



Winter 2017

BIG CAT CHRONICLES

A USDA Licensed Facility for "The Vanishing Breeds of Big Cats"

Using genetics
to put an
end to the
trafficking of
exotic animal
parts.
See page 6.

Rocklyn

Species: Tiger

Sex: Female

Born: June 10, 2016

Arrived at TCWR: Sept. 30, 2016

tigers@turpentinecreek.org ||| 479.253.5841 ||| www.turpentinecreek.org
youtube.com/TurpentineCreek ||| Find us on Facebook!

A Letter from the President

Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder

Winter has arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge! And cooler weather brings great change. With winter hours now 9 am to 5 pm, you can catch the walking tour from 10 am to 3 pm. We have also closed our Tree House, Glamping Tents, and RV sites for the winter, but no worries; we will still have our Safari Lodges and Suites available for an exciting winter vacation. So, come with your hot chocolate and experience the call of the wild from the comfort of a warm and cozy room!

While the cats will be much more fun to watch from your suite and on the guided tour this winter, the bears will be slightly less so. Unlike their wild counterparts, captive bears, do not go into full hibernation, as they are fed throughout the winter. However, they do become lethargic. Because of this, their meat and produce consumption will lessen.

With the bears reducing calories, the carnivores, like typical cats, are doing the exact opposite! In order to stay warm, big cats need to eat twice as much and will eat up to 15 pounds of raw meat a day. Therefore, donations of food, like those coming from Tyson Foods, Inc. help greatly.

Despite being capable of holding 100,000 pounds of meat on site, TCWR still needs to rent freezer space to hold the abundance of meat from Tyson, Inc. This additional freezer space can cost well over \$2,700.00 a month, not including the cost of vitamins and the food required for specialized diets, like that of Peyton, Blackfire, and Rocklyn who are fed the Nebraska Diet for their Metabolic Bone Disease. By becoming a Sustainer of Wildlife through monthly donations, you can help further support these efforts.

Humans also experience a bit of a diet change in winter - a diet change is known as the festive-food-coma of the holiday season! For this great time of cheer, consider giving a gift that makes an impact on creatures both great and small. With an abundance of TCWR gift certificates, adoption opportunities, new membership packages, and exciting lodging choices - your purchases go into the care of the animals at the Refuge, ensuring that their holidays are extra-special too. But remember - order early!

Another great way to give is by donating to one of our projects this winter. This holiday season the Refuge will continue to work tirelessly to fund and build the new bear habitats. We have raised \$99,000.00 of our \$150,000.00 goal - which means we are getting closer every day! Every donation of \$5,000.00 or more will receive name recognition. Do consider giving our bears the best holiday season ever, by donating to their new home in honor of someone you love. Another project to consider supporting is our new Visitor Education Center. As we prepare for the Spring capital campaign kick-off, we will be reaching out to all of our donors to help start us off on the right foot, with partnering naming rights for the building going to donations of a certain size.

Being an educational paradise for all who wish to learn about the care of endangered species, the perils of the Exotic Pet Trade, the sciences, and onwards - I continue to be excited about our plans, goals, and dreams to continue the Refuge as long as it is a necessity. Without TCWR, the animals we rescue would have few people to turn to for help. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you a safe and happy holiday season on behalf of all of us at the Refuge.

Until next time ...

**TCWR President Tanya Smith
and the entire team at
Turpentine Creek wish you a ...**



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Seasonal Enrichment

Tigers frolicking through the snow, lions barreling through piles of leaves, bears snuggling with pine trees, and leopards playing soccer with pumpkins. Enrichment at Turpentine Creek changes with the seasons. Fall and winter are perfect times to visit Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Our animals love the cooler weather and enjoy the changing enrichment schedule.

Just like humans, the changing seasons mean different activities for the animals to enjoy. Although our bears tend to slow down in preparation for winter, the feline portion of our animal population becomes more active. Tigers, cougars, leopards, bobcats, and lions enjoy the cooler weather. Our lions carol more in the brisk fall mornings, tigers enjoy laying in warm sunspots, and cougars and bobcats are more playful. This season is the best time to come to Turpentine Creek and see the animals playing.

We remove the summer pools from habitats as the temperature drops to prevent freezing and damage. Pools are a summer treat for our animals, but in exchange for the cool water the animals will get piles of leaves to pounce in, pumpkins to destroy, and seasonal spices to smell. It is a great exchange and a new set of senses to stimulate.

We encourage you to take the time and come out to enjoy the animals and seasonal changes that happen at the Refuge. We are open year-round so make plans to stop in for a visit this Winter. Our feline residents will be safe and sound in their fluffy fur coats and warm bedding filled dens. Make sure to bring a warm coat and be ready for the weather. See you soon!



Kit Kat

Kit Kat enjoys the seasonal enrichment that nature provides. Habitats allow for the expression of natural behaviors, provide a means of exercise, and stimulate mental awareness - things we want all of our residents to experience.

Volunteer for Fall Cleanup



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hosted an annual fall cleanup with the statewide Great Arkansas Cleanup initiative. Volunteers worked hard downtown and at the refuge to make our world a better, cleaner place. Check our website for future volunteer opportunities.

Letter from the Curator

—Emily McCormack—

What a big year it has been for all of us at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge – between building, testing out new forms of animal husbandry (see *“Every Time a Bell Rings a Black Bear Gets Its (Chicken) Wings”* on page 15), preparing for the winter season, and the testing of the new ambulance – we have been very busy. But it was the third Big Cat Sanctuary Conference, held in Minnesota in September this year, where TCWR’s national animal advocacy work achieved its greatest impact. The conference has become an annual event, which gathers animal experts and leaders of reputable sanctuaries throughout the United States.

At the conclusion of first conference, held in 2013, great strides have been made to improve the communication and support between all participating sanctuaries. After all, each of these well-respected facilities and partners agree to and are dedicated to the same mission - ending the captive wildlife crisis. Representatives from 16 sanctuaries, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) were in attendance.

The conference this year, hosted by the Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, Minnesota, was filled with presentations that covered an array of topics such as: habitat design, sanctuary sustainability, emergency preparedness, and developing a successful animal care internship. I was honored first by being asked to be a presenter, but also, by being able to discuss how the acclaimed Internship Program at Turpentine Creek was developed and how it has grown into a vital part of the care of our animals.

At last year’s conference in Denver, Colorado, the new Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) was developed, and I have been honored to serve on the Steering Committee for the past year and have accepted another term for 2018. The BCSA has officially been launched and is comprised of professionals dedicated to the welfare of captive big cats. We will be sharing best practices that benefit animals and the organizations, involvement in advocacy efforts, and collaborate on rescues. Both TCWR’s founder, Tanya Smith and I are serving on various BCSA committees. The alliance will work together towards the day when sanctuaries are no longer needed because the private ownership and exploitation of wild cats have been eliminated. Until then, BCSA will speak with a strong, unified voice on behalf of all captive big cats. A great way to begin supporting this effort is by starting with the animal refuge you call home – donate to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge today and help us help them all.



Tanya and Scott Smith (TCWR) share a moment of great relief while Bill Nimmo (Tigers In America) and Ed Stewart (Performing Animal Welfare Society) release Chainsaw, the last animal from the Colorado Project. Through teamwork we are exponentially stronger.

Big Cat Ambulance

Last year was an epic year at the Refuge. With the opening of the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital our animals receive the best care in the industry. To insure the safety of both the animals and our team members, we added a big cat ambulance to our animal care tool box.

The big cat ambulance was built on the strongest base we could find; an official military Hummer! In the Spring of 2017, used Hummers became available to the Refuge through surplus and two were purchased, one for ambulance conversion and one for emergency response. The ambulance conversion was done on site by our own Maintenance Department. The top on the back was raised, a cage built, and the top replaced. We added a 3,500-pound aluminum lift, over 200,000 lumens of LED lights, and a red emergency cab-top light.



A United States Military Hummer has been converted to a big cat ambulance to ensure animal and staff safety during transport to our onsite veterinarian clinic.

With the new big cat ambulance on-line, and in service, we can transport our patients to the hospital with complete safety to our team as well as the patients themselves.

Visitor Education Center

Turpentine Creek is moving towards a better future, not only for the big cats but also for our visitors. Creating a state-of-the-art Visitor Education Center will allow us to reach a broader audience and help educate the public about the dangers of the exotic pet trade.

To give this campaign a proper start, we will have our campaign kick-off in the spring. So, keep an eye out for an official date announcement soon. We hope all of our supporters will be able to join us for the event and to help us celebrate the next big step towards the future of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.



Using Genetics To End Trafficking

— Ellie Armstrong - PhD student at Stanford University —
TCWR Communications Director Lisa Brinker

Over the upcoming months, Turpentine Creek will be taking steps to discover more about the animals in our care. Recently, TCWR was approached by Tigers In America and Ellie Armstrong, a doctoral candidate with Petrov & Hadly Labs at Stanford University, to participate in a research project to sequence the DNA from rescued tigers that live in America.

Using DNA analysis, we can identify where our tigers come from and what their underlying ancestry is. Using noninvasive methods, researchers can collect hair and feces. During routine check-ups, vet staff can also collect blood or cheek swabs and send samples to Stanford University to analyze the DNA in each tiger. This information can provide a snapshot into the history of each rescued animal, but will also offer Turpentine Creek and other participating sanctuaries and rescues with relevant health information for any individual.

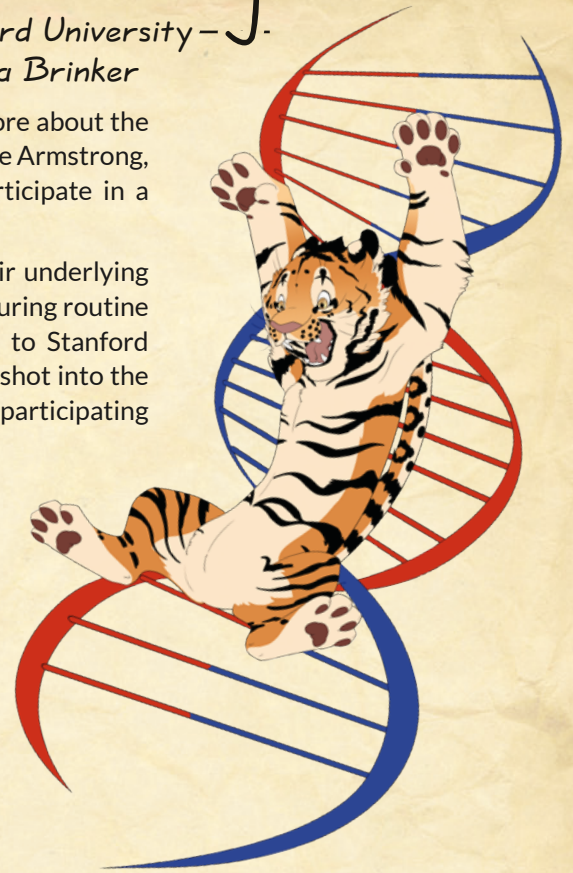
When rescuing big cats, we rarely know the parents of the animal, let alone the subspecies. The lack of knowledge about the subspecies of a rescued animal will not harm them, but this knowledge could improve the quality of care we can offer each animal. This information will allow us to be better prepared for any health issues that might be dominant in a specific subspecies of tiger and make sure our tigers are getting the proper amount of food and the correct balance of nutrition. It will also allow us to identify genetic lineage of our tigers and we might be able to also watch for health issues that known relatives of our tigers might have.

There are currently six subspecies of tiger in the wild, and each of the subspecies has a unique history and come from different geographic regions. However, it can be hard to tell the different subspecies apart by looks alone! For tigers in zoos, each individual is composed of only a single known subspecies, but for rescued tigers, their origin and ancestry are unknown. Only four of the six subspecies are known to be in the U.S., *Panthera tigris altaica* (Amur tiger), *Panthera tigris tigris* (Bengal tiger), *Panthera tigris sumatrae* (Sumatran tiger), and *Panthera tigris jacksoni* (Malayan tiger).

Most of the tigers in captivity are “generic” tigers. A “generic” tiger is a tiger that is a mix of different subspecies. This mix of genetics is one of the many reasons that captive big cats have no conservation value. Inbreeding, human selective breeding, and genetic issues mean that these animals and their descendants cannot ever be introduced into the wild population.

This study will help not only the captive population by identifying the genetic makeup of their subspecies, but also assist the wild population. Scientists have recently been able to use DNA analysis to trace elephant ivory to its origin and help prevent and identify illegal poaching. Similarly, DNA from our tigers here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge will be used to help scientists identify the origin of confiscated materials such as pelts and teeth and to help prevent the illegal trade of tigers and tiger parts in the future. This will not only help America’s population of big cats but will also go a long way in protecting their wild counterparts.

We are very excited to contribute to this research project. Hopefully, one day, this information will help us save wild tigers from extinction. Until then, we will do our best to educate the public about the plight of big cats in the wild and captivity. With your help, we can end the exotic animal trade and save endangered animals.



TC and his friends at Turpentine Creek are excited to be involved in the pain-free contribution of fur and other types of samples to help put an end to the trafficking of animal parts. “We give hair because we care.”



Panthera tigris sumatrae
Tiger (Sumatra)
Tiger (Sumatra)

Your Legacy

When poet, Emily Dickinson wrote, "I argue thee that love is life. And life hath immortality," she meant that with love we experience immortality - that with love, we live forever. What greater way to express love then, than by giving the opportunity of a full life to another?

Supporters of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can continue their legacy by leaving a portion of their estates to the Refuge, and thereby ensuring that all of the present and future animals rescued will be well cared for and live out their lives in peace.

Please speak with your attorney today and consider setting up your legacy by providing the information below.

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

FEIN #: 71-0721742

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

Phone #:: 479-253-5841

Fax #: 479-253-5059

Website: www.turpentinecreek.org

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

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

2018 Calendar

Order the new 2018 calendar today! Next year's calendar features some of the enrichment methods we use to improve the quality of life of our big cats and bears. Will your favorite resident be featured? Order using the form on page 11 or through our online store:

Shop.TurpentineCreek.org



Health Check: Metabolic Bone Disease Update on 3 Rescued Cubs

Raising human triplets can be a handful, but raising three tiger cubs with Metabolic Bone Disease is no walk in the park either. At least we never once had to force them to eat their vegetables! Our resident triplets Peyton, Black Fire, and Rocklyn came to Turpentine Creek in September of 2016. When we took over their care, they were all unable to walk and were in severe pain, due to the illness.

It took a great deal of love, care, attention, and a special diet, to get these three cubs back on their paws, and on the road to recovery. After just over a year in our care, the three cubs are almost like normal, healthy tigers. Of course, they still have some issues due to the Metabolic Bone Disease - such as narrow pelvises, slightly bowed leg bones, and other issues. As the cubs have grown, many of the medical issues have corrected naturally. Their ionized calcium levels have normalized, and their bones are no longer fragile.

Out of the three cubs, Peyton is the one with the most visible lasting issues from the Metabolic Bone Disease. She has a noticeable limp due to bone calcification in her shoulder joint that cannot be removed or fixed. After consulting multiple veterinarians and universities, it has been determined that an attempt to surgically repair the joint would not be successful. Because of this, Peyton will have to be on medication for the rest of her life to prevent pain. We are researching NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs) to help with the issue, to help her live a long, happy life.

We have been x-raying the cubs often to monitor their bone growth. At Peyton's last exam, she weighed 211 lbs, which is good for her age. Although they have made improvements and their calcium levels are now normal, the trio will have to continue to eat a special diet for the remainder of their lives due to some of their remaining deformities.



They are all going to be large tigers, but not quite as large as they could be. The Metabolic Bone Disease did have an effect on their growth. To illustrate this, if you look at their siblings, Tanya, and Kizmin, who are four months younger than they are, you will see that they are nearly the same size as the triplets.

If you came out to see these cubs today, you would never know they were the same three cubs that could not walk when they arrived at Turpentine Creek. Now, they run, play, and tackle each other, just like other tigers their age. We are glad that we were able to take over their care early enough to help them. It was touch and go for the first few months, but we all made it through, and now they have a chance to live long, happy lives as real tigers at the Refuge.

The Cub Club Presents: T.C.'s Wildlife Word Search!

See if you can find and circle the words listed in the puzzle below!



Coloring Book!

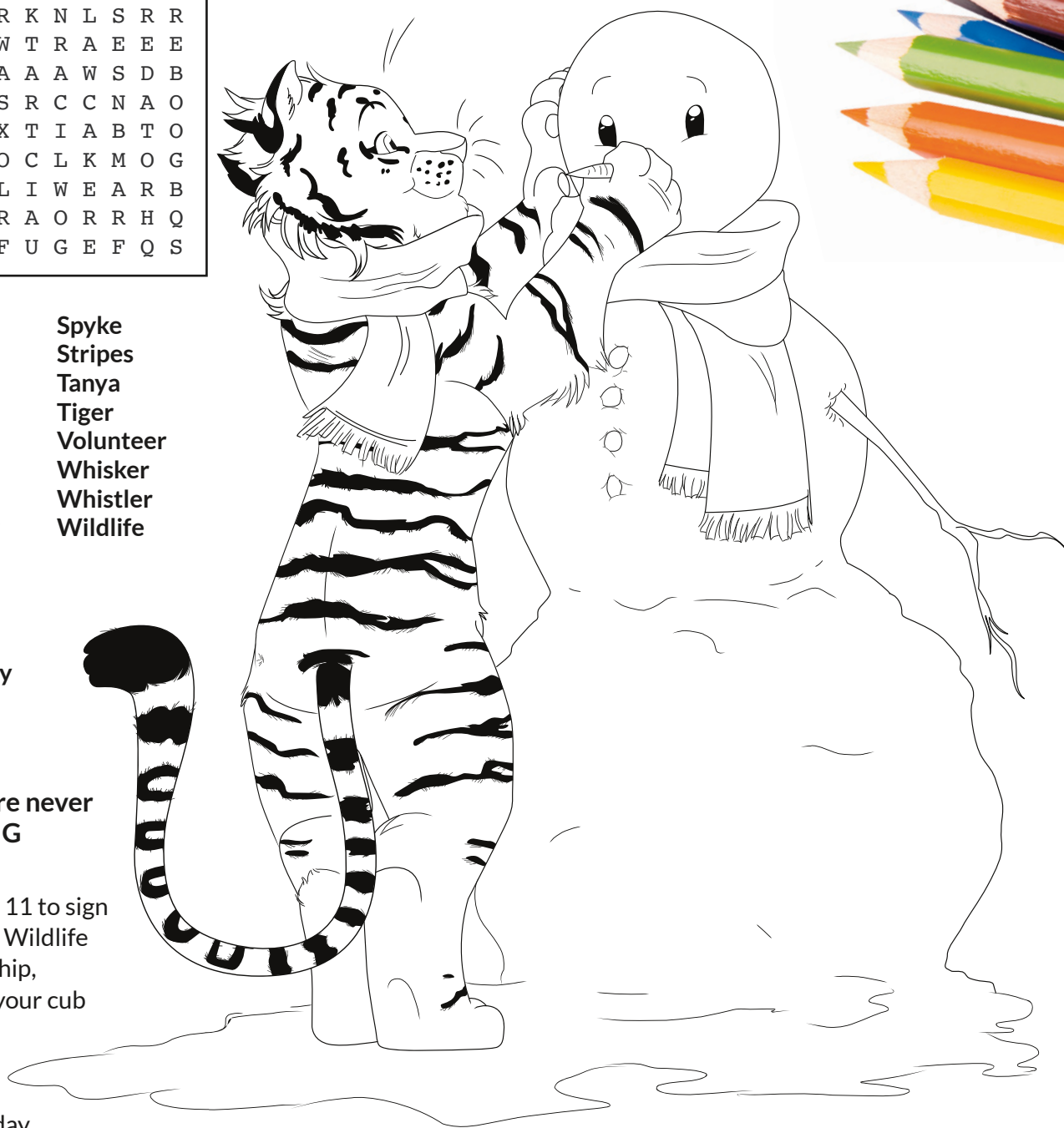
Purchase your first edition coloring book from TCWR. The coloring book features images created for the Refuge featuring TC (Titus Creek), our mascot. Buy one for each of your family members this Holiday Season.

N	A	L	A	Y	A	N	A	T	J	D	S	E	L	
P	O	P	P	E	R	E	F	A	L	E	R	T	L	A
S	P	Y	K	E	R	A	T	O	I	R	A	R	V	V
L	E	I	N	A	D	I	U	F	C	O	P	I	I	R
N	E	D	G	B	B	S	L	T	E	V	O	P	S	E
E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	C	I	E	E	P	S
R	O	T	H	M	W	B	V	R	K	N	L	S	R	R
C	K	I	U	B	X	H	E	W	T	R	A	E	E	E
R	P	G	F	A	U	E	I	A	A	A	W	S	D	B
E	R	E	F	M	T	C	V	S	R	C	C	N	A	O
G	I	R	L	N	O	I	L	X	T	I	A	B	T	O
I	D	N	U	M	I	T	A	O	C	L	K	M	O	G
L	E	L	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W	E	A	R	B
H	O	W	H	I	S	K	E	R	A	O	R	R	H	Q
V	E	U	C	S	E	R	E	F	U	G	E	F	Q	S

Bam Bam	Leopard	Spyke
Bear	Liger	Stripes
Bobcat	Lion	Tanya
Carnivore	Love	Tiger
Cecil	Macaw	Volunteer
Chuff	Nala	Whisker
Coatimundi	Popper	Whistler
Cougar	Predator	Wildlife
Cub	Pride	
Daniel	Refuge	
Den	Rescue	
Education	Roar	
Elvis	Sanctuary	
Goober	Serval	
Habitat	Shakira	

And remember, you are never too small to make a BIG difference!

See the tear out on page 11 to sign up for Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's Kid's Membership, The Cub Club, and help your cub become involved in solving the BIG problems facing BIG cats in the world today.



Choose Your Giving Level Today!

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is thrilled to announce our new Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier Program! The program consists of four levels: the Friends of India, the Bam Bam Benefactors, the Kenny Fellowship, and the president's club - the Hilda Jackson Society. Each tier is its own exclusive community that allows for donors to engage with one another, take home fantastic sign-up gifts, and support the Refuge in the most effective way possible. This new program will allow for TCWR to respond more quickly to the needs of the survivors of the exotic pet trade, and enable us to budget for larger projects, and projects that will have the greatest impact in the years to come. By using a tier model, the program will not only allow for donors of all levels to become involved, but also, the membership donations themselves are funneled directly into our General Fund – allowing us to use funds where they are needed the most and when they are needed the most. Find out more about your tier options below!

1

The Friends of India

annual donation of \$300 - \$1,249*

Members of the Friends of India will receive the following sign-up gifts:

- Friends of India Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off in the Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Photograph of India
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 10% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet

2

Bam Bam Benefactor

annual donation of \$1,250 - \$2,999*

Members of the Bam Bam Benefactors will receive:

- Bam Bam Benefactor Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Photo of Bam Bam
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 25% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug

3

The Kenny Fellowship

annual donation of \$3,000 - \$9,999*

Members of the Kenny Fellowship will receive:

- The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Framed Photo of Kenny
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report

4

The Hilda Jackson Society

annual donation of \$10,000+*

Society Members will receive:

- The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Framed Photo of a Favorite Cat
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging**
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- A Staff Liaison

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

Yes, I will help the animals!

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

Donations: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$_____ ☐ Repeat monthly.

2018 Calendars: \$10 each X ____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

First Edition Coloring Book: \$5 each X ____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

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 Cub Club, Kid's Membership** – You are never too small to make a BIG difference in the Cub Club. A membership with the Cub Club includes entry into the park, a membership card and certificate, a coloring book, plush cat of your choice, sticker, and big cat photo.

Name of child: _____

Please circle the plush cat you would like: **LION TIGER LEOPARD**

☐ **\$50 TCWR's Single Membership** – For a full year have access to the Refuge, including free trolley tickets and 10% off in the Gift Shop.

☐ **\$90 TCWR's Family Membership** – For a full year have access to the Refuge for two adults and all children 19 years old and younger, including free trolley tickets, and 10% off in the Gift Shop.

☐ **\$300+ Friends of India**

☐ **\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship**

☐ **\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors**

☐ **\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society**

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Animal Adoption:

☐ \$100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

☐ \$100/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

☐ \$125/yr - Cougar/Leopard

☐ \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Animal Sponsor:

☐ \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird

☐ \$1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey

☐ \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard

☐ \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

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

Adoption / Sponsorship includes membership.

Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.

☐ Membership Opt Out

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

Total Contribution: \$_____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: _____

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



Concluding 2017 With a Fanfare of Support: —Your Donations Make the Difference—

This past year was one that was filled with blood, sweat, and often, tears – but also, it was one that was enriched with a sense of accomplishment, the brightest of smiles, and the greatest of triumphs. Indeed, 2017, was a year of tremendous accomplishment. While we are heartbroken at the loss of a few of our older rescues due to the inevitable complications of old age, we have been able to rescue many others and provide for them with the fullest of lives.

This year we have gained so much through the hard work and dedication of our supporters, team members, and interns. Throughout it we have worked toward concluding the Colorado Project, and are almost there! With the final animals transported from Colorado to TCWR earlier this year we are have been tasked with building the largest habitats TCWR has ever constructed and are well on our way. This year, we also finished building two large habitats behind the Gift Shop – now housing five gorgeous tigers and one handsome liger.

On the education front, we not only implemented a brand new education internship, but we also, researched ways to engage the thousands of visitors we receive each year. And with the launching of a new membership tier program and kids' membership (The Cub Club) we can now do that! We've also magnified our national outreach by first, making the necessary strides in advancing toward accreditation with the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), and secondly, by playing a major role in the formation of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (see page 4 for more great details).

And on top of all of that - we fed, medicated, and enriched the lives of over 100 animals throughout the year, performed multiple surgeries, brought in new enrichment programs for the bears, continued to make strides toward providing lifetime refuge for the survivors of the exotic pet trade, and on and on and on. But we could only have accomplished this much with your help. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

End of year giving generally makes up about 20% to 40% of our annual operating revenue. Without this support, we would not be able to do many of the things we need to do in order to better the lives of all of our animal residents. Your donations help us change lives and continue to provide the highest quality of care for our animal friends. You can give us the means to finish the year with a fanfare of support by donating today, and helping us, help them.

No Business Like Show Business:

Big Cats in the Entertainment Industry

From Charlemagne's 8th century aristocratic menageries to today's Las Vegas big cat illusionists and pay-to-play cub petting schemes, humans have had a rather sordid history of animal exploitation. And it is with the recent tragedy surrounding the death of Suzy, an escaped 6-year-old Siberian tiger, that we at the Refuge find ourselves reflecting on the horrors of the entertainment industry that many of our rescues have endured.

Suzy starred in the now-defunct Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus. She had been used in performances that showcased her owner as a "big cat-tamer." In reality, big cats are never tame, and their involvement in the entertainment industry not only endangers the "trainer" and audience members, but also can lead to severe physical and mental complications for the cat - from stress to inadequate diets, and often physical abuse.

The 6-year-old tiger, Suzy, along with 14 other big cats, was being transported from Florida to the Memphis International Airport when unbeknownst to her handlers, she escaped her cage. In fact, those moving her did not realize she was gone until after they had arrived at the Tennessee airport. Meanwhile, approximately 420 miles away, Suzy was killed by authorities after having attacked a dachshund in a Georgia neighborhood. She died in the suburbs, only a few blocks from a school bus stop. More tragically still, is that not only is Suzy now deceased, but her fellow "performers" are now in Germany joining another circus to perform in what will undoubtedly become another link in the chain of the abuse of animals in the industry.

One of our own cats, Thurston, was made to perform in Illusionist, Dirk Arthur's magic show prior to being sent to a pseudo sanctuary. In one of his illusions, Arthur places a white tiger in a chained cage and suspends it above the stage floor- subjecting them to the stress of a noisy audience, loud music, pyrotechnics, and much more. Today, Thurston has severe dental issues, as his teeth were filed down in order to make him "safer" for his handler and the audience.

Thor, a lion, rescued in 2012, is yet another survivor of the entertainment industry. From a young age, Thor was an acting lion, performing in films, commercials, and making live appearances. He was rescued at his final appearance - a gun show - where he was severely emaciated. He spent so much time confined to a small cage as a young lion that the muscles in his back legs never fully developed and he now has a permanent limp in both of his hind legs.

We at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge have therefore seen firsthand the tragic impact that these "performances" have on big cats. And because of this, we urge our supporters to do something. If there is a film that showcases exotic animals instead of using the viable option of computer-generated images, don't go! If there is a circus using exotic animals - don't go! If a

mall or shopping center is hosting an event featuring an exotic animal - don't go! We all have the power to put an end to this - so take your movie ticket fee, or that circus fee, and donate it, because only with your help, can we help them. Become involved today and pledge to become a Sustainer of Wildlife!

Photo by Tigers in America (TIA)



Featured Animal: Ringo

Male Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Born May 28, 2003

Arrived at TCWR October 7, 2003



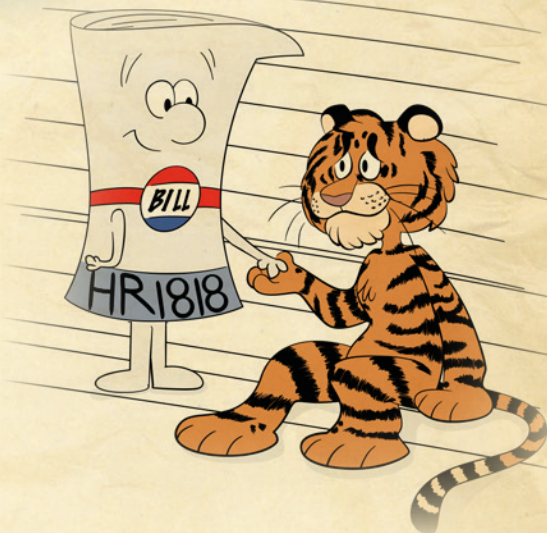
Ringo was brought to the Refuge from Springfield, MO by his former owner. The man had acquired Ringo as a cub when he and his wife were volunteering for a traveling photo taking scam operator to get closer to the cub. The man running the photo taking scam had to leave for California because a family member was hospitalized, and left the tiny tiger in the couples' care, never to return, despite promising to do so.

On October 3, 2003, famous magician and tiger handler, Roy Horn, was attacked and nearly killed. This news spread across the United States quickly and the neighbor of Ringo's new subdivision home was alarmed by this news (because he had small children) and gave an ultimatum to Ringo's new owners: "find Ringo a new home or I'll have to turn you in to the police." The man and his wife immediately called Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and arrangements were made for his arrival a couple days later.

Ringo survived his shoddy beginnings and landed on his feet at a reputable sanctuary. For other casualties of the "pay to play" and "cub petting" industries life is not so fortunate. After their 12-week career as a photo model, most cubs end up being shoved into a life of caged hell. When they were young they were an asset to the owner, now they live life as a liability; an inmate.

Too often, these big cat casualties are kept in inadequate enclosures that are filthy, nasty cesspools. Many are poorly constructed and are not safe for the animal or the people residing near them. The Big Cat and Public Safety Act (HR 1818) will help put an end to this ugliness and stop the unnecessary, unchecked breeding for greed.

It was largely because of supporters like you that Ringo had a second chance at life, and we are working hard to ensure that other exotic animals have that chance too. In January of 2018, Turpentine Creek will be initiating our Big Cat Advocacy Program. Now having access to advocacy software, we are able to better help bills like HR 1818 gain traction and get passed – but only with your support. Please take the time to read the bill and watch your inbox for the chance to join hands with TCWR and truly make a difference nationally. Check out our website, www.turpentinecreek.org, and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter to get involved. By being involved you will be able to save tigers, just like Ringo, who desperately need our help. Fortunately, Ringo escaped a potentially deadly situation because you care.



TCWR rolls out its new 2018, Advocacy Initiative - become a big cat champion by urging your representative to support HR 1818 today.

Bam Bam Day: Providing Opportunities for Bear Education

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hosted a fun-filled event for Bam Bam Day this year! November 5th was jam-packed with interactive activities for all ages, who came to learn about the important role bears play in the ecosystem. Activities encompassed crafting special bear enrichment for the 13 bears at the Refuge, sharing knowledge about unique bear adaptations, their diets, home ranges, bear safety, and of course, highlighting Bam Bam the grizzly!

The favorite activity of the day was "Bearing Down for Winter," where participants learned how bears cope during frigid winters in the wild. Many wild animals have special superpowers (or unique adaptations) to ensure their survival. Team members helped partakers explore the wonders of animal blubber with a bag full of Crisco and a cold bucket of water, and visitors learned that having a thick layer of fat is what keeps bears warm in the winter time and the reason why they can withstand the freezing temperatures.

Interactive programs that entice creativity and hands-on learning is a fantastic way to craft life-long memories, inspire active learning experiences, and create passionate advocates for all animals. We invite our visitors to participate in these unique experiences to enrich their minds in unique and engaging ways and enjoy a new fun way to learn. Bam Bam has always been a staple at the Refuge, and TCWR looks forward to creating more opportunities for educational programs for the public to learn more about our exotic and native animal residents.



Bam Bam

Our Annual Bam Bam Day celebrates one of TCWR's most adored bears, Bam Bam the Grizzly. Full of interactive programs that encourage creativity and hands-on learning, Bam Bam Day will always be a family event to remember.

Every Time a Bell Rings a Black Bear Gets Its (Chicken) Wings

One of the most iconic Christmas films of our time is Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life." The story of second chances and a loveable angel's attempt to earn his wings. Like the angel Clarence, we at the Refuge have been witness to many souls living lives of desperation and fear, and like Clarence, we have been called to action. The five bears, our most recent arrivals - Holli, Lolli, Koda G., Xena, and Huggy, are a perfect example of this. Who could have imagined that these poor bears would ever have had a second chance at life? The TCWR Family, that's who - and that means you!

Thank you for your ongoing support; support that has provided so much for these lucky bears. They still await the completion of their new habitats - the largest TCWR has ever ventured to build - but progress has been steadily made over the last few months. To date, through the Bear Necessities Habitat Campaign, a total of \$99,000 of our \$150,000 goal has been raised toward completing this enormous undertaking. And with 750 feet of ditch dug, and 48 posts driven, we are well on our way. In the meantime, as we fundraise and build, we have begun a new program with the bears in hopes of making things run a little more efficiently during dinner time.



Toward the end of October, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge began a new "Dinner Bell" Routine with all of the bears. And when we say dinner bell - we mean the farm-style triangle dinner bells! The idea behind this new routine is to associate food with the sound of the bell - another example of bridge-and-reward behavioral management that will make it easier to shift the bears in at night. This will become especially important once they move into the 3.5 acre densely treed habitats and won't be able to see animal care staff as clearly. So far, things have been progressing nicely, although there has been a bit of a learning curve for us all. We look forward to seeing how successful the program will be once the bears move into their new home, and you can help make that happen by throwing on your cap and bells and giving the gift of a new home this holiday season. Please donate to the Bear Necessities Campaign using the newsletter insert today and help us, help them!

Big Cat Live: Instant Access to Your Favorite Big Cats

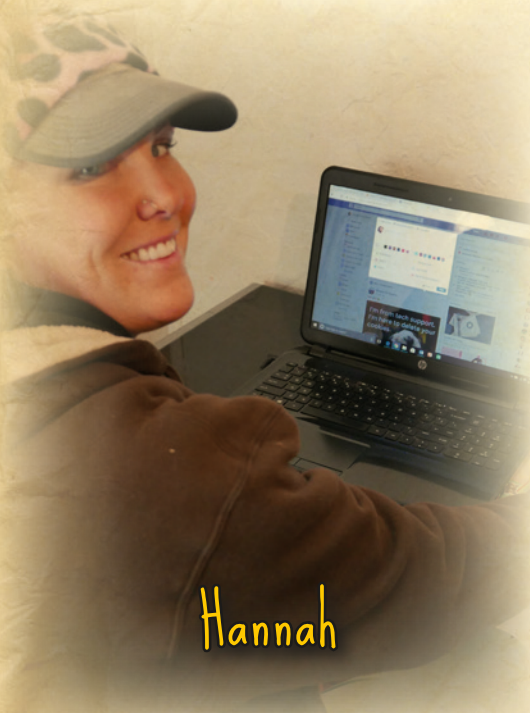


Ivy Cooper, staff biologist and volunteer coordinator, hosts our new live video show on Tuesdays at 10 am central time.

Rambunctious cubs playing, life-saving surgeries, habitat releases, annihilating enrichment, and other “aww” inspiring events happening at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can now be watched live from the comfort of your home. Live video is the latest tool Turpentine Creek is utilizing to get information to our dedicated donors, and is a fantastic way to allow our supporters to interact with our team while watching amazing videos featuring the animal residents of the Refuge.

Our weekly live video show is called “Big Cat Live at TCWR,” and airs every Tuesday at 10 am CST on Facebook and YouTube. In the show each week, Ivy Doss, Animal Care Biologist, introduces our viewers to TCWR’s animal of the week, and to a different team member who will present a keeper talk about all of the exciting things going on at the Refuge. Supporters also get the chance to ask questions about the Refuge and hear the answers to their questions live!

Donor Spotlight - Social Media Donations



Nonprofits, like Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, will always rely on generous supporter donations to fund their missions. This will never change, but how nonprofits fundraise has evolved over the years because of the introduction of the internet. From GoFundMe to Facebook, the internet has provided new tools that make donating to your favorite cause easier.

Facebook recently added a few features that allow supporters to fundraise for their favorite registered nonprofit. Many of our supporters have begun using this feature to help Turpentine Creek and have found them to be fun and easy to use. Some of our online fundraisers have asked friends to donate to Turpentine instead of sending them birthday or holiday gifts; others have added donate buttons to their Facebook posts. No matter how they choose to utilize these new features the team and animals at Turpentine Creek appreciate their thoughtful actions.

We have 23 donors that we would like to say thank you to for their online fundraising efforts: Jonathan M., Lisa B., Hannah W., David E., Sharon C., Kayce K., Rebekah W., Mandi T., Gretchen S., Amber E., John B., Clayton H., Kaitlyn I., Sam B., Brandy I., Clayton H., Darlene C., Jennifer C., Kelsee E., Marcie A., Marcie H., Tabitha L., and Sha R-B.

Since the Facebook fundraising tools have become available, these 23 individuals have raised a combined total of \$3,035 through supporter run Facebook fundraising and the donation buttons added to posts has raised \$3,106. These features are a great way to help Turpentine Creek even if you don’t personally have the funds to donate. It is only with your help and generous donations that we can continue to rescue animals from the exotic pet trade. Learn how you can start a Facebook fundraiser or add a donation button to your posts on our Youtube page at <https://youtu.be/Kg8ziETwXrI>.

Creating Facebook fundraisers or adding a donation button to your post is an easy way to help us, help them.


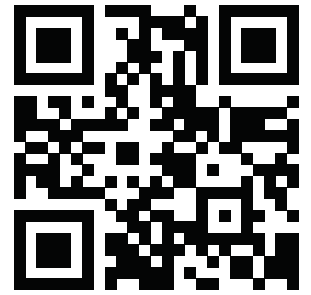
***Our Amazon wish list!**

1. Go to Amazon.com
2. Click Accounts and Lists
3. Select "Find a List or Registry"
4. Search for "Turpentine Creek"

OR scan this QR code on the right
with your smart phone.

OR type in the web address below:

<http://amzn.to/2iYDoDd>



*Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the dens
Not a rescue was caroling, nor chewing on bins;
The **wish list** of the Refuge was found on this page,
In hopes it would make Christmas morning the very best day!*

*Our animals will be nestled all snug in their beds,
With visions of **meat treats** and **boomer balls** in their heads;
In order to care for them we have a few needs,
So settle down and listen, if you would please,*

*To start, **Fiberglass A-frame ladders** would be quite nice,
Followed by, **strong carabiners**, and lots of **Clorox wipes**.
The animals need their **vitamins, B-12, B1, and A and E**,
So if you are a pharmacist, do come and see me!*

*From **large grain shovels**, to **stock tanks**, and a **metal chop saw**,
We need **welding gloves**, **baling wire**, and **toys** for restless paws!
And there's always a desire for **hand warmers** on cold days,
And **laundry detergent** after buttery sprays!*

*If you would like more ideas that didn't fit on that last line,
A **four wheel drive pick-up truck** would make our hearts shine.
There is also a need for **omnivore biscuit** treats,
Honey, fig newtons, and **cheerios** make a "bear-y" good feast.*

*Each of us, our President Tanya, and Curator Em,
Are hoping to provide the best holiday for them,
Please know that we love each animal the same,
But for goodness sake, they don't all have rhyming names,*

*So for Dillian, and Daniel, and Popper, and Kizmin,
To Karma, and Kit Kat, and Donner, and the rest of them,
To ensure good holiday spirits I must certainly insist,
That you immediately check out our **Amazon Wish List***.*



Luna

Education Article - The Majestic Cougar

Beckie Moore

Throughout the wilderness of North and South America lives a beautiful and misunderstood cat with many names. Puma, Mountain Lion, Panther, and Catamount are just a few monikers given to this elusive cat that is native to our woods, mountains, and deserts. Though many people have heard of a cougar, few have ever seen them in the wild. Cougars are masters at hiding, only leaving behind tracks for us to find.

Weighing up to 200 lbs and with a body length, including their tail, of up to eight-feet-long, cougars are quite large in their own right. However, they are not considered a big cat; they are scientifically classified as a small cat. What is it then that makes them different from a lion or a tiger? A cougar has the ability to purr instead of being able to roar like a lion or chuff like a tiger. Cougars, like your small domestic cats, will purr, make chirp noises, and hiss. Even though they make similar sounds that domestic cats make, it does not mean that they would make a good pet. They are still wild animals that belong in their native habitats, not in our homes or backyards.

Cougars have a vast habitat range spanning from Southern Alaska all the way to the Southern tip of Chile. They can be found in 28 countries in the Americas; giving them the largest geographic range of any native terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. However, this large range also has negative impacts with habitat destruction, human-cougar conflict, prey decline, and legal/illegal killing. It is estimated that approximately 4,000 cougars are killed each year in the US and Canada by hunting and human-cougar conflict; making conservation efforts even more important for these beautiful cats.

We currently have seven cougars calling Turpentine Creek home; five were former pets and two came from a cub handling or pay-to-play facility. Luna, one of our beautiful cougars, was declawed and kept in a fraternity house as a pet instead of being out in the wild. Sadly, she is just one of many stories of animals being taken out of the wild and then sold within the exotic pet trade. As Jane Goodall once said, "The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves." We encourage you to be their voice, and help keep wild animals wild.

My Favorite Animal Koda G

Intern Erica Moscoso



My favorite animal at Turpentine Creek, hands down, is Koda G. She is a two-year-old black bear that came to the Refuge from a facility in Colorado, along with four other bears and 27 other big cats, just over a year ago.

Since my arrival in August, I have been responsible for providing daily care for both her and her sister, Xena. Koda G is very rambunctious, playful, and mischievous. A few of her favorite activities include swimming in her pool, playing with Xena, and constantly looking for food.

She's a little ball of energy and regularly races her sister to see who can eat the most the fastest. Some of her favorite foods include peanut butter, mangoes, grapes, and acorns.

We frequently catch her standing up on two legs to rub her back against the fence. When she does this, it looks like she's dancing! Every day she does something that makes me smile and laugh.

The work that staff and interns do at Turpentine Creek isn't always easy, but animals like Koda G make all of our hard work, day in and day out, 110% worthwhile. Getting to see her happy little face every single day reassures us that what we do for them—no matter how small the task—is making a difference in their lives.

Goober's New Home

Animal Curator Emily McCormack

Goober, a rhesus macaque, is not only one of the best-known species of Old World monkeys, but he is also one of the favorite residents at TCWR. Goober was rescued in March of 1993, from a woman who had originally purchased him as a pet from a breeder in Oklahoma, and soon realized that primates, like big cats, are wild animals and do not make good pets.

Social interaction and enrichment are required to ensure the psychological wellbeing of captive animals. Goober participates in grooming with a few selected staff members, as it is an essential natural behavior. He is also currently participating in our Behavioral Management Program – with training that consists of several different behaviors, Goober is always excited to interact with his caregivers.

The lifespan of rhesus macaques in captivity can range from 25 to 35 years, and on October 19th of this year, Goober turned 31 years old! And this year, just in time for his birthday, a former intern Sara Steinbrecher, purchased a small building to be incorporated into a larger winter holding for Goober. While we have always provided him with a small heated shelter for the winter months, this larger building, with a cage built inside, will provide him with plenty of room and much more enrichment opportunities for the cold months. This also increases exploration for him, with a tunnel area where he can climb across from his existing enclosure to his new accommodations. Goober will have access to both, with an exception for cleaning, and can occupy either area throughout the year.

Thank you to all of our supporters who help to enable the care of each of TCWR's rescued residents. If you don't see Goober on your next visit to the Refuge, it doesn't mean he isn't peering through the windows watching you!



Goober's digs are pretty cool for the summer months. To provide Goober more room for winter games we've built him a house!



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Help us, help them!

Ringo is our featured tiger. Read his story on page 14.