

Rescue to Refuge

Big Cat Chronicles

Winter 2022



Keesha

Female Tiger
(*Panthera tigris*)

Born 11/15/07

Rescued 10/18/10

Your Support at
Year's End Secures
Their Future



Letter from the President

Founder Tanya Smith



As we approach Winter of 2022, I find myself looking back on the highs and lows of 30+ years of rescue work. From the tragic neglect and starvation case of the 10 big cats that the Boone County Sheriff's office called upon us to rescue in 1996 that taxed our early resources, to our successful conversion into all grassy habitats for our animals and our construction of the state-of-the-art Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital in 2016 – 2017. I remember how much it's all meant for the unwanted, abused, and neglected animals we care for at the Refuge, and its many rewards.

Over the years I have heard over 500 stories regarding the animals we agree to take, or help place at other accredited facilities. Definitely, the yin and yang of emotions fill my head each time I receive a desperate call to help with someone's exotic animal mistake. Each story is unique, but usually begins, 'I have (or, my friend has)', and then becomes very sad. Usually, someone is needing assistance immediately.

In this issue, we will look at the effect the environment at Turpentine Creek and our animal care programming has had on some of the most traumatized and sickly big cats that have come to us for lifelong care. We explain the day to day work that goes into transforming animals' lives at TCWR, along with the expected, and unexpected, expenses we encounter to make it all possible. In her letter to you, Animal Curator Emily McCormack will help you understand the emotional bonds this work forges.

Switching to the present, you will learn about our most recent rescue of Bobcat Santana, who spent the first part of her life as a privately owned pet. The owner's personal tragedy prompted her to call TCWR this past September, to ensure that Santana will live out the rest of her life as the wild bobcat she was born to be, with the care she deserves.

Your support and passion for our mission gives me hope that we will soon attain our vision of ending the Big Cat Trade. Our new Big Cat Education Center & Museum will triple both our educational outreach and our local economic impact! Together, we are making great strides in educating people of all ages to advocate for wildlife. We know that accredited sanctuaries are full nationwide, but the calls for rescue will continue for years after passage of national legislation. With your help, we will construct new habitat space in our Freedom Field, so we are ready to say 'yes' when those calls come in.

As I reminisce of where we have come from to where we are going, our progress gives me a sense of pride. I am proud of our team, and I am proud of our family of supporters! Without all of you, none of the amazing transformations we have achieved in animals' lives would have been possible. You give me hope for the future!

Enjoy and thank you! Until next time,

A handwritten signature of Tanya Smith in blue ink.

Tanya Smith, President & Founder



Become a recurring donor today by
visiting our donation page:

TCWR.org/donate

Intern Alumni Perspective: The Colorado Project

The Colorado Project of 2016 to 2017 still stands as the most sweeping Rescue to Refuge effort in TCWR's 30+ year history. This massive undertaking involving 115 animals would have been impossible without the help of TCWR interns.

Isaac Kuhn interned two times at the Refuge from 2015 to 2016 and relocated to assist our team on the ground in Colorado. Today, he is a large animal keeper at the Omaha Zoo & Aquarium. Isaac feels his time at the Colorado Project and at the Refuge set him apart from others in the animal care industry. His experience with TCWR taught him to approach stressful situations with creative problem solving, both individually and as a team.



Isaac remembers how dilapidated and unsafe the Colorado facility was, and its lack of basic animal care standards. He recalls exhibits left partially unenclosed, with cats climbing up wobbly fences. Many of the big cats there had multiple medical issues, including malnutrition from having been pulled from their mothers for the cub petting industry. From the astounding amount of feces and trash in the animal enclosures to filthy green pools containing rotten food and carcasses, Isaac was shocked at the "180-degree difference from TCWR."

The transformation of the animals' behaviors and the trust they gained in humans after they arrived at the Refuge was incredible to Isaac. "They finally got to be wild animals. Shakira II was a terrifying animal, constantly stressed from having cubs taken from her repeatedly. I visited once after the rescue and could already tell that she was more relaxed and trusting."

TCWR interns play an integral part in the day to day work we accomplish at the Refuge. Caring for an average of 100 animals would be impossible without the hard work of these young women and men. To learn more about how you can help sponsor the TCWR Internship Program, contact Sandy at sandy@tcwr.org.



Uncharted

Uncharted is a documentary film that follows the journey of Priscilla and her cubs who were born unable to walk. Just 12 days after being rescued from the Tiger King Park in Oklahoma, Priscilla gave birth to DOJ, Jinx, and Rosie. With euthanasia on the table, our Staff had to act quickly to rehabilitate and treat their condition. This film follows the dedication of our team and their work to rehabilitate and offer medical treatment to the cubs, along with the unexpected challenges that came about during the rush to save the cubs before they became too dangerous to handle.

Talk to your friends about the dangers of the black market cub petting industry today!

New Rescue - Welcome Santana!



This past September 15th we traveled over 500 miles round trip to rescue a 12-year-old bobcat named Santana, in Geuda Springs, Kansas. Santana was initially purchased as a 'pet' in Montana, where she was spayed and had her front paws declawed. Due to tragic circumstances, the family could no longer care for her and called TCWR. As Rescue Chair for the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance, Tanya Smith, President and Co-Founder of TCWR, reached out to all sanctuaries that care for small cats. Due to the numerous rescues nationwide, there was no space available other than at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

What would seem like a simple, quick rescue trip to Kansas was a bit more complicated due to our team having to change a flat tire that blew on the way there. Then, we had to clear Santana with a local veterinarian prior to departure to comply with the law before crossing state lines with her. Santana also received an exam and rabies vaccination before departing the clinic.

Upon Santana's arrival at the Refuge, we observed how her eyes widened with awe as she stepped out of her carrier and into her new grassy habitat. As she scanned the area, taking in all the things to climb, scratch, and play with, the more her little tail wagged! Santana's favorite space is a ramp that runs over the Tour Loop gate in the Discovery Area, connecting her nighthouse to her habitat. She loves spending time on it, watching people travel underneath her. Our staff is planning to slowly introduce her to some of the other bobcats residing at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

On May 1, we celebrated 30 years of rescuing abandoned, abused, and neglected big cats. "There never seems to be an end for the need to rescue, though we've been working hard to stop private ownership," Tanya Smith explains. "We never want to think we will pass away, leaving our pets homeless, but that happens more frequently than most people are aware. It's hard enough to place elderly cats or dogs. When you are rescuing an apex predator, there just aren't many options for these animals if their owners die. It can create a burden on the loved ones we leave behind. Our hearts go out to the surviving spouse in Santana's case, and we are glad we were able to help her during this time of need and loss."

If you'd like to help with this latest rescue, please donate at TCWR.org.



Join us Giving Tuesday for an all day live event!



Tuesday, November 29th from 9 am - 5 pm CST
Contests, Give Aways, Never Before Seen Footage

Stay tuned on Social Media and our Website
for more information as we get close.



Shasta

Your Last Chance to End the Big Cat Trade in 2022!

We are in the final stretch, as 2022 and the 117th session of congress are quickly coming to an end. There are many important bills that are going through congress right now, but The Big Cat Public Safety Act is a well-supported bi-partisan bill that should easily pass if it can get to a vote on the floor. If we can get a 2/3rds majority - 67 Senators - to co-sponsor the bill it will be forced to a vote on the floor and it will pass!

However, we need your help! We need to continue to get more senators to co-sponsor the bill. As of the end of October, 2022, we are only three co-sponsors from a majority and 19 from a 2/3rds majority. With your advocacy, we can protect big cats in the U.S.

The American public supports this bill, as do the House and the President! We have to take action now to get the Big Cat Public Safety Act passed before the year comes to a close or we will have to start the process all over again.

Please reach out to your Senators no matter if they are Democrats or Republicans. It is only by getting support on both sides of the aisle that this bill will get passed before the session ends.

Join us today, and together we will save big cats and put an end to the trade **THIS YEAR!**

Scan this code to contact your Senator!



Your advocacy can make a difference!

Tiger King Park: Case Closed

The Animals are Finally Free!

In the early morning of May 2021, over ten teams from the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) gathered in the rear parking lot of a casino in Thackerville, Oklahoma. The teams traveled from across the country, sleeping in separate hotels far away so as not to give away the events that were about to unfold. For weeks, the BCSA and United States Department of Justice had been carefully planning the 2nd half of this two-stage rescue and now we had 48 hours to seize the remaining 63 animals from Jeff Lowe's Tiger King Park.

Every step was extremely organized and planned out, with safety being the top concern. No BCSA member was allowed in the Park during the seizure so each sanctuary team had to send in their own labeled transportation cages. TCWR brought three trailers, one headed to the Refuge and the other two for transporting animals for other sanctuaries. The presence of the US Marshall and SWAT Teams was welcomed by all because we never know how exotic animal owners will retaliate during a rescue. For example, in 2011 a private owner released 56 dangerous animals into the public during the Zanesville Massacre.



Donate today to be a positive change for big cats!

The Tiger King Park profited by breeding manmade, unnatural variations of animals (white lions, tigons, and li-ligers), cub petting schemes, and pay-to-play interactions. Inside the park, the enclosures averaged 20x40 feet; no bigger than a shipping container. Some housed multiple animals of different species. The floors consisted of compacted earth and, with hot weather conditions, many of the animals had cracked paws filled with sand.

Exploitative breeding facilities are able to avoid legalities by purposefully mismanaging the animals' names and records. Misinformation regarding medical history, combined with the heat, created heightened risk factors for the sedation needed for transport. During the rescue, Samira the lioness had an adverse reaction to the sedatives and suffered multiple seizures. TCWR waited for four hours with veterinary assistance before Samira was cleared for transport, stopping every hour to check on her while rushing back to our state-of-the-art veterinary hospital.

In September of 2022, the case against Jeff Lowe was closed and the animals no longer are in witness protection. They will now live out the rest of their lives in safety at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Never again will these animals be subjected to abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Supporting non-accredited animal facilities that offer interactions like the Tiger King Park is contributing to animal abuse. You can make the biggest impact by not participating in them and spreading this education to others. Help us, help them by supporting our efforts to bring abused big cats from Rescue to Refuge.



Samira



Mani



Opie

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

TCWR Legacy Society: Helping the Future of Big Cats

The need for future large-scale rescues is becoming increasingly apparent. By joining the Turpentine Creek Legacy Society, you will continue to help animals suffering in desperate situations to live out their lives in safety at the Refuge, with the lifelong care they deserve.

Long-time TCWR supporters Henry and Marilyn Lieberman decided on a bequest for the Refuge because, “We discovered TCWR in September 2000 and have seen this refuge evolve from humble beginnings to a world class sanctuary. What better way is there to ensure its continued successful and worthy mission of rescuing exotic big cats than to support them with a legacy gift?”

Your bequest will help us build new habitats, critical to helping future cats in need, and continue to provide the animals we rescue with the best quality of life possible in captivity!

To learn more about joining our Legacy Society, visit: TCWR.org/support-us/legacy-giving/

We Have Lodging! Spend The Night

Have you ever thought it could be possible to be in two places at once? Turpentine Creek offers travelers a little piece of Africa in the Ozark Mountains. Our award winning lodging is the perfect getaway for both panoramic mountain views and tigers frolicking in a winter wonderland. With the cooler temperatures, many of our animals (minus the bears) become much more active.

Winter in the Ozarks is charming enough on its own, but adding the sound of lions caroling throughout the calm of the night truly makes it unforgettable! Take some time to experience our Discovery Area and board our tram for an Educational Tour, included with your stay. You'll see first hand that Turpentine Creek is not only a sanctuary for animals, but a refuge for people.

Did you know that we offer lodging certificates? If you know someone that would love a little piece of Africa in the Ozarks, these make great Holiday Gifts! Shop for our Lodging and Admission gift cards at <https://lodging.turpentinecreek.org/gift-cards/>

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

This was not a “usual” growl heard from a tiger. Her growl was deep, with a deafening sense of fear. She was jumping and attacking the mesh of the transfer roll cage, almost causing it to tip over. She’d been sedated for removal from the barren cage she lived in, where the floor was covered with ground-up pallets, including nails and screws. We were loading other cats for the rescue trip back to the Refuge, as she was recovering from sedation. When we approached to load her into the transport trailer, she became unglued. I knew immediately this was extreme fear aggression. To keep her safe, we needed to give her a bit more sedative to load her for the drive to her new home, her sanctuary. This is the journey of “Mama” Shakira II.

It was evident Shakira II was going to need special attention in hopes of gaining her trust. She was just one “victim” of the Colorado Project, in which we saved 115 animals. Due to purchasing the run-down cub-petting facility, we were able to retain the “paperwork”, including the acquisitions and transfers of the animals. We quickly found out this poor young tigress came from a notorious magician in Las Vegas, Dirk Arthur. Over the years, numerous citations had been filed by the USDA against Arthur and two casinos employing the act. Researching those filings, we knew Shakira II had a horrible start to her life.

One of many USDA citations was “failure to have enclosures with enough space for each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.” Shakira II had spent many hours in a cramped transport cage while she was consistently transferred to different casinos. This explained her behavioral complications due to a lifetime of traumatic events.

After Las Vegas, she was acquired by the CO facility where she was forced to “speed” breed. Her litters provided them income in the cub petting industry, along with supplying other roadside attractions with cubs. Shakira II produced four litters in just two short years, all taken from her. To always remember what she has gone through, our team bestowed the affectionate nickname of “Mama” upon the tigress.

Mama’s story, like so many others, was heartbreaking. In order for her to have a quality of life in captivity, she had to regain trust in people. We completely rearranged our animal care routine to make it easier for her to adapt. I spent many hours just being near her enclosure to help her begin her miraculous transformation from trauma to trust. Eight months later she was re-introduced to Bosco, and today she lives her life to the fullest. This animal cruelty must stop. Your support allows us to help all the animals, like Mama, find Rescue to Refuge.



Magician Dirk Arthur performs during “Dirk Arthur Wild Magic” at the Westgate hotel-casino at 3000 Paradise Las Vegas on Monday, Sept. 21, 2015. Bill Hughes/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Shakira II



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

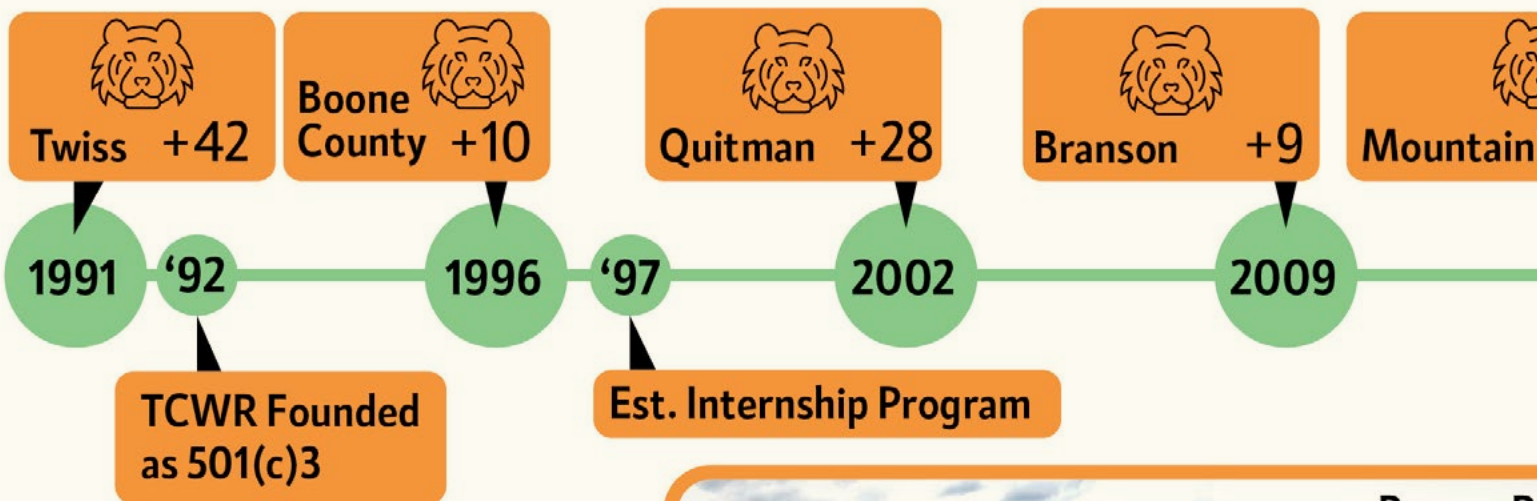
30 Years of Rescue to Refuge

2022 marks Turpentine Creek's 30th anniversary and a milestone in our organization's history. We have rescued over 500 animals from situations of abuse, abandonment, and neglect, and we have provided them all with a lifelong home, thanks to you. In celebration of 30 years of transforming lives, we reflect back on how far we have come and everything we have built and accomplished with your support.

The idea for Turpentine Creek came about when a big cat breeder named Katherine Twiss approached Don and Hilda Jackson (current President Tanya Smith's parents) for help while they were living in Hope, AR. Katherine showed up with three cattle trailers filled with 42 big cats and other animals; she was running from law enforcement. Overnight, the Jackson's became responsible for rescuing and moving the big cats to a 460-acre ranch in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The land was owned by a friend, who allowed them to temporarily house the animals on the property.

The animals were living in their own feces and could barely move, so the priority was to build as many enclosures as possible to get them out of the trailers, watered, fed, and any veterinary attention that they needed. To properly care for all these animals, and to continue to build new enclosures to rescue more, TCWR established its Intern Program in 1997. Shortly after, we responded to our first large rescue call in Quitman, AR, followed by Branson (see Magic's article) and Mountainburg, which created the immediate need to build Rescue Ridge.

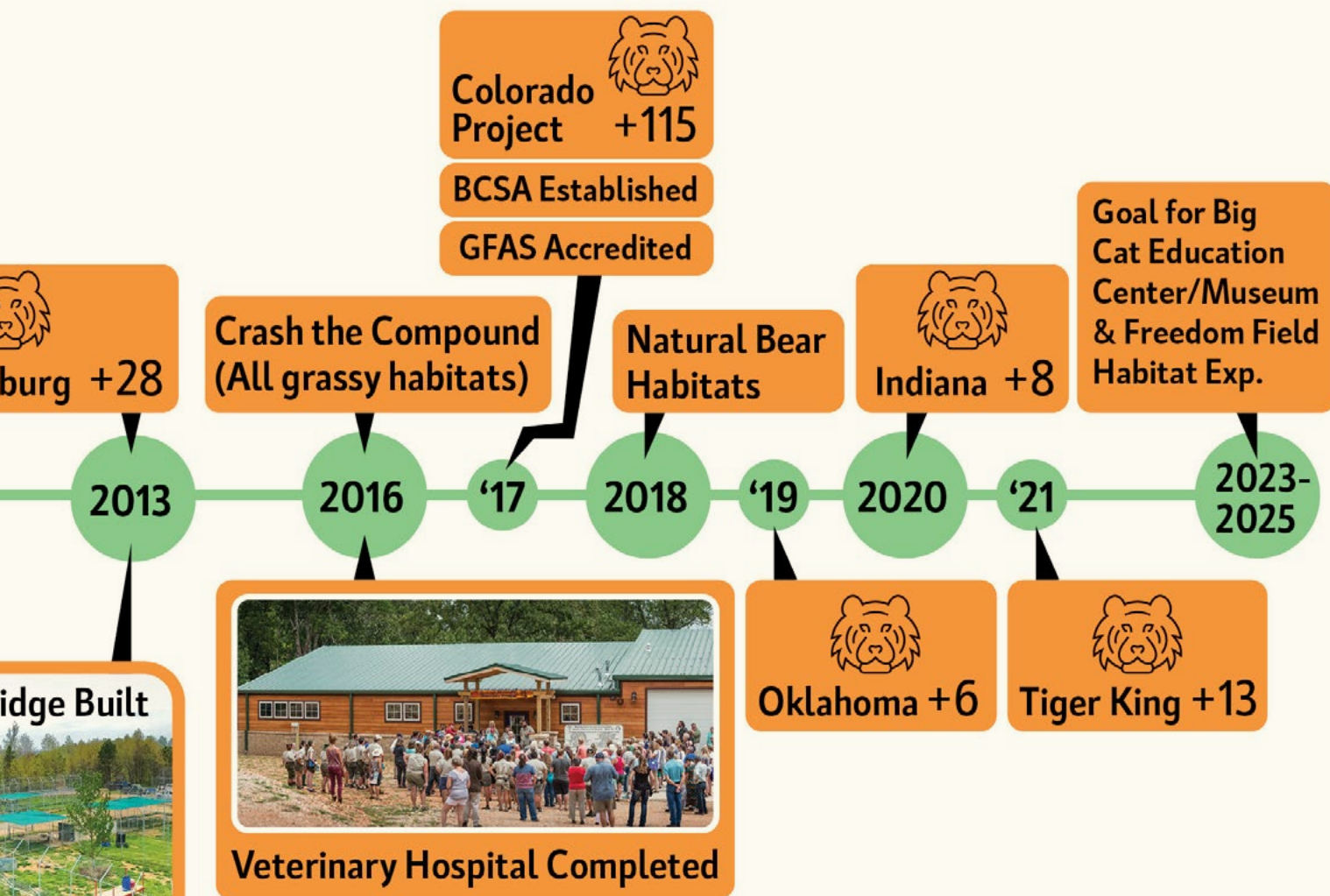
As we continued to grow, so did our understanding of animal welfare and science. We accomplished our goals of providing every animal a large natural habitat, and proudly demolished the original concrete compound (created in response to the original Katherine Twiss rescue). Working with leading veterinarians at Kansas State University, we implemented a pain management program, and developed a behavioral management program which set new standards in relieving stress for captive wildlife. By encompassing all aspects of animal welfare, TCWR became a nationally



recognized leader for big cat husbandry. We also built the state-of-the-art Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital in 2016, so we could attend to all of our animals' medical needs on the Refuge property. In 2017, we became a Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries accredited sanctuary, and a founding member of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance. Both initiatives were created to improve the standards for sanctuary work worldwide.

From small innovations, such as our custom feeding dish designed to optimize safety, to large scale improvements such as our goal to construct inground pools in each habitat, TCWR has evolved into a frontrunner among accredited big cat sanctuaries over the last three decades.

Our monthly giving program has been adapted to the times as well, making it easier than ever to support our mission through our online system with individually managed, and password protected donor-managed accounts. This impressive history packed full of achievements for big cats would not have been possible without your support throughout the years. Together, we can continue to set new standards from Rescue to Refuge, as we work to end the Big Cat Trade!



Recurring donations secure the future for all the animals that call TCWR home.

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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 level you must sign up for that level, donate the amount required to be part of that specific 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:

100% of my donation goes to help the animals!

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

I would like to make my loving donation recurring:
 . - - - - - → **Repeat Monthly**



Order 2023 Calendars: \$20 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. *Last chance to join for this price!*

\$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 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.

- \$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!

Beyond the Rescue

Your Animals Get The Best of Everything!

Rescues are exciting, and we are always happy to welcome new cats to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. While rescues garner much attention, they are only the beginning of the actual work in fulfilling our mission. We are committed to providing a lifetime refuge for the survivors of the exotic animal trade, primarily focusing on big cats. Rehabilitation for these animals can be a lengthy process.

The first step is to build trust with the rescued animal. The time needed varies in every situation and is entirely unpredictable. Lady, who was rescued from Oklahoma, is an excellent example of unanticipated outcomes. Living in solitude for a significant length of time, we expected her adjustment to be slower than average. She has surprised us all by quickly building rapport with her caregivers and is enamored with her new neighbor, Detroit.

The second priority after a cat arrives is a complete physical exam. We try to obtain medical histories for our rescued animals, but sometimes we don't get any information. Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, our staff veterinarian, performs regular visual and physical exams on all the animal residents at Turpentine Creek. Many of our cats have significant health issues because of inbreeding, poor nutrition, or trauma prior to rescue. For wellness exams, animals are sedated and taken to our onsite Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital. They are x-rayed, blood work is drawn and analyzed, teeth are cleaned, nails trimmed (if they still have them), and they receive a complete examination. Wellness exams allow us to identify any issues and to avoid most emergencies. An individualized diet, medicine and supplements, and weekly changing enrichment are developed for their specific needs.

Most big cats we rescue live into their early twenties. Our goal is to ensure their quality of life for the rest of their life. Your support makes this possible! Consider making your donation a recurring/monthly gift to secure a great future for all the animals in our care.



The cat is sedated and taken to our onsite Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital. They are x-rayed, blood work is drawn and analyzed, teeth are cleaned, nails trimmed (if they still have them), and they receive a complete examination.



A thorough physical of the animals we rescue allows us to identify any issues and to progress to the next phase of life at the Refuge.

Donate Today - a monthly gift can save the lives of animals in need!

Letter from the Vet

Kellyn Sweeley, DVM

Kyro is a young male li-liger that TCWR rescued back in May of 2021 from the Tiger King Park in Thackerville, OK. He was one of the first five cats to be taken from the park, as he was displaying neurologic deficits and needed more urgent care. At only 3 years of age, Kyro had difficulties standing and walking. He would constantly stumble or fall over as he could not maintain his balance despite trying his best to move and play.

As a young feline, play is vital especially for lions as they are highly social creatures. They learn how to grasp prey, how to move around their environment, how to bond with others, and develop their overall confidence. Kyro unfortunately was not able to even stand correctly, let alone run and play due to his condition. Observers of Kyro at his previous facility reported that over time, he became listless and depressed. He barely moved around anymore and appeared to have 'given up.'



We knew from his history that he had not been receiving a diet with proper supplementation, something that is extremely critical to a growing feline's physical and mental health. Deficiencies in vitamin A, vitamin B1, vitamin E and selenium are the most common nutritional deficiencies that cause the neurologic signs Kyro was displaying.

Upon Kyro's arrival at TCWR, he was immediately placed on an appropriately supplemented diet and received extra amounts of these specific nutrients. With his new change of scenery, he began bonding with members of the staff and his neighboring felines – rubbing, stalking, and attempting play. His depression seemed to clear up and be replaced by curiosity as his condition improved. Within 3 months of receiving proper nutrition and having access to a large enriching grassy enclosure, almost all of Kyro's neurologic deficits had resolved.



Currently, he no longer displays any neurologic signs and is one of the goofiest cats at the refuge, constantly stalking, pouncing, running, and jumping all over his habitat! With his motor functions back under his control, he is finally able to express himself properly and behave how a young feline should, bringing back his confidence and allowing him to be the carefree playful animal we know and love today. His story underscores the critical importance of proper nutrition, showing not only the physical harm that deficits can have on a growing animal, but also the mental harm that deficits can cause. Kyro has made the transformation from Rescue to Refuge. Consider joining our league of recurring donors to secure the future of big cats nationwide.

Your Love Creates Mani's Legacy



Mani was a liger (the result of a male lion bred with a female tiger) rescued in 2021 from Tiger King Park, as seen on the Netflix series, *Tiger King*. In our Fall 2022 Newsletter, Dr. Kellyn extensively describes Mani's diagnosis and surgical treatment for breast cancer. This surgery was critically important to Mani's chance of survival, due to the cancer's location near her lymph nodes. Once in the lymphatic system, her survival rate would drastically decrease.

Despite a successful surgery, over the last two months Mani slowly increased her water intake as her appetite decreased. We looked to the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare (see Fall 2022 Newsletter, Letter from the Curator) to monitor decisions near Mani's end of life. Turpentine Creek created Mani Breast Cancer Awareness Pins for the month of October to share her story and to raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. In a beautiful ending, Mani was humanely euthanized the morning of September 30th and her pins arrived at the Refuge later that afternoon - one day before October 1st, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

We will continue to share Mani's story because it relates to another charitable cause that impacts so many. Through her story, we can continue to do good for animals and for humans alike.

**Don't give up on them now.
Donate today at tcwr.org/donate.**

Mani's commemorative pins helped raise awareness and fund the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.




Quitman: A Rescue to Refuge Milestone

In late summer of 2002, Turpentine Creek was involved in one of its biggest rescues to date. Safari Park was a roadside zoo attraction and breeding facility located in Greenbrier, Arkansas, housing 60 dangerous animals. TCWR Vice President Scott Smith received a call at 7 am from the owner asking if it was legal to euthanize 56 cats. Apparently, four of his lions had escaped, his neighbor shot two and the sheriff's office killed the other two. Scott enthusiastically told the man not to touch another animal and 45 minutes later Scott and Tanya Smith were on the road to begin one of the largest rescues in TCWR history.

Our team worked to transport the animals to the Refuge and other accredited facilities over the course of three months. All of the cats were in extremely poor condition due to malnutrition, respiratory infections, rotten teeth, and brittle bones. TCWR worked with trusted veterinarians to treat the animals with antibiotics, tooth extractions, and even a leg amputation for a young tiger named Haley, who had nerve damage from a broken femur. Haley went on to live 15 years at Turpentine Creek, running around on three legs in her large grassy habitat with tiger Roulon. Tigress Whitney is still enjoying life down at Rescue Ridge at 21 years of age, the last member of the Quitman Rescue.

Other animals included a bobcat, five lions, and 15 tigers; they all lived long lives at the Refuge. The success of the Quitman Rescue set Turpentine Creek on a path to be recognized as a leader among U.S. sanctuaries. Today, TCWR is a go-to for U.S. Government agencies and the court system for large-scale rescues nationwide. None of this would have been possible without your support. Please consider our Legacy Society and Monthly Giving programs - they are vital to our sustainability.

Scan this code to join our Legacy Society 



Do you have treats for our residents? We accept in-kind donations!

Big Cat Fireside Chat

A free online Q&A with TCWR leadership to answer questions about newsletter content.

Tuesday, December 6th
7:00 PM, CST



More Info on the Q&A: December 6th at 7 pm CST is our second Newsletter FireSide Chat of the Year! Join us for a Live Q&A and interactive hour via Zoom. This is your chance to get your Newsletter questions answered by our President Tanya Smith, Vice President Scott Smith, Animal Curator Emily McCormack, and Veterinarian Dr. Kellyn! These events are free and are meant to increase your access to our team and build transparency. Check our website under events to get your sign-on information.

2023 Calendars Are On Sale Now!



Purchase your 2023 TCWR calendar and enjoy great images of our animals. You can purchase your calendar in our online gift shop or simply fill out the enclosed order form and mail it in.

Bagheera's Journey from Rescue to Refuge

Named after the black cat in the classic Jungle Book story, Bagheera (buh-gee-ruh) the jaguar was rescued by Turpentine Creek from the Oklahoma Tiger King Park in 2021. Until now, Bagheera lived at TCWR as a witness protection animal; due to our 30 years of cooperation with Law Enforcement and Government Officials, we honored the need to keep details of this rescue private. With the case finally over, we can now share more on his journey from Rescue to Refuge.

We cannot be certain what Bagheera's life was like before he arrived at TCWR, but we do know that it wasn't a life in a grassy habitat where he could play with toys, swim in a pool, or sprint across raised platforms to replicate a jungle experience. At the Tiger King Park, Bagheera (a solitary animal) shared his 20'x40' space with two white lionesses (social animals). The enclosure was barren, with a substrate of compacted sand. The much larger lionesses most likely tormented Bagheera; he stuck to a corner for safety and had hair loss on his hindquarters. The hair loss could have been the lioness pulling his hair out or, more likely, they are stressing him out so much that he did it to himself as a pacifying behavior often referred to as plucking.

In a recent visit to TCWR, Government Officials observed that by simply providing Bagheera with his own enclosure, his stress decreased and his hair grew back on his hindquarters. He also was originally aggressive towards cameras - no doubt a sign that he was exploited for the cub petting and pay-to-play activities at Tiger King Park. Now, our photographer is able to take pictures and videos of him while he shows off by running after his toys. He loves his toys so much that he is notorious for collecting them all from his habitat and hoarding them inside of his night house. This is likely the result of him having lived with the two bullies at the Tiger King Park, and never having the opportunity to play with his own toys or enjoy enrichment without being outnumbered.

Bagheera's story is an example of the mental transformation that occurs post rescue. Bringing an animal out of a bad situation and back to the Refuge is just the beginning. To completely "rescue" an animal and maximize their welfare includes addressing both their physical and mental trauma. Our Animal Care Team works hard to restore trust, and to provide the animals with proper care for the rest of their lives. It is through your ongoing support that we can continue transforming the lives of the animals we rescue.



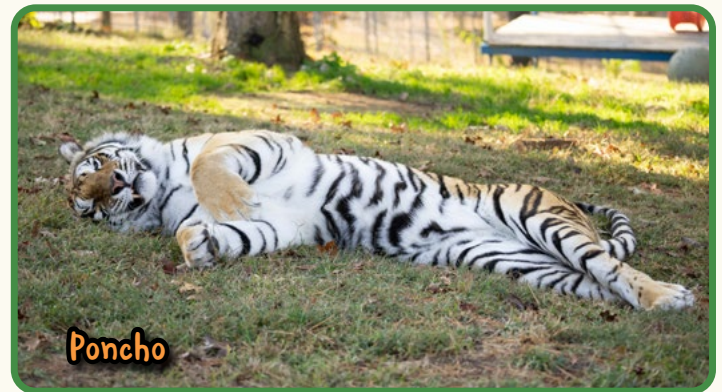
Schedule your next trip to the Refuge to see these beautiful animals in person!

Animals Suffer Emotional Trauma, Just Like Humans

Often, when we head into a rescue site there is a history of abuse and therefore an immediate need for veterinary treatment. Throughout our 30 years, this has included metabolic bone disease, malnutrition, declawing, arthritis, physical scarring, and more. What has been traditionally less discussed is the mental trauma these animals have been through, and the work that goes into this type of recovery process.

Of the 500 animals we have rescued over the past 30+ years, all of them have had some sign of mental trauma. This can range from severe, as outlined in this issue's articles on Bagheera and Shakira II, to milder cases such as a 400-pound tiger thinking it is just a house cat. Trauma disrupts their cognitive thought process, making the animals even more erratic and unpredictable. By removing animals from the source of their trauma, combined with the special work done each day by TCWR Animal Care Staff, we are able to slowly rehabilitate these individuals.

Much of this involves helping them to reframe their view of the world around them, to understand that things that once hurt them or scared them, won't anymore. Another important process is helping them slowly regain their trust in people, so we can better care for them. A true sign of this healing process is when the cats lay on their backs, exposing their bellies; their most vulnerable body part. Whether it is physical abuse, mental trauma, or a combination of both, getting the animals to the Refuge is just the beginning of their true rescue story.



When big cats lay on their backs, exposing their vulnerable bellies in the presence of staff and visitors, it is a true sign they are healing from trauma and regaining their trust.

Support Ethical Tourism at TCWR with Your Holiday Shopping!

Big Cat Gifts

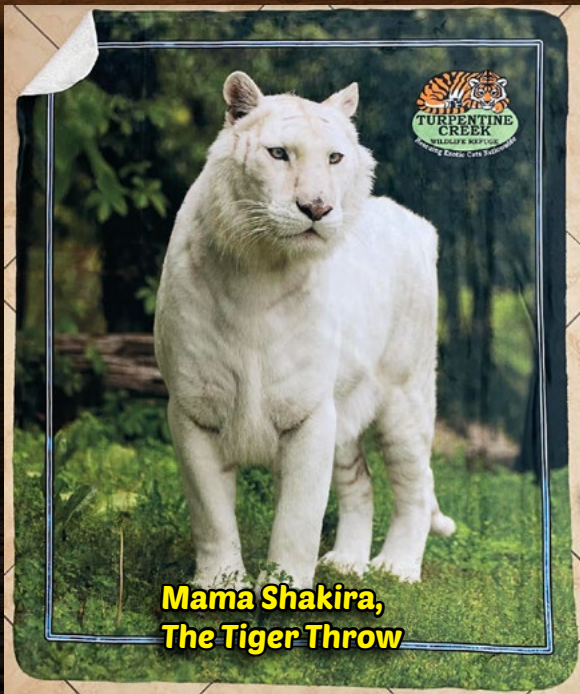
It is that time of year again! The holiday season is full of joyful traditions, and some stressful ones. At the Refuge, it's the joy of cats getting their turkeys and Christmas tree enrichment, and the time we spend with each other celebrating. This holiday season, we have the opportunity to shift our attention to our connections with others, our ability to give, and finding gratitude in the little things.

Every Holiday Season is especially important to nonprofit organizations like Turpentine Creek, because it provides a tremendous opportunity for donors to receive tax breaks before the year ends. As we mark 30+ years of rescue at Turpentine Creek, we hope you will shop with us this Holiday Season.

Poncho in his Pool Beach Towel



TCWR Family Member Magnets



Mama Shakira, The Tiger Throw



17oz Tiger Stripe Woodgrain Water Bottle

Online shopping is open now - do not wait!

In the spirit of giving, we have some very exciting things planned for you this holiday season.

- **November 27:** TCWR will be featured in an episode on CNN's "This is Life with Lisa Ling."
- **November 29:** We have our annual Giving Tuesday event, with a special Live Event running throughout the day.
- **December 2:** See our float in the Parade of Lights, Downtown Eureka Springs.
- **December 6:** Don't miss our digital Newsletter FireSide Chat with our staff, where you can ask questions about the newsletter articles and get to know our team more intimately.
- **December 24:** And finally, we have a very special gift to all of our supporters on Christmas Eve. Keep an eye on social media and our website homepage for details.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Support your favorite big cats, by holiday shopping with Amazon Smile! Your holiday shopping list could feed an animal at TCWR when you register and shop on smile.amazon.com. Just select *Turpentine Creek Foundation Inc.* as your charity on Amazon Smile, then continue shopping just like you normally would! 0.5% of your purchase will be donated by Amazon to TCWR once you check out! Give the gift of giving this holiday season.

Rescue to Refuge



The “Magic” of Transformation

In the wild, leopards are stealthy apex predators. They have one-inch claws, a bite force of 300 PSI, and are able to carry prey three times their own body weight into a tree away from other predators. Their teeth, claws, and strength are not just used for hunting; they are how leopards defend themselves against dangerous threats.

Imagine the spirit of such a wild animal, trapped on a stage in a magic show with bright lighting and cameras flashing. The crowd is roaring, explosions happening without warning, then the crack of a whip, forcing a leap through rings of fire. For Magic the leopard, this was what her life became in the Kirby VanBurch Magic Show. To ensure his own safety, the Magician took away Magic's defenses by filing down her teeth and declawing her. It was a life of torment and obedience.

As her act grew old, it was time to freshen things up and at some point, Magic wound up at a roadside zoo in Branson, Missouri, named Predator World. There, she was used as an attraction, providing profits for the venue to continue to exploit and abuse animals.

On December 7, 2009, Turpentine Creek received an email from a man representing the roadside zoo explaining that after being shut down by USDA, they needed to relocate seven big cats, a black bear, and a coatimundi. Animals needed help, and Turpentine Creek answered the call.

When Magic arrived at the Refuge, she could be described as a very aggressive leopard - although most leopards tend to be temperamental. Magic had a lot to overcome after a lifetime of being forced to perform in an overstimulating environment. The nervous leopard seemed to oscillate back and forth between flirtatious behavior and aggression. She was confused. Her declaw surgery had altered her natural stride, misaligning her joints and causing painful arthritis. We started Magic on our pain management program, which significantly helped her feel more comfortable. Slowly, she began to gain a sense of safety at the Refuge and with her care team.

As she adjusted to her new home, Animal Care Staff saw small transitions in her demeanor as she regained trust in people. Magic was one of the original animals to be trained in our Behavioral Management Program. One of her tasks was “up”, or to stand up on her hind legs and show her belly. This behavior was very useful when we had to remove a large tumor on her uterus and allowed us to check on her incision every day. Magic had become totally adapted to sanctuary life, realizing that she could choose how to spend each moment while knowing she was finally safe and cared for.

Did you know that your donation can be spread out monthly? With recurring donations, as little as \$10 a month, you can help us continue to transform the lives of animals just like Magic - for less than your streaming subscriptions!

Lexi On The Move

Relocating our animal residents to different habitats at the Refuge can occur to accommodate a new rescue, cater to geriatric needs, or reduce stress. Recently, we had a call to rescue a bobcat, Santana, which presented an opportunity to introduce Lexi into our large serval habitat while freeing up her old enclosure for future rescues.

Lexi was rescued from a private owner, so moving her into a larger habitat gives her the opportunity to express more natural serval behaviors. However, it is also a challenge to introduce and socialize a serval raised as a pet to a group of servals that now live on their own. At the same time, this would help Lexi along her journey to recover mentally and start to live her life more aligned with her natural, wild instincts.

Her integration into the larger serval habitat is still ongoing. We must proceed slowly, making sure Lexi and her new possible habitat mates (Sammy, Enzo, Whistler, Giselle and Tigger the Savannah cat) get along nicely. As of right now, Whistler seems to be the most interested in getting to know Lexi through the fence, and we are hoping that the other servals will follow suit. Lexi was fully introduced to the rest of the servals on October 24th and is doing fantastic. She will continue to spend the rest of her life with a heated night house and large habitat with plenty of friends to enjoy it with!



Lexi was rescued from a private owner, so moving her into the larger habitat gives her the opportunity to express more natural serval behaviors.

Remembering Dave Schoonover A Very Special TCWR Board Member

Dave Schoonover served Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. from 1999 to 2021 as a loyal Board Member who attended 9 out of every 10 meetings for over 22 years! TCWR Vice President Scott Smith remembers, "It was great to have Dave on our board; he had a memory like an elephant, and could remember details from meetings a decade back. Dave's passion for our mission never failed." Even after he no longer served on the TCWR Board, Dave and his wife Millie continued to be active supporters. Dave was excited to help promote our Capital Campaign; he had been pushing for a new gift shop for years! This past April they came to the Refuge to help celebrate our 30th Anniversary, joining our team for the weekend-long festivities.

Dave was also a passionate supporter of our armed forces, serving as an active member of the Kansas State Patriot Guard since its founding. He attended countless funerals of our service men and women to stand guard around the families, shielding them from protesters over the years. That same spirit of service helped us grow our mission over the past 30 years. Dave will always be part of the TCWR legacy.



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Together, we transition animals
from Rescue to Refuge.

Mani



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