



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

Upcoming Events

Pow Wow

June 17 - 19

Independence

Day Extravaganza

July 4 - 4 PM - ?



It is time to renew your memberships, adoptions and sponsorships.



**CJ
April's Cat
of the Month**

Remembering Hilda Putman Jackson

Co-Founder of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

January 4, 1939 - February 11, 2011

"My mom was an amazing woman," said Tanya Smith of her mother, Hilda Jackson. "After we moved to Eureka Springs she would tell me "keep your chin up, Tanya, just have faith."

That attitude is one that got Hilda through a life that was not always easy. She was born Hilda Putman in a small North East Texas town, fourth of eleven children, 10 of whom were birthed at home. She grew up on a 100 acre working farm with cash crops of cotton, cucumbers and watermelons. The family also raised hogs and cows. Hard work was expected from all the children starting as soon as they could hold a sack to pick cotton.

Hilda went to a small one room school a mile and a half walk away, and once recalled carrying her sick younger brother all the way home from school. After graduating from Hughes Springs Public School in 1957, Hilda moved to Dallas, Texas, to find work. There she married her first husband and had two boys, Robert Glen and Clifford Ray. Her husband was neglectful so Hilda divorced him and later married Donald Ray Jackson, on December 7, 1963.

The Jacksons eventually moved to Elk Grove Village, a suburb of Chicago where her daughter Tanya Alexenia Syrenia was born. Five years later they moved back to Hughes Springs, Texas, where they bought the Hughes Mansion that was in need of much repair and made that their home until 1980. Hilda worked as a realtor-broker and builder in Hughes Springs, where she was responsible for the revitalization of the town by building a hotel, subdivisions, and apartments until the 1980's when the local steel industry took a nose dive. The Jacksons moved to Hope, Arkansas, and bought a modular home plant and built hundreds of motels and homes all over the South.

In 1978 the Jacksons got their first African lion from a car dealer in Texas who found a young lion tied to a cinder block when he went to reposses a car. The car dealer left his card in the door and took the lion in trade for what was owed on the car. The lion had extreme digestive problems and the Jacksons traded five motorcycles and a motorcycle trailer for the cub. The cub's name was Bum and he lived 21 years with the excellent care he received from Hilda.

In 1983 Hilda received a call on a female lion living in an apartment with a six month old baby. The owners wanted to get rid of the lion because it was looking at the baby like food or a play toy. So Hilda graciously made room for that lion named Sheila.

In late 1991, a lady with 42 lions, tigers, and cougars approached the Jacksons to help her. She kept the animals in deplorable conditions in cattle trailers near Hope, Arkansas. She also had 60 dogs and over 40 puppies that were near the brink of starvation that Hilda took in and for which she found homes. With her own resources, Hilda saved those animals and made sure the animals got the veterinarian care and food they



continued page 2.

needed.

Hilda was an animal and people lover like no other. If there was a stray anywhere in the vicinity she would take it in, feed it, and do everything she could to help the situation.

After retiring, Hilda and Don convinced Tanya to move to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The Jacksons had vacationed annually in the eclectic town and always wanted to make it their home. Hilda felt the desire to help more, and sold everything they owned and moved to Eureka Springs. They worked out a deal to purchase 459 acres 7 miles south of town that they had been looking at for 10 years. It was not an easy move but Hilda's faith and dedication inspired everyone that worked with her to help all God's creatures. Due to the passion of one woman and the love and support of her family, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge was created and founded in May 1992.

"At times I would be pacing the floor with worry on how we were going to get the food for the animals and for our family," recalled Tanya. "We had invested every dime and all our resources into this move. We had no idea when we started the refuge that we would be faced with such resistance. The cost of this endeavor was so tremendous that it ate up our resources very quickly. One of the things my mother taught us is that if we saved an animal the least we could do was make sure that animal would never be mistreated and would always have a clean place to live and fresh food and water daily. Rain, snow or shine. Sometimes in the early days at the refuge, I can remember my mom being out in the enclosures alone cleaning and feeding all the rescues. She loved raising the baby animals and she was the best at it. If an animal was sick, she would sleep by its side to make sure it got all that she could give to keep it alive. I have pictures of my daughter, Miranda, surrounded by lion cubs, tiger cubs and baby deer. Mom couldn't turn away any animal that needed rescuing – raccoons, opossums, deer, lions, tigers, cougars, bears, llamas, goats, ducks, sheep, pig, horses, baby bats, the list goes on and on."

Today the refuge is thriving and Hilda's legacy continues through her daughter, Tanya, Tanya's husband Scott, and the many dedicated staff, employees, and interns who continue her work.

New Turpentine Creek Family Members - Cougars Rasha and Nia

By: Scott Smith/Vice President

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge staff members picked up two cougars about an hour south of St. Louis, Missouri, on March 29. This was at least the second place Nia and Rasha called home. The current owners got the two cougars from a couple of guys who were going to have them euthanised for being cougars. The current owners wanted to "save" them so they brought them home. After keeping Nia and Rasha for years, the Man said, "I just do not have the time to care for them any longer. My girlfriend has heart problems and is very ill." Tanya Smith, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge President, has been in contact with the private owners for several weeks after receiving an email plea for help. Nia (male cougar) and Rasha (female cougar) were still in tact. A visit from the vet took care of neutering Nia and spaying Rasha since we are not a breeding facility.



Rasha (up close) and Nia (in the back) shown in their former cage just south of St. Louis, Missouri.

2011 TCWR Directors

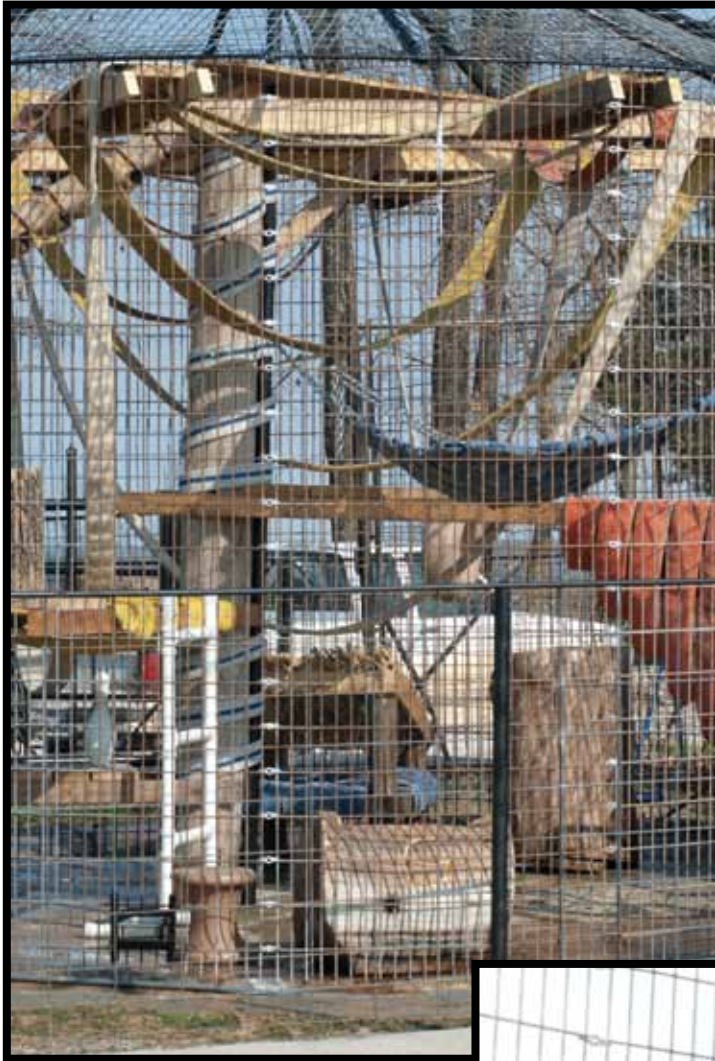
(Left to right)

President - Tanya Smith
Vice President - Scott Smith
Chairman - Bill Plummer
Secretary - Pat Quinn
Member - Charles Ragsdell
Member - Randy Risor
Events - Clif Jackson
Member - Eric Studer
Member - Dave Schoonover
Not shown:
Member - Joseph Pat Joyce
Member - Kimber Martenez



Goober's New Play Land

By Kellyn Kearney/Staff Biologist



Our Rhesus macaque, Goober, a 24 year old monkey, has recently been upgraded from his old enclosure to a new and improved playground gymnasium. This enclosure, once occupied by our black leopard, Vada, is much larger than his previous home, and we added many improvements. Such improvements include a cabana fire hose bench (a regular fire hose bench with a thatched reed grass roof), a wooden food platform reachable by a bright yellow fire hose ladder, fun orange fire hose looped steps leading from the ground to a higher-up bench, a blue fire hose hammock, and another yellow fire hose ladder. This one leads up to the very top of the enclosure where he'll find a nice look-about platform so he can keep a nosy eye on all the going-ons in the compound, one of his favorite past times. There are some other benches, logs, toys, and dangling strips of fire hose present as well. On top of all this, he also has a new den containing a swing door and a heated floor so he can stay warm and cozy over the winter. And thanks to our staff member, Emily McCormack, Goober even has two new specially-made chain-saw carved pieces of furniture: a dinner seat and a loveseat with a personalized 'G' on the back.

On March 13th at 11 a.m., Goober was released out into his new play land. His initial reaction was to investigate everything! He was jumping, climbing, and shaking things all over the place, all the while making his happy monkey noises! One of the first places Goober headed to was, of course, the very top platform of his enclosure where he could get a good view of the whole compound. This was one super pleased monkey. He absolutely loves his new home. He even went around and thanked some of the staff members by reaching out and holding hands to show his appreciation for his improved living quarters.

This little monkey, who is almost 25 years old, deserved this nice change of scenery and his life will truly be enriched because of it. So make sure you come check out Goober in his new pad. Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible for him by donating the materials to build his new play land! He greatly appreciates it, as we all do, and hope you will continue supporting the habitat fund.



New Habitats

Jarrett Sweeley/Staff Biologist

One of the goals at Turpentine Creek is to get as many cats as we possibly can into bigger, more natural habitats. From time to time animals pass away. It is just a sad fact of life. At the refuge one animal's passing opens up doors (literally) for another's freedom. Also, if we can get animals to coexist it frees up habitat space for others. In the past several months we have been able to provide habitats for five of the finest big cats at the refuge.

Ringo, a 7-year old male tiger, was the first to go into a new habitat. Ringo is the new neighbor to Sissy and Jasmine. When the door to the habitat opened, Ringo hesitated only a moment before stepping out onto the grass and looking around. He then decided to spend a few minutes dining on the grass before running down the hill and jumping on his bench.

Kitten was the second cat to check out her new habitat. Kitten, a 15-year old female tiger, now lives in the first habitat on the guided tour. Wyoming, Lucci and Tigger #3 also share this habitat. Kitten was rescued along with several other tigers including Tigger #3! When we first opened the door for Kitten to go out into the habitat, she seemed a little confused as to what we wanted her to do. She hung out in the doorway for a few minutes before stepping out into the habitat. She walked several steps into the habitat, then immediately lay down, and started mowing the grass for us. Later in the day, she decided to explore a little more but was seen eating grass for most of the day.

Next was Magic's release into one of the new leopard habitats, which were just completed last summer. Magic is a 6-year old female spotted leopard and now lives next to Santania and Zambo inside the heated leopard building. At first it seemed Magic did not have the same courage as Ringo and Kitten and was unsure about entering a new unfamiliar space. It took a little bit of coaxing by one of her favorite staff members to get her to the habitat door where she peeked around the corner into the habitat. She seemed a bit nervous and scared in the beginning but after a few tentative trips out into the habitat was seen rolling around in the grass enjoying herself.

Styx and Bombay have lived in the compound on "Tiger Row" adjacent to one another since their arrival at the refuge. Bombay (15 yrs. old) and Styx (14 yrs. old) were recently released into a habitat. Bombay was first since he is older. The first time he stepped off concrete there just happened to be snow on the ground. He had a great time exploring his new habitat and spent the day relishing in his new found freedom. Since Styx and Bombay don't live together, Styx, had to wait until the next day. He was released by one of our long term volunteers, Jacque Weiland. He walked right out the door and started eating grass. About five minutes later he walked the fence line as if to say thanks to all the staff and interns for his new home.



Volunteer Spotlight

Steven Vargas/Staff Biologist

Jacque Weiland has been volunteering at the refuge for over five years. Originally from Forest City, Iowa she had first heard about the refuge when she saw a few of our tigers on a promotion at a Bentonville Wal-Mart. After talking to some of the staff and interns, she decided she wanted to help out. Jacque says the only downside to volunteering here is being sprayed by the cats, Bombay and Thunder especially but watching these majestic creatures running and playing makes it all worth while. When she is not volunteering, she is either watching NASCAR or playing with her own domestic cats. She believes that volunteering at the refuge is an awesome experience, one you will always remember. Being so close to these beautiful animals, seeing them grow and being able to learn their personalities is a once and a lifetime experience.

Jacque works for Walmart which is very generous. They have a program for all associates who volunteer 20 or more hours of their valuable time. Walmart associates simply fill out a form and turn it into their manager. Turpentine Creek then receives a check. Walmart does this to encourage their associates to get involved in the community. Do you work for Walmart? You can volunteer from anywhere.



Jacque is shown here letting Styx into his habitat for the first time. We are pleased to give her this privilege.

Fire Hazard

Emily McCormack: Staff Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator

So far, 2011 has been quite challenging for everyone at the refuge. On January 29th, we experienced the scare of how dangerous fire can be. It was an unusually windy and warm 72 degree day in January, and the new group of interns were arriving with anticipation of their new journey at the refuge. A fire broke out on the neighbor's property to the south. It was in the woods, but moving very quickly. There is still a lot of debris in the woods from the ice storm 2 years ago, so the fire got extremely hot. I had been touring a new intern and her parents around the refuge when I began to notice more smoke. The cats started sneezing and coughing, and some of them went into their dens. The wind was blowing right in the direction of the compound, carrying the smoke all over the refuge. On my way to the housing to move the new intern in, Tanya stopped me to ask about the animals and fire. We thought it was okay at that point. In less than ten minutes, the fire was on our property. It began traveling towards the housing and jumped the private drive which started the front field on fire. Tanya immediately called the fire department, and I radioed all the interns and staff to bring water hoses to the houses. In less than five minutes, it was out of our control. We were all trying not to panic but when the Eureka Springs Fire Department got here and saw the fire, they instantly



called all available volunteer firefighters, including the Holiday Island Fire Department to come and assist. We knew at that point we could be in trouble. Not long after, the firefighters evacuated all the housing. Evacuating a house is easy, but evacuating the animals from their enclosures is impossible. Thankfully, the Forest Service arrived with a bulldozer to stop the fire from traveling any further on the property and the housing was saved. Fortunately, all the animals and the refuge are fine. It was a terrifying 5 hours for the staff and interns. Fire can be a major hazard for the animals and we are taking measures to ensure their safety. The cost of the firebreak extension is \$5000. This is an unplanned expense, and we are looking for friends of Turpentine Creek to donate whatever you can to help defray this cost. Thank you for your continued support.

Interns - Spring 2011

Top Row (left to right)

Justin Perry – Western Carolina University – BS Biology – May 2009

Sarah Loutsch (**Second Internship**) – Salisbury University – BS Biology – May 2010

Allison Shell – Kent State University – BS Zoology – December 2010

Kyle Jorgensen (**Third Internship**) – Humboldt State University – BS Zoology – May 2009

Elizabeth Goodenough – California Polytechnic University – BS Biology – December 2010

Alex Hauenstein – Miami University – BA Zoology – May 2010

Middle Row

Katie Del Rosso – SUNY University at Geneseo – BA Biology – December 2010

Kathryn Croft – Wake Forest University – BA Biology – May 2010

Melissa Kerzner – North Eastern Illinois University – BS Biology – December 2010

Jamie Appleton – University of New Hampshire – BS Wildlife Biology – December 2010

Front Row

Katie Overholser – Case Western Reserve University – BA Biology – May 2009

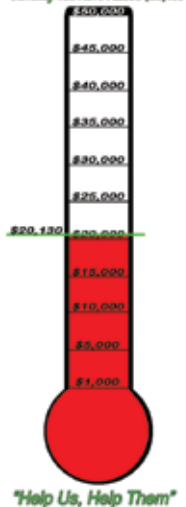
Kelly Jo Carroll – SUNY University at Buffalo – BS Environmental Science – February 2010

Volunteers are needed to help clear the land and pick up rocks and debris. Bring in your dozer and clearing equipment to help us out.

Update on the New Perimeter Fence

Written By: Ivy Cooper/Staff Biologist

Currently You Have Raised \$20,130



At the refuge, we are always trying to improve. One of the most important improvements is building habitats or renovating the animals existing enclosures. Our existing perimeter needs some improvement; the old fence allows raccoons, opossums, and feral cats to squeeze through. In previous newsletters, blogs, and podcasts, we pleaded with our supporters to help us raise the money for a new, more secure perimeter fence. The most important thing would be to prevent any vermin from making their way into the habitat field at all. The raccoons, opossums, and feral cats can carry diseases themselves or they can carry ticks and other bugs that can spread diseases to our cats. Another big change for the cats and staff was the removal of any uneaten food from the cats enclosures. In the past, we fed the animals in the afternoon and left the food overnight but this attracts animals. At first the cats didn't seem to understand why we were taking their extra food away. They soon figured out that they had to eat when the food was given to them or it would be removed. The removal of the food source for the raccoons, opossums, and feral cats has greatly reduced the amount of these animals that are seen. A new fence is crucial for the health and safety of all the animals that find refuge here. This can be made possible. With the help of all of our supporters, we have raised \$20,130 which is almost half of the funds we need to complete this project. Please help us, help them!

Opal Lovers - Buyers Take a good look at this.

Another way to help the refuge. What can you think of?

A local gemologist with a love for tigers has been sponsoring a Winter Welo Opal Cutting Contest over the winter, on opalauctions.com's forum, the proceeds of which will be donated to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Two co-sponsors stepped up and added rough cuts from their own stock. An Ethiopian Welo opal rough was distributed to about 2 dozen cutters who volunteered, from Australia, Sweden, Canada, the UK, and of course, the US. This African opal is world class, from a relatively new find in Ethiopia, in 2008, and is very different from Australian opal in that it is hydrophane opal, that will absorb water, which can either turn the opals clear or milky, and can either kill or brighten the colors in the opal. Even humidity, or lack thereof, can clear or cloud these very unique and beautiful opals.

The finished opals will be auctioned off by two sellers on opalauctions.com, beginning April 4, 2011. So beginning on that date, you can participate in the fun by looking at the opals, and bidding on the ones you like. All proceeds will go to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The auctions will run for a week before closing, and will be accessible from April 4th on, in these two sellers' auction pages. Be certain to go to the last page since they'll be new listings, and look for the word "Contest" in the auction headings to find the opals for the contest.

Here's the link to the opals cut by the US, UK, Canadian and Swedish cutters being auctioned off by this vendor in Texas:

http://www.opalauctions.com/seller-auctions.php?seller_id=1855

And the contest opals from Australia will be auctioned off by this seller in Australia:

http://www.opalauctions.com/seller-auctions.php?seller_id=9356



Africa In The Ozarks! Reserve Your Room Today. www.turpentinecreek.org

TCWR has eight lodging 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.

"Help Us, Help Them"

www.turpentinecreek.org

page 6.

Sponsor or Adopt an Animal Today

Adoption Program

Small Animal or Bird	\$100/yr.
Small Cat or Monkey	\$100/yr.
Cougar or Leopard	\$125/yr.
Lion, Tiger, Bear,	\$150/yr.

Sponsor Program

Small Animal or Bird	\$700/yr. or \$60/mo.
Small Cat or Monkey	\$1,000/yr. or \$85/mo.
Cougar or Leopard	\$2,200/yr. or \$190/mo.
Lion, Tiger, or Bear	\$2,500/yr. or \$210/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.



Continuing to Create Happy Endings

Written By: Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Zoologist

In 1994, Sammy and Buckley were rescued from Boone County, AR when they were only 6 weeks old. Their previous owner had abandoned them in deplorable conditions along with their mother and several other cats. They grew up at the refuge; were fed well, cleaned every day and provided with lots of enrichment. In 2009, they found freedom in a habitat area. Now they have a large area to run and play and feel a little taste of freedom.

Their story is just one of over 100 – so many cats have been able to find a safe haven and a lifelong home at the refuge, but this has only been made possible through our membership, adoption and sponsorship programs. To continue to have happy endings such as Sammy and Buckley's we need to keep these programs strong. If you have been a member, adopted or sponsored an animal in the past, we thank you and hope that you renew for 2011; if not, we encourage you to join. Becoming a member of the Turpentine Creek family is a great way to show your support; you will receive our quarterly newsletter and a season's pass allowing multiple visits to see all the animals. Being part of our adoption or sponsorship program allows you to choose any animal you want; a tiger that looks you in the eye and makes a connection, a bear that you fall in love with or a lion that has a roar that touches your heart. For a yearly donation you will receive our quarterly newsletter, a certificate with a picture and the rescue story of the animal you choose, and a membership so you can come and visit your new 'family member.' It is only with your help that we can continue to help these wonderful animals.



Buckley resting in his habitat.

Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers

2. Donations

3. Cleaning Supplies

- Trash Bags
- Household Cleaners
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Latex Gloves

4. Tools

- Hose Clamps
- Hose Nozzles
- Kline Wire Pliers
- Welding Rods (6011-1/8")
- Concrete Forms
- Common Hand Tools

5. Caging Materials

- Black and Gray Spray Paint
- Lumber - New or Used
- Rebar 3/4 - 1"
- Pipe and Welded Wire

6. Office Supplies

- Laminating Sheets (3-5mil)
- Tape - Regular and Packing
- Epson Glossy Paper
- Laptop Computer
- Copy Paper

7. Landscaping Items

- Top Soil
- Mowers - Gas Powered
- Stihl Weed Eaters
- Landscape Timbers
- Grass Seed - Ken. Blue
- Tick Killer

8. Equipment

- Wood Splitter
- 4x4 Vehicles
- Road Grader

9. Vet Care Items

- Panacur Dewormer
- Large Load Washer/Dryer

10. Animal Enrichment Items

- 3" Sch 40 PVC Pipe w/Caps
One Foot or Longer
- Garage Door Springs
- Climbing Grade Carabiners
- 1" Hemp Rope
- Cedar or Pine Shavings
- 10oz. Burlap Sacks
- Used Newspaper

11. Volunteers

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



*CJ is Cat of the month for April
 Adopt or sponsor him Today.*

Or Current Resident

ORDER FORM 04/2011

It is through your direct support that 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 _____
	3 digit security code _____
Personal Check	Check # _____
	DL# _____

Qty.	Donations And Purchases	\$Amount
	Unrestricted Donations To Help The Cats	
	2011 Calendars \$10.00 plus (\$5 S&H per order)	
	Memberships: Family \$80/Single \$50 Visit the refuge as often as you like for one yearly fee.	
	Animal Adoptions: Small Mammal/Bird \$100 yr. Small Cat/Monkey \$100 yr. Cougar/Leopard \$125 yr. Lion/Tiger/Bear \$150/yr.	
	Animal Sponsor: Small Mammal/Bird \$700/yr. Small Cat/ Monkey \$1000/yr. Cougar/Leopard \$2,200/yr. Lion/Tiger/Bear \$2,500/yr.	
	Sponsor An Entire Habitat: \$22,000/ea.	
	Replace Perimeter Fence - Any Amount	
	Total Contributions	\$