



CAT CHRONICLES

June, 2009

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

Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

The sounds of the animals around the refuge amaze me. Every evening starts with the wild coyotes then Cheyenne, our captive coyote chimes in, then the lions start caroling (roaring simultaneously), tigers try and roar or moan, donkey's braying, our neighbors' cows mooing, crickets, frogs, owls, birds chirping, then my dogs start howling. It is something to experience. I encourage everyone to take the time and spend at least one night, if not more, at the refuge in our variety of lodging facilities or camping in our RV Park. It is an encounter you will never forget.

Thanks for all donations large and small. Every dollar makes a difference in TCWR's survival and growth. Most people do not realize the magnitude of the operations here at the refuge. You might not realize all the day to day things that go into taking care of so many needy animals. I am so appreciative for the staff of dedicated people that are here to care for the creatures that we offer a lifetime refuge. It is such a pleasure to know that the idea of a refuge to care for abused and abandoned Big Cats is now a reality. Now that it is a reality, we seem to be thrown many curve balls (maintenance) that we never anticipated in the beginning. Somehow we continue to take the challenges we face day to day and together as a team work it out. May 2009, marked the 17th year of the refuges' existence, I am proud of my parents for their insight to start the refuge and just as proud of the people that help us keep it running.

I am happy to report that we are working on the next habitat for our leopards. Thanks to Mark and Nancy Hanneman, Chicksaw Foundation, Susan Scheuerman and her company's matching program through BP Foundation, INC. and Fabric of America, along with the other donations, we have raised \$7,166.60 so far towards the leopard enclosure. We still need help with this project. This enclosure will be the most expensive habitat to date. Leopards love to climb and we aim to please, so it will be impressive with 16 foot tall walls. We will incorporate lots of benches for them to lounge on and toys for them to play with. We plan to have a place for the leopards to be able to come into a building when it is cold outside. That is where the largest expense is and whenever you go high so does the cost. Our goal is \$50,000. So donate what you can and help us make this habitat a reality. Vada, Santania, Zambo and little Spyke are looking forward to their day on the grass. Here is a little information on the leopards.

President: continued page 2.

Note These Dates

June 19-21

TCWR Pow Wow
Father's Day Weekend
Grand Entries Fri. 7pm,
Sat. 1pm & 7:30pm &
Sun. 1pm



July 4

**Independence Day
Extravaganza**



**Kizi - June
Cat of the Month**

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

"Help Us, Help Them"

www.turpentinecreek.org

(President: continued from page 1.)

Vada (male black leopard) was born July 20, 1992 and arrived at TCWR from Montana, August 6, 1994. Santania (female spotted leopard) was born May 15, 1997 and arrived at TCWR from New York on May 12, 2008, along with Zambo (male black leopard) who was born June 3, 1998. Spyke (male black leopard) was born at TCWR on August 15, 2008, after Santania and Zambo were rescued. As you can see, most of these animals are not young. It disturbs me when I think that they have spent their entire life in a small cage. It breaks my heart even though the cats have never known anything else but a small cage. We know what they are missing. They are now well cared for but need more space. I know that our only limitation is funding and I will not rest well until all of the animals have a large area to run and play on the 450 acres that we have at TCWR. Thanks for all you do to help. Until next time....



Zambo

Spyke

Santania

Vada

The Troubling Trend of Designer Cats

By: Laurie Vanderwal, Staff Zoologist

While 41 states have laws banning or restricting the ownership of large exotic felines, the trend toward breeding and owning exotic hybrids (wild cats crossed with domestic cats) is growing. Only 19 states have any regulations regarding these ‘designer cats’ making it much easier to breed, sell and own these “wild” animals. The four most common hybrids



Sabena is a hybrid (cross) between a domestic house cat and an Asian leopard cat. She is not social with humans and would not make a good pet.

are the Bengal (Asian Leopard cat cross), the Savannah (Serval cross), the Safari (Geoffroy’s cat cross) and the Chausie (Jungle cat cross) but breeders continue to cross other species of wild cat in attempts to produce new, unique hybrids with even higher demand and a higher price tag. Some of these include the Jambi or Viverral (a Fishing cat cross), the Pixie-Bob (a bobcat cross), the Habari (of unknown ancestry), the Ashera (reportedly a Serval and Bengal cat cross) and the Bristol (Margay cat cross). Some of these hybrids have been more successful and well developed than others.

Most of these hybrid cats cost between \$1000-\$10,000, depending on sex and generation with the extremely rare Habari or Ashera cats costing over \$20,000. The breeders of these newer and rarer hybrids will produce only a small number of kittens or, as in the case of the Habari, they will keep genetics a “trade secret” in order to maintain the uniqueness of the hybrid thereby keeping the price extremely high and increasing their profits.

Breeders are attempting to develop cats with the coloration and large size of the wild cat but the disposition of the domestic cat. They claim the cats are beautiful and make wonderful pets, when in reality many hybrid cats are born with genetic complications, especially when attempting a new cross. There can be stillbirths, birth defects, sterility, unique nutritional needs and temperament problems leaving many of these kittens facing an uncertain future. Breeding these hybrids can also be harmful to the domestic cat involved in the mating process. Often the wild species will injure or kill the domestic cat during the mating process. If healthy kittens are produced, breeders will often convince indi-

viduals that these cats will be a wonderful addition to the family, but when its 'wild' personality becomes evident many people decide it is more than they can handle, leaving these unwanted cats in shelters or euthanized

As large exotic cat laws continue to become stricter, the current trend in exotic hybrids is bound to continue as a way for individuals to legally own a 'wild' cat. This desire is quite troubling when so much of this industry seems to be motivated by profits and so many of the animals involved seem to suffer simply to produce a cat that has spots or is larger than average. It is even more disturbing when one considers that close to a million healthy, adoptable cats are euthanized in shelters every year. Think about the amount of suffering that will be eliminated if, instead of succumbing to the urge to own something 'wild' and supporting the breeding industry, individuals would adopt and save a shelter cat instead. Please spay and neuter your pets.

Another Cougar Habitat Opened

Emily McCormack/Staff Zoologist

On April 18th, TCWR opened the 27th habitat enclosure for five resident cougars. Even with the rainy conditions, over 200 refuge supporters and guests joined us for this remarkable occasion. It stopped raining just in time for the doors to open. Ariel, almost 19 years old, took the first step out onto the grass. Suli, Ruby, and Shasta were next, then a little unsure of herself, Luna. Each of the girls immediately lay down in the soft grass and began eating it. After about 30 minutes of mowing, a couple went exploring, while another took a run. It is truly amazing to be part of the habitat opening events. You have to think that most of these animals have never even had the chance to entirely extend their limbs and body into a complete run. The cougars are thoroughly enjoying their new found freedom.

Thanks again to the support of Lynne and Tom McNutt of Temperance, Michigan, these girls will spend the rest of their lives running and playing in the grass. Lynne and Tom fully sponsored the enclosure. It was a goal for them to donate a habitat, not only to house these cougars, but to provide a natural enclosure at TCWR for many animals to come. Lynne described it as their legacy! If You Build It, They Can Run!



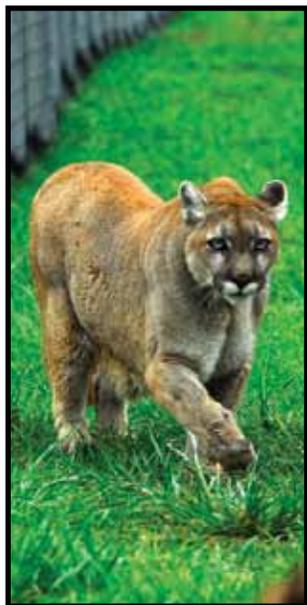
Ariel

Shasta

Suli

Luna

Ruby



If
You
Build
It



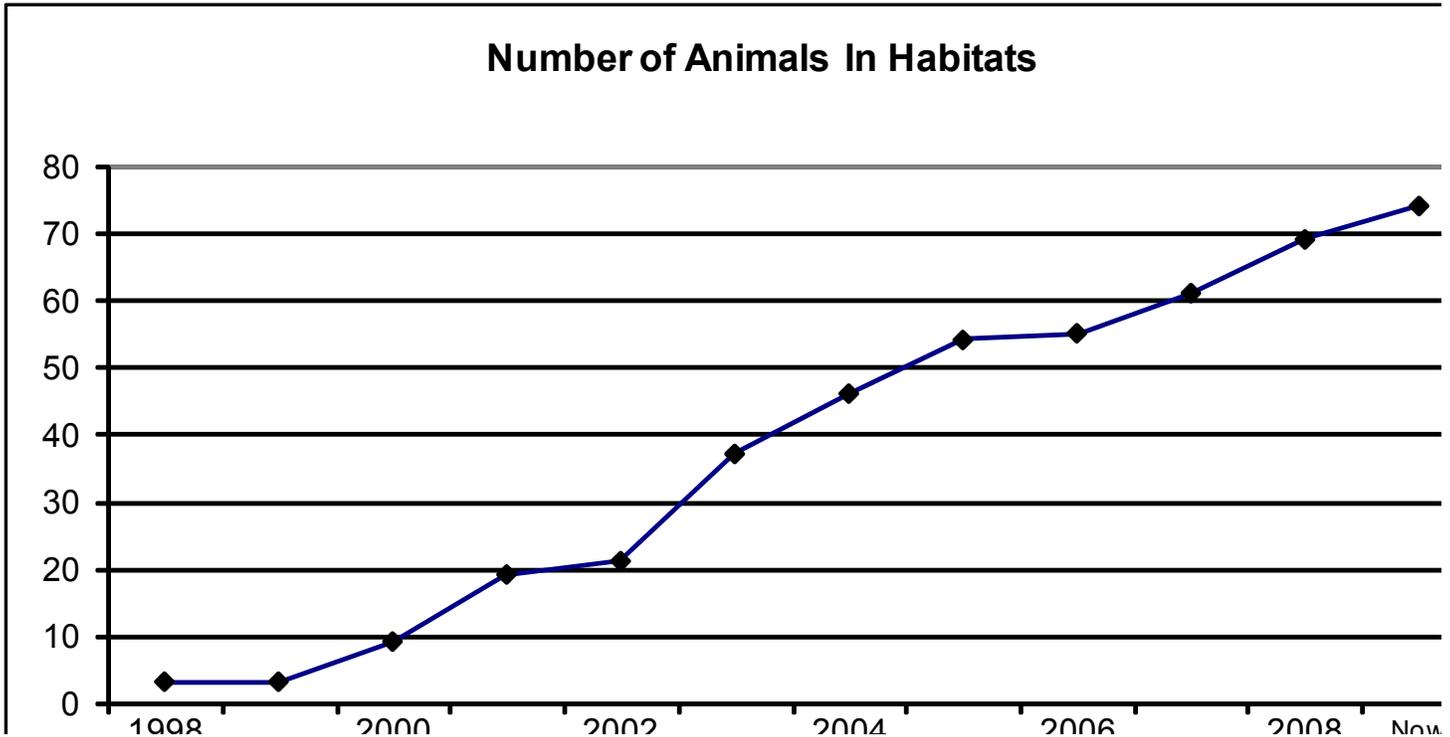
They
Can
Run!



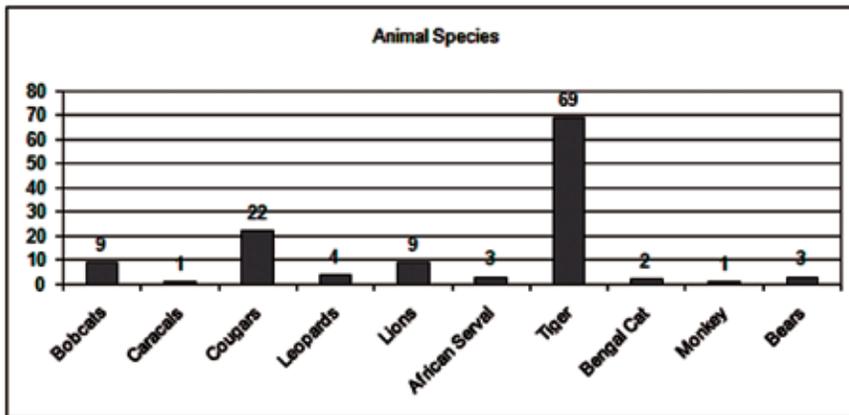
Updated Statistics

Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

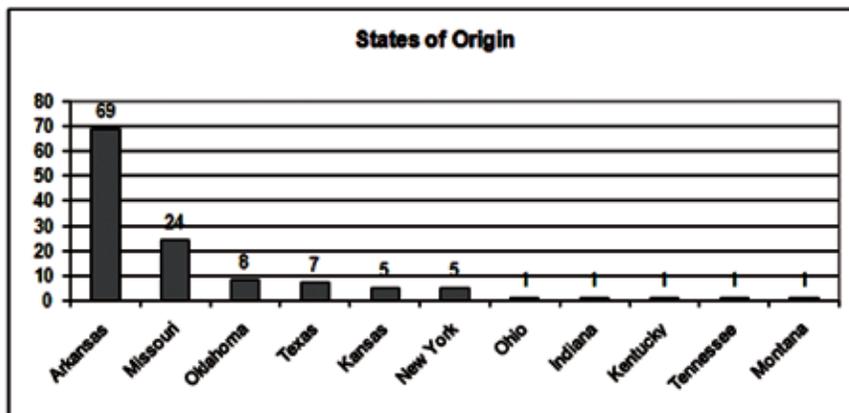
Frequently asked questions often include inquires of current refuge statistics. Since the Turpentine Creek family is always changing and growing, it can be hard for supporters to keep track of what and how many animals the refuge has. Here are a few graphs to update you on the current refuge population.



Since construction of habitats began in 1998, it hasn't stopped. Our first habitat was built in 1998 and housed three tigers, and now we have 27 enclosures housing 69 animals. That's over half of our population!



Tigers are clearly the most popular cat in the exotic pet trade. As the graph shows, however, the popularity of small exotic cats is on the rise.

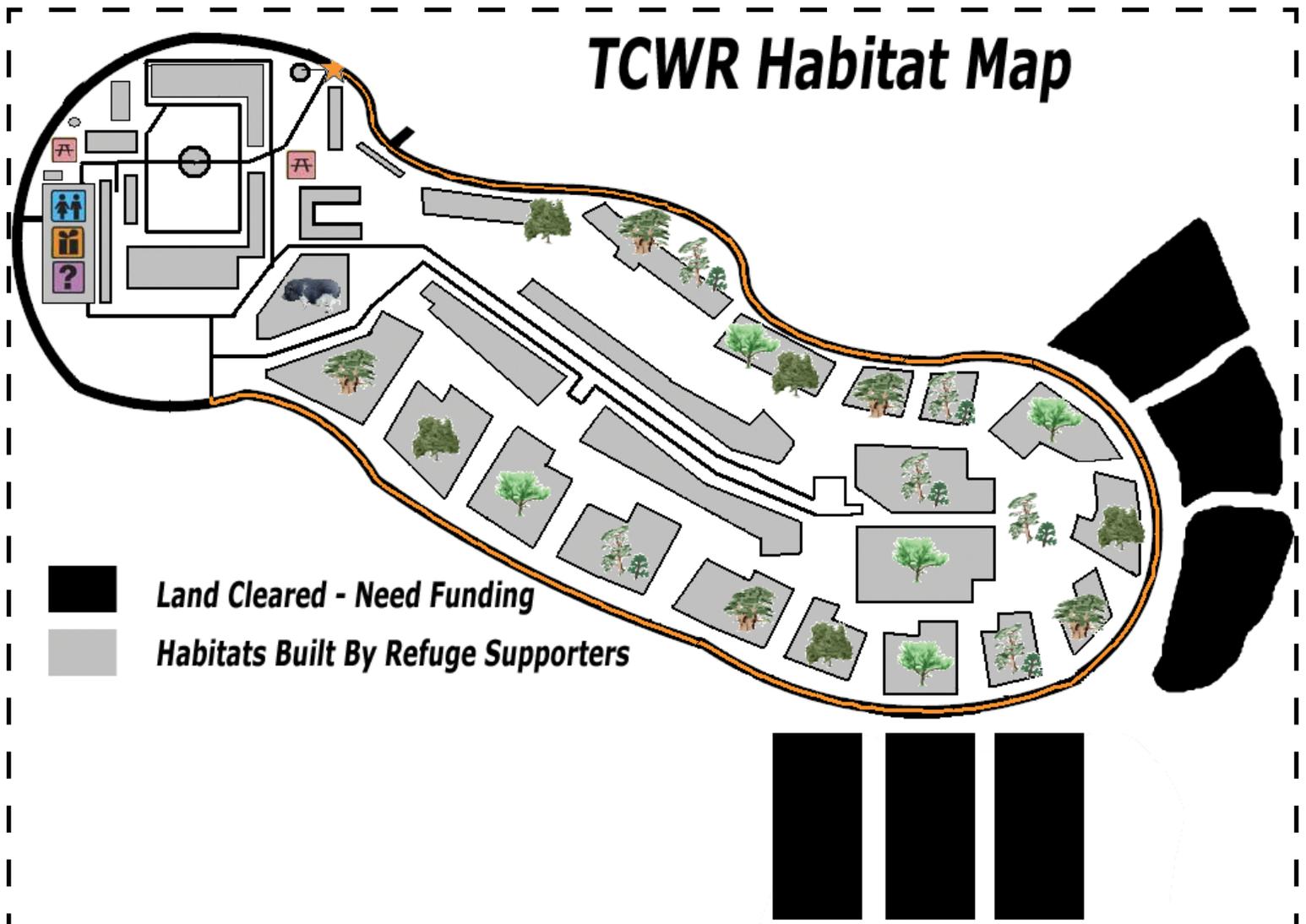


TCWR is well known in Arkansas and our surrounding states, so the majority of our animals are from this region. The refuge's ability to rescue cats has a long reach, however, stretching to the far north east.

“If you build it, they will run”

Ivy Cooper/Staff Biologist

One of the best aspects of working at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is constantly seeing progress. We are busy clearing existing habitats and giving the older habitats new platform benches. We just opened our newest habitat (see Cougar Habitat Opening article) and we are already drawing plans for the next new habitats. After we build the leopards a high-rise habitat, we are going to build on the other side of the tour road. On our existing habitat tour, you stroll past eighteen habitat enclosures and see lions and tigers romping in the grass, playing in their pools, and relaxing on their new platform benches. We are always trying to improve and enrich the lives of our cats and releasing them into habitats is one of the ways we are able to enhance their lives. We have plans for six lion and tiger habitats that will be roughly 7,500 square feet each. This will give at least a dozen of our big cats a taste of freedom, the chance to run and play in a habitat. If you come to the refuge you can see where the land has been cleared and the dirt work for the lockdowns is complete. We wanted to clear the areas now, so that they will have time to grow grass instead of being briars and dense undergrowth. If you go on a tour now you can envision the new habitats with cats relaxing in the cool shade of an old oak tree, and with the help of our visitors we can make this vision a reality. Please send your donations earmarked “habitat fund.”



As the map suggest most of our animals have nice, big habitats in which to romp and play. Many wait for this opportunity. Our habitat fund had just enough money to do the dirt work for the six habitats shown above in black. We will plant grass and pray for funding to build these too. They are the future home of over a dozen cats. Before we can build these we must continue fundraising for the leopard habitat. Currently we have a little over \$7,000 towards a project that will cost nearly \$50,000. All the animals rescued by the refuge get healthy diets for physical nutrition and toys for mental enrichment. From experience, we know they still need more...a place to run! Please, donate today.

12TH ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY EXTRAVAGANZA

Notice: No Fireworks Allowed In Eureka Springs City Limits

Turpentine Creek invites everyone to come to a beautiful, safe place to have fun with your family leagally shooting fireworks and celebrating our nation's birth to the sounds of family-friendly music.

FOUR BANDS ON THE MAIN STAGE:



Start
Time
4PM

Sean Carney Band from Columbus, OH.
Fast Johnny Ricker from Kansas City, MO.
The Blues Notions from Kansas City, MO.
Cedar-N-Sage from Rogers, AR.



Free
Donations
Welcome

The Lawn at TCWR is the perfect place to light your fireworks in the company of hundreds of people doing the same. Bring your own fireworks or buy them here.

**OPEN TO EVERYONE:
VACATIONEERS AND EUFREAKANS ALIKE!**

Turpentine Creek Hours

TCWR is open every day from 9am-6pm. Guided habitat tours are available hourly from 11am-4pm. Feeding can be observed at 5 pm daily. Now is the best time to view the animals. Cool weather equals fun!

**Family Membership \$50
Single Membership \$30**

It's that time again. Renew your membership now to maximize your value. Memberships are good from time of purchase through 12/31/2009. Unlimited visits to the refuge for your family will provide you with priceless memories and help the animals too. Simply fill in the form on the last page.

Africa In The Ozarks! 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 submerge 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.

Sponsor or Adopt an Animal Today

Adoption Program

Small Animal or Bird	\$75/yr.	Small Animal or Bird	\$500/yr. or \$50/mo.
Small Cat or Monkey	\$75/yr.	Small Cat or Monkey	\$750/yr. or \$75/mo.
Cougar or Leopard	\$90/yr.	Donkey	\$1000/yr. or \$100/mo.
Lion, Tiger, Bear, or Donkey	\$100/yr.	Cougar or Leopard	\$1800/yr. or \$180/ mo.
		Lion, Tiger, or Bear	\$2000/yr. or \$200/ mo.

Certificates make great gifts!

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.



Make Plans Today For The 11th Annual TCWR Pow Wow

Father's Day Weekend - June 19 - 21
Gates open Friday 3pm.
Saturday and Sunday gates open at 10am

Weekend Festivities Include:
Inter-Tribal Dance Contest, Singers,
Artist, Crafters, Food, Live Wildlife
Exhibits.



Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers

2. Donations

3. Cleaning Supplies

- Trash Bags
- Household Cleaners
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Latex Gloves (25 pair/day)

4. Tools

- Concrete Trowels
- Metal Chop Saw and Blades
- Pliers
- Hammers
- Hose Clamps
- Hose Nozzles
- Skill Saw and Blades

Welding Rods (6011 - 3/32)

Concrete Forms

16-20 Ton Jacks

Common Hand Tools

Lowes-Home Depot Gift Cards

5. Caging Materials

Black & Gray Spray Paint

Lumber (All Sizes - New)

Rebar (3/4-1 Inch)

Metal Roofing

Water Pools For Cats

Donations For Pipe and Wire

6. Office Supplies

Compact Copy Machine

Laminating Sheets (3&5 Mil)

Packing Tape

Scotch Tape

Epson Glossy Paper

Laptop Computer

7. Landscaping Items

Top Soil

Sod

Mowers - Gas Powered

Weed Eaters - Gas Powered

Landscape Timbers

Grass Seed - Kentucky Blue

8. Equipment

Welder - Gas Powered

4 X 4 Vehicles

Road Grader

9. Vet Care Items

Panacur Dewormer

Bequest Your Best

It is important to the staff of TCWR that our 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



Kizi is the June "Cat of the Month"

Or Current Resident

ORDER FORM

06/2009

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)	\$
	Leopard Habitat Fund - Goal \$50,000 Fund Entire Habitat \$20,000	\$
	2009 Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
	2009 Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
	2009 TCWR "Greatest Stories Ever Told" CD - \$30/ea.	\$
	Enrichment Bench Sponsorship \$300.00	\$
	2009 Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	2009 Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
	2009 Calendars (\$10.00) + \$5.00 S&H	\$
	Total Contributions	\$