Read about our LARGEST Rescue Ever!

Purchase your 2017 Calendar today, see page 12.

Chloe
Species: Lion (Panthera leo)
Sex: Female
DOB: Oct. 11, 2004
Arrival Date: Oct. 11, 2016

tigers@turpentinecake.org ||| 479.253.5841 ||| www.turpentinecake.org
youtube.com/TurpentineCreek ||| Find us on Facebook!
A Letter from the President

Tanya Smith

In late August 2016, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge became aware of an opportunity to possibly rescue and/or rehome 110 animals from Serenity Springs Wildlife Center (SSWC) in Calhan, Colorado. Organized in 1993 as a zoological and animal exhibitor park, SSWC was known to the public to be a popular cub petting destination where visitors were allowed to handle and get their image made with young animal cubs. In some habitats, the wildlife center also held male and female animals together without preventing reproduction within the captive environment.

Facilities that operate cub petting or pay-for-play programs do so, for the most part, in an effort to maximize revenue. But regardless of how lucrative pay-for-play operations can be, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge does not condone the programs – or captive breeding – because these practices are inherently cruel to all animals involved. They add little to no educational value regarding visitor experience, and they help perpetuate a widely unregulated industry known as the exotic animal trade.

After we took over the Colorado facility we moved 27 animals to TCWR in Arkansas. Among the first group of animals transported were five cubs – three white tigers and two cougar cubs – who were all used for cub petting when the previous owners had control of the facility.

As a rescue organization, TCWR bears the moral responsibility of protecting – within the confines of federal and state laws – victims of the exotic animal trade. And as an education facility, we’re charged with educating the general public about the harmful nature of the trade. We were interested in the Serenity Springs project because it fulfilled both aspects of our mission.

After visiting the Calhan facility and discussing purchase options with Serenity Springs’ owners and our Board of Directors, our team developed a plan to move forward with acquiring the Colorado wildlife center and its assets, with the understanding that the animals would be donated to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The agreement was finalized in late September 2016.

It’s important to mention that we’ve spent more than 24 years fostering our reputation and developing the TCWR brand. As an organization, we’ve progressed our mindset and evolved our operations to become a positive voice and strong advocate for victims of the exotic animal trade.

Because of the large scale of this effort, and because the former owner’s license was grandfathered into prior state laws, it was necessary for our organization to close the operation, rehome many of the animals to other reputable sanctuaries, and update many of the habitats to safe operating standards. By collaborating with Tigers in America, in order to save the rest of the 27 animals to our Eureka Springs, Arkansas property and 46 animals to other TIA accredited/verified sanctuaries in the U.S., leaving a more manageable amount of animals on the 11-acre space in Calhan.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Colorado (TCWR Colorado) is located in El Paso County. Over 660,000 residents call the county home, and Colorado Springs, as well as Pike’s Peak are located within its borders. TCWR Colorado presents a lot of opportunities to spread awareness of our mission, but we must scrutinize every possibility with the well-being of our animals in mind.

Regardless of what our team decides, there will be many ongoing cost considerations and support opportunities. So I am reaching out to you – our friends, family, and community – to help fulfill that promise.

We have scheduled many improvement projects throughout 2017 that will have a positive impact on the lives of our animal residents and your visitor experience. So be sure to visit often to see all the growth and development at the Refuge. We hope you have a wonderful rest of the year and look forward to seeing you at the Refuge many times in 2017.

Since TCWR took over the Colorado facility in September, the team has been working hard to assist in the transportation of many of the remaining animals to Tigers in America accredited facilities all over the country.

tigers@turpentinecreek.org // 479.253.5841 // www.turpentinecreek.org

[Image of Aurora, Khaleesi, Lakota, and Joey (not shown), shared a small habitat in Colorado with very little shade. These four cubs are about 18-24 months old now but were used for cub petting when they were younger.]

Aurora, Khaleesi, Lakota, and Joey (not shown), now live in a spacious habitat with plenty of room to roam and play. These four adolescents spend their day enjoying enrichment, their pool, and chasing each other all over their habitat.

[Image of the new residents will have plenty of space to roam in their new home.]
A team of Boy Scouts of America (Venture Crew 5157 and Varsity Team 515) came out to the Colorado facility to assist in enriching the lives of the animals that called the location home.

Lower Row from Left: Elijah Boyd, Conner Hall, Sebastian Boyd

Upper Row and tree from Left: Jay Hall, David Boyd, Nickolas Gray, and Rhett

The Boy Scouts are working hard to make the enclosures fun and functional for the animals that live in them. For left: Sebastian Boyd

From the Left: Conner Hall (On Knees), Rhett Lavender, David Boyd, Nickolas Gray, and Elijah Boyd

Winter is traditionally a time for giving and with 27 new family members at TCWR, we need your help more than ever this holiday season. Donating is a financially savvy way to give back at the end of the year, but it isn’t the only way you can help the animals at the Refuge.

Adopting or sponsoring a resident makes a great holiday gift for the animal lover in your family. All adoptions and sponsorships include a certificate and an annual membership to the Refuge. It’s a gift that keeps on giving!

Organizing a fundraiser is another great way to help. With so many creative tools and fundraising platforms available today, helping your favorite nonprofit like Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has never been easier. Even Facebook offers user friendly tools to create successful events, and fundraisers are a great way to bring friends and family together.

Although a little beyond the holiday season, now is a perfect time to create New Year’s resolutions. Your family could set a goal to save a penny (kids), nickel (pre-teens), dime (teen), or quarter (adults) on a daily basis throughout the year. The annual savings would be anywhere from $3.65 (kids) to $91.25 (adults). Every little bit helps and it is a great family bonding project.

Another easy way to help is by simply spreading awareness of our mission. Share our social media posts, give your Big Cat Chronicles newsletter to a friend after you’ve read it. Sign up for our weekly email, pass out brochures or flyers, or talk to your local educators about how our organization is a great resource for those learning about animal science and related fields.

It is only with your help that we can continue to protect victims of the exotic animal trade. Please help us, help them today.
Caring for All Ages of Big Cats

At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we provide compassionate care to many animal species of all ages. And common among all species is that the intake of proper vitamins, nutrients and minerals is necessary to experience a happy, healthy life.

In September the Refuge welcomed 27 new arrivals – ranging in ages of 2 months up to 15 years – to our property in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. While many of those animals have matured past adolescence, a portion of them still have very special needs.

For instance, two of our youngest tigers Kizzmin and Tanya, currently require trained attention on a regular basis from early morning until late in the evening. In the wild, young cubs generally receive adequate nutrition from their mother’s milk. But for Kizzmin and Tanya to mature properly, our team must feed them four times per day, including proper ratios of a calcium-rich diet with vitamins and supplements that promote strong bones and healthy immune systems. Our trained associates must also ensure the two cubs’ digestive systems are functioning properly by monitoring their bowel and bladder movements. And as a USDA governed facility and legitimate sanctuary, we record every observation and detail to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of our healthcare efforts.

As our younger animals age, we introduce meat and other supplements to their diets. Calcium also plays an important role, as optimal amounts of the mineral are necessary for good skeletal and cardiovascular health, as well as normal nerve and muscle function.

Three of our new arrivals – Black Fire, Peyton, and Rocklyn – are good examples of why receiving proper nutrition at an early age is so important. When they arrived, all three white tiger cubs were unable to maneuver well with their legs. Through x-rays and professional evaluation, we quickly determined that the cubs were suffering from abnormal skeletal development, low bone density, and bone fractures caused by metabolic bone disease (MBD). Fortunately for the cubs, our team was able to implement a proper healthcare regimen to mitigate the effects of MBD. Now the three are recovering well and can be seen running, playing and being “wild” in their large, grassy habitat.

Since we provide lifetime care to our population – many of whom can be considered elderly – we must also maintain a proper healthcare program for our veteran residents. While our Animal Care Team customizes each animal’s diet to ensure they receive proper nutrition for their station in life, our veteran residents generally receive glucosamine/chondroitin in powder, B-Complex, cod liver oil, lysine and other vitamins to promote and maintain optimal body system functions. Some of our elderly residents also benefit from our pain management program and continue to enjoy a high quality of life throughout their later years. Crystal, our oldest resident, is 24 years young and is a great example of how effective our healthcare management program has been.

From 2 months to 32 years – Cecil (blue/gold macaw) is our oldest animal resident, a portion of them still have very special needs. While our Animal Care Team customizes each animal’s diet to ensure they receive proper nutrition for their station in life, our veteran residents generally receive glucosamine/chondroitin in powder, B-Complex, cod liver oil, lysine and other vitamins to promote and maintain optimal body system functions. Some of our elderly residents also benefit from our pain management program and continue to enjoy a high quality of life throughout their later years. Crystal, our oldest resident, is 24 years young and is a great example of how effective our healthcare management program has been.

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When TCWR arrived in Colorado we were informed that Peyton, Rocklyn, and Black Fire could not walk. After their arrival in Arkansas our veterinarian examined and X-Rayed the three cubs. Each cub had fractures in their bones in their hind legs and deformation due to Metabolic Bone Disease. This is a photo of Black Fire’s first X-Ray at TCWR. The red markings are where some of the fractures are located. The bones should also be whiter and more sold.

Kizzmin and Tanya
Turpentine Creek’s youngest residents, were born shortly before we took over the Colorado facility. After their mother rejected them our animal care team took over their care.

Kizzmin
Distinctive Marks:
- Eyes are very bright yellow
- Character:
  - Curious
  - Loves to do new things

Relatives:
- Mama Shakira (mother), Bosco (father)

Habitat Mate:
- Kizzmin (female)

Known History:
- Birthed shortly before we arrived in Colorado

Medical:
- Neutered

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Peyton
Distinctive Marks:
- Ears are perky
- Character:
  - Playful

Relatives:
- Mama Shakira (mother), Bosco (father)

Habitat Mate:
- Peyton (male)

Known History:
- Birthed shortly before we arrived in Colorado

Medical:
- Neutered

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Rocklyn
Distinctive Marks:
- Eyes are very bright yellow
- Character:
  - Curious

Relatives:
- Mama Shakira (mother), Bosco (father)

Habitat Mate:
- Rocklyn (male)

Known History:
- Birthed shortly before we arrived in Colorado

Medical:
- Neutered

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Personality:

Distinctive Marks:

Habitat Mate:

Relatives:

Known History:

Medical:

Known History:

Breed:

Medical:

Medical:

Known History:

Habitat Mate:

Medical:

Personality:

Medical:

Known History:

Distinctive Marks:

Medical:

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In 2011, Arkansas joined 25 other states and thousands of professional educators in an effort to develop a more effective framework to improve science education for K-12 students in the U.S. Known as Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the Arkansas State Board of Education unanimously voted to endorse the framework in 2013 and the standards are slowly being implemented throughout the state’s education system this year.

While genius IQs range from 145 and above, the amount of research, planning, organization, training and implementation of NGSS must have been so brain-draining, that even Terence Tao and Albert Einstein (IQs of 230 and 160, respectively) may have found it hard to keep up. But to describe NGSS at its most basic level, the framework promotes the interconnectedness of science and how it is practiced and experienced in the real world.

As an informal learning organization, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge understands the importance of educating the younger generation, and we have invested much to stay current with state standards. We have associates earning professional development credit towards implementing non-formal education curricula and activities. So when teachers bring their students to visit our animal residents, those students will gain knowledge related to their core disciplinary areas.

We surely earn an “A” at rescuing and protecting victims of the exotic animal trade, but spreading awareness and being a resource for educators is important as well. And the Refuge is in a unique position to not only be a fun field trip destination, but also an NGSS qualified non-formal education option for those that visit.

So, if you’d like to learn more about Next Generation Science Standards and how the Refuge is doing its part to educate students, please go to www.nextgenscience.org. And if you’re a formal educator, consider bringing your students to our facility. They’ll have a great time and learn a lot along the way!

To schedule student field trips and other large group visits, please contact Ike Weaver at ike@turpentinecreek.org or call (479) 253-5992.

Help us, help them.
Looking Forward

What an adventure 2016 has been! In a single year, we celebrated the opening of the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital – which has already been instrumental in our animal healthcare program – and from a single day in September our animal family effectively doubled in size! Since 1992, our organization has taken steps to create a collaborative network of sanctuaries that can work together to take on large rescues. That would have been impossible without the dedicated teamwork and cooperation among the different groups. While it has been a year of incredibly positive change, this is only the beginning!

We’re already focused on 2017 and the continuation of growth and improvement at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Our lodging and hospitality team has been focused on improving your overnight lodging and guest experience. Our educational outreach team has been persistent in spreading awareness of our mission and staying current with state education standards. And our animal care team and interns have been proactive in building industry relationships and providing the highest standard of care for our animal residents. With a strong, unified mission, our family is excited at the opportunities 2017 will bring, and we can’t wait for you to join our efforts and champion our mission.

If you don’t already have a family or individual membership, 2017 will be a great year to join our family! So purchase your membership today and visit often to witness all of the positive things happening on the Refuge!

Get your 2017 Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge calendar today and support America’s premier Big Cat refuge! We developed our calendar fundraiser in 1998 and each year the content and images get better and better. The calendars make wonderful stocking stuffers, too, so get yours now before they sell out! You can order yours by using the newsletter insert or by going to our online gift shop at www.turpentinecreek.org. Calendars cost $10 per calendar and shipping is $5 per order. Help us, help them today!

Looking Forward

Dr. Anne Brenneke and Anne’s Veterinary Technician Cassie Lane, utilize the new X-Ray machine in our on-site veterinary hospital to check on the three young white tigers that came to Turpentine Creek with metabolic bone disease.

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

While our Colorado Project was a massive undertaking, it wasn’t a rescue effort that could easily discourage our family of dedicated team members and steadfast supporters. The project involved a lot of moving parts – developing an onsite Colorado team; implementing an effective animal healthcare program; organizing transportation logistics; and creating an actionable development strategy. Because of our family we were able to work together towards the betterment of 110 lives and continue our mission of protecting victims of the exotic animal trade.

Our internship program is one of the most successful in the animal care field, and the dedication of past and present interns inspire us in our Colorado rescue effort has been inspiring. Prior to organizing an onsite team in Calhan, we sent a message to previous interns who currently lived in the area. Within 20 minutes they all responded, asking how they could help. Three of those individuals were hired immediately to maintain the property and animals within the Calhan space. And our president, vice president and a senior member of our Animal Care Team have assumed an authoritative presence since the facility changed hands in September.

To help mitigate the workload, other previous interns came to the Calhan property on their day(s) off from current jobs, some travelling up to 3 hours to help. To again illustrate the breadth of our TCWR family, a previous Animal Care Team member and a previous intern are both licensed veterinarians in the state of Colorado, and we were very fortunate to incorporate their professional working knowledge when implementing an affective animal healthcare program, including preventative breeding measures, at the Calhan property. I’m proud to say, too, that the aforementioned family members have committed to the Colorado Project until the rescue effort is complete.

During the first weeks of the project, 27 animals were rehomed to our Arkansas property, and since there is no responsible reason for these captive animals to breed, some of the new arrivals were neutered or given vasectomies. Daniel, a male African lion, also required a mass removal and eye enucleation. Two young cougar cubs, Marissa and Louisa, were saved from their “cub petting” days. Kizmin and Tanya, two white tiger cubs who were born at the Calhan property a few days prior to the effort, are being well cared for and will never experience the harmful nature of cub petting operations.

Black Fire, Rocklyn and Peyton, three young white tigers, were unable to walk when we acquire the Calhan property. The three had previously been involved in the former facility’s cub petting program and when they arrived at our Eureka Springs location, we quickly learned that they were suffering from metabolic bone disease. But within two weeks of being given proper care, veterinary attention, and adequate diets, I’m happy to announce that they too are thriving and active at our Arkansas facility.

The Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital has also been instrumental during the Colorado Project. Because of our dedicated supporters, the facility was completed just in time for these animals in need. And we’re fortunate and very thankful to have this phenomenal hospital to provide the very best veterinary care and recovery for our animal residents.

Through this rescue effort and many before it, we continue to witness an amazing family support system. Past interns from over ten years ago stepped up to the challenge of this mission. And our team has sacrificed much to help the animals – in Arkansas and Colorado – within our care. But we need your support now more than ever to continue our mission. Each of the new arrivals are waiting for adopters and sponsors, and many of them will continue to need adequate healthcare and support. Please join our family today and donate towards our mission to protect victims of the exotic animal trade. Help us, help them.

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Kizmin and Tanya are looking forward to 2017, it is only with your help that we can continue rescuing exotic animals in need.
Your Year-End Donation Helps Us, Help Them

End of the year donations generally make up 20-40% of a nonprofit’s annual operating revenue. That’s a big chunk of change – as well as a lot of uncertainty – during a time that also coincides with our slowest season. It’s an unfortunate scenario that’s always ‘stinky facingly’ intense.

Our mission to protect victims of the exotic animal trade cannot endure without your support. Your donations allow us to change lives and continue to provide high quality healthcare to our furry friends. While spearheading the largest animal rescue effort of its kind, we need your support now more than ever.

Please consider making or increasing your year-end donation to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Your support will continue to help give Cecil and Goober safe, lifelong refuge. Your gift will give our African lions pride knowing they are well cared for. And your generosity will help rejuvenate Peyton, Rocklyn and Black Fire from debilitating metabolic bone disease.

Our entire animal population deserves the highest quality of life. Your heartfelt donation will allow us to continue to care for our veteran residents, as well as our new arrivals who we can’t wait to spoil! Please help us, help them by donating or increasing your donation today.

The Smith family listening as host, Anthony Melchiorri, of the Travel Channel’s Hotel Impossible tells them about the new Safari Tent and bathroom facilities the show built at Turpentine Creek.

The next time you plan a family getaway, stay with us! Our lodging team: Miranda Smith, Bethany Courtney and Freya Crow, have been working diligently to provide our guests with a one-of-a-kind lodging experience. We are passionate about bringing new ideas to the department to improve your vacation.

Over the past few months, we have gradually introduced updates to your lodging adventure; renovations to the Zulu Safari Lodge canvas siding, new flashlights on your room keys to ensure that you make it to your room safely if you are checking in late, and new decor to create ambiance. We are also now offering a “tidy service” for guests that choose to stay with us for two or more nights. The “tidy service” allows our team to keep your room in top condition for the duration of your stay. We also have brand new fluffy robes that will be in your room upon arrival. The robes in your room are for use only during your stay at the refuge, so if you fall in love with them, they are also available for purchase in our gift shop.

You may have recently watched Turpentine Creek on the Travel Channel’s hit series, Hotel Impossible. The host, Anthony Melchiorri, gave our team some excellent tips and tricks to provide a more hospitable experience for our guests. We are taking many of Anthony’s suggestions and applying them to improve your lodging experience.

We also would like to welcome two new residents to the habitat closest to the Siberian and Bengal suites. Montana and Poncho are two playful tigers that enjoy running through their habitat and chewing on tree limbs. These boys are viewable, when it’s convenient for them, from the windows of the Siberian suite. Staying with us is a unique and memorable experience, so don’t forget to bring your camera!

The new Safari Tent can hold up to five people and is a great room for families. The room comes with a microwave, mini fridge, coffee maker, and air conditioner.

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Yes! I will help!
Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

2017 Calendars - pre-order: $10 each × ___ calendars + $5 S/H = $ __________
Donations: $25 ☐ $35 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $ _______
Membership: ☐ Single Annual Pass $50
☐ Family Annual Pass $90
☐ Veterinary Hospital $________
☐ Multi-purpose Welcome Center $________
☐ Other: $________

Multi-purpose Welcome Center: We are currently fundraising to build and equip a new, multi-purpose welcome center. Among other things, the new facility will enhance your visitor experience with interactive educational opportunities, expanded retail space, a multi-functional conference area, and a light-fare café. Please support our efforts in making this dream a reality. Donate today!

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: ____________________________________________

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Animal Sponsor: Animal Adoption:
☐ Small Mammal/Bird $700/yr ☐ Small Mammal/Bird $100/yr
☐ Small Cat/Monkey $1,000/yr ☐ Small Cat/Monkey $100/yr
☐ Cougar/Leopard $2,200/yr ☐ Cougar/Leopard $125/yr
☐ Lion/Tiger/Bear $2,500/yr ☐ Lion/Tiger/Bear $150/yr

Adoption / Sponsorship includes membership.
Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.
☐ Membership Opt Out

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: ____________________________________________

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

Total Contribution: $_______

Name: ____________________________________________ Phone #: _______________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: __________________________________________________________________
Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.
Credit Card #: _______________________
Exp. Date: __/__/____ CVC Code: _____________