Thor gets a new home!
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The Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge visitor experience is in the process of changing. I want you to be aware of this before your next visit. Because our goal is to constantly improve the refuge, the left side of the original compound is no longer there. We have been able to move the animals around the refuge and empty 11 old concrete cages and tear them down. Our goal is to build three NEW habitats in the upper section behind TCWR’s current gift shop.

TCWR still has three old cages on the left when you walk out of the gift shop. Izzy and Shasta tigers live in this space. Wanoka the bobcat lives left of those cages behind our old M*A*S*H style vet clinic (which also serves as meeting space for the interns and medicine preparation.) The old Clinic, built of wooden pallets and scrap metal, will be torn down to help create space as soon as the NEW Veterinarian Hospital is complete.

To the right when you walk out of the gift shop are 8 small concrete cages next to BamBam the grizzly bear that need to be removed. Unfortunately we can’t do that until we move Flip the coati, Sheba, Rasha and Nia the cougars, and Duke the tiger out of those areas and into habitats.

We will have to relocate Bowden the serval, Makita the cougar, and Goober the rhesus macaque to clear out the three back smallest cages by the tour gate.

Despite the fact that most of the cats relocated to TCWR had hard lives before they arrived, the care they receive once they get here is unsurpassed. In the wild, a big cat’s average lifespan is 8-12 years. At TCWR we are caring for 70+ big cats that are now 17 years old and up. With that comes the realization that many of these creatures will cross the Rainbow Bridge in the near future.

As you are aware, TCWR is a LIFETIME refuge for abused, abandoned or unwanted exotic animals. Without the refuge, these wonderful creatures would have died in miserable circumstance when they were younger. Knowing that we were able to spare them that unfortunate cruel fate makes me proud to be a founding member of this effort.

As the President of TCWR, my concern is always with the morale of our team. We are blessed to have people who work to care for these animals without regret. They love the mission and are dedicated. Even on snowy days like today, as I am writing this article, I know that these animals are getting their needs met – fresh water three times daily minimum, food and a nice den to crawl in to sleep.

The thing that frustrates me most is the need for TCWR to rescue exotics continues to grow. Please choose your pets wisely. Big cats and bears will never make good pets. They do not deserve to live a captive life. Please support the Bill H.R.1998 - Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act. Check it out on our website or go to www.congress.gov for more information.

It is nice to know that we can care for the ones that NEED US with YOUR HELP!

I appreciate your continued prayers, love and support. I am honored that YOU have FAITH in our MISSION and continue to DONATE.

Until next time...
Featured Animal: Kit Kat

Species: Tiger
Sex: Male
Born: Feb. 22, 1999
Arrived at TCWR: Sept. 9, 2000

Kit Kat is a sixteen year old tiger rescued from St. Louis, Missouri, in September of 2000. Kit Kat was well cared for by his previous owners, but they did not have a permit to own an exotic cat and were unable to obtain one. The Conservation Department of Missouri gave them 10 days to find their tiger a new home. Fortunately, Turpentine Creek was able to take him in the day before he was scheduled to be euthanized.

Kit Kat is doing very well at the refuge. Despite his age, he still acts like a young tiger. Kit Kat was recently given a spool toy and he enjoys carrying it up and down the hill and around his habitat. He is a big, goofy cat who loves his toys. As a result, he destroys them very quickly. You can donate a new toy to Kit Kat or any of our animals through boomerball.com and wildlifetoobox.com.

Next time you visit the refuge, make sure to catch a habitat tour and see Kit Kat play with his toys. Tours are hourly from 10 AM to 4 PM. Come visit and help us, help them!
Here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we have developed an Enrichment Program for all our animals where they receive many different forms of toys and other enrichment items. We have a special shed where we keep all of the items that we can put together for the animals like cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, burlap, cedar/pine shavings, perfumes/colognes, herbs/spices, bowling balls/pins, Christmas trees and various other toys.

We don't want to favor any specific animal, and want to make sure everyone is getting something to play with, so we have a special binder that houses a sheet for each animal where we can record when they receive the enrichment, what it was, and how they react to it. We also have a basic schedule we follow for when certain animals receive enrichment so we keep it fair for everyone; and it's controlled for which items they will get every week for that rotation. We do have some Enrichment Restrictions for various animals, and that usually includes cats that may have tried eating cardboard or burlap, so those animals will be on scent enrichment plus natural enrichment like browse and logs.

The big cats' favorite items are cardboard and perfumes. The tigers and lions don't really react to catnip like domestic cats do but have the same reaction with perfume, especially Obsession by Calvin Klein. The bobcats, however, really love catnip and will drool over it and roll around in it.
Re-arranging the toys in the habitats also excites the cats, and they'll run out to knock them all over. For the bears we do a lot of food enrichment with them by either “scatter feeding” with produce to make them forage for their meals or by using feeder tubes where they have to maneuver a PVC tube around to access the food.

Along with the above mentioned items, we give them toys that come from Boomer Ball or Wildlife Toy Box. They are two companies that specialize in making toys for big cats and other animals, and many zoos and sanctuaries order toys from them. Boomer Ball gives a discount for some toys and Wildlife Toy Box does different promotions and has a discounted toy list too. So for those of you that would like to purchase a toy for a favorite animal, you can go directly to boomerball.com or wildlifetoybox.com and order any toy you would like or you can send in a donation that will go toward a new toy for any animal.

Along with ordering specific toys, people have either mailed us or dropped off items such as perfume/cologne, herbs/spices, or cardboard tubes. All the animals really enjoy these items and every little bit does help. If you are interested in donating anything for the animals, feel free to go to our webpage or Facebook page for any questions you may have or even call us on our main phone line. All the animals do appreciate all the toys they receive and they make excellent Birthday/Christmas presents for the animals!

One of the goals at the refuge is to continue to improve the lives of all the animals. Often this means that we are building brand new natural habitats, but it also means expanding and improving existing enclosures. This was the case for Cheyenne, our coyote.

Cheyenne was rescued in 2004 at only 10 weeks old; she was found on the side of the road near Springdale, AR, and brought to the refuge when the people that found her realized she would not make a good pet. Later that same year we were able to release her into a habitat area where she has grown up.

This winter we have been renovating the lion habitat next to her enclosure and realized we could easily do an ‘Extreme Makeover’ and expand her habitat at the same time and give her even more space; so we doubled the size of her area as well as added additional rock formations, wooden benches, logs, and a fire hose hammock.

Cheyenne is quite shy, so she hasn’t been seen out in her area too much during the day – but in the evenings, once everyone leaves, she has been out exploring her new expanded home and howling along with the lions when they carol to show her approval.

To help support Cheyenne (or any of our other animals) you can join our adoption or sponsorship program at tigers@turpentinecreek.org / / / 479.253.5841 / / / www.turpentinecreek.org
The population of big cats at Turpentine Creek is aging quickly, and it is inevitable that habitats will become available to provide larger homes for our current animals as well as new homes for future rescues. As one life ends another begins. This is the circle of life at Turpentine Creek.

In early January a habitat became available due to the sad passing of one of our aged cats. On the morning of January 14, Turpentine Creek staff and interns gathered to watch Thor the lion take his first steps onto the grass. Thor had successfully made the move to his new enclosure the day before, after being coaxed into the transfer trailer with a roast and a whole chicken.

Thor was purchased by his former owner from a small zoo in New Hampshire in 2000. He was just three weeks old. The young lion was originally used in the movies and on television shows. When Thor got older his owner started using him for public appearances around the country. At the time of his rescue, in January of 2012, Thor was on display at a hunting and fishing expo in Little Rock, Arkansas. The man who owned Thor was starting to get out of the ‘big cat’ part of his business and was slowly finding homes for his lions and tigers.

Once Thor arrived at his forever home at Turpentine Creek, it became obvious that he was extremely underweight, and he had sores on his legs and tail. Staff decided to put Thor on a 15-pound per night diet until he reached a healthier weight. Receiving a proper diet and vitamins turned Thor into a very handsome lion and he quickly became a staff and guest favorite.

Since his habitat opening Thor spends his days caroling (roaring) with the other lions, laying on his fire hose bench, and playing with his bowling pin. On paper, his day seems to be almost the same as it was before. In reality it couldn’t be more different. Come spend the night at Turpentine Creek and witness the changes in this beautiful lion for yourself!
The task of taking care of the large number of cats at Turpentine Creek is a non-stop process. This is especially true when considering picking up and storing the vast amount of meat our animals consume. We are very fortunate to receive large donations of chicken from Tyson Foods, Inc., which usually include thousands of pounds of meat that are stored in our two freezers.

As time passes, wear and tear occurs and the need to update our equipment becomes a priority. The refuge is scheduled to construct a new freezer that will be able to house tens of thousands of pounds of additional chicken and butchered meat. The construction of the new freezer will also allow interns and staff to transport the pallets of meat from the trailer in a more time efficient manner. Instead of having to move meat box by box, we will now be able to use a pallet jack and move the 2000-pound+ pallets directly into the freezer, leaving more time for everyone to work on other projects, like building habitats. There are plans to also include new storage racks and meat storage bins. Thanks to your donations this upgrade will be finished by March 1.
Two of my passions are running and, of course, the job I do here at Turpentine Creek. I am always looking for ways to combine the two. I ran my first marathon in October of 2012 and raised money for our habitat fund at the same time.

I am also in the beginning stages of planning to enter another race to benefit the refuge. Last fall, I ran the Winslow Half Marathon and saw a woman wearing a squirrel costume in the race. She was running for a charity and that gave me the idea to do something similar for Turpentine Creek. On March 21st, I will be running the Victorian Classic 10K in Eureka Springs. The Victorian Classic is a race put on by the Eureka Springs Rotary Club to benefit local charities. I will be running the race to support the cats and I am asking for your help.

If our supporters help me raise $5,000 I will run the entire race in one of our tiger costumes! Every little bit helps, so please consider donating. The money will be going to the habitat fund. I would love for all the animals I care for to be able to experience the thrill of running just like I get to every day.

For more information about the Victorian Classic, please visit eurekarotary.org - and visit our webpage or call our gift shop at (479) 253-5841 to donate today.
Spring Break at TCWR
Staff Biologist/Volunteer Coordinator Ivy Cooper

Spring is always a busy time at the Refuge; much like the earth is waking up from winter, the refuge comes alive again with guests. Many guests come and visit during their spring break and want to help out.

We have been an alternative spring break site for colleges for many years, and this year the University of North Texas and UT Dallas are bringing groups. We are able to get so much work completed during those weeks. In the past we have built new enclosures, built enrichment items, repainted habitats, and cleared existing enclosures.

There have been many changes this past year, and the volunteer program has changed too. TCWR started a docent program to enhance the guest’s educational experience. This year I would like to start a garden club at the refuge. We have a beautiful enrichment garden, with aromatic herbs for the cats, and other flower beds that need lots of attention when the months are warm. Visit our website or email Ivy at ivy@turpentinecreek.org for more information.
On February 21st, 2015, after months of planning and fundraising, TCWR staff and supporters were overjoyed to hold the official ground breaking at the new veterinary clinic/hospital site!

We are so close to reaching our fundraising goal. The preliminary project/building cost is $304,992. Thanks to your support, the current standing is $252,344. $48,207 of that money raised has come from another wonderful donor asking for their donation to be matched. Please help us complete this fundraising effort. The construction documents are currently underway. With your help, we can save so many more lives and provide the very best animal care.

Many more opportunities will arise with the addition of our hospital. With the future hiring of a full-time veterinarian, prospects for veterinary students will be available. Many veterinary students are looking to go into the exotic side of animal care, and opportunities are limited. Our hospital will not only take in stride our animal care, it will also increase the educational opportunities for sanctuaries. Sanctuaries like ours across the U.S. see some of the most unusual cases that happen in veterinary care anywhere. This is most likely due to the cross breeding of species, inbreeding, and lack of proper care that happens every day in the exotic animal pet trade. Our hospital can achieve milestones for exotic cats and bears in captivity everywhere.

A considerable amount of time has gone into the planning of the basic equipment necessary for this new project. We have received multiple pricing quotes on each item and have chosen the best options available in every case. We are working on several different grant/donor options that help fund clinics for this next hurdle, but we will still need your support. The cost, as of now, will run about $152,000 for the equipment. Sponsorships will be available for each portion/room in the hospital, which includes the equipment and everything needed for its function.

As we contemplate the great opportunities that having our on-site vet clinic will provide our animals and staff, we also pause to reflect on the last few months. Sometimes things that make you happy also make you sad. After dedicating six months of their lives caring for the TCWR animal family, it is time for our Fall 2014 interns to make way for the new incoming group. Thanks very much to all of you. I know it is a difficult time when interns must say goodbye. New freedoms for the animals have been built along with new friendships. A big cat’s lifespan in captivity averages 12-18 years, so six months is a large portion of their life. Remember that your time at TCWR seems short but was life-changing for the animals as well as for you. Good luck to each of you in your future endeavors.

Welcome to the Spring 2015 interns. There are so many new projects happening this year for TCWR to look forward to. It will be exciting to accomplish great things together. You guys will be in on the ground floor of this new clinic, and many new and exciting doors are about to be opened.
Kit Kat is our featured animal!
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“Thank you for the opportunity to enjoy each and every day.”

TurpentineCreek.org
Yes! I will help!

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

2015 Calendars: $10 each × __ calendars + $5 S/H = $__________
Donations: [ ] $25  [ ] $35  [ ] $50  [ ] $100  [ ] Other $__________
Annual Passes: [ ] Single Annual Pass $50
[ ] Family Annual Pass $90

URGENT NEEDS:
[ ] Habitat Fund Donation $__________
[ ] Veterinary Clinic Fund $__________

______________________________ Veterinary Clinic Needed!

Our animals deserve the best. As the average age of our animals continues to climb, we have found our trips to the vet have been very frequent. It is very hard to travel to our vet since he is 30 miles away. This makes it hard on the animals too. We need an onsite vet clinic.

There is $48,000 left to match! For each dollar you give it is turned into two! Please help.

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Animal Adoption:
[ ] 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 $1,000/yr
[ ] Cougar/Leopard $2,200/yr
[ ] Lion/Tiger/Bear $2,500/yr

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: ____________________________

Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships, See Website: www.turpentinecreek.org

Total Contribution: $__________

Your Name: _______________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: ____________________________
Exp. Date: ___/___/___  CVC Code: ____________

Thank You!