



CAT CHRONICLES

April, 2008



Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

Note These Dates

May 2, 3, 4
Spring Arts & Crafts Fair
10 AM- 6 PM
Vendors are needed!
Booth Space is \$50.
for the all 3 days.

June 13, 14, 15
TCWR Pow Wow
Father's Day Weekend
Grand Entries Fri. 7 PM,
Sat. 1 PM & 7:30 PM &
Sun. 1 PM

July 4
Independence Day
Celebration
July 4, Fri. @ Dusk till?



Pow Wow Info. Pg. 7

Hello to everyone who receives this letter. What a crazy winter, the economy seems uncertain and we appreciate all of you that could renew your adoptions, sponsorships and memberships in these tough winter months when we have very few guests. Spring is here and this is my favorite time of the year. The cats are still very active, the grass isn't grown up so much that you can't see the animals in the habitats and everything is blooming.

The new Safari lodging is complete. The additions of the five new rooms are greatly appreciated. These rooms were funded by wonderful people that realize that their donations could be used as a continual fund raising tool for the refuge. Couples, groups, wedding parties and retreats are welcome. They are ready for you to stay and enjoy the sights and sound of the Big Cats roaring and caroling all throughout the night. We also have the Blue and Green rooms, the Tree House and don't forget TCWR has 7 RV sights for your stay. All proceeds go to the mission of the refuge. Book online today or call us and we will take care of you.

Please let us know if there is a problem with your address, name, etc... on this newsletter. We do not know if something is wrong unless you let us know. Some of you might receive more than one. We try to get all the duplicates out but sometimes we miss a few. Most of the names come from the sign in sheets and my mom enters the names and addresses and some of them are hard to read. Usually after a period of two years if we do not hear from you through a donation or inquiry then we delete the address to keep our cost down on postage. So please keep in touch and let us know if you move or if there is a change. Remember to pass this newsletter onto someone else if you think they would be interested in the refuge or share our website www.turpentinecreek.org to all your animal loving friends. Scott has been working long hours to make sure that the website is up to date and easy for everyone to navigate. If you have not seen it lately I encourage you to check it out. There are updates that are done on a bimonthly basis so make sure you sign up for our Blog. The TCWR Theme song is on the front page and so is an 8 minute video for you to learn more about the refuge. Now we have made donating to the refuge even easier through our reoccurring option on our website.

Feeding time is one of the most exciting parts of the day at Turpentine Creek. In order to feed almost 1000lbs of meat to over 100 it cats takes a lot of prep work and time. We are still gratefully receiving meat from Wal-Mart stores in the area and still spending 2 days a week sorting all of this meat. This winter the commissary building has been erected, but we still need to have the freezers set up and the compressor units bought and installed. Through the winter months we have not had the funds to get these units and currently all of the meat sorting and processing has still been occurring outdoors. Having the commissary completed and functioning will not only keep the hard working staff and interns dry and warm but food prep and feeding time at the refuge will be much more efficient and organized in order to benefit all the animals that rely on us for their daily meals. If you want to help get the commissary completed please contact the refuge or visit our website. Until next time...

Purchase toys for the animals at:
www.sanctuarysupplies.com/wishlist.asp

"Help Us, Help Them"

www.turpentinecreek.org

Sponsor or Adopt an Animal Today

Adoption Program

Small Animal or Monkey	\$75/yr.
Small Cat	\$75/yr.
Cougar or Leopard	\$90/yr.
Lion, Tiger, or Bear	\$100/yr.

Sponsorship Program

Small Animal or Bird	\$500/yr. or \$50/mo.
Small Cat or Monkey	\$750/yr. or \$75/mo.
Llama	\$1000/yr. or \$100/mo.
Cougar or Leopard	\$1800/yr. or \$180/ mo.
Lion, Tiger, or Bear	\$2000/yr. or \$200/ mo.

We are coordinating 20 people or families to jointly sponsor each animal. This program is fun for the family and comes with a Free Family Membership! You can visit as often as you wish for an entire year. You also receive a certificate with a photo of your adopted animal.



Point of View: Tigger # 2, Tiger, Age 18

*Interpreted by Carrie Trudeau
Staff Biologist*

My life before this was not very good. I didn't know that, of course, because it was all I knew. I lived at a "zoo", but it was not a very good one. In fact, I don't think it really was a zoo, it was just a dusty old roadside attraction. People would come and yell at me and throw things down into my enclosure. If that wasn't enough, the people that were supposed to be taking care of me sprayed water in my face and teased me with my food. These things made me very untrusting of people, and I really didn't like anyone at all. Since they made my life so miserable, I was very unruly, did not cooperate, and tried my very best to eat anyone who came near me. I guess they grew tired of me at the zoo, because I was shipped out to somewhere far away. I wasn't sad about that.



I arrived at this new place with new humans and lots more cats like me. As nice as it was to be away from that terrifying zoo, humans were still humans, and not to be trusted. After a few weeks of my usual display of ferocity and genuine hatred, I was shocked to realize that no one had really done anything to make me angry. I mean, sure, they spray my cage out every day with water, but they never point it at me or anything. And no one has bothered me while I'm eating my chicken, but I still have to roar at everyone just in case. All in all, this place ain't half bad, but I'd never let the humans know that.

A few years after I got here, the humans moved me to this other cage, down away from the other animals. At first I thought they were getting rid of me too, and that scared me. But then they opened this door, and before I knew it I was in this place I'd only seen in my dreams. Green, green grass, big trees as tall as the sky, and room to run and run until I collapsed! I had no idea a place like this existed for a tiger like me. I rolled and rubbed in the grass, and ate as much as my stomach could handle. I chewed on every stick I came across. They all had a different exotic scent and flavor, it was so amazing.

From that very day on, I decided that although humans were capable of very bad things, these particular humans were pretty cool. I've had lots of different caretakers, but a few have been here a while, and it's them I trust the most. I've seen

neighbors come and go, made new friends and enemies, and even had a few girlfriends (nothing that lasted, though). I've been sick a few times, and no matter what, my people have found a way to make me feel better. I know that someday I'll get so sick that even they won't be able to help me, but I trust them enough to take care of me until then.

The most amazing thing to me is watching these people build and build all around me. I had only one neighbor when I moved here, but now I'm surrounded by other cats in great big areas just like me! Even this tough old tiger can admit that I'm happy to see other cats enjoying the same freedom that I am. I'm not sure who will be moving into this newest area, but I do know that they are lucky to have these people looking after them like I do. I hope they realize sooner than I did that these people are not only pretty cool, but also very trustworthy. That, in my book, is the best attribute any human can have.

Spring Break 2008

Emily McCormack

Staff Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator

Each year, the Spring Break groups are an important growing stage for the refuge. The staff and interns work diligently to prepare for the weeks filled with extra hands. We are currently building at the top of our habitat loop, developing new enclosures for many of TCWR's residents. The frame work of two new enclosures is complete. We have two more exhibits to outline and a "people rail", for the public viewing. With the frame work complete, the Spring Break groups unite to help us hang the wire for each enclosure. These weeks save us an enormous amount of construction time.

This year, the First United Methodist Church Youth of Rogers, AR is joining us for their fifth year. This group has been extremely dedicated to helping many animals at the refuge enjoy a piece of freedom. Joining them this year is the Heun family, from Wisconsin. The Heun's are returning for their second year in a row. We are very excited both groups returned and assisted with construction.

Each year we also work with a group of college students participating in their school's Alternative Spring Break program. The University helps fund the students' trip, in return for their community service during that week. This year, a group from North Western University arrived from Illinois to help the fourth week of March. Along with the new construction, we must prepare the existing habitats for the spring. We will be clear cutting the underbrush to prevent overgrowth this spring. The cats truly enjoy the new appearance of their enclosure when we have finished. It is also great form of enrichment for the animals.

If you or your group would like to join us on any of these spring projects, please contact me at (479)253-5841 or email emily@turpentinecreek.org. Plan your trip to the refuge to see all of the progress. Be looking for a grand opening of this expansion in June.



Interns - Winter 2008

Back Row:

Matt Gregory – Furman University – BS Biology – May 2007
Katie Hunt – Lynchburg College – BS Biomedical Science – May 2006
Melanie Lewis – Marlboro College – BS Biology – May 2007
Carrie McMorris – Humboldt State University – BS Zoology – December 2006
Tara Darby – Western Illinois University – BS Biology – December 2007
Brian Hollingsworth – Miami University – BA Zoology – May 2007

Front Row:

Steven Vargas – Northern Illinois University – BS Biology – May 2007
Stephanie Noller – University of Illinois – BS Animal Science – May 2007
Kim King – Salem International University – BS Biology – April 2007
Katie Hurley – Washington College – BS Biology – May 2007
Jenna Kocourek – University of Florida – BS Zoology – May 2007
Michael Zavala – North Georgia College & State University – BS Biology Aug. 2007



Exotic Cat Internship

Turpentine Creek is accepting applications for full-time positions at the Refuge.

A degree (BS or BA) in an animal related discipline is preferred, but all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Internship for an animal keeper position.

Job Description: duties include cleaning cages, habitats and compound; feeding and medicating animals; assisting with maintenance, upkeep, and habitat construction; participating in occasional public promotions.

Horticulture Intern Position

Job Description: duties include grounds upkeep and new development, habitats and compound; dangerous plant identification in habitats; identifying and procurement of enrichment plants for animals in habitats; overall beautification of property.

Compensation

Weekly cash stipend of \$50 for living expenses, as well as housing on the Refuge in a comfortable cottage, which has heat, air conditioning, utilities, full bath, kitchen, satellite TV, access to internet, and a washer and dryer. All management reside at the Refuge.

New positions begin:

August 15, 2008; positions last six months.

Deadline for application:

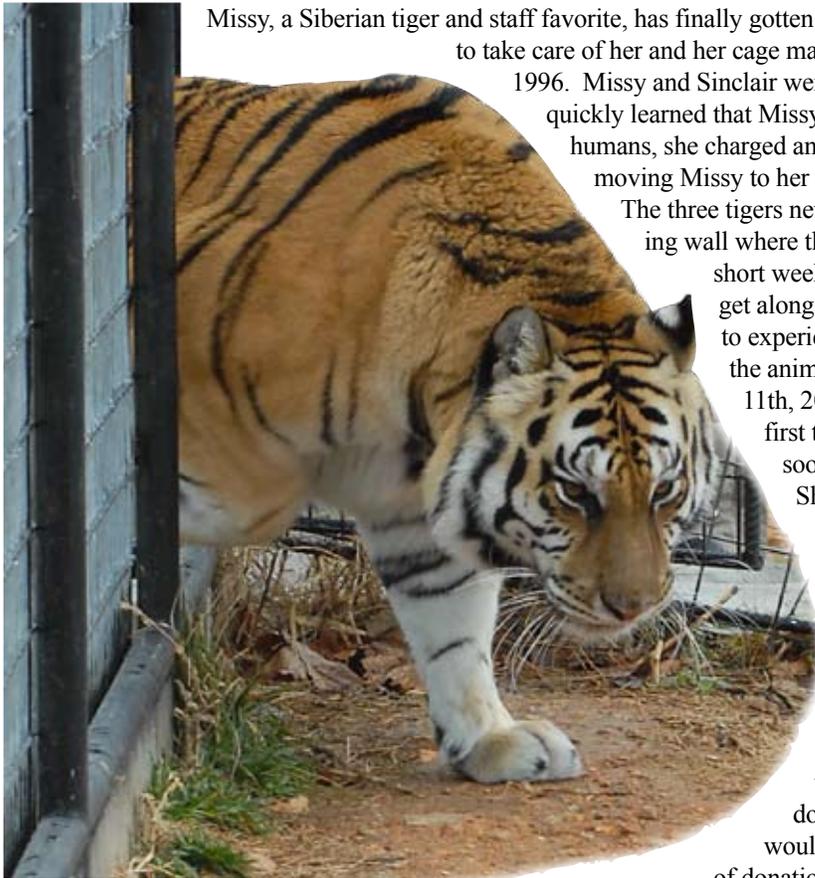
April 15, 2008

To Apply:

Send your resume and cover letter to:
Emily McCormack, 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632.
Email: emily@turpentinecreek.org

Exploring New Ground

Evelyn Brunt, Staff Biologist



Missy, a Siberian tiger and staff favorite, has finally gotten a habitat. Her previous owner could not commit enough time to take care of her and her cage mate, Sinclair, so the refuge picked them up from Ohio on July 8th, 1996. Missy and Sinclair were separated to prevent any breeding at the refuge, and the staff quickly learned that Missy did not like any other cats at all. Though friendly with most humans, she charged any new neighbors in the compound. We were a little wary when moving Missy to her new home where she would be introduced to Kenny and Willie. The three tigers never actually share an enclosure; however, they do share a joining wall where they can sniff each other, chuff, and sometimes growl. After a few short weeks of getting to know each other, staff decided that Missy would get along just fine with her new neighbors. This meant Missy would get to experience the thing that all Turpentine Creek employees wish for all of the animals we care for. Missy was going to get a habitat. On February 11th, 2008 Missy got to step out into her new natural enclosure for the first time. It was almost like she knew what was going to happen. As soon as the door opened, Missy excitedly paraded around the habitat. She walked around the whole perimeter, and after about 20 minutes, picked up a piece of bark and showed it off to everyone who was watching. She now rotates play days in the habitat with Kenny and Willie.

If you have been to the refuge lately, you are sure to have seen all of the improvements in the compound area, as well as all of the new habitats going up each year. However, we are still not quite where we would like to be. Not all of our animals have habitats to explore each day, and Missy waited longer than we would have liked to get her chance to run around. We accept donations through the mail, over the telephone, and online. If you would like to donate to construction of habitats, just specify at the time of donation, and your money will go directly to our habitat fund.



NOW OPEN! The Zulu Safari Guest Lodge is now taking reservations to complete your adventure at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Overlooking the sprawling Eureka Springs valley, with beautiful sunrises and magnificent sunsets and the caroling of the Big Cats, all five cabins are ready for occupancy. Each room has an exceptional personality, along with snuggly spa robes, luxurious bedding and linens, coffees and coffee pots, continental breakfast, color TV / DVD player, refrigerators and microwaves and clock radios. For rainy days or after hours, the rooms also have their own collection of favorite games and books. Cast iron fire places and air conditioning keeps you comfortable during the changing seasons too. Each room is also furnished with African Drums for those who care to start a drumming! Along with the spacious hot tub, the units share a 40' Octagonal Deck, complete with a charming covered Gazebo and Fire Pit. Tables and chairs surround the area for comfortable relaxing or light dining. See our web site for instant booking. See ya on the wild side! Adults only.

Keeping the Cats Healthy

Laurie Vanderwal, Staff Zoologist

One of the biggest obstacles we deal with at the refuge is veterinary care. Observing, diagnosing and treating the big cats is one of the most difficult aspects of this job and often one of the largest expenses at the refuge. Trying to tell if a big cat is sick is the first struggle. These wild cats are predisposed to not showing any kind of vulnerability or weakness. They have a pain tolerance and ability to adapt and survive that is unimaginable. We monitor all of our animals very closely, but often sickness or disease is quite advanced before a problem is even detected. For example, a lion with extremely advanced bone cancer in his jaw may still eat, drink and play in his habitat like a perfectly healthy animal, or a tiger may have less than 25% of his kidney function left before there are any signs of a problem.

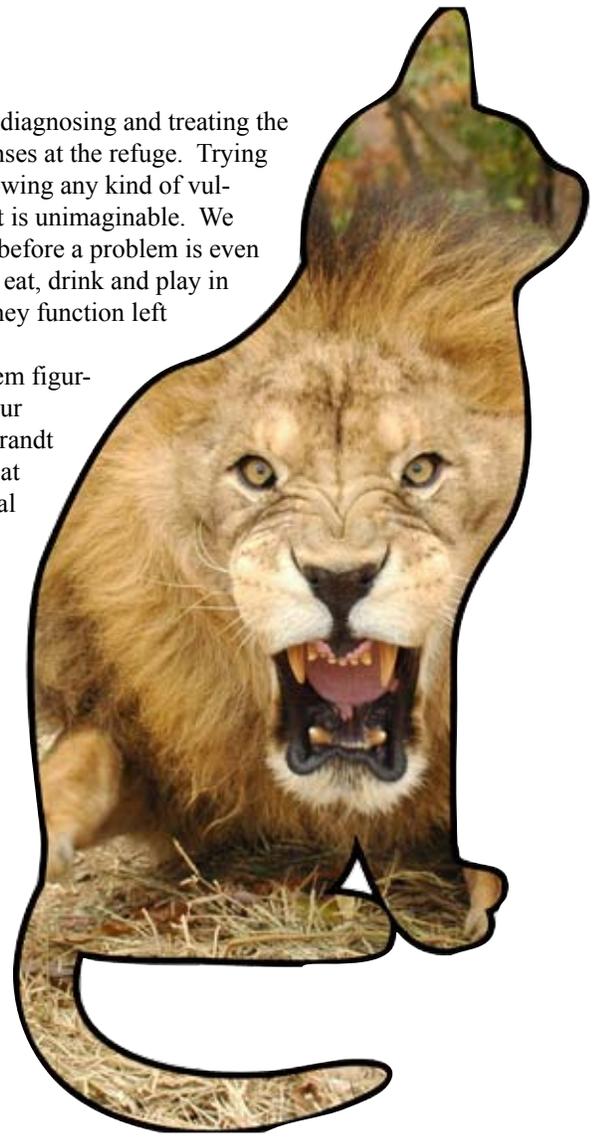
The second struggle is diagnosis. Even after we have determined that there is a problem figuring out exactly what is going on is quite difficult. Much of this challenge is left up to our amazing veterinarians Dr. Ron Eby, Dr. Rob Wilkinson, Dr. Toni Brandt and Dr. Aric Brandt from St. Francis Vet Clinic in Green Forest, AR. The only safe way to examine a big cat is while they are sedated, but sedation can make diagnosis more difficult because normal body function may be impaired or changed due to the sedative. Once they are sedated the area of concern is externally examined, blood is taken for testing and a biopsy may be performed depending on the situation. We always hope that these techniques will give us an answer, but this is not always the case and sometimes we will have to bring the animal into St. Francis Veterinarian Hospital or even to another facility, such as the vet hospital at Kansas State University for more detailed testing or exploratory surgery.

The third and often toughest struggle is with treatment. Even if a problem can be diagnosed, the treatments are often difficult to administer to exotic cats. Ideally, the easiest treatment is with oral medications. Generally, the pill is hidden in a meat ball so the cat thinks it is getting a treat. This seems simple, but of course the big cats do not make things easy. In true cat nature many of our big cats are finicky and will “roll” the pill, spit it out and eat the meat without the pill. Others will immediately smell the pill and refuse to even take the treat at all. In cases like this we are forced to get more creative, such as blending up ground turkey with some milk in order to hide the bad tasting pills and then squirting this “meat milkshake” into the cats’ mouth. If oral medications do not work, we are forced to give injectable medications. This form of administration can be quite stressful for the cat and the staff members. Roaring and charging the cage at the person administering the shot is not an uncommon reaction and the cat will generally be distrustful of that person for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, in order to make the cat well this is what we must do.

Other times, the recommended treatments are virtually impossible to do with the big cats. Eye drops, ear drops and topical ointments are something that we can’t even consider. Imagine trying to get a tiger to open their eyes wide while you apply eye drops (rather close to a mouth full of very sharp teeth), or ask a lion to lift his foot while you rub ointment on his sore pads (in very close proximity to razor sharp claws). Because of this limitation, we are often forced to do more complicated treatments or even full surgery to correct the problem.

The financial aspect of vet care is also a constant struggle for the refuge. Much of the veterinary care is done on site at the refuge which means the added expense of “house calls” and the sedative essential for basic examination is a constant recurring cost. Treatment is always expensive due to the cats’ large size and dangerous nature. The cost of a basic round of antibiotics for a 500lb tiger is obviously much more than for a 10lb house cat and what could be a cheap bottle of eye drops for a domestic cat often means an expensive eye surgery for a lion or tiger.

These struggles are a harsh reality for the refuge, but something that is essential to keep the cats healthy and happy. If you want to help out with our vet bills please make a donation today.



Good luck, Chris

Carrie Trudeau
Staff Biologist

Five year staff member Chris Vlautin has decided to take a step away from the refuge and explore other areas of the animal science field. He is going to further his education at the University of Memphis, and has applied to the graduate program in the biology department there. He plans to work on many research projects and perform field studies on bobcats. His research will certainly help the refuge in our mission of educating the public on not only the issues of exotic pet ownership, but also in the vast importance of preserving these animals in the wild. We wish Chris the best of luck, and thank him for his past and future contributions to the refuge.

Sign up to donate on a recurring basis. TCWR needs to secure the refuge’s future by building a financial base. Please help by making a commitment to donate \$5, \$10, \$100 or whatever you can, each month by going to our website or calling 479-253-5841. Thanks.

Rescues

Tanya Smith

Founder/President

Many of you have heard the stories of the founding family at Turpentine Creek the Jackson's. The refuge was founded by Don, Hilda, Robert & Tanya Jackson in 1992.

Don and Hilda had rescued a lion named Bum in 1978 and then another lion Shelia a few years later. They were approached by a lady, Catherine Gordon to help her with 42 lion and tigers that she had living in three cattle trailers in southeast Arkansas in December 1991. Catherine was a red haired, spittfire woman with what seemed to have the weight of the world on her shoulders. She was desperate to get the animals out of the trailers and into corn crib cages. She told the Jackson's that she had been kicked out of Texas because her neighbor's were not happy and the laws required her to go.

Don and Hilda rolled up their sleeves and went to work helping her do everything possible to save the animals. They approached their kids to help. Tanya was able to get the financing to be able to lease then purchase a 450 acre track of land that the Jackson's had been looking at near Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Everything was crazy but the mission was to save those animals and give them a life with clean cages, food, fresh water; a safe haven. Things didn't work out with Catherine Gordon. She was abusive to the family and wasn't doing much to care for her animals. There was a reason that Texas wanted her out of the state. Later we found out she had been running from state to state conning animal lovers like the Jackson's to fund her way of life. Many things happened through the years since the refuge was conceived. Don and Hilda divorced after 32 years of marriage, Robert's death due to a heart attack, and Hilda surviving two heart attacks of her own. After the divorce Don moved three miles towards town and ended up with a few big cats of his own. With Don's age and failing health, Turpentine Creek agreed to take three of his Siberian tigers, Jasmine, Sissy and Delilah. They are beautiful tigers and are adjusting to their new life at Turpentine Creek.



Reserve Your Room Today www.turpentinecreek.org

In past years you may have had a hard time finding availability in our guest rooms on the dates you desire. To address this problem we have added five more lodges for a total of eight choices, each very different and all close to the animals. To enhance our reservation services we have made it possible to book your room online at your convenience. You may, however, pick up the phone and call our main number (479-253-5841). Weekends are still in high demand so book your room early. Through the years we have listened to our supporters express their desire to stay on the Refuge property and bathe their minds in the serenity the animals drive into the soul. Sitting on the porch or lying in bed with a window cracked you can hear the lions caroling all night. As guest exit they are quick to mention how life-changing and unforgettable their experience was. Spend the night with us on your next visit. Quality of life is defined by our experiences. Staying on the property with the animals is an experience your family will cherish always.

“Help Us, Help Them”

www.turpentinecreek.org

page 6.

10th Annual
Native American
Festival and Pow-Wow

Father's Day Weekend - June 13th – 15th, 2008
 Gate opens for crafts Friday at 3 p.m.,
 Sat. and Sun. gate opens at 10 a.m.

Weekend festivities include:
 Inter-Tribal Dance Contest, Singers,
 Story Tellers, Artists, Crafters,
 Food, Live Wildlife Exhibits.
 No alcohol or firearms permitted.

For additional information contact
CLIF@TURPENTINECREEK.ORG or
 call 479-253-3790.

Location: Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge 7 miles south
 of Eureka Springs AR on Hwy. 23

Wildlife Weddings



Your special once-in-a-lifetime moment can be even more memorable when you tie the knot with hundreds of Big Cats as part of your wedding party! Let the staff and animals of TCWR help make your wedding truly memorable. We will coordinate what ever you desire: catering, florist, and entertainment. You choose. Get married on the wild side! Contact Audrey at Carefree Weddings: 479-244-6655 or email her at beeblessed@alltel.net.

Things My Caregivers Need ...

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Prayers</p> <p>2. Donations</p> <p>3. Safety Supplies
 First Aid Kits
 Gloves
 Rubber Boots
 (All Sizes)
 Plastic Spray Bottles</p> <p>4. Cleaning Supplies
 Garbage Bags
 Household Cleaners
 Paper Towels
 Toilet Paper
 Scrub Brushes</p> | <p>5. Tools
 Concrete Saw & Trowels
 Pipe Chop Saw & Blades
 Pliers
 Hammers
 Hose Clamps, Nozzles &
 Stopcocks
 Skill Saw & Blades
 Welding Rods (6011-3/32)</p> <p>6. Caging Materials
 Black Spray Paint
 New Lumber
 Oxy/Acetylene Regs.
 Rebar (3/4 to 1 inch)
 Metal Roofing
 Water Pools for Cats</p> | <p>7. Office Supplies
 8.5" X 11" Copy Paper
 Laminating Sheets
 (3 Mil & 5 Mil)</p> <p>8. Landscaping Materials
 Sod & Top Soil
 Plants and Shrubs
 Lawn Mowers</p> <p>9. Equipment
 10'x20' Freezer
 Vehicles (Gas Efficient)</p> |
|--|--|---|

Bequest Your Best

It is important to the staff of TCWR that this mission continues to thrive without us, the people. The mission was designed to be long-lived, and continue for future generations. For this to happen we need your help. As you are making preparations for your estate, consider helping the animals at TCWR. What you can't take with you can help these Big Cats.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
239 Turpentine Creek Lane
Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 20
 Eureka Springs, AR



Jaspar will celebrate his
 20th Birthday in July

ORDER FORM **04/2008**

It is through your direct support that the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is able to provide quality care for all the animals. Your contribution for the Family Adoptions, Sponsorships, Natural Habitats, and Unrestricted Donations are all Tax Deductible under IRS Code #509(a)(2) as described in Section #501(c)(3) of the IRS Regulations. Our tax number is 71-0721742. Mailing address: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR. 72632. 479-253-5841 www.turpentinecreek.org.

Personal Information

Name	
Address	
Email	

Method Of Payment

Credit Card #	
	Exp. Date
Personal Check	Check #
	DL#

<i>QTY.</i>	<i>Donations And Purchases</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>
	Unrestricted Donations To Help The Cats	\$
	Habitat Fund (To Build Big Enclosures)	\$
	Fund Entire Habitat \$17,000	\$
	Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
	Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
	Donate towards Commissary Project	\$
	Memorial Story Plaques For Memorial Wall: \$35.00	\$
	Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
	2008 Calendars (\$10.00) + \$5.00 S&H	\$
	Total Contributions	\$