An update from Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge: A USDA Licensed Facility for the Vanishing Breeds of Big Cats.

Amber
Species: Tiger (Panthera tigris)
Sex: Female
DOB: October 6, 2004
Arrival Date: October 6, 2016
Letter from the President
Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Thanks to all of you who have visited us recently to view the exciting changes at the Refuge! Together, we continue to move forward towards our goal of making this sanctuary the best it can be for our residents and our visitors.

Rescuing animals is our mission, and that has not changed since the inception of the sanctuary in 1992. TCWR’s team continues to expand our facilities to better accommodate the animals in our care, while increasing the amount of education we offer to the public on how these apex predators are NOT pets or props. This two-fold vision is the only way we can put a stop to the exploitation of big cats.

Meanwhile, Northwest Arkansas is growing at an alarming rate. The expansion of the property to accommodate our New Visitor’s Education Center, larger enclosures, pools, and additional staff to care for both the animals and our guests has required us to build a new public service well. You can read all about this project on page 4.

Everyone knows how vital water is to our survival – we cannot exist or grow without a freshwater source. This is also the first step in building your New Visitor’s Education Center, which will offer you a clean, climate-controlled entrance to the Refuge and additional education through exhibits, classes, guest speakers and films. Additionally, you can get a bite to eat, and enjoy shopping for souvenirs. Our Education Team served over 100 groups this past year, and this Center will provide them an indoor environment to conduct classes, day camps, and workshops no matter what the outside weather is doing.

If you don’t feel that education is essential to our mission, consider there are still people who abduct baby animals out of the wild for their entertainment. That was the case with our most recent rescue of Tony and Prince, two wild-born bobcats that were captured at about a month old to live in small dog kennels inside the home. They are a welcome addition to the Refuge, but should never have been forced to live in a cage in the first place. You can learn more about their rescue on pages 6 & 7.

The frustrating fact is that without public education to create advocates who will aid in getting laws passed and enforced, we will always need to be here to care for the unwanted, abused, mishandled, and neglected animals that are discarded when their owners can no longer provide housing, food, or vet care due to changed finances, divorce, illness or death – or when another organization closes. That is why TCWR was founded, and that is our job.

It takes a compassionate, caring, devoted team of humans to make sure the animals get the day-to-day care they deserve. You are a vital part of this team. Through your contributions, we have been able to save and provide lifelong homes to over 500 animals from these casualties of the black market Exotic Pet Trade. We appreciate your confidence in our organization and your continued support.

Until next time...
Tanya Smith, President/Founder
Growing Well Into the Future

Turpentine Creek has grown exponentially over the last 27 years and is projected to continue growing at a rapid pace. The need to expand our facilities to save more animals and serve the heightening demand for education at the Refuge is increasingly apparent. To move towards our future, this June, we began the installation of a new well, as our current well was taxed to its limit. The total project is estimated at $150,000. This will include:

• Separating the current water sources
• Adding a chlorination process
• Directional drilling to get the water lines properly run
• A building for the storage tanks, etc., with slab

Expansion is necessary because of how quickly our formal Education Department has developed and how limited we currently are due to lack of onsite classroom space and the restrictions our Arkansas weather imposes on outdoor instruction. We plan to build a new Visitor Education Center within the next five years. Also, with the hopeful passing of the Big Cat Safety Act, thousands of big cats will be left needing rescue from inadequate and often dire situations. We must be ready to expand our habitats to accommodate more animals at a moment’s notice. The new well is the essential first step in both endeavors. It will provide the necessary chlorination to serve the public and our offices with drinking water, allowing our existing well to service the Refuge animals now and into the future.

In June, a generous private donor offered a $40,000 matching gift, and so many of you responded through our social media campaign, but we are still a long way from reaching our goal of $150,000 needed to build the well. The work has progressed, and the well and chlorination system are in place! We need your support today, before we can move on to our next exciting project! Won’t you help us continue to provide for these amazing animals who depend on us, and continue our fight for their future?

Snowball

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

In June, one of our newest tiger residents, Floyd, was given a complete wellness exam by our veterinarian Dr. Kellyn Sweeney. At the time of his rescue from Oklahoma last January with 5 other tigers, their previous owner told us a brief history of Floyd. He was reportedly born at a “cub petting” facility and had a congenital birth defect called clubfoot. Although we don’t have any veterinary confirmation of this, we did find quite a few abnormalities with Floyd during the exam.

Since his arrival, Floyd has gained trust in most of his caregivers. It is our top priority after a rescue to allow the animal to get used to their surroundings and live in a stress-free environment. By mid-June he appeared to be ready for his exam, which required sedation to transport him to TCWR’s on-site hospital.

During the exam, Dr. Kellyn discovered that Floyd has many health issues, most of which are typically caused by inbreeding and poor nutrition. Floyd has a significant heart murmur, and she is in the process of researching how we can help or manage this medical condition. He will require an echocardiogram (heart ultrasound) in the future to determine the cause of his murmur. Heart murmurs can be caused by congenital (inherited) heart defects or nutritional causes (such as a lack of taurine in his diet prior to rescue). They can also be incidental findings though the severity of Floyd’s murmur makes this less likely.

Because we know that Floyd has a significant limp with associated muscle atrophy, he has been a part of our pain management program since his arrival. Because his previous owner reported that he had clubfoot in both front limbs, we thoroughly examined all four limbs during his exam. Multiple X-rays revealed that the bones in the forearms of his front limbs are deformed and torqued. His claws are also unevenly worn since he walks on his paws awkwardly. This could have been a genetic issue from inbreeding or Metabolic Bone Disease due to lack of calcium in his diet at an early age leading to bone malformation. With the information we have, we still cannot positively conclude that he had clubfeet when he was younger. If he did, this medical condition has since then corrected itself.

A further issue that we found is that Floyd is cryptorchid, which means that only one of his testicles has descended. Cryptorchidism is a genetic disease; it is not recommended to breed cats with this condition (both unilateral or bilateral), as they will pass it along. This is yet another example of how unregulated breeding in exotic animals can harm the animals and pass on bad genetics.

Leaving a cryptorchid cat intact (not neutered) can cause two serious health problems: First is testicular cancer, as the undescended testicle is located inside the abdomen where it does not belong; second is testicular torsion, where it can twist on itself, cutting off blood supply causing the organ to die – an excruciating condition that can lead to serious complications. We will be neutering Floyd shortly to prevent future health issues from this condition.

Floyd’s wellness check was shocking, since Floyd is only two-years-old and many of his issues are typically found in older animals. The sad reality is that bad genetics are not important to the money-makers of the cub petting industry. If an animal can generate a profit for a short period of time, genetics clearly don’t play a decision in the breeding of the animal, since the animal is going to be disposed of anyway!

We are so happy Floyd was rescued and will get the care he needs to live out a fulfilling life at Turpentine Creek. As always, thank you for your support and helping us to save these animals.

Floyd was originally rescued from a cub-petting facility. Facilities like this are more focused on profit than on the health and potential genetic defects in their animals.

Tigers@TurpentineCreek.org 479.253.5841 TCWR.org
Arkansas Flooding Almost Proved Fatal for Two Young Bobcats

On May 28, Turpentine Creek received an urgent call from a woman who needed to find a home for two 8-month-old bobcats, Prince and Tony. The brothers had been abandoned when the Arkansas River breached its banks and flooded their prior home, leaving them trapped in two tiny dog crates with water up to their bellies. They were rescued just in the nick of time by a sheriff’s deputy. Unfortunately, not all the animals located on the property were so lucky. Their owner told the police she didn’t want the young bobcats any longer and requested that they take the pair to a woman who rescues small animals, a few towns over.

The local rescuer did not know how to care for bobcats and began her search for a suitable facility. Since Prince and Tony had been taken out of the wild when only a month old, they could not be rehabilitated and released. Her search eventually led her to Turpentine Creek; a rescue team left Turpentine Creek later the same day and made the trip to Charleston, Arkansas. It was a race against time since many roads were already closed due to flooding and more storms were scheduled to hit that night. The typically four-hour round trip took nine hours due to the flooding detours, but our team returned safely to the Refuge with the young bobcats late that night.

Examinations found the bobcats to be malnourished from living off a limited diet of wet cat food. They also had muscle atrophy in their back legs from long confinement in small spaces.

Police found Tony (pictured) and his brother trapped in their tiny dog crates with water up to their bellies.

Prince and Tony exploring their new habitat! Both were captured in the wild at 1-month-old and spent most of their lives in small dog crates.

Prince and Tony arrived at the Refuge wet, scared, and still in their filthy cages. The team quickly transported them to the clean, dry recovery enclosures in our veterinary hospital, where they remained while we completed physical exams to ensure they didn’t have any infectious diseases and while they awaited neutering surgery. While our exams revealed the duo to be malnourished from living off what we suspect was a diet of wet cat food, they seemed to be in overall good health.

After a brief recovery from their neutering and receiving a clean bill of health from our veterinarian, they were placed in their new home in the Discovery Area. The bobcat brothers now share what was formerly our serval habitat. This enclosure is ideal because it has allowed us to re-introduce the brothers.

Although still very skittish around humans, Tony and Prince are settling into their new life at Turpentine Creek. We have observed that they are the most active at night, which is typical for a wild bobcat. With patience, silence, and a little luck, you might catch a glimpse of one of these two energetic young bobcats during your next visit to the Refuge. Stop in and see the newest residents of Turpentine Creek, or help us care for this pair through our adoption/sponsorship program.
The Exotic Pet Trade falls fourth on the list of largest global black markets after drug trade, counterfeiting, and the trafficking of humans. It’s no wonder those who profit from wildlife exploitation also dabble in other forms of criminal enterprises including but not limited to thievery, drugs, violence, and sexual crimes. In an ongoing research project conducted by Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and Kelly Jo Baker, Captive Wildlife Investigator, we have been startled to discover that many animal proprietors convicted of the serious wildlife violations listed above are still operating with an active USDA license! However, several criminals have been brought to justice, revealing a history of frightening, sickening behavior that poses a threat to humans and wildlife, alike.

Joe Maldonado-Passage, A.K.A “Joe Exotic,” profited at the expense of various lions, tigers, and hybridized felines for years. Despite multiple run-ins with the law for both human and animal-related crimes, Maldonado-Passage continued to operate roadside zoos and pseudo-sanctuaries until he was indicted on murder-for-hire and federal wildlife charges after paying an undercover FBI agent to kill Big Cat Rescue CEO, Carol Baskin. This was after decades of online threats and harassment towards the fellow GFAS-accredited sanctuary director. Maldonado-Passage was found guilty in early April 2019 and as of the time of this article, has not been sentenced.

In late 2009 and early 2010, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge rescued multiple animals from a facility formerly called “Predator World,” in Branson, MO. Refuge residents Flip the coatimundi, Tsavo the lion, Harley the black bear, Magic the leopard, and tigers Zeus, Chuff, Abigail, and Athena, came from the attraction. In 2012, the Stone County Sheriff’s office revealed they had spent months investigating Predator World Owner/Operator, Brick Wakefield, for sexual crimes against children dating back as early as 2001. The victims were employed by Wakefield at the Branson West operation during the time of the abuse. According to a 2012 press release from the Stone County Sheriff’s office, Wakefield pled his young victims with alcohol in order to incapacitate and take advantage of them. In 2015, he was sentenced to 7 years in prison after pleading guilty to 10 counts of felony sexual crimes.

TCWR Cougar residents, K.C. and Alex, who have since passed away, were rescued during drug raids. K.C. came in 1998 from Kansas City, MO, and Alex arrived just two years later from Little Rock, AR. Alex was allegedly used as a “guard cat” for the dealer’s lair. While people commonly associate large felines and exotic pets as status symbols for drug dealers in other countries, the problem is just as relevant in the United States.

As an animal welfare organization, we tend to focus on the cruelty towards wildlife trapped in the Exotic Pet Trade. However, the fact is that involvement in the Trade is less of an agenda against animals and more about the harnessing of money and power. Whether it’s the statement made towards society by the owner of a 300-pound carnivore or the dollars lining the pockets of the person who procured it, the creature is only a pawn in the overall agenda. This criminal network isn’t above investing in other toxic ventures, such as drugs and arms dealing, as long as it accomplishes the same bottom line. They also aren’t afraid of treating human beings with the same cruel disregard as they do animals.

The Exotic Pet Trade is the business of predators; the question is, which kind will get to you first?

The Exotic Pet Trade: Beyond Predation

The Exotic Pet Trade is a stomach-churning industry. Its captives are exposed to multiple forms of abuse: barbaric breeding practices, overt physical harm, and severe neglect that often results in long-suffering deaths; the heart-rending list goes on. There are also tragic tales of injury and even deaths of innocent citizens who are mauled by an escaped animal or while participating in an animal-centric attraction proposed to be “safe” for the public. Unfortunately, the claws of the Trade extend much deeper into other forms of illicit activity.

The Exotic Pet Trade

The Exotic Pet Trade is the business of predators; the question is, which kind will get to you first?
Adopt or Sponsor an Animal

Adoptions - $150 for any species
• Frameable Adoption Certificate with photo of favorite animal.
• Big Cat Chronicles Subscription
• Letter of Recognition

Sponsorships – Priced per species, only one sponsor per animal.
• Pride Membership (free entry for cardholder and up to 4 guests annually)
• Frameable Sponsorship Certificate
• 8x10 photo of Sponsored Animal
• Name on Sponsor Wall in Gift Shop
• Big Cat Chronicles Subscription
• Letter of Recognition

Membership Levels

The Friends of India
annual donation of $300+*

Members of the Friends of India will receive the following signup gifts:
• Friends of India Pride Membership
• Complimentary Trolley Tickets
• 15% off on Gift Shop merchandise
• Big Cat Chronicles subscription
• Recognition on our Website
• Exclusive Member E-mails
• Members Only Facebook Group to meet new advocacy friends and exchange ideas
• Member Only Events
• 10% off Lodging**

Signup gifts:
• A Framed 5x7 Photograph of India
• TCWR Calendar
• F.O.I. Decal
• TCWR Species Fact Sheet

The Kenny Fellowship
annual donation of $3,000+*

Annual Benefits:
• Kenny Fellowship Pride Membership
• Complimentary Trolley Tickets
• 20% off in Gift Shop
• Big Cat Chronicles subscription
• Recognition on our Website
• Exclusive Member E-mails
• Members Only Facebook Group
• Member Only Events
• 30% off Lodging**
• Private Tours with Senior Staff
• Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
• A Staff Liaison

Signup gifts:
• A Framed 8x10 Photo of Kenny in engraved wooden frame
• TCWR Calendar
• K.F. Decal
• TCWR Species Fact Sheet
• Kenny Travel Mug
• The Kenny Fellowship Shirt

Bam Bam Benefactor
annual donation of $1,250+*

Annual Benefits:
• Bam Bam Benefactor Pride Membership
• Complimentary Trolley Tickets
• 15% off on Gift Shop merchandise
• Big Cat Chronicles subscription
• Recognition on our Website
• Exclusive Member E-mails
• Members Only Facebook
• Member Only Events
• 20% off Lodging**

Signup gifts:
• A Framed 5x7 Photo of Bam Bam in a wood frame
• TCWR Calendar
• B.B.B. Decal
• TCWR Species Fact Sheet
• Bam Bam Travel Mug

Pride Memberships

Pride Membership - $100
Benefits - Free entry for cardholder and 4 guests for unlimited visits throughout the year.
Increase your effectiveness as an advocate for the animals by bringing family, friends and co-workers to the Refuge to experience our mission and learn how they, too, can help!

How your Adoptions & Sponsorships Help The Animals

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal

Adoptions - $150 for any species
• Frameable Adoption Certificate with photo of favorite animal.
• Big Cat Chronicles Subscription
• Letter of Recognition

Sponsorships – Priced per species, only one sponsor per animal.
• Pride Membership (free entry for cardholder and up to 4 guests annually)
• Frameable Sponsorship Certificate
• 8x10 photo of Sponsored Animal
• Name on Sponsor Wall in Gift Shop
• Big Cat Chronicles Subscription
• Letter of Recognition

Sponsorship Amounts:
$700 per year - Small Mammal/Bird
$1,000 per year - Small Cat/Monkey
$2,200 per year - Cougar/Leopard
$2,500 per year - Lion/Tiger/Bear

The Kenny Fellowship
annual donation of $3,000+*

Annual Benefits:
• Kenny Fellowship Pride Membership
• Complimentary Trolley Tickets
• 20% off in Gift Shop
• Big Cat Chronicles subscription
• Recognition on our Website
• Exclusive Member E-mails
• Members Only Facebook Group
• Member Only Events
• 30% off Lodging**
• Private Tours with Senior Staff
• Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
• A Staff Liaison

Signup gifts:
• A Framed 8x10 Photo of Kenny in engraved wooden frame
• TCWR Calendar
• K.F. Decal
• TCWR Species Fact Sheet
• Kenny Travel Mug
• The Kenny Fellowship Shirt

The Hilda Jackson Society
annual donation of $10,000+*

Annual Benefits:
• Hilda Jackson Society Pride Membership
• Complimentary Trolley Tickets
• 20% off on Gift Shop merchandise
• Big Cat Chronicles
• Recognition on our Website
• Exclusive Member E-mails
• Members Only Facebook Group
• Member Only Events
• 50% off Lodging**
• Private Tours with Senior Staff
• Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
• A Staff Liaison

Signup gifts:
• A Framed 8x10 Photo of a Favorite Cat in engraved H.J. wooden frame
• TCWR Calendar
• H.J.S. Decal
• TCWR Species Fact Sheet
• Tiger Travel Mug
• The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt

*To be part of a membership tier you must donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level. You are not automatically enrolled in membership levels. You must opt-in to become a member of membership tier levels.

**Limitations may apply
Choose your Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier

A membership with TCWR is the perfect opportunity to help support the amazing work that the Refuge does every single day and also gives the opportunity to visit multiple times a year!

$50 The Club Cub, Kid’s Membership (Ages 4-12) Name of child: ____________________________________________

Please circle the plush cat you would like for your signup gift: LION TIGER LEOPARD

$75 Wildcat Ambush for Youth (Ages 13-18) Name of teen: __________________________________________________

Please circle the shirt size for your signup gift: (adult size) S, M, L, XL, XXL

$100 Pride Membership You and 4 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

$250 Pride Membership You and 2 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

$250 Pride Membership You and 2 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

Pre-order 2020 Calendars: $20 each X __ calendars + $5 S/H = $_________

Pre-order 2020 Calendars: $20 each X __ calendars + $5 S/H = $_________

Donations:

☐ $25 ☐ $35 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 Other $ ________ ☐ Repeat monthly.

Visitor Education Center Well Fund:

☐ $50 ☐ $100 Other $ ________ ☐ Repeat monthly.

$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship

$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors

$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

$2,000/yr - Cougar/Leopard

$1,500/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

$1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

$600/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

$500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

$500/yr - Cougar/Leopard

$400/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

$400/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

$300+ Friends of India

$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society

$1,500+ Kenny Fellowship

$3,000+ penny Moreau Foundation

$250/yr - Paco’s Pack

$250/yr - Paco’s Pack

$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

$150/yr - Cougar/Leopard

$100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

$100/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

$50/yr - The Cub Club, Kid’s Membership (Ages 4-12)

$25/yr - Wildcat Ambush for Youth (Ages 13-18)

$15/yr - Pride Membership

$10/yr - Buddy Badger Benefactors

$5/yr - Cub Club Membership

$1/yr - Cub Club Membership

Total: $__________

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

☐ $25 ☐ $35 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 Other $ ________ ☐ Repeat monthly.

☐ $50 ☐ $100 Other $ ________ ☐ Repeat monthly.

We plan on making the COHAT an essential part of our veterinary healthcare program here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, advancing the overall welfare of our animal residents. It is only through your donations and support that we can make this possible, thank you!

Per recent research published in the Journal of Zoo & Wildlife Medicine examining oral lesions found in exotic felines, it is recommended that exotic felines over the age of 8 years receive biannual to annual COHATS, as these felines tended to experience a far greater number of oral lesions than younger cats. Therefore, the schedule for dental evaluations of our animals’ oral cavities will focus more heavily on these older individuals, though every animal resident will receive an inspection of the oral cavity on their bi-annual wellness examinations. Thanks to all of the amazing supporters who were able to help us raise funds this past November for our Giving Tuesday event, we have been able to acquire all the needed dental equipment necessary to perform safe and effective COHATS on our animals including full dental radiographs and full dental cleanings.

Dr. Kellyn plans to further improve the oral health of our animal residents by attending a continuing education training program for advanced periodontal therapy. It includes sessions, such as “how to perform root canals and crowning”, and is taught by the Peter Roman Foundation specifically caters to exotic rescued animals, helping to train veterinarians on these advanced techniques while learning on such species like tigers and bears.

Now considered a standard component of veterinary medicine, we plan on making the COHAT an essential part of our veterinary healthcare program here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, advancing the overall welfare of our animal residents. It is only through your donations and support that we can make this possible, thank you!

Cats of all sizes need to have a comprehensive oral health assessment and treatment (COHAT) plan to prevent diseases and pain that can be caused by poor dental health.

Tigers@TurpentineCreek.org 479 . 253 . 5841 TCWR.org

Dr. Kellyn Sweeley

Veterinary Report - The Importance of Oral Health
Getting the “Big” Cats out of the “Big” Top: Putting An End To Traveling Exotic Animal Shows

Circuses have played a prevalent role in American history since the 19th century when they were first recorded using live exotic animals to add shock value and draw in bigger crowds for profit. In the beginning, wealthy hunters would take animals directly from the wild and sell them. After establishing a captive population, they were able to breed and provide their own animals for the menageries. Times are now changing for better protection for animal welfare. Many countries have already banned the use of wild/exotic animals in traveling shows, and the United States has introduced a bill, titled the Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act (TEAPSPA), to restrict these animals from being used in traveling performances. Some states have already taken action: New Jersey and Hawaii prohibit wild animals in traveling shows, Illinois and New York ban the use of elephants, and numerous cities across the country are adding their own limitations. First introduced in 2017, TEAPSPA would prohibit the use of wild and exotic animals across all 50 states. Many experts agree that using wild animals in traveling shows requires inhumane training methods and fails to provide animals with appropriate environments for their physical and psychological health. It is not only an issue for the animals but also a public safety issue. Wild animals are unpredictable and with years of abuse, there is no set way to know what they may do. Traveling shows are not just “circuses.” They can be found at county and state fairs, parking lots, festivals, and other attractions. Help us, help them! How can you help? First, avoid going to places that exploit the animals for entertainment purposes. You can also help stop the use of animals in traveling shows by supporting the newly introduced TAAESPAct bill. Go to tcwr.org/advocacy to let your state representative know that you support TEAPSPA and believe that they should too! You can make a difference, act today and put an end to the abuse of animals nationwide!

Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular

The only night of the year to see our animal residents after dark, when they’re most active. Family event including themed games, prizes, hayrides, and more!

October 25 • 7pm to 9pm (FRIDAY before Halloween) don’t be a scaredy cat

Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular

October 25 • 7pm to 9pm (FRIDAY before Halloween)
don’t be a scaredy cat

Spooktacular

The only night of the year to see our animal residents after dark, when they’re most active. Family event including themed games, prizes, hayrides, and more!

October 25 • 7pm to 9pm (FRIDAY before Halloween) don’t be a scaredy cat

Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular

The only night of the year to see our animal residents after dark, when they’re most active. Family event including themed games, prizes, hayrides, and more!

October 25 • 7pm to 9pm (FRIDAY before Halloween) don’t be a scaredy cat
Happy Animals, Falling Leaves, and Seasonal Volunteer Opportunities!

Fall at the Refuge brings frisky big cats, changing leaves and plenty of new volunteer opportunities! Our upcoming Autumn Volunteer Days will be September 14 and November 16.

If you're still attempting to earn your special prize through our volunteer incentive program, which requires you to participate in at least four pre-approved opportunities, we recommend attending. Our volunteer coordinator is planning to add a few extra dates this season for enrichment-making, highway clean-up, and acorn gathering.

In addition, it's never too early to consider upcoming events at the Refuge. You can volunteer to help with, such as our Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular and the slew of Christmas parades we participate in during December. Our volunteers make it possible to spread awareness about our mission and receive support from the community by donating their time to assist us during these fun occasions.

There are also plenty of opportunities for those interested in helping at home. You are welcome to gather acorns, persimmons, and even leaves from your yard and bring them to the Refuge. Plain cardboard boxes and tubes make wonderful donations this time of year since the cool weather has our big cats feeling extra active!

Our volunteer coordinator is planning to add a few extra dates this season for enrichment-making, highway clean-up, and acorn gathering.

If you're interested in demonstrating your support for our mission and commitment to our animal residents through action, we have a place for you. Our volunteers make it possible to care for the nearly 100 animals currently residing at the Refuge. For more information about our volunteer program or to sign up, please visit tcwr.org/volunteer or email carly@turpentinecreek.org.

Second Annual Sipping for Sanctuary: Hosted at Historic Apollo Theater

Turpentine Creek invites you to our 2nd annual Sipping for Sanctuary to be held on September 5th at the historic Apollo Theatre in Springdale, AR. Join us for a casual and fun evening to taste local craft wines, cider and beers, munch on delectable appetizers while you bid on one-of-a-kind art and listen to relaxing live music. Meet and mingle with TCWR staff and fellow supporters for an evening to remember!

The Apollo on Emma is a treasure, built in 1947 and refurbished in 2017, the historic movie theater has been transformed into NW Arkansas' most epic and glamorous event venue. It boosts marble floors, 20’ ceilings, crystal chandeliers, built in bars and double wooden staircases leading up to the Metropolis Room overlooking the main ballroom.

Last year’s event filled to capacity, so hurry and R.S.V.P. to 479-253-5841 Ext. 5 and ask for Amanda, or email us at amanda@turpentinecreek.org. Entry is $65 per person, presale online is $55.

Sipping for Sanctuary is a fun way to introduce potential supporters to our organization, so share the event with your friends, family and coworkers, and consider attending as a group.

** Turpine Creek Wildlife Refuge members receive complimentary access to this event. Please email amanda@tcwr.org or call (479) 253-5841 ext. 5 to verify your membership and confirm your attendance. Get your Pride or Tier membership now, and enjoy this benefit as part of the team!

A member’s meeting with preview sipping will be held from 5:30-6:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm to the public. Don’t miss this chance to support the animals at Turpentine Creek and sample some of NW Arkansas’ best craft libations in this elegant and historic venue!

Jasmine Transformation: Home is Where the Chuffs Are

Jasmine, a beautiful orange tiger and one of our newer residents, will celebrate her one-year “Turp-a-versary” in October! She was released from a zoo in Kansas after displaying aggression towards her sister, with whom she shared a habitat. Because the small zoo didn’t have sufficient room to relocate her on the property, she now can enjoy the rest of her days at the Refuge.

The zoo communicated Jasmine was an anxious tiger, she had allegedly been used for cub petting at a different facility. She developed a fear of large crowds, especially children, and a phobia of strollers. Thankfully, we had plenty of room at Rescue Ridge, the quieter part of the Refuge that receives minimal foot traffic.

Jasmine greeted her new environment with fear. The 8-year-old tiger had spent most of her life at the zoo, so the change was understandably overwhelming. Jasmine took to the corner of her night house area with ears folded, emitting visible grumbles towards our team and her nosy neighbors, who insisted on rudely staring at the pretty lady. When she was finally brave enough to venture into her grass habitat, we would fold her forward according to the farthest corner of the perimeter fence, braving.

Then one lovely fall day, Animal Curator Emily McCormack was moving the grass at Rescue Ridge. While some animals shy away from the noise, Jasmine chose that exact moment to come bounding to the fence and smother Emily with loving “chuffs!” Since then, we have gotten to know Jasmine for who she truly is: an amicable tiger who loves greeting team members and her neighbors with “rapid-fire chuffs.”

Jasmine has experienced her first summer with us, and so had access to her very first stock tank pool. It took her over a month to decide it was safe to experiment with; when she finally took her first dip, she slowly eased into the water and kept one paw dry the entire time!

Jasmine prefers to enjoy her enrichment toys in private, though the team has caught her mutilating pumpkin and watermelon prey. Her favorite form of enrichment, however, seems to be living things: she’s been spotted creeping through the grass to stalk team members and her next-door neighbor Tammy, through the fence! Though she is wary of new interns, the stability and minimal visitation at Rescue Ridge have created a positive environment for her to thrive. It was only with your support that we could offer Jasmine a new home, donate today at TCWR.org/donate and help us, help them.

Jasmine was given access to her first-ever stock tank pool. After ignoring it for a month, she finally took a dip in the cool waters. It has since become one of her favorite things!
When visiting Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, you may see each of our leopards relaxing in their habitats in unique ways. Spyke is often found sitting on top of his wooden bench observing everything in his territory. Occasionally, you will discover Selbit hiding in the shade keeping a watchful eye. Magic can be seen lying on her belly across her log, taking a nap. Each of our leopards are exhibiting natural behaviors that they would exhibit in the wild.

Even though Spyke, Magic, and Selbit were captive-born and have never lived in the wild, their natural instincts shine through in their behaviors. In the wild, a leopard will hide in the treetops and other dense forests and grasslands to stalk their prey. They quietly sneak as close as they can in preparation for the attack; once they pounce, they will not chase after their prey. Instead, they grasp their retractable claws into their meal, biting them in the neck for the fatal kill. They then drag their catch back up the tree or bury it, to protect it from other predators. When you see Spyke sitting on his bench, he is observing all movement around him as he would if living in his native environment.

Leopards are also adequate swimmers with excellent vision and hearing. They exist throughout Asia and Africa in the deserts, grasslands, mountainous areas, rainforests, snowy regions, and even suburban and urban areas, causing human-wildlife conflicts. Because of being widely distributed, leopards have adopted a broad diet, which makes them a generalist predator, meaning they are #PredatorsNotPets.

When not goofing off on the ground, Spyke can be found sitting on his bench, observing his territory as he would in the wild. These cats are genetically predisposed for predation, meaning they are #PredatorsNotPets.
#PredatorsNotPets

Learn more about our newest bobcat rescues on pages 6 & 7.