

Big Cat Chronicles

Spring 2020



Dillian

Species: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

Sex: Male

DOB: April 9, 2005

Arrival Date: March 23, 2006



Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Happy 2020! Thank you for your support throughout 2019. **Please join us in our campaign for the New Year: 2020 Vision - Your Focus. Their Future!** We need your help creating awareness as we focus on finding solutions to the problems big cats are facing.

Choosing to Focus your talents, interests, money, and creativity will protect **Their Future**. Please become a peer-to-peer advocate and spread our mission to friends and family. Share your favorite social media posts to **help us gain supporters!**

With less than 3,800 tigers left in the wild, **you need to be their voice in 2020**. Ask everyone you know to research before visiting a facility. It only takes minutes to check with a zoo and ask if they participate in a Species Survival Plan (SSP). Learn more about how our choices make an impact by visiting "How You Can Help" at TCWR.org.

Please remember true sanctuaries do NOT buy, sell, trade, breed or offer hands-on experiences with animals. By not patronizing places that allow interaction with big cats, they will close, and real sanctuaries can help the animals. **Visiting true sanctuaries like TCWR helps survivors of Big Cat Trade get the lives they deserve.**

Your Focus on education has grown our outreach program, creating awareness and inspiring new advocates. **Your Focus on Advocacy is paying off**, with H.R. 1380 passed through the House subcommittee, progressed to the floor to be voted on, and introduced to the Senate!

As part of our 2020 Vision, I would like to introduce four new board members who will bring new perspectives, talents and expertise to TCWR:



Heather Klatt is an Osteopathic Doctor and musician living in Missouri. She has always had a heart for animals – especially all cats. Heather has been a supporter of TCWR since 2014 and is a Hilda Jackson Society Member.



Tracy Garry and her husband Craig, of Shawnee, KS, have been supporters since 2014, and are Bam Bam Benefactor members. Tracy works in retirement administration but makes time to visit and volunteer often.



JR Shaw, of Rogers, AR, is a veteran tourism professional currently serving as Executive Director of "Visit Rogers" and Executive Vice President of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce. He brings over 25 years of hospitality, sales, and marketing experience to our board. He and his wife, Angel, supporters since 2016, are Friends of India members.



Amanda Rials, of Bentonville, AR, brings years of corporate experience from Tyson Foods. She first became a supporter of TCWR in 2012 and has since used her skills and connections to support the Refuge. While working for Tyson, Amanda helped expand our Tyson food program to provide food for the animals that call our Refuge home.

I welcome these board members with gratitude for their willingness to help us achieve our goals and support our mission! I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the loyal board members continuing to serve in 2020, longtime supporters of TCWR Virginia Rankin, Randy Risor, Dave Schoonover and Patricia Quinn. We could not have grown without their guidance and devotion.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your Focus on donations. Your generous support towards rescues and public education has changed the lives of countless animals.

I hope you will join us –your Focus ensures their Future!

Sincerely,

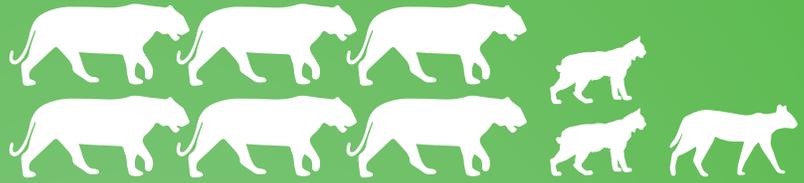
Tanya Smith, President & Founder



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

RESCUED

- 6 TIGERS
- 2 BOBCATS
- 1 SERVAL



VETERINARY CARE

- 18 WELLNESS EXAMS
- 35 BLOOD TESTS
- 150 X-RAYS

FED RESIDENTS

214,655 LBS OF MEAT!



INCLUDING NEBRASKA SPECIALTY DIET

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

"WE'RE ALWAYS BUILDING SOMETHING AT THE REFUGE"

- BUILT A PUBLIC SERVICE WELL (\$150,000)
- BUILT A SERVAL HABITAT
- REBUILT GOOBER'S HABITAT
- HEATED DENS & REBUILT ANIMAL BENCHES
- UPDATED / REOPENED CONCESSION STAND
- 7 NEW EVENT FIELD WATER/ELECTRICAL POSTS
- REPLACED ROOFS OF ZULU SAFARI LODGES



NEW KIDS CLUB:
PROTECT ALL WILDLIFE P.A.W.

EDUCATION

- 17 ANIMAL CARE INTERNS GRADUATED
- 2 EDUCATION INTERNS GRADUATED
- 1 NEW EDUCATION INTERNSHIP CREATED
- 44 OFF-SITE PRESENTATIONS / 7158 CONTACTS
- 71 ON-SITE GROUPS / 3234 CONTACTS
- 46,890 PEOPLE EDUCATED ON-SITE
- \$24,030 EDUCATION REVENUE



FUNDRAISING

- \$540,365 NEWSLETTER
- \$149,115 ADOPTIONS/SPONSORSHIPS
- \$97,549 DONOR DEVELOPMENT
- \$58,743 FROM FACEBOOK, INCLUDING 730 FACEBOOK FAN FUNDRAISERS
- \$40,000 GIVING TUESDAY
- \$33,680 CATS AT THE CASTLE
- \$20,146 NWA GIVES



THE BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT (H.R.1380) INTRODUCED TO THE HOUSE

- 1643 ADVOCACY PAGE VISITS
- 4115 EMAILS SENT TO CONGRESS
- 33 ADVOCACY TWEETS

VOLUNTEERING

- 190 VOLUNTEERS
- 31% VOLUNTEERS OVER 2018
- 1749 VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 3 YOUTH GROUPS HOSTED
- CONTACT US ABOUT SPRING BREAK 2020!



You Can Now Take Behind The Scenes Tours Every Day!

Many of our big cats enjoy life in our spacious habitats up on our tour loop. These animals spend all day running up and down hills, playing with enrichment, and entertaining our visitors. Some cats like Amber, need just a little more privacy or flat ground and Rescue Ridge is the perfect place for that. They enjoy this space, but many of our guests miss seeing their favorite animal since the only way you can see them is on one of our special behind-the-scenes tours. In the past you could only take behind-the-scenes tours on Saturdays, but recently we decided to change that!

We are excited to announce that we are now offering our exclusive Carnivore Caravan Tours seven days a week! Originally, they were only available the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

Carnivore Caravan Tours allow for up to five people at a time to experience a behind-the-scenes look at TCWR. A senior staff member takes the group to places restricted from normal tours, including: the commissary where we prep our animal residents' food; the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital where our animal residents are treated and healed; the new bear habitats that offer a natural landscape to our bear residents, and Rescue Ridge, the "retirement center" for older animals.

Carnivore Caravan Tours cost \$100 per person and bookings must be made at least 3 days prior to the desired tour date. Bookings can be made online at TCWR.org/visit-us/exclusive-tours/.

Those wishing for an even more in-depth experience can upgrade to a Coffee with the Curator Tour provided by Animal Curator, Emily McCormack, or Assistant Curator, Laurie Vanderwal. These tours are now offered every Saturday of the month, beginning promptly at 9 AM. Depending on curator availability, these tours may also be available on alternate days upon request. Up to five people at a time can enjoy coffee and pastries during a special presentation about the history of TCWR, followed by a behind-the-scenes tour given by a teammate who has been with the Refuge for over 20 years.

The cost for Coffee with the Curator Tours is \$150 per person. As with Carnivore Caravan Tours, bookings must be made at least three days prior to the desired tour date and reservations can also be made online at TCWR.org/visit-us/exclusive-tours/.



Take a Carnivore Caravan tour any day of the week and see your favorite animals that live at Rescue Ridge. Private behind-the-scenes tours are a great way to experience the Refuge!



Welcome to our newest animal care team member: Megan Keller

Megan Keller's dream to work with big cats, specifically tigers, formed in elementary school and set the trajectory for her future. She graduated from the University of Hawaii Manoa in 2016, with a B.S. degree in Zoology and completed four internships at TCWR before being hired.

"After the first day of my first internship, I knew I wanted to stay here as long as I could." Meg explained. "I was always hoping to earn a staff position but knew that no matter what happened, I wanted to spend 2 years here because I love our sanctuary, our team, the animals, and the difference we make for everyone."

Featured Animal - Dillian



Species: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

Sex: Male

DOB: April 9, 2005

Arrival Date: March 23, 2006

Dillian was born at a breeding facility in Oklahoma. The breeders convinced the family that they sold him to that he'd make a great pet for their young children, so long as they didn't feed him any raw meat. This lie only led to Dillian spending the first few months of his life suffering, not taming him. By the time they rehomed him to the Refuge he was malnourished, since bobcats' digestive systems cannot properly process cooked meats.

At just shy of a year old, Dillian became aggressive and territorial. He eventually bit the couple's five-year-old son on the shoulder and would not let go. Luckily, although aggressive, Dillian's bite was not enough to break the skin, saving his life. Finally, the family realized that bobcats do not make good family pets and they decided to rehome him.

Dillian now lives in a large habitat with Sadie bobcat at Rescue Ridge. The duo was introduced shortly after Dillian's arrival and has been inseparable ever since, spending most days snuggling in their log house, den, or on their benches. Since moving out of the public eye to their quiet Ridge habitat, Dillian has begun to explore more and is very curious about their large cat neighbors.



Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

The process to rescue animals is not always short. Sometimes, it starts with a phone call to pick up the animal ASAP, other times rescues are tied up in lengthy court cases. No matter the process, wild cats do not make good pets, nor do they deserve to be ignorantly taken from the wild or bred solely for the entertainment of humans.

Two of our newer rescues, Prince and Tony, had their freedom stolen from them when a man decided to trap them. We rescued them last year from massive flooding in Arkansas. Sadly, because they were raised in captivity, they cannot be returned to the wild. Since their arrival, they have adjusted well to their new home, and Tony makes sure all the keepers are aware of his presence. During morning door checks, he reminds everyone it is *his* door. Prince, on the other hand, is more laid back and keeps a watchful eye on things.

Hunter, the African serval, came to us after TCWR supporters living in New Mexico heard about him being trapped in a state park. African servals are not native to the U.S. or adapted for such cold winters. Hunter had been kept as a pet and reportedly escaped. These smaller African cats do not make good pets either. Hunter would not have been able to survive in the wild after being “raised” by humans and declawed. He was thankfully saved and will reside in his forever home with us. He has adjusted well to the Refuge and enjoys his habitat and heated indoor enclosure. He loves getting treats and participating in our behavioral management program.

Sammy and Enzo, two African Serval brothers rescued in July of 2018, are prime examples of how court cases can complicate a rescue. Although they arrived at Turpentine barely hanging onto life, it is only recently that their court case has even gotten before a judge. On January 10, 2020, their case appeared in the news under the title “New Yorker Pleads Not Guilty to Trafficking Exotic Cats.” How does a court case continually go on for years when there is proof this man illegally imported and sold dozens of caracals and servals? When there is physical proof and recorded documentation of not only Sammy and Enzo’s suffering, but the other animals rescued and reportedly 18 other cats that were sold and transported during a 5-month period, most of whom died? Why has it taken so long to get before the courts? The proof is there, so why can’t justice be served for these animals? Sammy and Enzo are now both healthy and loving their large habitat where they reside with 3 other servals and a Savannah cat.

Which leads me to our newest rescue of Luna and Remington. As you will read in the rescue article (pg 8-10), these 2 tigers sat in another facility for 3 years due to a court battle before a judge finally granted their permanent placement at TCWR. Originally it was 4 tigers, but 2 lost their lives and chance to be saved. Therefore, it took 2 innocent tigers being killed for a decision to be made. I am totally disgusted with the time it takes for the justice system to make judgments when it comes to animal cruelty. With that being said, I am thrilled that Remington and Luna are safe and will forever live their lives in our sanctuary. Thank you for your continued support to make all of these rescue missions possible.



Tony & Prince



Hunter



Sammy



Enzo



Spring is here, which means we have to work extra hard to make sure our animals enjoy their hillside habitats. Our team members are weed eating, mowing, and tick dusting to protect our animals from injury and disease. Your donations help us keep the Refuge beautiful and keep our animals healthy.

Spring Cleaning: Refuge Style

April showers bring May flowers - and in-depth habitat maintenance! As winter winds down at the Refuge, our animal care team works hard to ensure our animal residents stay happy and healthy by providing them with clean and well-kept habitats. With over 100 acres to groom throughout the year, it is a labor of love to ensure our animals are safe and sound.

When the grass begins to grow, it turns into tick season in Northwest Arkansas. Just as ticks greatly harm humans, some diseases can also affect our animals. It is essential to manage the habitats to prevent infections from blood-borne illnesses caused by ticks. By keeping the grass low and tick spraying every few months, we are able to keep the nasty critters from bothering our animals. It also ensures venomous snakes cannot hide in tall grass in the habitats.

The dens are cleaned daily each morning, and animals are provided fresh, clean water throughout the entire day. Every five days, the habitats are cleaned with the animal residents locked safely in their night houses. We double-check each lock every day; safety is the number one priority when working around dangerous predators. Due to our steep hillside habitats, weed eaters are used to ensure that the grass is manageable. This daily routine is not for the faint of heart, and our interns and staff work long hours to provide optimal lifelong care to each animal.

As a 501(c) 3 non-profit, in-kind donations of items to help us maintain the Refuge are a great way to help keep the maintenance at TCWR working like a well-oiled machine. Ensuring that we have the proper tools makes this labor of love go smoother for our hardworking interns and staff. We accept donations of new tools, weed-eaters, mowers, gloves, ladders, and much more. Our Amazon wish list is a great way to make sure we have the proper equipment in the Spring. You can find our Amazon wish list here: [TCWR.org/support-us/donate/](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=AWSO_Wishlist). Also, by selecting Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge as your charity for [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com/), a donation will be made with every order for the animals, without costing you!

Another way you can help us, help them is to join our volunteer groups! Spring is a perfect time to come and use your own hands to make a difference. Our volunteers aid the animal care team in habitat maintenance, building habitats, enrichment gardening, and so much more. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, please email Carly Hepburn, Volunteer Coordinator, carly@tcwr.org. Or visit our website and fill out a volunteer form today! [TCWR.org/volunteer](https://www.tcwr.org/volunteer)

Meeting Our Newest Rescues: Luna & Remington



Rescues at Turpentine Creek always inspire a mix of emotions: sorrow that these animals suffered at the hands of abuse or neglect, excitement that we are saving them and giving them refuge, worry about what dangers we may face during the rescue, and the rush of adrenaline as we get ready to head out. Many times, this all happens in a short period of time- hours, days, weeks, but on occasion a rescue can take years, which was the case with saving Luna and Remington.

Not only were Luna and Remington part of the cub-petting industry, but the facility they were at forced these tigers, and many other cubs, to swim in pools all day for the entertainment of humans who paid a fee. Harsh chlorinated water stung their eyes as they struggled to keep their heads above water for hours at a time with little rest between sessions.

In 2016, PETA filed a law suit against Dade City Wild Things (DCWT) for prematurely separating tiger cubs from their mothers, forcing them into public encounters, and warehousing them in small cages that violate the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sadly, in July of 2017, Luna and Remington's lives changed, but not for the better. DCWT hurriedly transferred all tigers out of its facility, including Luna and Remington, in an illegal attempt to thwart PETA's court-ordered site inspection, beginning the battle for the lives of all DCWT's victims.

Luna, Remington, Rory and Rajah, were moved to another facility in Florida, where they were kept in small cages just waiting to be used to produce more cubs for DCWT's cub-petting scheme. All four tigers were scheduled to come to Turpentine Creek once court orders had been passed, but DCWT fought and appealed for years delaying their rescue.

Sadly, for Rory and Rajah, the court ruling came too late. Reportedly due to storm damage, they escaped their enclosures and were killed. They were not the only victims of this attempt to hide evidence; 19 other tigers were shipped off to Oklahoma. A pregnant tiger gave birth to three cubs during the transport. The cubs did not survive the trip.



On a cold Sunday in January, the team packed up two transport crates in our heated rescue trailer and took off to make the 18-hour one way trip down to Florida to finally pick up Luna and Remington after over two and a half years of waiting. Working closely with PETA, the pair were finally coming home.

The team made a quick pit stop along the way to visit our fellow rescuers and members of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA), Big Cat Rescue. It was also the perfect opportunity to check in on Priya, one of the cats saved during the Colorado Project. It was a nice break after the long drive and very educational for the team to see how other sanctuaries operate.

It was only a quick stop because the team had to meet team members from Forest Animal Rescue (FAR), another BCSA member, and PETA for the rescue. FAR team members helped us move the cats from their current enclosures at the facility in Florida into our transport cages, that way we could take a smaller rescue team.

Remington and Luna were being kept in two separate small cement cages approximately 10x20 feet. Our team reported that they observed dozens of other big cats in cages, but it was difficult to tell exactly how they were being kept since the team was brought directly to Remington and Luna upon arrival.

The team attempted to load Remington first, but due to his anxiety it was quickly apparent he would not load without sedation. The team moved on to Luna, who after a little prompting, quickly loaded up, giving plenty of “chuffs.”

The team then returned to sedate Remington. It took time for the sedative to take effect because of counteraction from adrenaline surging through his body. Finally, the team got Remington sedated and in his transport cage. Once he woke up, he also greeted everyone with friendly chuffs.



Luna & Remington Rescue (continued)

... continued

The team drove through the night to make sure their precious cargo made it to their new home as quickly and safely as possible. Remington was not a fan of the trip but Luna made it through like a trooper.

Upon arrival, Luna quickly moved from her transport cage into her new night house, chuffing happily the whole time. Remington was again nervous but he too quickly transferred into his night house with little protest.

Because of Remington's signs of anxiety, he was the first of the pair we allowed to enter their new shared habitat. As soon as the door was open, he began exploring his new home. Crisp winter grass, fresh logs, and plenty of leaf pile enrichment greeted the large fluffy white tiger. He spent three days exploring his spacious new home before coming in so Luna could do her own exploring.

Luna also enjoyed investigating her habitat but already has learned that dinner is served at the same time and place each day. She seems to really enjoy leaf enrichment and scratching logs.

For now, Luna and Remington will alternate days using the habitat. In the upcoming months, Remington will be neutered, and after he heals up, the Animal Care team will evaluate how the two get along through the fence and possibly work on a plan to introduce them. Until that point, the duo will enjoy their new habitat and neighbors individually.

Stop in and meet Luna and Remington on your next visit to the Refuge. Their new home is located on the habitat guided-tour path. We are excited to see how Luna and Remington settle into their forever home with us.





Support your favorite big cats by shopping with Amazon Smile! Your holiday shopping list could feed an animal at TCWR when you register and shop on smile.amazon.com. Just select **Turpentine Creek (Turpentine Creek Foundation Inc.)** as your charity on Amazon Smile then continue shopping just like you normally would! .5% of your purchase will be donated by Amazon to TCWR once you check out! Give the gift of giving this holiday season.

Please Welcome Your Spring 2020 Interns!



Back Row Left to Right

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Adam Ernst
James Madison U.
BS Psychology
May 2017 | Isaac Rivera
Oregon State U.
BS Zoology
July 2012 | Christopher Fujikawa
Denison University
BA Biology
May 2019 | Jessica Vineyard
Henderson State U.
BS Natural Resource
Management
May 2019 | Jade Schleicher
U. of Wisconsin
BS Biology
May 2017 | Caitlin Gustafson
Chadron State U.
BS Biology
December 2019 | Katrina Sims
Arkansas Tech U.
BS Wildlife &
Fisheries
December 2018 | Carly Wallace Thompson
California State Polytechnic U.
BS Biology
May 2019 |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|

Front Row Left to Right

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|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Yarelis Nazario Santana
U. of Puerto Rico
BS Animal Science
June 2019 | Nathan Sanchez
New Mexico State U.
BS Biology
May 2019 | Jadranka Weygoldt
North Carolina U.
BS Zoology
December 2018 | Morgan Kepner
University of Georgia
BS Biology
December 2019 | Alex Nelson
U. of Mount Union
BS Environmental
Science
May 2019 | Shelby Boyle
Miami University
BA Zoology
May 2019 | Jason LaVarnway
SUNY Oswego
BS Zoology
December 2016 |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|

2020 Vision Donor Spotlight: Why Do You Overnight at the Refuge?

Nancy “Amy” Patterson has been a supporter since early 2009. She is a Founding Member of the Hilda Jackson Society and a huge fan of overnighting at the Refuge. When she and a friend first stayed onsite a decade ago, she fell in love with the animals and the organization. A highlight for Nancy was meeting and getting to know Founder and President Tanya Smith, whose stories of past rescues she finds fascinating. Because Nancy lives three hours away, she usually plans for a weekend-long visit. Over the years, she has experienced our Treehouse, the Family Suites (which neighbor two of our tigers), and our Adult Safari Suites. These days she always stays in the Zulu Lodge because she loves the décor, saying it’s like glamping in Africa!



Nancy always hated going to zoos as a child, seeing big cats in small concrete cells, with no quality of life. She found it inspiring over the years as TCWR grew and converted all enclosures into big grassy habitats. She’s loved watching animals who had a horrible existence now enjoying a life in captivity as close to that of a wild animal as possible, playing and running. Continual advances in animal care and habitat space, along with new rescue stories, keep Nancy coming back for more private tours and overnight stays.

Per Nancy, “You get to hear the lions caroling. That’s the part that blows everyone away when I bring them overnight. Where else can you go besides Africa to experience this?”

It is thanks to supporters like Nancy, that we can continue to provide lifetime Refuge for the animals that we rescue. Become a member like Nancy; learn more at TCWR.org/membership



Many supporters, like Nancy Patterson, come to the Refuge and fall in love with not only the animals but the overnight lodging. This unique overnight experience allows our visitors and supporters to enjoy the Refuge and spend more time with the animals they love.

Your Legacy for The Animals

Supporters of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can continue their legacy by leaving a portion of their estates to the Refuge, and thereby ensuring that all of the present and future animals rescued will be well cared for and live out their lives in peace. Please speak with your attorney today and consider setting up your legacy by providing the information below.

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge EIN #: 71-0721742

Address: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Phone #: 479-253-5841 Website: TCWR.org

Officers: Tanya Smith, President. Scott Smith, Vice President. Amanda Smith, Secretary/Treasurer.

Please help us, help them, in the years to come.

Learn more at TCWR.org/legacy-giving

What Your Donations Do



Thank You!



Well, Thank You!

New Well And Water System Project Complete!

Turpentine Creek is happy to announce that thanks to our generous donors we have finished fundraising for our new commercial well! M. Whitt donated the final \$32,000 to complete the \$32,000 match provided by S. and V. James.

We have been working on our well and water systems project since the summer; it has been widely funded by matching donations, the first of which was \$40,000 contributed by C. Martin. The total cost of the project was estimated to be \$150,000.

The new well is the first step towards the future of TCWR. The updated system is a legal requirement in order to accommodate more visitors, hire more team members and rescue more animal residents. Our former well had reached its maximum capacity.

We began constructing the well in early summer of 2019, building as we received funds in order to finish the project as soon as possible. Now that it's completed, we have one system exclusively for our animal residents, giving us the capacity to rescue even more animals and eventually build permanent cement pools in each animal's habitat. Cats like Poncho and Montana will eventually have a large cement pool to lounge in during the summer months. Tigers love to swim and our current stock tank pools allow for quick dips to cool off in the hot Arkansas summer. New pools will enrich the lives of the animals, and filling these future pools was not possible before finishing the new well!

We will also be able to progress with other projects, including our new Visitor Education Center, which will give more people across the nation access to our mission, providing additional educational opportunities that will create more advocates in the fight against the Big Cat Trade.

Thank you to every supporter who gave what they could. It took every donation, from single dollar bills to our multi-thousand dollar matches, to create our new well and water system from the ground up. We hope you will continue to join us in our constant evolution to create a better future for big cats everywhere.



Montana

Thanks to our generous donors, we have completed work on our new public service well. With this new well, our old well is dedicated for animal use and will allow us to explore the idea of including permanent cement pools in all habitats. You have made this happen!

Mated Life: Cute Cubs Add Up

Lions Chloe and Daniel are the purrfect couple. They came to Turpentine Creek by way of our Colorado Rescue in 2016.

Chloe is the extrovert in the relationship. Her favorite place is the bottom of the hill next to the tour loop so she can observe passersby and allow them to bask in her loveliness. She relieves the stress of “married-life” by destroying pumpkins, her favorite enrichment.

Daniel is much more introverted and highly protective of his one-true-love. Having only an eye for her, he likes to keep Chloe within sight. While she studies the humans, he plays the role of nosey neighbor and spies on other animals from atop his bench.

Since Daniel and Chloe are such a wonderful couple, you might wonder if cubs are in their future. Let us explain to you why the pitter-patter of little paws is not in their best interest.

While cub-rearing would cut in on Chloe’s pumpkin-smashing and Daniel’s eye-spying, that is not the *only* reason they will never breed. There is a problem with big-cat populations in the United States. In backyards and tourist attractions, cute little cubs are being created every day. Sadly, those cubs grow up and start taking up a ton of space. Families keeping them as pets wake up one day and realize their adorable little “kitty” is now trying to eat their toddler. The owners of pay-to-play schemes have to keep a supply of new cubs as the older ones age out. You can’t bring a lion or tiger cub to a shelter, which is where we come in; true sanctuaries are essentially animal shelters for big cats!



Chloe and Daniel love spending time together but also enjoy their alone time. Don’t expect to ever hear the pitter patter of little paws; as a non-breeding facility these cats get to enjoy their long lives without worrying about what trouble their cubs are getting into. True Sanctuaries don’t breed! Make sure you are only visiting true sanctuaries like Turpentine Creek.



Breeding animals like Daniel and Chloe would contribute to an already out-of-control problem. True sanctuaries like TCWR are nonprofits, so producing more animals would take away already-limited funding and resources from existing animals in need. Plus, the reproduction that occurs without a Species Survival Plan in place results in inbreeding and crossbreeding, since the goal is not conservation but simply to produce animals as fast as possible. This creates animals with a laundry list of genetic abnormalities that are passed down the entire bloodline. This means breeding any of the animals who have found sanctuary at the Refuge would be irresponsible.

Forever-winking Daniel and produce-pulverizing Chloe hope you will do your due diligence by only supporting ethical establishments. We even created a check-list to help you determine if the place you're about to patronize is a true sanctuary or not: [TCWR.org/sanctuary](https://www.tcwr.org/sanctuary).

There are over 5,000 captive big cats in the U.S. who could find themselves homeless at any minute. Please consider making a recurring donation at [TCWR.org/donate](https://www.tcwr.org/donate), so when we get the call, we can be prepared to act on their behalf.



Newest Wildlife Interpreter, Abby Hickam, always wanted to work with animals.

This Arkansas State University alum earned her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences with an emphasis on Zoology. Originally, she aspired to be an animal keeper but later realized education is where her passion lies. After being offered a full-time spot at TCWR following her first year of internship, Abby couldn't refuse.

According to Abby, "Telling the stories of the animals and talking to others about the issues these cats face is too important to not stay and be a voice."

Abby's favorite animal resident is Marissa the cougar.

Tigers@TCWR.org 474-253-5841 [TCWR.org](https://www.tcwr.org)



Your Social Media Choices Could Save an Animal's Life

Last year, an estimated 2.82 billion people used social media. That is **40%** of the entire earth's population! Social media platforms make it easier for people to communicate from different parts of the world and stay connected. But, it has also created a tool for the advertising, sourcing, and online trade of wild animals as pets.

Pictures and videos of animals are easily shared and commented on throughout social media. Many focus on domesticated animals like dogs, house cats, and farm animals. Sadly, there are also posts that show dangerous wild animals being held and bottle-fed or walking inside a house like a 'pet.' Owners post videos of these exotic animals, and millions of people share it. This hype of wild animals online is increasing the demand for one of the largest black market industries in the world, and most animal lovers are not aware of the role that they are playing in the exploitation of these animals. Liking and sharing these photos and videos gives credence to the misconception that wild animals can easily be tamed and made into house pets. Under the impression that they can domesticate lions, tigers, and other wild animals, the comment section explodes with questions like, "How do I get one? Look how sweet and cuddly!"



Cute social media selfies are only adding to the Exotic Animal Abuse problem. Cute cubs, like Louisa and Marissa, were pulled from their mothers only to be used for profit and play. Liking, sharing, or interacting with images and videos with exotic animals only promotes the industry. Most animal lovers are not aware that by interacting with social media they are perpetuating the problem. Be a true animal advocate, don't spread animal abuse through social media.



Louisa

Louisa and Marissa were the last cub petting victims at the Colorado facility before Turpentine Creek took over. Taking selfies and playing with cute cubs might be fun, but in the end the animals suffer for it.



One of the largest dangers of social media is that if someone wants a wild cat, they don't have to look too hard. Secret online groups promote the selling and buying of exotic animals. These animals may be taken from the wild or bred in captivity, with the sole purpose to be a pet or prop. People buy these animals unsure of how to properly care for them and unaware of the dangers involved. Tigers are the largest cat species; when they become an adult weighing close to 600 lbs., they quickly become more than the owner can handle.

When animals are promoted on social media, there are many inevitable consequences: species loss, nonnative species introductions, zoonotic risks and implications, and welfare issues for both humans and animals involved. We ask, as true animal advocates, that you keep this in mind while browsing and sharing social media posts. With your help, we can decrease the demand for wild animals as pets and props!

Making Your Visit Even Better: Creating An Outdoor Education Space

Each day at TCWR is full of adventures and projects, from habitat building, weed eating, conducting tours and educational presentations, to making enrichment. We are continually growing in how we rescue and care for animals in need, as well as how we educate our visitors on how they can help be the voice for wildlife everywhere. As a part of our growth, we saw the need of a centralized location to conduct our educational activities, which can serve as a meeting space for tours and as a seating area. We are excited to announce that we will be building a beautiful pavilion in our discovery area near the habitat tour gate to help us cover these needs. Supporter M. Whitt kicked off the project by donating \$20,836.16 out of the estimated \$40-\$50,000 needed to complete it.

The pavilion will offer seating for our guests while they attend a presentation or observe the cats. During the heat of the summer, it will be a great location to get out of the sunshine and cool off while enjoying your visit. Kids participating in summer day camp will have a great location to enjoy their activities while staying out of the sun. Having the pavilion will also provide a venue for small school group talks, especially if it is raining. This is the first step in our progress towards the creation of our Education Center that will offer year-round expanded classroom space and educational/interactive exhibits throughout the building. Education is the key in order to stop the abuse that wildlife face every day. We are very excited to be one step closer to offering our visitors a wonderful experience in any kind of weather, throughout the year.



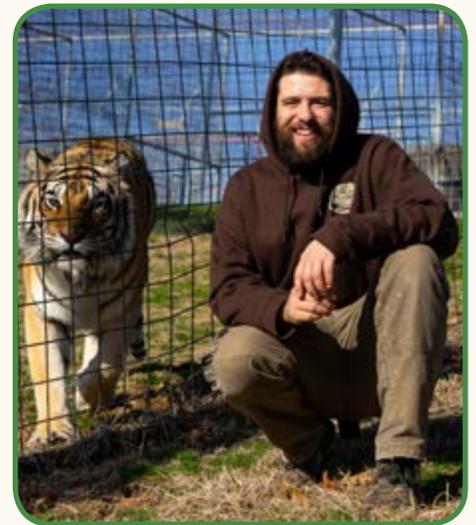
As the Refuge grows, we have to adapt and build to accommodate the changes. Creating an outside educational space is the next step in our growth. Thanks to a generous donation by M. Whitt we are able to start work on a new Pavilion, which can be used for education, eating, or just getting out of the sunshine. The project is only half funded, but we hope to complete it before our busy season starts in the late spring.

Please Welcome Content Specialist Michael Maniscalco

Michael Maniscalco was offered a Content Specialist position at TCWR immediately following his seven-month internship. During those months, he grew attached to every animal resident and says he was “thrilled” when offered a full-time position so he could continue seeing the animals he loves every day.

Michael was earning his Bachelor of Biology at Barry University in Florida when he first heard about Turpentine Creek. Researching further, he was impressed by how “above and beyond” the Refuge went to care for the animals.

Michael enjoys his position because, “Everyone working here and every single animal become family, so when you come in every morning, it doesn’t feel like work.”



Snowball the Wrecking Ball



Snowball arrived during our 2016 Colorado Rescue, a rambunctious cub who'd outgrown his usefulness as a prop for cub-petting. Had the owner's cancer not forced him to close his breeding operation, this young tiger's future would've been bleak. While his valuable color had saved him from being euthanized, his prospects were limited to life in a cramped roadside attraction cage, forced to perform out of fear in an entertainment act or serving as someone's "pet."

With his adorable crossed eyes, due to inbreeding, and his playful, chuffy personality, Snowball might've appeared the "ideal exotic pet" to some misguided animal lover. However, appearances are deceiving. Only a few months after his rescue, Snowball's strong predatory and solitary instincts had begun to emerge, prompting our animal care team to relocate him from his shared habitat with four other adolescent big cats to one of his own. There, Snowball's true personality exploded.

Like all wild tigers, Snowball continually wants to mark his territory, and he's extremely strong. While his behavior may seem destructive and challenging to some, our team finds it awe-inspiring. Weighing over 400lbs, Snowball's jaw is massive, with over a thousand pounds of bite force per square inch. The muscles he engages and uses on his toys are made for crushing necks and chewing through bone, so obviously, plastic is easy prey for him. To watch him in his habitat is amazing, because we're seeing every part of his natural, wild instincts involved in his "hunt." He stalks - ears flat, whiskers forward, low body. He pounces - launching forward, gripping and snapping his jaws, sinking his teeth into his toys. He strikes a "killing" blow - holding his jaws set and trying to use his teeth to feel a heartbeat, thrashing as if to break the neck, drowning his "prey" underwater in his pool, and finally letting it go just to chase it all over again! Thankfully Snowball is able to exercise his natural instincts with inanimate enrichment toys. Per GFAS regulations, we never enter his space or have physical interaction with him. If a pet owner or circus performer was within reach, the consequences of him being his true tiger self could prove tragic for both human and Snowball.

At the Refuge, we can allow this apex predator to use his full force and strength daily, in a safe environment. Our only struggles are that because he is so young and healthy and powerful, often, we are limited to what enrichment we can give him, which is required to be both safe and durable. We'd love to order a custom-made toy for Snowball with extra thick plastic walls and an eyelet hook to tether in his habitat- but it will cost \$500! Your donations allow us to provide Snowball and the other animals plenty of enrichment. Snowball is on our extra enrichment schedule, placing scents, boxes, logs, seasonal items and/or hide and seek meat treats in his habitat every single day so our beloved "wrecking ball" can enjoy life as the true tiger he was meant to be.

A Habitat Is A Home



In October of 2018, Turpentine Creek introduced Xena and Koda G., two 3-year-old black bears, into an all-natural two-acre habitat. We hoped that giving them such a large habitat, filled with native trees and plants, would enable them to become true bears. After living in this habitat for over a year, we have seen a major development in their behaviors and personalities!

Xena has become an inquisitive bear who loves to explore her new home in the woods. She has also grown very interested in what staff and interns are doing when they are moving around the perimeter of the habitat, and will follow them as they walk around. The girls still have a normal nighthouse and dens, but Xena is more likely to be sleeping out in the habitat than in her den, especially during the warmer summer months. Koda G., on the other hand, is a bit more cautious, although we have observed her coming out of her shell from afar. She has started climbing trees, and is very good at it! She is also a vocal bear, especially when waiting for her food!

Both of these girls are extremely active in the summer and can usually be found out exploring their habitat. With so much space, they are able to run around at full speed for longer distances. This is something that was difficult to do in their old smaller habitat. They are also able to forage for their food during the warm months of the year when they are most active. This is because our animal care team spreads out their fruit and vegetables around their enclosure so that when they are given access, they are able

to find their food just like they would in the wild. They are also able to forage for some of the natural foods that grow in their woods. Walnuts, acorns, and persimmons are just a few of the delicacies that can be found growing in the habitat by these bears throughout the year to snack on. Most importantly, in the summer, Xena and Koda G. love to swim, just like wild bears! They have a giant inground pool that they are able to both fit into and can often be found splashing and wrestling with each other to cool off in the summer heat!

And as they are becoming older, the girls are also growing a little more independent of each other. But that is completely fine, considering they have so much space to spread out. Don't worry, however, Xena and Koda G. are still best friends and enjoy snuggling with each other in their den during the winter.

All of these amazing behaviors and growths in their personalities are possible because of this natural habitat that they get to call home. This habitat would not be possible without supporters like you! On behalf of Xena and Koda G., thank you for your continued support that allows us to provide the best lives possible for all of our animal residents!



Mark Your Calendar!

MAR

23, 25, 27

Spring Educational Fun Days

9AM-1PM • KIDS 6-12 • \$30

Signup at TCWR.org/kidscamp

MAR

28

Kite Festival

10AM-4PM • FREE

(479) 253-5841 ext. 4



APR

02

NWA Gives

12 hrs to support your favorite NWA Nonprofit.

APR

11

Volunteer Days

Learn more at TCWR.org/volunteer

APR

18

Cats at the Castle

6-9PM • Limited tickets \$100 each

TCWR.org/cats-at-the-castle



Pricing Update: We would like to also let our supporters know that as of March 1st, admission prices have gone up by \$5 for each ticket. Pricing are now \$25 for adults (ages 20+), \$20 for teenagers (ages 13-19), \$15 for kids (ages 4-12), Seniors (ages 65+), and military; children under 3 are still free. Due to this change our annual Pride Membership for \$100 will now be valid for the cardholder and 3 guests for memberships purchased after March 1, 2020.

This raise in entry fees reflects the higher costs of caring for the animals that call our Refuge home, as well as costs to run and maintain our facility. To make sure 100% of all donations go towards the animals, we use admission, lodging, and other non-donation sources of revenue to pay non-animal related expenses. Tickets purchased through our online ticketing system before March 1st at current prices will be honored beyond the March 1st pricing change.



Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
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Learn more about our
newest rescue on page 8.

[#PredatorsNotProps](#)



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