

Big Cat Chronicles

= Fall 2019 =



Amber

Species: Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Sex: Female

DOB: October 6, 2004

Arrival Date: October 6, 2016



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

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



Giving Our Servals A New Home! A Family's Generous Gift



Creating a proper habitat is a multi-step process. Even after we have completed all the painting, welding, and digging, we can't pat ourselves on the back and relax with a cold glass of lemonade until we have successfully introduced the new inhabitant(s) into their new home. It took time for our African Servals to get used to the unfamiliar enclosure, as well as to each other, but we are happy to say this project is officially complete: our serval residents and F-1 Savannah Cat are living in harmony together!

The Roop family generously funded the habitat and had the honor of releasing the first group of servals, Bowden, Whistler, and Giselle, on a rainy day in June. Bowden emerged first, and promptly crept to the end of the habitat to hiss at his new neighbor, Chloe the lioness! Eventually, Giselle and Whistler cautiously joined their friend.

A few days later, Sammy, Enzo, and Tigger were let into their new habitat and introduced to their roommates. Enzo met the new situation with the most trepidation, while Giselle took an immediate interest in Tigger (we are sure the feeling was not mutual). Sammy was wary but curious and weaved through the natural rock formations and enrichment items with perked ears and huge eyes.

Now that Enzo has grown braver and Giselle and Tigger have put aside their differences, we can finally enjoy that lemonade - wait; there are other habitats to maintain? We better get this drink to-go!

You can help us with the necessary (and never-ending) construction and maintenance of proper spaces by donating to our habitat fund:
TCWR.org/support-us/habitat/



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?



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 Sweeley. 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.

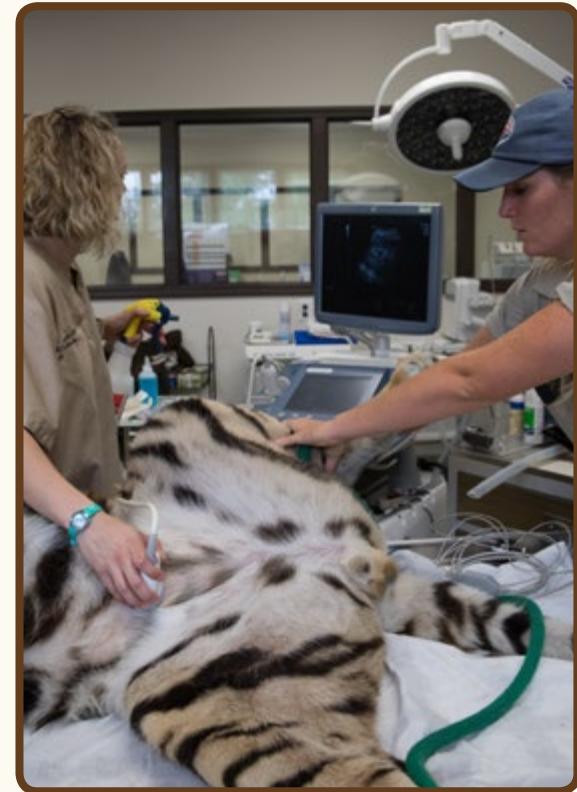
Because we know that Floyd has a significant limp with associated muscle atrophy, he has been a part of our pain management program since his arrival. Because his previous owner reported that he had clubfoot in both front limbs, we thoroughly examined all four limbs during his exam. Multiple X-rays revealed 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.



Dr. Kellyn found many health issues during his recent wellness exam. Many of his problems are due to inbreeding and malnutrition.



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.

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.



Turpentine Creek team members raced against time and navigated major flooding of the Arkansas river to rescue our two newest bobcat residents.



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



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.



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.



Prince

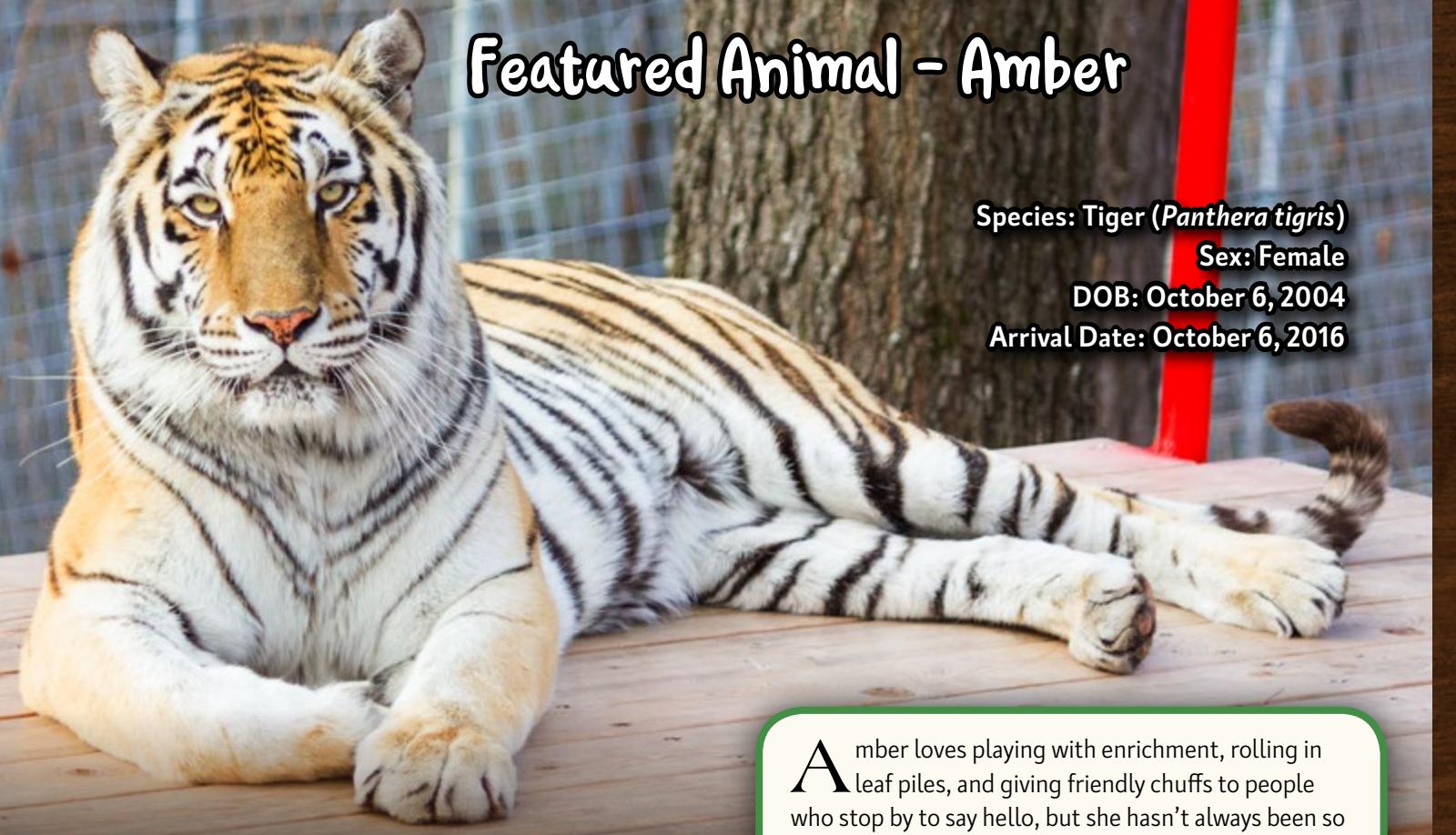


After a full wellness exam and neutering, the bobcat brothers now enjoy spending time together in their large grassy habitat.



Tony

Featured Animal - Amber



Species: Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Sex: Female

DOB: October 6, 2004

Arrival Date: October 6, 2016



Amber loves playing with enrichment, rolling in leaf piles, and giving friendly chuffs to people who stop by to say hello, but she hasn't always been so content. In 2016, Amber was one of 115 animals rescued from a Colorado road-side zoo after the owner was diagnosed with cancer and could no longer care for his animals.

In Colorado Amber was paired with a pure white tiger, Thurston, to produce cubs for the facility's cub-petting program. Amber spent her days nervously pacing around her small cage, rarely acknowledging visitors. After neutering Thurston, we initially left the pair together. However, as Amber became increasingly vocal about her instinctual desire to live the solitary life a wild tiger would have, we decided to separate them.

It took time for Amber to fully settle into her new home, but her personality has progressively flourished. She enjoys having her own space and timeshares her habitat with her old mate, Thurston. Her favorite type of enrichment is scent. She will track down new smells, then "capture" them by rubbing or rolling around. The animal care team likes to mix her scent enrichment with other types (boxes, leaves, toys) and place them around her habitat for her to find.

Fall seems to be Amber's favorite season, because it means there are plenty of leaf piles to enjoy. She also likes summer dips in the pool and "killing" winter snowmen. We are glad that we could give Amber a forever home here at the Refuge.

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 only 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.



Alex was confiscated by police during a drug raid in Little Rock, AR, where he was being used as a "guard cat" for the dealer's lair. The criminal network of the Exotic Pet Trade doesn't shy away from investing in other illicit activities as long as they generate a profit.



Athena and Abigail came from a facility called "Predator World." After their rescue, the owner plead guilty to 10 counts of felony sex crimes against minors, who were employed by him.

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, Breck 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 plied 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?

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

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



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

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

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

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.

Yes, I will help the animals!

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:



\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ Repeat monthly.

Visitor Education Center Well Fund: \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ Repeat monthly.

Pre-order 2020 Calendars: \$20 each X _____ calendars + \$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!

\$50 **The Cub Club, 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.**

\$300+ Friends of India

\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors

Total: \$_____

\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship

\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society

Opt Out of Membership Signup Gifts
 Opt Out of Membership Card

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

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/Monkey

\$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: _____

Federal Tax/EIN: 71-0721742

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

Thank You!

Veterinary Report - The Importance of Oral Health

Dr. Kellyn Sweeney

Oral health is an essential component of an animal's overall wellness. In many cases, animals will silently suffer through oral pain, inflammation, and infection without showing any obvious signs of discomfort. Compromised oral health does affect an animal's general wellbeing, quality of life, and behavior, though no obvious clinical signs of dental disease may be detected. Over time, poor dental health can lead to tooth or root abscesses, draining fistulas, and bone loss of the jaw. Compromised oral health can also lead to further systemic complications affecting the eyes, kidneys, heart, liver, and brain as bacteria from the oral cavity escapes into the bloodstream. This all stresses the importance of maintaining good oral health in our Turpentine Creek animal residents.

The components of a comprehensive oral health assessment and treatment (COHAT) plan include history and physical exam findings, a conscious oral evaluation, an unconscious oral evaluation, full dental radiographs (x-rays), scaling of the teeth, periodontal probing looking for any subgingival diseased areas, subgingival irrigation to remove any trapped debris, and polishing of each individual tooth, then performing any needed procedures such as periodontal therapy or dental extractions as indicated by dental x-ray and oral evaluation findings. Administration of pain medication and antibiotics are used on an individual case basis.

Here at Turpentine Creek, we are developing a COHAT schedule and regime for all of our animal residents that will be individualized for each animal patient based on their previous history, age, breed, sex, and specific personal needs. Part of the behavioral training program we are working to incorporate at Turpentine Creek is a command for the animals to open their mouths, allowing for conscious oral examinations. Other opportunistic evaluations are also attempted, such as when an animal is yawning or chewing.



Due to inbreeding, malnutrition, defanging, and other forms of abuse from their past lives, many of TCWR's animal residents are at risk for serious dental disorders and several are currently being treated for ongoing issues.



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

Your Security Always Comes First with Us!

At Turpentine Creek, we feel it is important to always be ready for any situation that may occur to ensure the safety of our visitors, staff and animal residents. Having a plan is important, as is regular training, which is why we have implemented and are regularly practicing an Emergency Response plan to protect our visitors and animals. Key senior administrative staff members lead the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and conduct regular training to ensure a prompt and effective response for any animal or human emergency.

While we do not allow members of the public to carry any firearms, certain ERT members are trained for proper firearm safety and emergency protocols. Firearm safety and proficiency meetings are held bi-monthly, and mandatory drills and practice sessions are carried out quarterly. Only ERT members can handle the gear or Response Kits, which include assessment materials, pharmaceuticals and firearms and accessories. These items are kept in locked storage, checked monthly by ERT staff and only removed for training, cleaning, checking and use in an emergency.

TCWR has an emergency code system that is utilized with our 2-way radio communication network. Each situation will be different, and we have assigned team members who are ready to react to protect the public, contact the authorities and (should it be an animal-based situation) contain the animal. TCWR differs from AZA facilities in that we are highly specialized in the types of situations we train for, including: medical emergencies (human or cat-related), serious confrontation between two or more animals, an animal found deceased or an animal escape from containment. Due to our strict safety protocols that require dual safety checks by multi-person teams whenever animals are shifted in and out of their night houses, escape is unlikely to happen; regardless, our ERT is prepared for over 100 potential variations of this situation.

We want your experience at the Refuge to be relaxed and enjoyable, knowing that our ERT staff is ready to handle any possible situation, no matter how unlikely. At TCWR, your safety is always our number one priority.

Turpentine Creek is one of many true sanctuaries working hard to put an end to the abuse of big cats in captivity. We encourage all our supporters to research any facility that you are planning to visit. Coming together as a community and not supporting the Exotic Pet Trade is the first step in solving this complex issue. It is crucial to avoid places that add to the problem and promote animal facilities that focus on animal welfare and public safety, such as AZA-accredited zoos and true sanctuaries such as Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

The problems with the Exotic Pet Trade cannot be resolved overnight, but as animal lovers we can work together to speak out against abuse and the use of big cats for entertainment through our personal choices. We can make an enormous difference with our actions and can help sway others to make the right choice to save abused and neglected big cats for future generations.



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 is 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 TAEASPA 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!



Traveling shows are not just "circuses." Thurston's time in a traveling magic show cost him his teeth and claws when his captor attempted to make him "safer" to work with. You can end this abuse at tcwr.org/advocacy.

Big Cats & Chrome MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 28, 2019 9am - 5pm at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

We're revving up the fun at this year's Big Cats & Chrome Music Festival!

This family-friendly music event features unique live entertainment for children in the morning, great bands in the afternoon, unique craft and service vendors and more! For more info and tickets: TCWR.org

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!

All 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 that 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!

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, ciders 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's most epic and glamorous event venue. It boasts marble flooring, 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.

** Turpentine 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 rehomed 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 had 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. She shrank into the corner of her night house area with ears folded, emitting vicious 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 find her folded against the farthest corner of the perimeter fence, brooding.

Then one lovely fall day, Animal Curator Emily McCormack was mowing 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



Jasmine

Jasmine came to us with a fear of large crowds. Because of this, we knew she would be most comfortable living in the quiet, peaceful environment of Rescue Ridge.

Living the Leopard Life at TCWR

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.

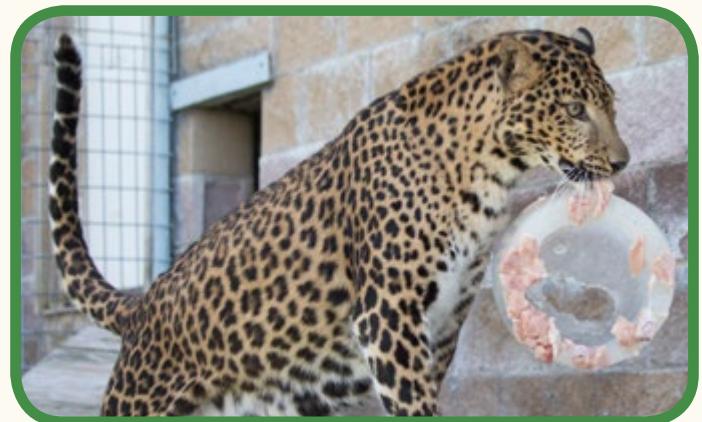
Leopards are also adequate swimmers with excellent vision and hearing. They exist throughout Asia and Africa in the deserts, grasslands, mountainous areas, rainforests, snowy regions, and even suburban and urban areas, causing human-wildlife conflicts. Because of being widely distributed, leopards have adopted a broad diet, which makes them a generalist and opportunistic carnivore. Depending on availability and competition, they prefer to eat medium-sized ungulates such as antelopes and impalas. However, they can also feed on insects, birds, reptiles, small mammals and large ungulates, giving them the most varied diet of the big cat species. When you visit and see Selbit hiding in the shade with his watchful eye, his predisposed behaviors are telling him to be on the lookout for opportunity.

While leopards in the wild will spend time in the treetops waiting for their next meal, they also hang out in the trees for another reason. A nice shaded branch is a perfect place to take a nap and cool off during the heat of the day with the advantage of being on an elevated surface. Should a whiff of a food source pass by while they doze, they are hidden in the tree and can then plan their stalking strategy. If you see Magic taking her nap on her tree log, she is cooling off but still giving herself the higher advantage.

When visiting TCWR and observing our leopards, remember their natural instincts remain active here at the Refuge as if they were in the wild. No matter how long these animals live in captivity, they still retain their wild instincts and do not make good pets. Please help us continue our fight against the Exotic Pet Trade by becoming animal advocates and remember **#PredatorsNotPets**.



Natural behaviors can even be seen in captivity. Magic intently watches her prey, waiting for them to turn away so she can pounce!



Selbit will hide within the shadows of his habitat, waiting for the opportunity to hunt down a meal. No matter how long these animals live in captivity, their instincts remain intact, meaning they make very poor pets!



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.

Pumpkin Spice Leaf Piles: TCWR's Animals Just Can't Get Enough of This Seasonal Enrichment!

TCWR animal care staff is always changing up the enrichment that we offer our animals. This stimulates natural behaviors and helps to avoid boredom in captivity. With falling leaves and ripening pumpkins, autumn offers wonderful natural materials to mentally and physically engage our animal residents: leaf piles to jump into and pumpkins to pounce on and "kill!"

One of our more recognizable tigers (you've probably seen him on our billboards and our main entrance sign), Thunder 2, came to us in 2008 from a privately owned zoo that had closed for financial reasons. With his big, expressive eyes and fluffy whiskers, this handsome 16-year-old tiger is known for going bonkers for leaf piles!

Whitney was among the 21 big cats that Turpentine Creek rescued from Safari Park when the breeding facility went out of business. Even though she turned 17 this August, she still loves to play with enrichment, and can't wait to get her paws on a pumpkin this time of year! In her excitement to "kill" this new "prey" left in her habitat, she appears to be dancing!

Just as the back-to-school-blues kick in, temperatures drop, ushering the best time to visit our animal residents. Come watch Thunder 2, Whitney and all our animal residents enjoy autumn's bounty!



Please Welcome Your Fall 2019 Interns!



Back Row

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|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Isaac Rivera Oregon State U. BS Zoology July 2012 | Nathan Meier U. of Maryland BS Animal Science Pre-Vet December 2018 | Andrew Poarch Arkansas Tech U. BS Fisheries & Wildlife May 2018 | Evalyn Machia U. of Maine BS Zoology May 2019 | Kaylee Crouse Cornell College BS Environmental Studies May 2019 | Jade Schleicher U. of Wisconsin BS Biology May 2017 | Carly Wallace Thompson California State Polytechnic U. BS Biology May 2019 | Alex Nelson U. of Mount Union Environmental Science May 2019 | Bethany Stewart Oklahoma State U. BS Zoology May 2019 |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|

Front Row

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|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Jason LaVarnway SUNY Oswego BS Zoology December 2016 | Jennifer LeBlanc Tarleton State U. BS Wildlife, Sustainability, & Ecosystems December 2017 | Naomi Murrell College of the Ozarks BS Biology & Ecology May 2019 | Mackenzie Diebold SUNY Oswego BS Zoology May 2019 | Mya Green Tuskegee U. BS Animal, Poultry & Veterinary Science May 2019 | Sonia Rafique Wayne State U. BS Biology May 2019 | Yarelis Nazario Santana U. of Puerto Rico BS Animal Science June 2019 |
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Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

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#PredatorsNotPets

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



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
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