to Emily this past November after having just completed a long, 10-hour day of performing a “very sad, but fascinating” giraffe necropsy, and reflected on her time at Turpentine. “I hope you’re truly proud of the internship you’ve created.”

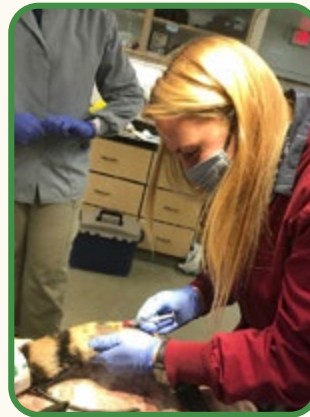
According to Nikki, she feels that the TCWR Internship program sets up graduates for success. “Everything I learned at Turpentine has been directly applicable to so many other parts of my career so far. I’ve used every skill that I gained in my other jobs.” In Nikki’s opinion, her time spent at TCWR definitely put her above many others that didn’t receive the same experience and training. She feels that everything, from butchering cows (necropsy of large animals that takes an entire team), to doing educational tours for TCWR visitors; from building, cutting pipe, tying wire and scraping drains, becomes important. Nikki went on to say, “I just wanted to thank you for accepting me into your program and giving me the opportunity to become a great keeper! I’ve missed Turpentine since I left and really hope I’ll get to visit again soon!”

To learn how you can gain the kind of experiences and training that have given Nikki and so many others a jumpstart to success, go to [TCWR.org/internship-program/](https://www.tcwr.org/internship-program/)



Nikki, shown with napping past resident Turbo, feels that the TCWR Internship program sets up graduates for success. “Everything I learned at Turpentine has been directly applicable to so many other parts of my career.”

Nikki treasures her memories at Turpentine Creek, including those of her beloved Thunder 2, whom we bid farewell to this past January at 17 years-old. She looks forward to visiting again soon.



Nikki feels that the skills and experiences she gained during her internship at TCWR have helped her in attaining the crucial position she holds today as Hospital Keeper at the Oakland Zoo in California.

Art with an Altitude!

After having to put this fun, free family event on hold for two years, we’re thrilled to host the 30th Annual Kite Festival, Art with an Altitude event at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, March 26th!

Sponsored by KaleidoKites of Eureka Springs, enjoy high flying fun for the whole family at this all-ages event. Bring your kite or make one onsite with the experts at KaleidoKites. Food vendors, music, games, giveaways, and more! The event starts at 10 AM and ends at 4 PM. Mark your calendars, and don’t miss this popular event! (Standard admission applies to tour the Refuge.)



Donate today to be a positive change for big cats!

Your Part in TCWR's Future

Over the next three years, we plan to make considerable improvements to our supporter's experience while visiting the Refuge. The aim of our plan is to uphold our goal of continually improving the quality of lifetime care for the animals we rescue, while taking the steps to secure their future.

In our lifetime we cannot end world hunger or cure cancer ...but We CAN end the Big Cat Crisis! Through education, advocacy, and quality care, we are making strides in changing the future for big cats everywhere. We are the only educational facility in the sanctuary world doing the amount of public education undertaken by our team via classroom presentations, onsite Educational Tours, and virtual tours and classes presented worldwide.

95% of visitors to TCWR will no longer visit places that exploit animals after experiencing our Educational Tours. Furthering our relationships with regional world class, like-minded partners while continuing to harness the power of nationwide media outlets, plus the addition of a state-of-the-art educational facility, will drive our goal of tripling our number of future advocates (visitors) from approximately 50,000 per year to 150,000. However, our current cramped facilities have become costly to repair and maintain, while inefficient to heat and cool.



Over the next three years, we plan to make considerable improvements to our supporter's experience while visiting the Refuge. The aim of our plan is to uphold our goal of continually improving the quality of lifetime care for the animals we rescue, while taking the steps to secure their future.



Phase 1 of our plans is already completed and paid for, thanks to your support. This includes construction of our Discovery Area Pavilion, the paving of the Tour Route Hills to lower noise and dust, and pouring concrete in the Discovery Area Walkways.



Phase 2 will include the new Education and Visitor Center that will house divisible classroom space, enabling us to conduct classes and host seminars year-round in a climate-controlled environment. A designated broadcasting office will elevate the quality of our virtual offerings to a worldwide audience, estimated to drastically expand our educational outreach potential.



Meanwhile, the Education Center will house museum quality permanent & changing Educational Exhibits - several of which will be interactive - while providing a venue for major works by local artists. A full-service catering truck will provide lunches to allow our visitors to spend more time at the Refuge, while also having the capacity to service our fundraising events on site.



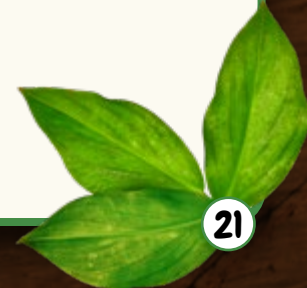
The second half of this phase of investment in Turpentine Creek's future will take place simultaneously and involve Habitat Expansion and Improvements to better accommodate both existing animal residents and future rescues. We will also extend our Discovery Area Walkway to better serve our visitors' experience.

Our goal is to raise the \$4M USD to fund both the completion of our Education & Visitor Center and our 3-year strategic plan for the property before beginning this next phase of construction. From goal reaching to breaking ground should take less than ninety days! Remember, if we do not act, these magnificent animals will soon be gone in the wild forever. Together, we CAN end the Big Cat Trade!

To learn more about how YOU can help us succeed in our plans to Create a New Generation of Wildlife Advocates while making Turpentine Creek animal habitats even better and able to accommodate more rescues, please fill out this simple inquiry form:

Type this in your browser:
forms.gle/CbcpZA7aBsQa232GA

OR, call Sandy at 479-372-3278



Your Monthly Donation Adds Years to Lives

At 20 years old, Whitney has been with us for a large portion of TCWR's journey these past 30 years. She was part of what's known as the "Quitman Rescue." Her previous owner was in a tight spot after relocating his 60 big cats to a sub-standard property.

Later on, four of the owner's remaining lions escaped and were sadly shot. The gravity of this situation was the last straw, and he reached out to TCWR to confirm the legality of shooting the remaining 56 animals himself. We couldn't let that happen. In the end, 21 big cats were given a lifetime home at the Refuge, and we facilitated the rescue and transport of the remaining animals to another sanctuary.

Aside from treating her initial health concerns, Whitney is on a steady pain management program and deals with neurological issues from poor genetics. She lives happily at Rescue Ridge, where the staff treats her like a queen.

The enormity of the big cat problem in the U.S. often requires us to act swiftly, without time to wait on specific donations. After the animal is rescued, we have to be prepared for any surprise health complications, especially with tigers like Whitney. Those who commit to giving monthly give our animal residents a bonus layer of stability. We rely on your dependable support for animals of high concern and for the unexpected. Your \$5+ monthly donation will save lives; pounce now at [TCWR.org/donate](https://tcwr.org/donate).



Whitney was saved from the Trade and continues to thrive at 20 years of age thanks to the sustainable support provided by our recurring donors. Your \$5+ monthly donation will save lives: tcwr.org/donate.



SCAN ME

Employee Spotlight: Jason LaVarnway

Jason LaVarnway is a seasoned veteran with TCWR and has been with us for 3 1/2 years. He grew up in Morrisonville, NY, and went to college at the State University of New York, Oswego. He graduated in December of 2016 with a degree in Zoology. His first animal care internship was with Forest Animal Rescue in Silver Springs, Florida which is also a member of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance. About a year into the position, he learned about TCWR and applied to our program. After being accepted and successfully completing multiple internships with us, Jason became a member of our team. He is passionate about his job in animal care, and plans to remain in the field. He spends his free time enjoying long walks with his dog, and practicing woodworking. We are so pleased to have Jason as a valued member of the TCWR team!



Big Cat Gifts

Gift purchases help us care for the animals!

Shop these items and more by scanning the QR code or visiting Shop.TurpentineCreek.org



Stay Warm and Celebrate BB King with this Comfy Throw




Thanks to the amazing work being done at Turpentine Creek, BB King went through ground-breaking chemotherapy as well as surgery and is now cancer-free and happy and healthy!

Help Support him and all the animals at the refuge with a purchase of this beautiful sherpa backed throw.




20oz Paw Print Water Bottle - \$20



Silicon 12oz Wine Glass - \$16



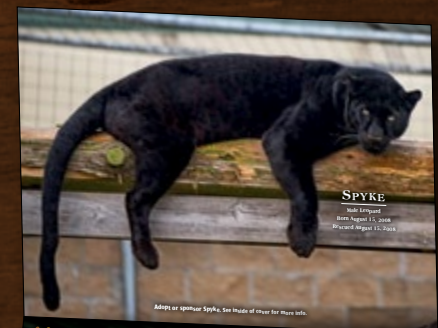
Swoosh Design Ball Cap - \$24



Silicon 16oz Pint Glass - \$17.50

Start Your Year Off Right - By Keeping Your Loved Ones Close! **POUNCE NOW** for Your 2022, 30th Anniversary Calendars!

As usual, our 2022 calendar is chock full of vibrant photos of all your adorable animal favorites! This full size 9" x 12" calendar is the perfect 'wall brightener' for any decor, and the ideal way to keep your animal loved-ones close at hand! Each calendar features animal resident birthdays, Refuge events, wildlife holidays and other notable dates. Get yours, and another one for the animal lover(s) in your life! Just \$20... But hurry, we only have a few left!





Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
 239 Turpentine Creek Lane
 Eureka Springs, AR 72632

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Pounce Now!

#PounceNow to feed a growing cub!
 Meet the cubs on page 10.



SCAN ME



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