



CAT CHRONICLES

July, 2008



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
A USDA Licensed Facility for "The Vanishing Breeds of Big Cats"
239 Turpentine Creek Lane
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
Email: tigers@turpentinecreek.org
Phone: 479-253-5841 Fax: 479-253-5059

Note These Dates

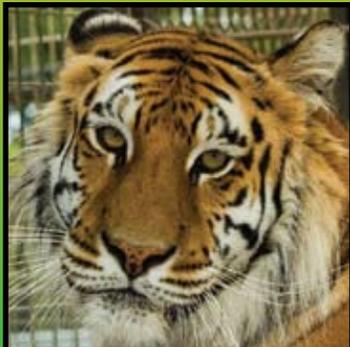
Oct 16-19
Fall Arts & Crafts Fair
10 AM- 6 PM
Vendors are needed!
Booth Space is \$50.
for the all 4 days.

Oct 25
Howl-O-Ween
Spooktacular

Cat of the Month



August: Sherman



September: Sierra

Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

Great things are continuing to happen at Turpentine Creek. If you have not visited in the past three months you are in for a big surprise. The meadow on top of the habitat field is accessible for you to walk down to see the new habitats and the animals that get to enjoy those areas. This is all part of phase one of the development of the property. In phase one there is still room for a huge cougar area; we would also like to build a habitat for the leopards. All donations are welcome to get these new enclosures built. Even with the rising prices of steel and materials we are confident that we can build these areas for \$20,000 each. Of course the more funding per area the more toys and enrichment items for the cats. Most zoos spend millions of dollars building smaller areas for only a couple of animals. We are fortunate that, with the beautiful Ozark mountain backdrop that we have available naturally, our areas are just as beautiful if not more beautiful than any place in the world. Approximately 80 animals have habitats now. If you are interested in helping or if you are in a position to fund a habitat of your own, please contact me to work out the details of what you would like for the sign on your exhibit to say.

Remember, TCWR survives on your small donations too, like when you visit the refuge, when you shop in our gift shops, when you stay in our Bed and Big Cat suites, or when you send money in the mail, so keep those things coming. Every little bit helps.

One of the most exciting things about the refuge to me is watching the people that dedicate a portion of their lives through our internship program. I have witnessed many (175+) of these young adults go out into the world and work at zoos, graduate veterinarian school, fight for animal rights and the list goes on and on. Many of our previous interns still stay in contact with each other and have developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our staff is to be commended on their dedication to TCWR, everyone that works here works hard and long hours. Our goal is to rescue animals and give them a life with dignity and respect.

Thank you to all of our donors, interns, staff and volunteers that made a contribution to build the refuge to this point. TCWR still has so much space to grow. There are 450 acres of land that can be developed. Today we exist on only a small portion of the land. TCWR with your help will continue to evolve and change in the future. Isn't it exciting to be a part of such a wonderful project? See what you can do to help us grow. Until next time...

For Turpentine Creek to continue to provide a safe, fun place for everyone to visit these magnificent big cats we must pave our sidewalks. Not only will this enhance your next visit but it will also make the refuge more handicapped friendly. We need financial support from you, our supporters, to make this project a reality. See the form on the last page to help.

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.



Recent Rescues

Carrie Trudeau, Staff Biologist

With the completion of 4 new habitats, many enclosures opened up in the compound allowing for new rescues. The staff has been busy this spring, welcoming 14 new faces in a matter of less than 2 months! It started on April 12th when a male and a female tiger arrived from Fairview, Missouri. 9 year old Tigger G and her mate 8 year old Ziggy moved into the compound shortly after their arrival. They have adjusted perfectly, and Ziggy's enormous size is fast making him our visitor's favorite. Although Ziggy has a sweet disposition, Tigger G has chosen to keep people at a distance for now.



Tigger (on the bench) and Ziggy are shown here in their former cage. They did have an option to get inside the barn too.

On April 23rd, the refuge welcomed a new species and three new residents when Pistol Pete, Savannah, and Donqui O.T. arrived. The three are miniature donkeys from Aurora, Missouri. The trio came to the refuge when their owners, good friends of TCWR secretary Pat Quinn, needed help taking care of them. The three were well taken care of and love their new home with llama Syrena in front of the refuge gift shop.



The donkeys in their new home. When visiting please take the time to talk to these greeters!

A trip to Rosenberg, Texas on April 28th brought us a beautiful 8 year old male tiger named Colby. A man had the tiger illegally at his home and was going to be forced to pay hefty fines if he did not find it a new home. The last straw was when he was forced to choose between his tiger and his family. Fortunately, he chose his family, and Colby has fit in perfectly with the routine at the refuge.



Colby at his past residence

On May 12, Emily and Scott returned from a long trip to New York with four new faces. A zoo in Hoosick Falls, NY was closing down and finding new homes for their animals, and two tigers, Rayn and Thunder, and two leopards, Santania and Zambo, found one at the refuge. At only 2 years old, little Rayn has taken to staff wonderfully, but the other three are still adjusting. The male leopard, Zambo, is black and the female Santania is a spotted leopard.



Thunder #2 and Rayn from New York.



Santania and Zambo soon after they arrived at the Refuge

On May 31st, an unexpected surprise arrived at the refuge in the form of 2lb tiger cubs. Apparently Tigger G was two months pregnant when we rescued her, and gave birth to three baby boys. Our vets believe that due to the stress of moving and the new environment, she was not producing milk to feed her babies. After one cub passed away from maternal neglect, the two survivors were removed from the den and have been hand raised ever since. The two males have stayed quite healthy, being doted on by their caregivers. "BB King" was named by sponsors Charles and Lori Ragsdale for their favorite blues artist, and "Mack" was named by Bill and Nancy Plummer for their favorite TCWR staff zoologist, Emily McCormack.



Mack and B.B. King.

Our newest additions arrived on July 6. As Tanya mentioned in our last newsletter, Don Jackson moved a few miles down the road after he left the refuge. This July, Turpentine Creek took the remainder of his big cats into our care. Male lion Willy and female tiger Ava are currently in quarantine as they learn the ropes here at the refuge. Both are very healthy and expected to be on display soon.



Willy and Ava in the quarantine cage.

Fall 2008 Interns

- Bryonna Albrecht – Ithaca College
BA Biology – May 2008
- Ben Cooper – U of Mary Washington
BS Biology – December 2008
- Taylor Howard – Texas Tech University
BS Biology – May 2008
- Lauren Jackson – University of California
BS Biology – June 2008
- Adriane Johnson – University of Southern Indiana
BS Biology – May 2008
- Kellyn Kearney – Manhattan College
BS Biology – May 2008
- Amy Koepp – Cardinal Stritch University
BA Biology – May 2008
- Arielle Schepmoes – Colorado State University
BS Zoology – May 2008
- Jarrett Sweeley – Coastal Carolina University
BS Marine Science/Biology
May 2008

Second Internship

- Tara Darby – Western Illinois University
BS Biology – December 2007

Third Internship

- Steven Vargas – Northern Illinois University
BS Biology – May 2007

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.

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:

February 1, 2009: positions last six months.

Deadline for application:

November 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

Kenny

Carrie Trudeau, Staff Biologist

In June of 2007, our beloved Kenny Rogers was diagnosed with melanoma shortly after he was released into his natural habitat. Since that time Kenny lived a healthy, vibrant life running through the grass and swimming in his pool. In March of this year, our staff was dismayed to discover a large tumor growing on his lower abdomen. Our wonderful veterinarians were able to remove the tumor, but were not too optimistic about his prognosis. Sadly, they were correct in presuming the tumor would return. The surgery gave Kenny a few more months of quality life, but he was living on borrowed time. The melanoma not only returned, but it spread directly to Kenny's lungs. On June 27, 2008, Kenny gave up the fight and passed away.

Since his rescue in 2000, Kenny quickly became Turpentine Creek's single most popular cat. His unique features distinguished him above all others, and he stole the hearts of everyone who met him. Some called him ugly, some called him unnatural, but everyone left his presence with a new understanding of why Turpentine Creek exists. His unusual appearance and goofy personality melted hearts and opened eyes. The message that Kenny had to send reached well beyond the refuge and our visitors.

The World Wide Web is littered with information regarding the breeding of white tigers. Many of these websites have pictures of Kenny, making him a poster child for tiger inbreeding. People that have never been to the refuge have seen his face and understand the evils of inbreeding white tigers. Kenny's legacy will live out long after his death, and even now he continues to educate people and help save his own kind. Kenny was loved by literally hundreds of people, and will be truly missed. Captive tigers everywhere owe Kenny their gratitude for reaching out to so many people on their behalf. Thank you Kenny, you will never be forgotten.



Turpentine Creek's Safari Lodging



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.

Independence Day

Evelyn Brunt, Staff Biologist

The refuge is always working to improve the lives of the animals here and constructing large natural habitats for them has the biggest impact on their lives. Prior to this year, the most habitats we had been able to build in one year was two. It is not for a lack of effort, but a lack of funds that we were never able to surpass that number. Last fall we were blessed to have four generous donations made to further develop our goal of building habitats. With all of the funds necessary to start purchasing materials, we got to work right away.

We spent two long months picking up the inner circle of our habitat loop. When we finished the field was unrecognizable. Our excitement for the coming months was evident; we worked tirelessly day after day, pipe after pipe, wire after wire, until we had completed two bear habitats and two big cat habitats. We wanted our supporters to be able to see our progress and visit with the cats and bears after their release, so we also built a tunnel-way down the center of the inner circle. After all of the hustle and bustle to complete the momentous task, the 4th of July came allowing the staff and interns to sit back, relax, and enjoy release day.

The two bear habitats each house two black bears. None of the bears live in the same enclosure, so we had to release just one bear from each habitat on July 4th. The first to be released was Koda. It only took Koda a few minutes to discover the joys of walking around on the grass, and after one hour he was splashing around in his pool. Joe, Koda's neighbor, is also loving his new area. JoJo, our only female bear, was released shortly after Koda into her habitat, which she shares with Coco. She is enjoying her new found freedom, and seems to be much more relaxed with extra room to run. Coco loves his pool and all of the treats that were hidden in his habitat.

We were able to build the cat habitats on very flat ground for our special needs cats Hercules, Lucky, Sierra, and Heather. Hercules and Lucky share one of the habitats, and Sierra and Heather share the other. Hercules, a male Bengal tiger, was released first. A typically aggressive cat, Hercules seemed genuinely calm and happy out in his ½ acre enclosure. It did not take him long to discover his pool and his bench. Lucky, a lioness, has vision problems and it may take her a while to fully explore her new habitat.

Next to be released was Heather, a female Bengal tiger, who has always been playful. She quickly stepped onto the grass and made her way around her entire enclosure in no time at all. She played in both pools, knocked over all of her toys, and even napped on her new bench. Sierra, a Bengal tiger, also enjoys the new habitat, she has gone for a few dips in her pool, and has experienced a real sense of independence. Thank you to Jackie Wheeler, Bill and Nancy Plummer, Lee Rosser, and the Hosack family for their generous donations to our habitat fund that made July 4th the most extensive release day yet. Another thanks to all of the spring break groups that donated their time to help us build these enclosures.

July 4th did not end when the habitats were opened. We also had the most successful fireworks show in our history. Vice president Scott Smith put the whole show together, and so many people showed up and donated. Thanks to everyone, and come back again next year!



They Grow Up So Fast

Laurie Vanderwal, Zoologist

On April 14, 2008, Turpentine Creek rescued two tigers from Fareview, MO. Tigger G and Ziggy were unfixed and housed together at the previous owner's home. As soon as they arrived at the refuge, Ziggy was neutered, but it was too late.

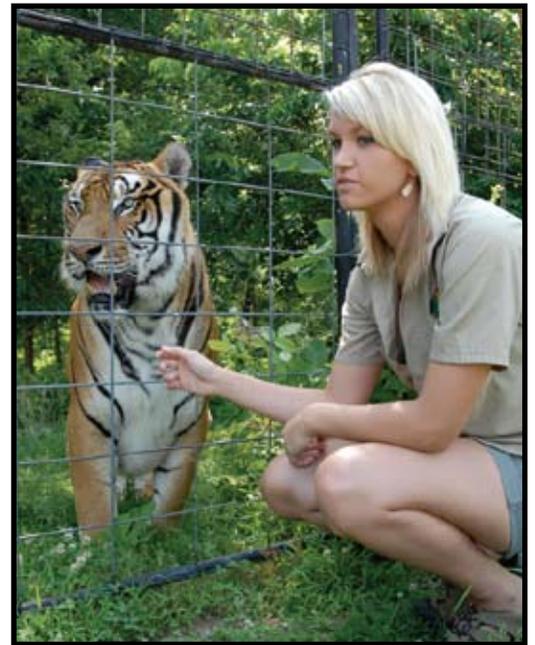
On May 31st, Tigger G had a litter of 3 cubs, of which 2 survived; B.B King and Mack. Tigers can have anywhere from 1 to 6 cubs with the average litter size between 2 and 4. In the wild, it is not uncommon for only one cub to survive out of the litter due to the more harsh conditions in the wild. Tiger gestation is between 93-111 days, which means B. B. and Mack were conceived in late February or early March.

Ideally, the mother will instinctively raise her own cubs, but there are cases of maternal neglect in which case the cubs will often not survive. In captivity, when maternal neglect is noticed the cubs are removed. Tigger G was not caring for her cubs and the staff of the refuge intervened in order to save their lives.

Cubs are born with an average weight of 2-4 lbs and will gain approximately 100g each day or approximately 1.5lbs per week. At 5 weeks, B. B. and Mack were already around 10lbs and continuing to grow quickly. When cubs are born their eyes are closed and their ears lay flat on their head. As cubs grow up, they will experience many milestones. They open their eyes, start cutting teeth and their ears begin to perk up at around 2 weeks. Social play will begin around 1 month and continue to increase as they grow up. They spend the first 2 months of their lives in the safety of the den with their mother nursing. After about 2 months they will begin to leave their den area. They will groom each other at 2- 2 1/2 months and can self groom at 3 months. The mother tiger will wean cubs around 6 months and they will begin to make their own kills at 1 1/2 years. Sometime between 2-5 years the cubs will become completely independent and begin to establish their own territory.

In captivity, there will also be milestones. B.B and Mack have already opened their eyes, their ears have raised, they are beginning to cut teeth and they are showing some social play. They will be weaned from the milk replacer formula to a milk/meat milkshake and eventually graduate up to solid meat. As these tiger cubs grow and mature they will also begin to show the natural wild instincts that all the tigers eventually display. It is amazing that humans are born at around 5-7lbs and are full grown in 16-18 years at 150-180lbs, but a tiger cub is only 2-4 lbs at birth, but will be full grown in only 5-6 years and can weigh 400-600lbs. This unbelievably fast growth rate is one more good reason that these animals do not make good pets. No matter how cute they are when young, this does not last and for more then 3/4 of their life they are full-grown predators.

B.B and Mack remind us all of why the pet trade in exotics is so prevalent, the cubs are undeniably cute and amazing to watch, but each day as they grow bigger and stronger, the danger of these animals is also an undeniable fact. To help with the food, vet and other expenses of the cubs please donate towards their care.



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 guests 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.

Black Bears

Ivy Cooper, Biologist

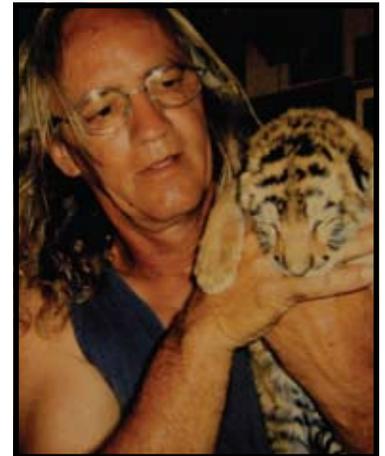
Having just finished our black bear habitats, we are very excited to give them more space to move around and play. Bears are strong and heavily built, with stout, powerful, large-clawed limbs, a bulky head, small ears, small eyes with poor sight, and a long muzzle with a keen sense of smell. Black bears are distinguished from grizzly or brown bears by their longer, less heavily furred ears, and smaller shoulder humps. Although our bears were previously owned as pets, in the wild black bears can be found in Alaska, most



of Canada and the U.S. and as far south as central Mexico. Black bears are about four to six feet long and weigh between 120 lbs.- 660lbs. The males are about one third larger than the females. Black bears can adapt to a variety of habitats but are usually found in heavily forested areas. Although they bare the name black bear, they can range in color from black to a lighter cinnamon color. Black bears can run very fast for short distances and have been recorded running up to 25 mph. The black bear is an omnivore, which means they eat both plants and animals. Our bears eat the same meat as our cats and the local grocery stores donate fruits and vegetables. Bears can live to be around 30 years old but the average age in the wild is 10

years old. More than 90% of the deaths after 18 months of age are the result of gunshots, trapping, motor vehicle accidents and other interactions with humans. Black bears are usually active at dawn and dusk; our bears are active at different times of the day especially at feeding time. Bears are solitary except during the summer when breeding pairs are formed or when females are with their cubs. Black bear mothers care for their young and teach the cubs necessary life skills until they leave her. Female bears will reach sexual maturity at 2 to 9 years of age. Males reach sexual maturity at 3 to 4 years, but will continue to grow until they are 10 to 12 years old. Black bears possess a high level of intelligence, extraordinary navigational abilities, and exhibits a high level of curiosity and exploratory behaviors. Generally black bears are shy and secretive toward humans but can become dangerous and aggressive when cornered or rearing young. Black bears hibernate between 4 to 7 months; this saves energy during the cold winter months. During hibernation bears can lose up to half of their body weight. Our bears do not hibernate but they do sleep a lot more in the cold months. It is awesome to see the bears move into habitats and everyone is looking forward to observing their peculiar behaviors. While visiting the refuge make sure to stop by and visit the bears.

Remembering Doyle Seratt



Doyle Seratt died on Sunday, June 22 in a head-on collision with a car while driving his motorcycle. Doyle has been working at TCWR for most of the past year and a half. He helped build the Safari Lodges alongside D. Arthur and Lisa Wilson and stayed with us afterwards to help with general maintenance. There is nothing Doyle couldn't do and he always had a smile on his face. He touched the hearts of everyone he crossed paths with and will be remembered by everyone.

Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers

2. Donations

3. Safety Supplies

First Aid Kits
Gloves
Rubber Boots
(All Sizes)
Plastic Spray Bottles

4. Cleaning Supplies

Garbage Bags
Household Cleaners
Paper Towels

Toilet Paper
Scrub Brushes

5. Tools

Concrete Saw & Trowels
Pipe Chop Saw & Blades
Pliers
Hammers
Hose Clamps & Nozzles
Skill Saw & Blades
Welding Rods (6011-3/32)
Concrete forms

6. Caging Materials

Black Spray Paint
New Lumber
Oxy/Acetylene Regs.
Rebar (3/4 to 1 inch)
Metal Roofing
Water Pools for Cats

7. Office Supplies

8.5" X 11" Copy Paper
Laminating Sheets
(3 Mil & 5 Mil)
Packing Tape

8. Landscaping Materials

Sod & Top Soil
Plants and Shrubs
Lawn Mowers

9. Equipment

Welder
Vehicles (Gas Efficient)

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.
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 Eureka Springs, AR



Remembering Kenny
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ORDER FORM **07/2008**

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	
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Method Of Payment

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	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 \$20,000	\$
	Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
	Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
	Donate towards sidewalk project	\$
	Memorial Story Plaques For Memorial Wall: \$35.00	\$
	Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
	2009 Calendars (\$15.00) + \$5.00 S&H	\$
	Total Contributions	\$