

Big Cat Chronicles

Winter 2021

Please make Turpentine Creek
the recipient of your end-of-year giving.



POUNCE NOW!

Give Today!

Featured Animal

Roman

Male Tiger
(*Panthera tigris*)

Born 3/28/14

Rescued 10/6/16

Read more about Roman on page 6.



Letter from the President

Founder Tanya Smith



As temperatures drop and we prepare for another challenging winter at the Refuge, I want to thank each of you for making it possible for us to continue changing lives! Despite the challenges posed by COVID, we rescued 17 animals this year, including 2 privately owned servals and our first-ever Hyena; the 13 big cats from the Department of Justice (D.O.J.) seizure in Oklahoma this July, and the now-famous cougar from the Bronx, NY, Sasha. We'll update you on Sasha's adjustment to her new-found freedom in this issue, along with African servals CeCe and JJ's progress. We'll also tell you how your support allows our animal residents to live longer and healthier lives!



As temperatures drop, Snowball and all the animals at TCWR need help to stay warm, from extra calories and bedding to heated dens, each animal deserves a safe and comfortable winter.

Your unwavering faith in our team, along with your response to our call for recurring donations, gives us a strong foundation to make long-range plans for TCWR's future. Of course, we must also address the current need to ensure our new animals will be comfortable once temperatures plummet. In this issue, you'll learn about innovative ways we're dealing with this challenge and why Rescue Ridge will be home to Rambo this winter. Plan your specialty tours for a behind the scenes visit with our friends at Rescue Ridge, and tour our state-of-the-art Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital.

We'll also look at how our Education Team has made progress spreading our outreach in 2021, despite smaller classrooms and fewer field trips due to the pandemic. Meanwhile, we've begun a new interview series which gives you an Intern's or Alumni's perspective on how their experiences and education here resonate with them, and play a part in their careers nationwide.

One way to help our mission is becoming a member. This holiday season we have a special surprise gift for all new Tier Members, to commemorate our upcoming 30th Anniversary year if you join before December 31st. Meanwhile, we are busy making plans for the future of TCWR, which we'll unveil to you in 2022. I can't wait for each of you to play a part in these important steps to improve habitat space and increase our educational outreach.

Many of you may be surprised to see a white tiger on our cover, but we felt that this year's Giving Tuesday theme of "Give Justice" was the perfect time to remind people of their true history. Your support allows TCWR to play a vital part in granting justice for big cats; we are now one of the first accredited sanctuaries that the D.O.J. turns to when taking down the animal abusers. We'll update you on another aspect of giving justice with the unprecedented progress of the Big Cat Public Safety Act, and why it is so important as we approach the end of 2021 to 'POUNCE' into action for big cats NOW!

Until next time,

Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder

#PounceNow - a monthly \$5 gift can save the lives of animals in need!

Keeping “Africa” in the Ozarks All Winter

Spotted hyenas are native to sub-Saharan Africa. Unlike our climate in the Northern Hemisphere, sub-Saharan Africa stays warm all year, with daytime temperatures rarely dropping below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. For this reason, our spotted hyena Rambo, and all our lions and servals, have special needs to survive our harsher winters in Northwest Arkansas. They all enjoy an occasional romp and pounce in the snow but need to warm up when they get chilled. Providing a warm space is vital for our African animals.

Our solution is to heat their den with a heat lamp which means the shelter must have access to electricity. Only a handful of our dens have electricity, and those are the dens we use to house our lions and servals. When Rambo arrived in February of this year, we still had another month or more of winter weather ahead of us, so he needed to settle into a heated den. Fortunately, one was available in the part of the Refuge known as Rescue Ridge.

We plan to begin installing solar panels for those dens that don't have electricity now to give us more housing for animals that need that extra winter support. That will also allow us greater flexibility in the placement of different animals. You can visit Rambo today by booking a Carnivore Caravan Tour and seeing our other Rescue Ridge residents, as well. Your visit allows us to keep Africa in the Ozarks even in the winter! Find more information and book tickets today at tcwr.org/visit.



Rambo comes from a very warm climate, sub-Saharan Africa, where day time temperatures rarely drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit.



Rambo enjoys time outside in any weather but needs access to a warm shelter in the winter.

New Tiger Tech: Try Out the QR Codes in This Issue!

We're trying something new to enhance your Big Cat Chronicles experience. You'll notice items like the one shown here scattered throughout this issue. These are called "QR codes." Here's how to use them to access extra content:

1. **Open your smartphone's camera.**
2. **Hover the camera over the code and make sure it focuses. Your phone should automatically scan the code.**
3. **Your phone should give you an option that reads something like "Do you want to open [link]?" If so, click the option.**
4. **You should be redirected to the link.**



SCAN ME

Some phones may require you to download an app. Just search "QR Code reader" in your app store. If your camera does not open the code, you may have to press the button to actually snap the picture. To keep your experience safe, we will not redirect you to any website other than our own, or one of our social media pages.

Your turn! For step five, please be an advocate and share this link with your friends!

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack



There are still many unknowns about COVID-19. One thing we do know, is that big cats are susceptible and have contracted the virus all over the world. Most infections thus far have been in tigers and lions. A couple tigers have died, or were euthanized due to their deteriorating condition. A few weeks ago, a two-year-old snow leopard passed away from the virus at a U.S. zoo. There have been over 50 confirmed cases in big cats.

Meanwhile, how many have gone unreported, especially at roadside zoos and pseudo sanctuaries? At a reputable facility with proper veterinary care, the cats have to be immobilized to get a nasal or oral swab. Sedating an animal already showing signs of respiratory illness can be complicated. Other clinical symptoms include coughing, nasal discharge, lethargy, gastrointestinal symptoms and decreased appetite. Appetite decrease is extremely difficult to manage in big cats because raw meat is what they eat, period.

If a big cat won't eat, it makes it more difficult to try to administer supportive care. Some facilities have been able to give their cats NSAIDs, antibiotics and steroid injections, while others who observed more severe symptoms had to immobilize the cat to be able to administer subcutaneous fluids. Most facilities reported clinical symptoms lasting 1-18 days, with an average of eight days. The cats can shed the virus via fecal matter for up to three weeks. At most of the facilities reporting cases, the virus spread amongst their entire big cat population.



Big cats are susceptible to COVID-19 and have contracted the virus all over the world. Thank you for considering the safety of our animal residents by continuing to properly wear your masks when you visit.



There are too many unknowns for us to take risks, so we continue to follow our protocols to protect the animals in our care at TCWR, most of whom have underlying health issues from their past lives.

The source of the infection in some cases was confirmed or presumed from the cats' keeper. In most cases, the keepers were all wearing personal protective equipment and were fully vaccinated, so the source is unknown. There is a high probability that viral transmission can occur between felids sharing space, but this is again, unknown.

There is a vaccine available for animals. Some accredited facilities have been vaccinating, with little, if any, reactions reported. One U.S. zoo reported the first case of a tiger contracting COVID after receiving only the first dose of the vaccine. All the cats were scheduled to receive their second dose in just a few short days, but all ended up infected. So now the question is, will the vaccine work against a virus variant?

Thankfully, our team and amazing veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, have been closely following any relevant findings and new cases reported. Dr. Kellyn recently attended the American Association of Zoological Veterinarians Annual Conference, where multiple talks were about COVID-19. There are too many unknowns for us to take risks, so we continue to follow our protocols to protect the animals in our care at TCWR, most of whom have underlying health issues from their past lives. Thank you for considering the safety of our animal residents by continuing to properly wear your masks in our Discovery Area, newly-opened bear tunnel and gift shop when you visit.

Of course once you board our open-air tram, masks are optional! Please stay safe and healthy, we appreciate your support.

You know Tsavo...Here is an Update

TCWR strives for the best quality of life possible for all our animal residents. Our animal care team observes each animal daily, and reports any physical or behavioral changes to our veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley. With years of carnivore experience, Dr. Kellyn is often able to avoid emergencies with preventative treatment. This is possible because of your support.

Take 16-and-a-half-year-old lion Tsavo's case. Tsavo had a growth on the underside of his tongue diagnosed as an inflammatory polyp back in 2014. The polyp was removed a couple of times but always grew back, despite anti-inflammatory medication. This September, we noticed the lesion had darkened and spread, with a cauliflower-like appearance. There was also a new, smaller dark red growth on the top-tip of his tongue. Dr. Kellyn thought both growths appeared very similar to B.B. King's lingual hemangiosarcoma and decided to operate.

Going into surgery, she feared that the two growths could be one large cancerous mass that had spread from the bottom to the top of the tongue, as this type of cancer likes to grow inward and invade tissues. However, luck was on Tsavo's side!

Upon exam, the pathologist noted that Tsavo's hemangiosarcoma was highly unusual. Not just because it rarely appears on the tongue, but in this case the cancer only sat on the superficial layers. The two growths were connected by a small band of inflammatory cells, with the cancer on top of the inflammatory polyp. The surgery was successful at removing all of the cancerous parts!

Since Dr. Kellyn couldn't remove all the inflammation, she will continue to treat this condition. As a precaution, he is also on an oral anti-tumor medication. Tsavo has healed well and is again eating on his own in his new home at Rescue Ridge, where we thought he'd appreciate the flat ground!

Of course, we'll continue closely monitoring BB King and Tsavo. What is interesting, is that both boys have similar histories of holding the tips of their tongues out of their mouths. For B.B., the pathologist confirmed it was likely that solar damage caused his cancer growth. This could have been the case for Tsavo, or it may have been the chronic inflammatory polyp, as cells exposed to chronic inflammation frequently turn cancerous. By the time carnivores show symptoms it's often too late. Thanks to you, we have a team with the ability to closely monitor our animal residents each day, the experience to know when it's time for action, and the onsite facilities to make it happen. Pounce Now to give these animals the happiest and longest lives possible! TCWR.org/donate



Like B.B. King, Tsavo also has a history of loving to hold his tongue out. This may have been a contributing factor in the growth of his cancer; luckily early intervention was successful.



Tsavo has healed well and is again eating on his own in his new home at Rescue Ridge, where we thought he'd appreciate the flat ground!

Donate to create a better future for the animals that call TCWR home.

#GiveJustice on Giving Tuesday

Justice is associated with equity and respect. These are luxuries many big cats never receive. However, 2021 is moving in the right direction: between infamous animal abusers being held accountable for their crimes and major progress with the Big Cat Public Safety Act, people like you are giving a voice to voiceless animals - and it's working!

November 30, 2021, we are inviting you to come together with other advocates and impassioned supporters pushing for a better big-cat-future. When we ask you to donate towards our \$55,000 goal this Giving Tuesday, we are asking you to #GiveJustice to animals like Chief, who is now treated with respect and dignity here at the Refuge. Your donations will continue to provide Chief and his friends with a safe place to call home, away from abuse and neglect. You will be giving resources to animals still trapped in the Big Cat Trade, who are awaiting their justice to be served for a second chance at life.



By donating towards our \$55,000 Giving Tuesday goal November 30, 2021, you can #GiveJustice to animals who are suffering as Chief once did. You can provide a space for them to seek Refuge and resources to continue fighting the Trade.

Even if it's not possible to donate, there are other ways to #GiveJustice. Telling others about the Big Cat Public Safety Act (tcwr.org/advocacy), sharing our Giving Tuesday social media posts, or simply telling a friend about our mission makes a difference. It takes many individuals with many different roles to create the momentum you have, and we are incredibly thankful for the part you play!

In addition to extra big cat content on Giving Tuesday, we will be giving away prizes at random on Facebook as we hit various fundraising milestones. These give-aways are open to everyone, from donors to advocates to social media fans. Though these gifts seem insignificant compared to the work you're doing, we hope you enjoy the celebration of a year full of justice.

#PounceNow to learn more about this year's Giving Tuesday virtual get-together at tcwr.org/gt.



This paw painting: November 30th's Giving Tuesday event will include random prize give-aways on social media as we hit different giving milestones. You do not have to donate to enter. Visit tcwr.org/gt to learn more.

In 2021, major players in the Big Cat Trade are being held accountable for their crimes and the Big Cat Public Safety Act is progressing. Your actions are working!

Featured Animal: Roman

Male Tiger
(Panthera tigris)
Born 3/28/14
Rescued 10/6/16



Roman is a stand-out at the Refuge. In addition to his large stature, this boy has some pretty distinct features! Like all white tigers, Roman has a crossed optic nerve. His is especially noticeable and considered severe. Additionally, he's prone to chronic dental infections.

Roman was rescued from a breeding/cub-petting facility in Colorado. From the beginning, he was viewed as nothing more than a money-making tool. This encouraged the irresponsible breeding that caused his deformations and predisposition to disease. The mark on Roman's nose is a common result of being caged in a small pet carrier between petting sessions, scraped raw from his attempts to free himself.

Despite his afflictions, this handsome fellow has an amazing life thanks to supporters like you, who ensure he has delicious food, fresh water, and space to clumsily roam. If you'd like to take an extra step in honor of Roman, **#PounceNow** to advocate for the Big Cat Public Safety Act at tcwr.org/advocacy.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to watch Roman's video! If you need help, go to page 3 for instructions.

Spread the word, talk to your friends about the dangers of cub petting today!



Winter Magic



In winter, visitation is down and the animals are on the go making this a premier time for your visit.

Aurora

Winter in the Ozark Mountains is magical. The trees reveal their beautiful structures, and it's possible to see the undulating landscape through the barren branches. Mist fills the valleys as the sun kisses the peaks in the early morning, creating fantastic landscapes from the tops of the mountains. The air is exceptionally crisp and clear. Perhaps that's because it's our off-season, and there are fewer visitors, less traffic. Or it may be the trade-off from summer humidity. Either way, it's a great time to plan your visit.

At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, the big cats will be restless and playful, stalking enrichment and guests. They could use your help this season. On average, our utility bills go up by ten percent in the winter while our admissions drop. Your visit helps keep the heat on, and the best part is you'll quite likely have few contenders for that sunny bench to sit and watch your favorite animal while you soak up the warm rays of the winter sun. An overnight stay is the best experience, so book your stay today!

Fa-La-La-Lodging Winter Get-Away

It's not always easy to snag your favorite room at our little piece of "Africa in the Ozarks." We book up quickly most seasons except for winter! This is the ideal time to take advantage of lodging vacancies, less crowds, and hyper cats enjoying the winter chill as opposed to hiding from the summer heat.

The holiday season is wonderful, but it can be a little stressful. Book some downtime for yourself in our Zulu Lodges for two or bring the whole family to our Bengal or Siberian Suite for an unforgettable celebration! Can't get away right now? Grab a gift certificate or special add-on package for that special someone.

In addition to reaping the benefits of winter at the Refuge, your visit supports our animal residents! By now, you're likely aware of how much winter affects Refuge operations due to lower admissions, higher electricity costs, and more medical care needed for our vulnerable animal residents. Your stay can offset these costs, leading to happy paw-lidays for everyone!



Book today at TCWR.org

#PounceNow to Make a Difference

If you're reading this, we know you care. You were somehow inspired to sign up for these quarterly newsletters. You've read stories of happy cats, shredding enrichment and frolicking in grassy fields. Because you care, you've also heard the horror stories: animals in tiny cages, abandoned, starving, abused. It's easy to get discouraged.

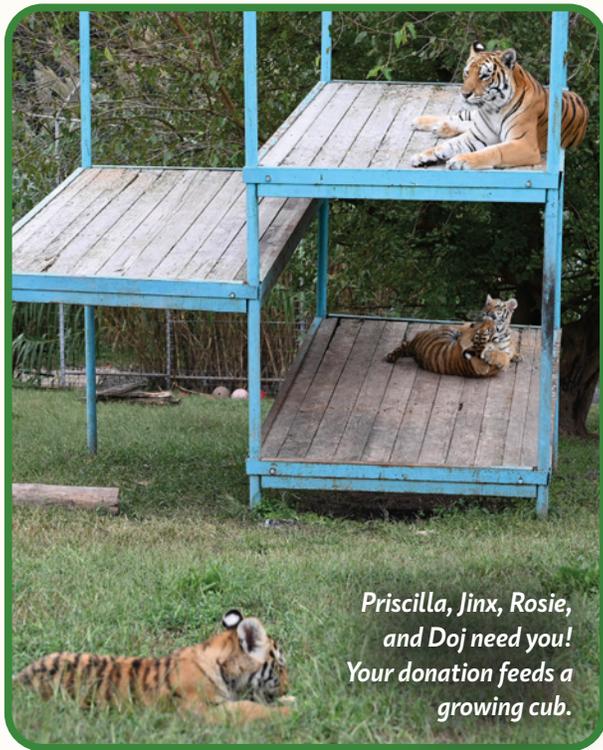
However, we've watched miraculous things unfold in 2021. Several well-known animal abusers have been held accountable for their crimes, the Big Cat Public Safety Act is positioned better than ever to pass, and seventeen animals were saved and given lifetime peace at Turpentine Creek.

In 2020, we told you "Your Focus: Their Future," because we believed your focused efforts that year could significantly impact the future of big cats in need. Despite the curveballs 2020 threw, you did it!

You were responsible for the miracles in 2021.



Winter is our slowest time for visitors yet most expensive time of year. Your donation can soothe the aching joints of animals like Ce'Ce', who require more pain medication because of the chill.



Priscilla, Jinx, Rosie, and Doj need you! Your donation feeds a growing cub.

As the year comes to an end, animals like Priscilla, Rosie, Jinx, and Doj still need you. Winter is our slowest time for visitors, yet it's our most expensive time of year. Electric and propane bills soar as we keep the animal residents warm; animals with chronic conditions (which are the majority) require more pain medication because of the chill. Additionally, the Big Cat Public Safety Act will likely be voted on in January.

You focused on their future, and we need you to **#PounceNow** to continue that momentum. Your donation feeds a growing cub and soothes the aching joints of animals like Ce'Ce, that were declawed which granted a lifetime of complications. Your support gives a warm den to Rambo and provides an opportunity to extend a hand to a paw in need, even at a more vulnerable time of year.

#PounceNow at tcwr.org/donate and watch the impact continue.

You accomplished so much in 2020 and 2021. #PounceNow to keep the momentum going through the end of the year!



Donate today to be a positive change for big cats!

Become a Member Today And Get a Limited Edition Tee



As a Tier Member, you can help the animals at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and also share our mission through your unlimited visits year-round with friends and family.

Join a Tier before December 31st, 2021 to receive a FREE collector's shirt in celebration of Turpentine Creek's 30th Anniversary! These beautiful shirts will help draw attention to our mission and help you become a voice for big cats and bears everywhere! Shirts will be ordered during the first week of January, and will arrive separately from your Tier package.

Already a Tier Member? When you renew in 2022, you will receive one of these special shirts as our thanks for your continued support! We'll place an order on July 1st for renewals by June 30th, and on January 1st for renewals by December 31st. These high-quality tees boast gorgeous digital paintings of your tier spirit person or animal. Help us commemorate 30 Years of Rescue, Public Education and Advocacy at Turpentine Creek with this special thanks for your belief in our mission and our team. Without **YOU**, we couldn't keep helping *them*.

Your Special Opportunity to Spread Awareness!



*Kenny
Fellowship*



*LIVING ON IN OUR HEARTS
FOREVER*



*The Hilda Jackson
Society*



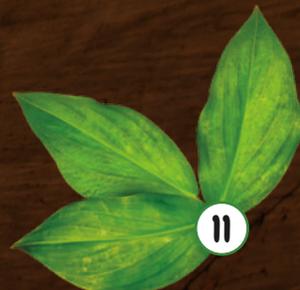
*I Share Hilda's
Heart for Animals*

POUNCE NOW!

See next page or scan the QR code below to see additional signup gifts and full benefits, including valuable discounts on gift shop inventory and lodging!



BECOME A MEMBER



Wild About Wildlife

Membership Tier Program

Help the animals that call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge home and make it easy to visit them often with friends and family by signing up for one of our membership options, which include valuable discounts on gift shop inventory and lodging!

The Hilda Jackson Society \$10,000+ *

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Hilda Jackson Society decal
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive HJS Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 50% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- Senior Staff Liaison

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 8x10 photo of favorite animal
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- The Hilda Jackson Society Travel Mug

Bam Bam Benefactors \$1,250 - \$2,999

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Bam Bam Benefactor's Fellowship Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Bam Bam Benefactor's decal
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive BBB Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 20% off of lodging
- 20% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 5x7 photograph of Bam Bam
- Bam Bam Travel Mug

The Kenny Fellowship \$3,000 - \$9,999*

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Kenny Fellowship decal
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive KF Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 30% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report
- A Senior Staff Liaison

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 8x10 photograph of Kenny
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Kenny Travel Mug

Friends of India \$300- \$1,249

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Friends of India Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Friends of India decal
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive FOI Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 10% off of lodging
- 10% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 5x7 photograph of India

Additional gift: Join before December 31st, 2021 to receive a collector's T-shirt in celebration of Turpentine Creek's 30th Anniversary! See previous page for details...

*To be part of a membership tier you must sign up for that Tier, donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level and are encouraged to pledge to make a similar donation the following year.

**Limitations on lodging dates may apply.

Yes, I will help the animals! Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

Donations: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

I would like to make my loving donation recurring: Repeat monthly. 

Order 2022 Calendars: \$20 each X _____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$ _____

Sponsor A Pool: \$5000 each. X _____ pools = \$ _____

Buy a Big Cat a Toy! Ball in a Ball: \$50 each, X _____ ball in a balls.

Bobbin \$150 each, X _____ bobbins.

Heavy Duty Ball: \$80 each, X _____ HD balls + FREE Keychain +\$5 S/H = \$ _____

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!

\$45 The P.A.W. Club, Kid's Membership (Ages 6-13) Name of child: _____

See TCWR.org/kidsclub for more info. Email address: _____

\$100 Pride Membership You and 3 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

\$300+ Friends of India

\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors

\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship

\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society

Shirt Size (circle one) S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Shirt Size (circle one) S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Total:

\$ _____

Opt Out of Membership Signup Gifts

Opt Out of Membership Card

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

Printed Animal Adoption:

\$150/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

\$150/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

\$150/yr - Cougar/Leopard

\$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Animal Sponsor: One sponsor per animal. New Sponsors, please check to see if desired animal is available for sponsorship.

\$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

\$1,000/yr - Small Cat

\$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard

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

Sponsorship includes membership. Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.

Membership Opt Out

Monthly payments available for sponsorships, See website: TCWR.org

Adopted/Sponsored Animal's Name(s): _____

Total Contribution Today: \$ _____

Donor Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Recipient Name (if different): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVC Code: _____

Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail with included envelope. Thank You!

Welcome, Sasha!

Mountain Lion From the Bronx Moves to the Beautiful Ozarks!

Sasha was 11-months-old when she traded big city livin' for fresh mountain air. The young cougar had grown up in a Bronx apartment, with only the occasional outdoor walk on a leash. Watching her rain destruction on a once-immaculate enclosure in our Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital in mere seconds, we were reminded why her former life would have never been enough.

Sasha's previous owner had come to that conclusion by the time they reached out to TCWR President, Tanya Smith, for help. The small cub they had purchased from a breeder was growing, and fast. In just a few months, she was nothing but teeth, claws, and energy. Her indoor home could have never provided her with the space and enrichment she needed. An accidental escape in the bustling neighborhood could have proven fatal for the cougar- and possibly someone else.

Thanks to our supporters, we were equipped to respond quickly. In a week-and-a-half's time, we had TCWR Veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn, on a flight to New York. She had the pleasure of reuniting with former Animal Care team member, Meghan Tie-mann, who had moved to the state and offered to assist. We were lucky to have the cooperation of Sasha's previous owner, and the assistance of the Humane Society of the United States, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York Police Department, and the Bronx zoo.

Sasha quarantined in our onsite hospital, where she received proper vaccinations and an overall health examination. She was in good health, aside from muscle atrophy in her back legs. The only way to resolve this was to get her outside to build up her strength. We took this process slow because she had only experienced the outdoors in small spurts. Our Animal Care team played bird noises and other outdoor sounds inside the vet hospital to get her used to her future environment. From there, she went to a quarantine habitat at Rescue Ridge and was later set free in an enclosure near cougar sisters, Louisa and Marissa. At the time of this article, they are getting used to each other through the fence, and we are hoping to introduce them.

"Sasha is one of the lucky ones," Tanya Smith, TCWR Co-Founder and President, emphasized. "Even still, her owners are left to face the sad realization that they were tricked into thinking Sasha could be tamed. As for Sasha, she will have a long, happy life at the Refuge, though it's sad for her that she missed out on this type of freedom the first 11 months of her life."

Sasha's story made international headlines when she was rescued back in August. Many were shocked that a wild animal was being kept in a busy community, but we know all too well how much it happens. In honor of Sasha, please consider changing this by supporting the Big Cat Public Safety Act at tcwr.org/advocacy.

Sasha also needs support for the long years she will enjoy at TCWR; please consider helping her at tcwr.org/donate.

Sasha



After spending her life in a Bronx apartment, Sasha is now free in the outdoors, building up her atrophied back legs.



Sasha's first step to freedom was quarantine in our Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital. She quickly reminded everyone why wild animals don't belong indoors by shredding everything in her enclosure.



Sasha's first steps to freedom.



At the time of this article, Sasha is in the process of being introduced to other cougar residents, Louisa and Marissa. We are going slow and allowing them to interact through the fence.



Sasha's collar is no longer needed now that she is living life as a "real cougar." Sadly, there are others like her stuck in tiny apartments across the nation.



Please support the many, happy years this young cougar will have at tcwr.org/donate

There's a New Trio in Town



Rosie



Jinx



Doj



We can't provide more details at this moment. These little agents are in witness protection, and we can't blow their covers! Please stay tuned for updates.



The cubs and their mom can be viewed on our regular tour, which leaves every hour on the hour starting at 9 AM and ending at 3 PM. Learn more at tcwr.org/visit.

Priscilla



Priscilla was pregnant when we rescued her in May.



Doj (pronounced "Dodge"), Jinx, and Rosie were born at TCWR to Priscilla.



Though we can't say much, Doj, Rosie, Jinx, and Priscilla have been in our care for several months now. #PounceNow to make a donation to support the growing cubs and their mom: tcwr.org/donate.

Big Cat Gifts

Gift purchases help us care for the animals!

Your holiday gifts can help us care for the animals who call the Refuge home! Shop these items and more by scanning the QR code or visiting Shop.TurpentineCreek.org

Ordering early is the best way to ensure your items arrive by Christmas. We typically suggest placing your order by no later than December 10. However, please be aware of general shipping delays that may occur once we send your package out for delivery.



Postcards Set #4



Digital Download Adoption



2022 Photo Calendar



Bam Bam Playing Cards



Wooden Laser-Cut Tiger in Arkansas Ornament



Pouncing Tiger Magnet



Roman the Tiger Ceramic Mug

Buy a Toy for a Big Cat!

If a toy is purchased for a big cat we will send you a commemorative souvenir keychain or magnet that is made from a previously destroyed toy. *Perfect gift for the "hard to buy for" loved one in your life!*

Please order on page 13!



10" 3-hole Ball in Ball
\$50



10" Heavy Duty Ball
\$80



Large Heavy Duty Bobbin
(18" tall, 15" diameter)
\$150



Enrichment Keychain
Your extra gift! Commemorative souvenir keychain included with every big cat toy purchase!

Preserve the Memory of Your Loved One and Enrich Lives!

Michael bear was recently gifted a new inground pool, thanks to our dear friends Anabelle B. and Ron S., who fully sponsored this top-tier enrichment. As you know, most of the animals at TCWR have health complications due to their former lives, like arthritis due to past declawing and other skeletal issues from malnutrition. The easy access these in-ground pools provide is life-changing for our animal residents.

We will complete one more pool before pausing for winter. Our plan is to eventually build this special form of enrichment in every habitat, with your help. Let's keep the momentum going and allow all our animals to live as close to wild as possible!



Michael bear was recently gifted a new inground pool, thanks to our dear friends Anabelle B. and Ron S., and his appreciation is evident!



Many TCWR animals, like Michael, have health complications like arthritis due to past declawing. The easy access these in-ground pools provide is life-changing for them.

Several of our pool sponsors have chosen to memorialize a loved one on their plaque. If you would like to sponsor an entire pool, or contribute to a group sponsorship, please email sandy@tcwr.org or call 479-253-5841 ext. 711. You can also make a donation at tcwr.org/donate online, just write the word "pool" in the notes -- no amount is "too small."

Remember: together, we can keep changing lives!

Your TCWR Education Team Update

At Turpentine Creek, we understand that education is key to building the next generation of wildlife advocates. Despite COVID-19 challenges, our team has continued to spread the TCWR mission. We've added two education interns to our staff of three to cover more ground.

As of October, our Wildlife Interpreters have conducted educational tours and provided roving interpretation in the Discovery Area for over 39,660 visitors. In spite of classes being limited in size for social distancing, our team has spoken to classrooms and shared our educational opportunities with teachers throughout Northwest Arkansas.

During the spring semester our Educators gave virtual tours to students in classrooms from Canada, TX, PA, AR, MO, MN, FL, OK, WI, NY, and MI. This summer we limited the size of our day camps to observe social distancing in our aged boardroom. The sessions filled quickly, with six boys and girls in the 6-8-year-old session and twelve in the 9-12-year-old camps. While the pandemic has impacted the number of school groups and field trips onsite, our virtual tours continue to be popular with schools. Our only setback is a lack of space and equipment to handle more than one virtual presentation at a time, but we have exciting plans for TCWR Education in 2022! Your support makes it possible for our team to create new champions for wildlife! **#PounceNow** to learn more about our educational programs at <https://education.turpentinecreek.org/>



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Snow Tigers - Real or Phantom?

Glacier



Glacier making the most of his snowy day.

Where does the White Tiger, sometimes referred to as a “Snow Tiger,” “Arctic Tiger,” or even “Royal White Tiger” ... come from? The White Tiger is not actually a breed. Its coloration is simply a genetic variation, much like red hair in humans. White tigers are born without the pigment pheomelanin. This chemical is responsible for the orange color of a tiger. Humans also possess pheomelanin in their hair and in their skin; not only does it result in gorgeous red hair, but it’s similarly responsible for the rosy-pink or ruby-red of our lips. When a tiger is born without this pigment, it lacks orange coloration, but usually still possesses dark stripes. That’s because the stripes are the result of a different pigment called eumelanin.

So how did this variation come about? Not by nature, or at least very rarely so, but by the greed of man. The truth is, it’s nearly impossible for a white tiger to survive in the wild. The very purpose of a tiger’s coloration is for camouflage to assist in predation. Since a tiger’s indigenous habitat is primarily tropical rainforest (with the exception of Siberia) we can logically see that a lack of color would do nothing to benefit the animal. With no camouflage, no way to hide or hunt... survival becomes impossible.

As humans we tend to romanticize the White Tiger, envisioning them frolicking about in a magical winter wonderland. Zoos and fake sanctuaries seize the opportunity to capitalize on the myth, frequently promoting them as magical snow-loving creatures, making them the ideal holiday mascot. Although that isn’t to say our animals don’t enjoy a good romp in the snow now and then, the concept of “Snow” Tigers is primarily a man-made romanticized one of how we like to perceive these animals. Perhaps the best corroborating evidence lies in the testimony of Thurston and Payson, two of our white tigers, who spent the entire duration of February 2021’s “Snowmageddon” snuggled-in in the warmth and comfort of their night-houses!

Alumni Spotlight: An Nguyen

An Nguyen is a 2009 alumni of the TCWR Internship program. Today, An holds the sought-after position of Team Lead at the Memphis Zoo, performing hands-on husbandry with a variety of cat species and African animals. An says TCWR is “a part” of him and even has a tattoo to symbolize this.

“TCWR molded me into the keeper/manager I am today”, explains An, who goes on to say, “The safety protocols at TCWR are among the best in the country, and they keep evolving. I have TCWR protocols in mind whenever I am trying to make my area safer for the staff.”

An admits that being an intern at Turpentine Creek is a lot of hard work, mainly because there is always something to do to make the facility better. He feels this constant, forward-thinking attitude showed him anything is possible, and has applied that approach to his present career. “Every day, I am thinking about how to make every animal’s life better, either by slowly introducing animals, utilizing vertical space, or thinking outside the box.”

His time at TCWR set him up to “climb the keeper ladder” at reputable organizations. He secured his current management role last June. An continues to network through TCWR’s Alumni Association, reaching out to past TCWR interns for their experience in certain animal practices to advance care at his current facility.

In closing, An felt he should mention that he met his wife during their internship at TCWR, and they have been together since that time! To learn how you may qualify for this internationally acclaimed internship program, POUNCE HERE: TCWR.org/internship-program/



“TCWR molded me into the keeper/manager I am today...” -An Nguyen



An (top row, 5th from left) still values the connections he made at TCWR, often calling former interns for advice on how to better his current facility. An met his wife, fellow intern Arielle Schepmoes, at TCWR.

Please Welcome Our Fall 2021 Interns!



Not All of Our Animals Have the Luxury of a Winter Coat

Just as we protect ourselves from harsh winter elements, many of our animal residents need to put on heavier coats this time of year as well. Perhaps our best example of extreme winter-coat-building would be that of our brown bears, Bam Bam the Grizzly, and Huggy, our Kamchatka / Russian Brown bear. These animals' ultra thick coats are beginning to develop now and will be retained until about early March of next year, depending upon weather conditions. Our black bears also develop winter coats, although not to the same extent as the brown bears, whose origin can overlap with that of polar bears - Brrrrrrrr!



Shakira II looking positively regal in the snow.



Aurora showing off her now-reddish stripes of her winter coat.



Detroit enjoying the snow.

Perhaps the most unusual coat development of all our animals, would be that of the white tigers. Not only will they grow a thick layer of underfur for the winter but their once-black stripes eventually change to brown or even reddish hues as they fill in.

Not all of our animals will be sporting winter coats however. Our African and rainforest animals don't develop thick winter coats and rely more on their heated dens to keep them comfy and cozy throughout the coming season. Animals in this category include the lions, the servals and savannah cat, our leopards Spyke and Selbit, Bagheera our jaguar, Flip our coatimundi, and Rambo our resident hyena.

If you are a fan of our animals and interested in helping to support them, consider making a donation to help fund heated habitats during our winter months of lowest temperatures, and lowest admission funding.

A Tale of Three Servals: Building a New Life Together

About a month ago we relocated African Servals JJ & Ce Ce from their space in the Discovery Area, to a larger habitat where another Serval, Hunter, has been residing by himself. JJ & Ce Ce had originally come to us last February when their owner realized that they needed more space and enrichment than she could possibly give them. Introductions between the three are still in progress and going as expected, in a sort of one step forward, two steps back manner. Introductions take time and require careful observation to ensure the best possible outcome. The three had spent time together in the outdoor habitat without issue, but a recent "quarrel" among them, prompted us to put them back on rotating habitat once again.



Your Donations Change Lives

Our animal residents count on you during the final three months of the year: this is when half of donations towards their care are made.

Robbie Before



Robbie After



In 2019, your end-of-year giving provided Robbie with exercise and a proper diet to get to a healthy weight. Without you, he would still be trapped in an Oklahoma road-side cub-petting facility.

Chief Before



Chief After



In 2020, your donations in the final quarter provided medication for Chief's painful back legs to get him through the winter. Because of you, he was able to continue running through his habitat and build up his strength.

Rambo Before



Rambo After



Rambo's world was turned upside down in 2021 after the unexpected passing of his previous owner. You provided him with a habitat and a team of expert caregivers who helped him grow his confidence and become comfortable in his new environment. Now, we need your help to keep him warm during the winter.

Don't give up on them now. Donate today at tcwr.org/donate.





Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
 239 Turpentine Creek Lane
 Eureka Springs, AR 72632

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Pounce Now!

#PounceNow to feed a growing cub!

Meet the cubs on page 16.



SCAN ME



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