



Summer 2017

BIG CAT CHRONICLES

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

Learn more about our new bear habitats on page 12 and the types of bear living at TCWR on page 13.

Koda G

Species: North American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Sex: Female

DOB: Mar. 1, 2015

Arrival Date: Jan. 20, 2017

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

A Letter from the President

Tanya Smith, Founder & President

It is wonderful to be back in Eureka Springs, Arkansas—to finally be home! Over six months, Scott, TCWR team members, and I were living at a big cat facility in Colorado. Partnering with Tigers in America (TIA), Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge took on what often felt like an impossible task—finding homes for 115 animals after their owner became ill. Through the help of exceptional donors and volunteers, we were able to bring 34 animals to TCWR and place the remaining wildlife in 14 other reputable sanctuaries across the nation.

On April 22, at our 6th Annual Cats at the Castle fundraiser, I was reminded of the rescues we have been involved in over the last 25 years. As I sat there at this breathtaking event in my black gown among the other beautifully dressed staff, interns, and supporters, I watched the films that depicted those rescues and was immediately reminded of their intensity. As I watched the videos, I was reminded that our real “red carpet” attire is a tan shirt, caked in dust and sweat, as we fight to rescue big cats across the country. With the array of raw emotions felt that night, I was struck by the incredible affirmation that this is our calling in life. TCWR is here for a reason.

Who could have dreamed that we would have come as far as we have? Indeed, it is very hard to imagine that 25 years ago on May 1, 1992, TCWR opened its doors. In that time, we have evolved from a small and brave family endeavor to now being a leader among big cat sanctuaries nationwide. With a highly competitive internship program (est. in 1996) that has graduated over 450 biologists and zoologists, an amazing staff, and an outstanding amount of support from our donors, we have repeatedly accomplished the impossible. TCWR is still a family endeavor, but now our family has grown to include all of you. So a hearty congratulations to us all. We did and are continuing to do it every day, but there is still more work to be done.

Our annual Blues Weekend is on Father’s Day weekend, and this is a monumental way in which we raise funds to continue the work we do. Please make plans to be here June 15th – 18th for an event that will not only be toe-tapping fun but also will have a lasting impact on the care we can provide for survivors of the exotic pet trade. If you cannot attend but would like to support in other ways, please consider becoming a monthly sustainer to the Refuge by pledging \$25.00 a month to honor the 25 years we have been in action or a pledge of \$199.20 for the year of our founding.

I hope you enjoy this issue of “Big Cat Chronicles,” and do let me know if there is a way in which I can help you to help us.

Until next time and with warmest thanks.



Two Turpentine Creek interns getting their hands dirty building habitats benches.



President Tanya Smith and her daughter Miranda Smith were among the many team members who dressed in their best for Cats at the Castle.

Cats at the Castle a Success



CATC sold out early this year. Many of the guests were past interns who came to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary.



There was a large variety of beautifully crafted items for guests at Cats at the Castle to bid on throughout the evening. This year CATC raised \$15,497 to help the animals at Turpentine Creek.

Selling out early, this year's Cats at the Castle fundraiser was an elegant and emotional event. Many of the individuals who attended the event were past interns who made the trip back to Eureka Springs from all over the country. Not only did we celebrate our amazing animals and supporters, but we also celebrated our 25th anniversary.

It was a fantastic night filled with the fun of the silent auction, the action of the live auction, tear-filled presentations, short but sweet toasts, and of course reminiscing about the accomplishments of the past 25 years. This event was the perfect kickoff to a year-long 25th-anniversary celebration.

The castle was filled with the scent of delicious food, plenty of drinks, and an amazing collection of donated items that were auctioned off to help raise money for the Refuge. Everyone there was dressed to the nines, ready to mingle with their fellow animal lovers and Turpentine Creek supporters. Opal Agafia and The Sweet Nothings entertained our guests throughout the night with excellent music that complemented the low hum of memories being shared.

This year's Cats at the Castle raised \$15,497 for the "Bear Necessities" Habitat Campaign to fund the building of two new bear habitats. Overall, the event was a success, and we appreciate everyone who attended. We hope to see you there again next year. And you can also help by filling out the included envelope and contribute to the habitat fund today.

Your New Visitor Education Center



One of the most effective ways to protect the survivors of the exotic pet trade is to make more people aware of the problem. Help support our public education initiative and the cats by using the provided envelope to donate to our future Visitor Education Center today.

A Letter from the Curator: A Story Of Survival

Emily McCormack

The team at TCWR pours our hearts and souls into the animals' care and the facility daily. The passion is inevitable when you see the animals' reactions as the staff and interns walk by their enclosures. Three young tiger cubs rescued from the Colorado Project in October 2016, are a perfect example of the devotion we all endure to make sure these animals' lives are safe, comfortable, and complete.

The rescue trip from Colorado to TCWR proved to be a lengthy journey when hauling young cubs. Blackfire, Rocklyn, and Peyton traveled independently - in a crate inside the cab of the trucks. For the drivers, it was quite an aroma to endure for the 17-hour trip, which included stopping for water and bottle feedings. Fortunately, they made the trip perfectly and slept almost the whole way.

Unloaded into a recovery enclosure at the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital, the cubs were provided bedding on a heated floor. As they maneuvered themselves out of their respective crates, small cries of discomfort were heard. For the animal care staff, this was their first site of the crippled cubs. Tears streamed down their faces, the first of many witnessed over the next long, hard couple of weeks as we worked diligently during their healing process.

Despite tigers being exotic and dangerous, we have still developed a strong relationship with each of them. The greatest challenge is when they are in pain or discomfort, and there is nothing you can do to console them like you would a domestic animal. We sat for hours beside the cubs' enclosure, talking and chuffing to soothe them.

Expectedly, the first veterinary exam reported severe Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD). This disease is caused by a lack of proper nutrition. The cubs' bones were not only deformed but also fractured throughout their limbs and pelvises. They all were given daily pain medicine, along with an array of vitamin supplements to increase their bone density. During their recovery process, the trio was sedated to recheck their blood calcium and phosphorus levels. X-rays were also taken to ensure the bone fractures were healing and restoration continued.

One by one, Blackfire, Rocklyn, and Peyton began to recover. They started putting weight on their once weakened hind legs. Then, they began to walk without cries of discomfort. Again, tears began to fall down our faces. This time, however, they were tears of joy and satisfaction for these three cubs, who now have a future.

We reached out for multiple consultations throughout the zoological industry, and the response was amazing. Thank you, to our veterinarian, Dr. Anne Brenneke with St. Francis Veterinary Clinic, Kansas State University, Missouri University, and also, to the Henry Doorly Zoo for working with our team to provide the best regiment the cubs could receive. Upon their recommendation, it was decided to change the cubs' diet to the Nebraska Premium feline diet. This diet contains all of the supplements needed for exotic felines to thrive in a captive environment.

Due to the horrific start in their lives, the cubs will have permanent deformities with some of their bones; their pelvic region is sizably smaller than normal. Tigers should be able to eat and pass bones without complication; however, the cubs' small pelvises prevent them from properly processing and defecating bones. To provide optimal quality of life, the trio will need to remain on this processed raw meat diet throughout their lifetime. Receiving a grant from IFAW for the first two shipments of food, we will be able to feed them through mid-July. The cost was \$7,000 and will increase as they grow and begin to consume more food. Can you donate to the meat fund and help us feed our animals?

I hope everyone reading this will reach out and donate to Blackfire, Rocklyn and Peyton's continued care. We are extremely happy to report that they just celebrated their first birthday on May 10th! Come for a visit and see the three little thriving miracles running and playing in their habitat and pool this summer.



Rocklin, Peyton, and Black Fire turned 1-year-old on May 10, 2017. This is a major accomplishment since, when we took them over from Colorado, the trio of young cubs couldn't walk due to Metabolic Bone Disease. Because of their health issues, the three young cubs are on a special diet. Donate to the meat fund today using the provided envelope.

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration

Est.-1992-

On April 23, 2017, the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge began with the sweet and savory fixings of Sunday brunch, provided by TCWR's own Victor Smith and his company, Catered Creations. Wafting across the animal memorial wall was the scent of freshly scrambled eggs, french toast topped with the delectable sweetness of a homemade preserve, biscuits, gravy, home fries, and the world's most prized possession — hot, sizzling bacon. After satiating their palates, over 150 supporters, board members, new and old interns, staff, and visitors made their way up to the Discovery Tour route of the Refuge, where they would witness the habitat release of two white tiger cubs, Tanya and Kizmin.

Once settled in front of the new habitat, supporters listened as TCWR Curator, Emily McCormack, moved us through the history of this incredible place and why the significance of this habitat release could not be overstated.

Having started as an attempt to rescue 42 big cats that had arrived on the doorstep of founders Don, Hilda, and Tanya Jackson, TCWR has evolved into one of the nation's leading big cat and bear sanctuaries. In order to house all 42 cats, the Jackson family worked tirelessly to build what once was known as "the compound." Consisting of cages with cement flooring, the compound was meant to be a temporary fixture at the Refuge until enough funds were raised to place each animal into a natural habitat. And by the end of 2015, we did just that.

Fred and Sherry Sieber, longtime supporters of TCWR, were a monumental part of that goal, having funded not just one habitat, but two—including the habitat that would become the focal point of the day. Standing next to the night house where Tanya and Kizmin impatiently waited, Fred and Sherry used the rebar pole to unlatch the door, allowing for the girls to slowly make their way onto the grass.

The eight-month-old sisters were two of 115 animals rescued in TCWR's "Colorado Project"—a project of such magnitude that it took six months to complete, and required the assistance of 14 other reputable sanctuaries for the re-homing process. Of the 34 cats and bears brought to the Refuge, Tanya and Kizmin, named after the president and founder Tanya Jackson Smith and co-founder of Tigers in America (TIA) Kizmin Reeves, are the youngest.

Watching these girls explore their new habitat has been a crowning moment in the history of TCWR. Not only were these cubs saved from the dangers of pay-to-play schemes and overbreeding, but they were also given a very real chance at a healthy and happy life. We all did this: from supporters to board members, from the gift shop to the housekeeping staff, and from interns to animal care staff; the TCWR family accomplished this. Even if it means another 25 years and beyond, we will keep fighting for the same conclusion as the Colorado Project for every survivor of the exotic pet trade.



Kizmin and her sister Tanya, TCWR's two youngest residents, were the highlight of our 25th-anniversary celebration. The duo was released into their recently completed habitat for the first time and spent the day entertaining our visitors with their explorations of their new home.



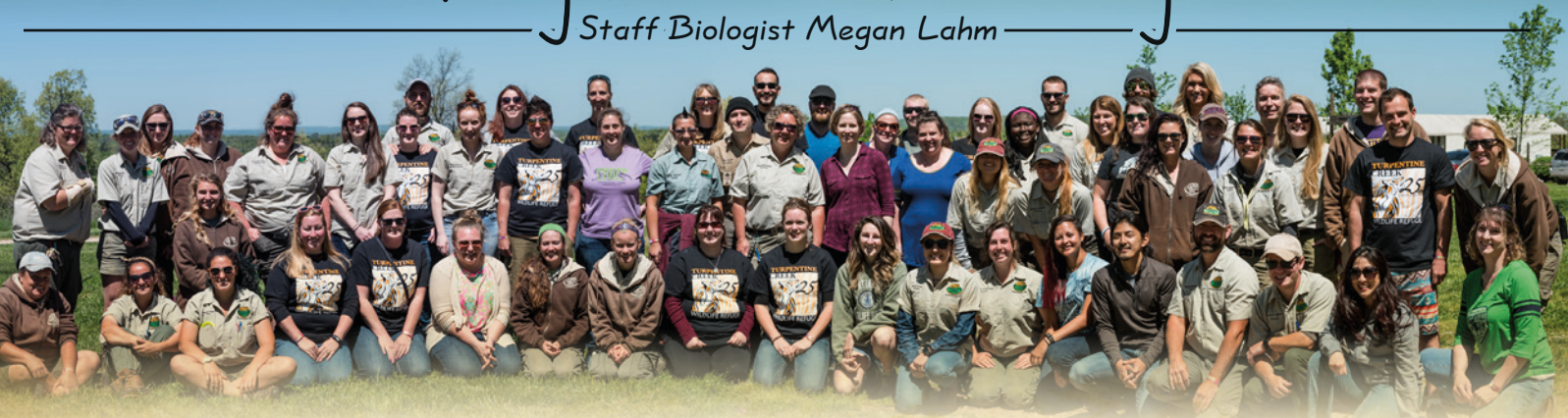
Emily McCormack, TCWR Curator, addresses the crowd gathered to celebrate Turpentine Creek's 25th Anniversary. Hundreds of people showed up to celebrate TCWR's milestone and watch Kizmin and Tanya gain access to their new habitat.



Guests who purchased tickets to the 25th-anniversary celebration in advance were invited to join us for brunch. A hot meal was a wonderful prelude to a day filled with fun and felines.

Introducing Our Intern Alumni Program

Staff Biologist Megan Lahm



This year Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge celebrated 25 years! With that, we also celebrated all of the people who helped the Refuge become what it is today. The celebration brought together interns, staff, and volunteers, who now live in different states and even different countries away - people who have carried Turpentine Creek's mission with them in life.

Over 60 previous interns and staff took part in the celebration of a hard fought 25 years. The day began with brunch, and then moved onto an emotional habitat release. For some, this would be the first time they would see the old compound transformed from several small cages to large natural habitats - it was a sight to behold.

The Intern Olympics that followed the habitat release left most in fits of laughter. Teams were formed and took part in an unusual obstacle course. Among the numerous activities required to complete the course, alumni and current interns had to roll out a water hose and fill a water jug, scrape "poop" through a fence, feed a "cat" (also known as a staff member) a rubber chicken, answer questions about the history of TCWR, patch fence holes, untwist wire, and re-roll the hose without any kinks. This game was really a testament to life at the Refuge for many of us: we work exceptionally hard, but we also play hard too.

These interns have seen Turpentine Creek's growth at all stages of its history, and the Refuge has impacted every single one of them. Now we ask those who have benefited from this incredible experience to give back - so that both the old and new can continue to experience the strength and wonder that is Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. With the introduction of the Alumni Program, we ask all of those who have dedicated time here to give \$50 annually. With those donations alone, we would be able to raise the money we need to build at least one habitat a year. Imagine what we would be able to do if every visitor who walked through our doors would give back. Imagine what you could do for the refuge with just \$50 a year - that is just \$4.16 a month, less than 14 cents a day. Our job is not done yet, and the refuge needs us all.

Your New Stewardship Writer

Caden Campbell

There is not a lot that primatologist Dame Jane Goodall and I have in common. Born in London in 1934 and growing up in war torn Britain, Goodall became a leader in the world of conservation and animal welfare, and is considered the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees. By comparison, I grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas and the only real thing I survived was the era of stone washed denim overalls and moon shoes.

To date, I am still very much a spring chicken in the world of non-profit animal sanctuaries, and am not much of an expert on anything. However, the one significant commonality that Dame Goodall and I have, other than our delicate 5'5" stature, is the desire to speak with animals.

Goodall once said that she "wanted to talk to the animals like Dr. Dolittle." I can relate. Dr. John Dolittle, is the protagonist of a book series by Hugh Lofting, who forgoes people and surrounds himself with animals that he can speak with. While having no real aversion to people, I have always been drawn to animals. More particularly, I have always been drawn to the responsibility we have as human animals to protect the world and its inhabitants around us. If I can not speak to the animals, then why not use my writing to help speak for them?

When an opportunity to work at TCWR came, I took the chance and applied. From writing biographies for our adoption program to aiding fundraising initiatives and helping with the newsletter, as the Stewardship Writer at TCWR, I will be helping to give the survivors of the exotic pet trade a much needed voice.

Jane Goodall puts it so eloquently: "Only if we understand can we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall they be saved." By sharing their stories, we will be able to better understand the issues they face, and therefore make a lasting impact on all of our lives.



Wrapping up the Colorado Project

In nine short months, Turpentine Creek has accepted, accomplished, and is wrapping up the biggest challenge in our history: saving 115 souls. If someone had approached our team nine months ago and told us that we would complete such a monumental task in such a short amount of time, we probably would have called them crazy, yet eagerly awaited the challenge.

The “Colorado Project” has been a learning experience for everyone. Although our team was divided by distance, we were united in our mission. We survived all of the challenges the project threw our way. We discovered just how strong we are as we worked through the exhaustion, staffing issues, sleepless nights, mechanical issues, fears, heartache, bumps, and bruises that come with venturing into the unknown. Our team grew closer together because of this project. We have learned so much about our team, ourselves, and Turpentine Creek as a whole because of the “Colorado Project.”



Over a 6 month period of time TCWR helped to deliver over 100 animals to their new homes in 15 sanctuaries, including TCWR, all over the US. Our team was divided into smaller groups to make sure that all of the animals in our care were taken care of. Now that the project is completed the team has been reunited.



After months of hard work all of the enclosures in Colorado have been emptied.

As we settle back into a normal routine, we look back on the project and know that we accomplished amazing things. We walked into unknown territory, worked with 14 other sanctuaries, and did what some people in the past might have thought impossible. If presented with a similar situation we might do a few things differently, but we would still be prepared to accept the challenge to continue saving souls in need. With this project, we have proven to our team, supporters, government, and the world that it is possible for a group of sanctuaries to absorb a significant number of animals when needed.

We look forward to a day that sanctuaries are no longer necessary, but until that day comes, we are prepared to open our hearts and offer a home to exotic animals in need.

Colorado Project

Total Raised: \$180,725

Facilities: 15

States: 10

Total Animal Trips: 30

Average Animals per Transport: 3.9

Oil Changes: 32

Tires Blown while Driving: 11

Vehicle Accidents: 1
(no animals involved)

Average Vet Visits
per Animal: 3.5

Health Certificates
Issued: 110

USDA Visits: 6

Sheriff Visits: 7

Length of Project: 147 Days
(and counting...)

Hotel Stays (Rooms X Days): 43

Miles Driven by TCWR: 33,100

Miles Driven for Project: 67,000

Cost for Meals: \$6,400

Cups of Coffee/Cans of Red Bull: 2,771

Days Team Members Were Away from Home: 1,205



*Info is estimated according to TCWR data, other facilities that participated may have different numbers.

ct in Numbers

Special thanks to our partners:
Tigers in America
IFAW: International Fund for Animal Welfare
DJ&T Foundation



Featured Animal: Magic

Female Leopard (Panthera pardus)

Born March 17, 2004

Arrived at TCWR March 17, 2010



In December of 2009, Turpentine Creek was contacted by a facility that needed to rehome nine animals so that they could reopen to the public. Magic, six other big cats, a bear, and a coati mundi came to Turpentine Creek in March, after the weather was warm enough to move them safely.

When Magic first arrived she was very wary of our team members. It took a little time, but she finally began to warm up to certain members of the animal care team. Magic is one of the animals participating in our behavioral training program. Since starting the program, we have seen a significant shift in her behavior. She has become a happier, healthier, and more vibrant cat.

Magic is very intelligent and quickly learns new skills. A little over a year ago, Magic had to have surgery to remove her uterus. Thanks to our behavioral training program we were able to keep a close eye on her incision and make sure she healed properly. It was an excellent demonstration of how useful the behavioral training can be to keep our animals happy and healthy.

Magic now spends her days laying in the sun and happily rumbling at visitors and team members who come to visit her. Her favorite spots to sleep are on her bench, on the little loft bench, or in a sunspot in the grass. Watching Magic relax and happily rumble in the sunshine is the best way to end a day at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Protecting Big Cats Nationwide

Did you know that your neighbor might have an exotic big cat in their backyard? No, we aren't kidding; there is a chance that the sweet older lady living a block from your child's school might be harboring a dangerous exotic animal in her house or backyard.

Currently, there are no federal laws regulating the private ownership of big cats and other dangerous exotic animals. Only state and local laws prevent your neighbors from keeping these dangerous animals as pets. On March 30, 2017, House Representative Jeff Denham referred H.R. 1818, the Big Cat Public Safety Act, to the 115th Congress to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

There are an estimated 5,000-7,000 tigers living in captivity today, with only about 400 of those living in zoos. That number does not include lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars, big cat hybrids, and other dangerous exotic animals. Over the years, hundreds of big cats have escaped and seriously injured or killed pets and people. The worst incident to date was a man who released 51 dangerous exotic animals in Zanesville, Ohio, in October of 2011.

According to the Humane Society there are five states in the US that have no laws concerning the private ownership of big cats: Alabama, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. Eleven states do not ban dangerous wild animals as pets but do require permits for some species. Thirteen states ban some species of dangerous wild animals as pets but allow others. Twenty-one states ban all dangerous wild animals as pets.

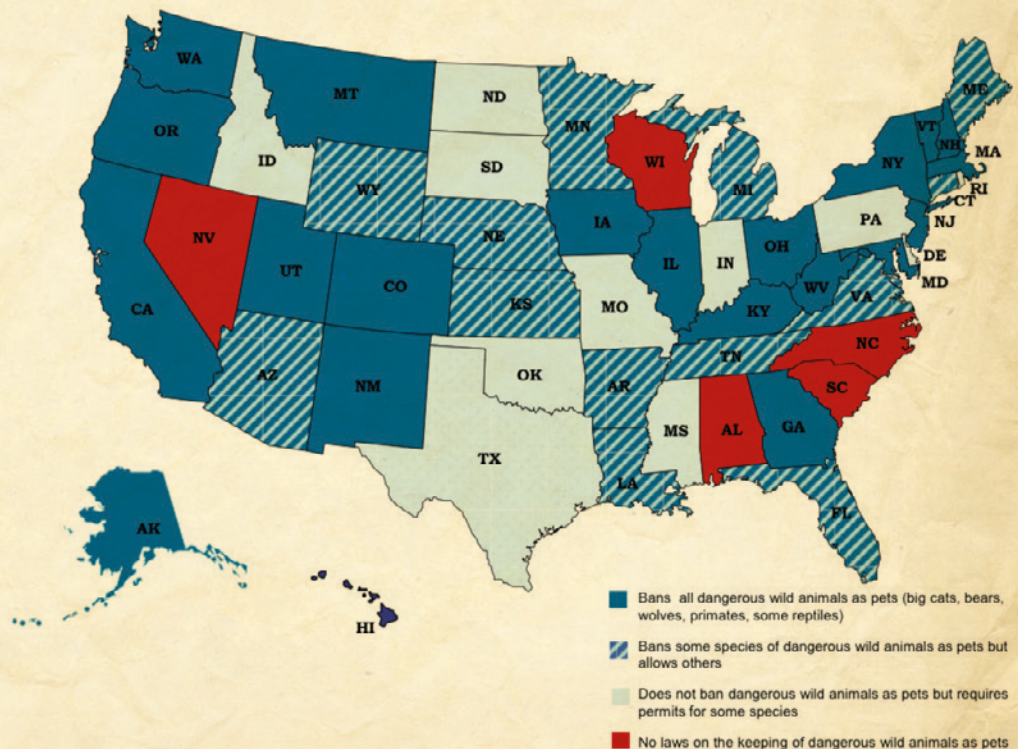
The Big Cat Public Safety Act, if passed, would regulate big cat private ownership at the federal level. The bill will set forth stricter regulations on facilities that own big cats. The Big Cat Public Safety Act would also regulate the breeding of big cats in captivity by requiring any facilities that breed to be part of an approved conservation population management plan.

A lot of individuals and groups who oppose the Big Cat Public Safety Act argue that we are taking away their pets. This is not true. The Big Cat Public Safety Act allows people to keep their current exotic pets as long as they are all registered with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service within 180 days, and that they do not breed, acquire, sell, or allow public contact with their exotic animals. The purpose of this act would be to stop people from acquiring new big cats, so that in 20 years, exotic pet ownership will no longer be an issue.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's mission is to provide lifetime refuge for abandoned, abused, and neglected big cats with particular emphasis on tigers, lions, leopards, and cougars. Our stance is that big cats are not pets and that they need to be treated like the wild animals they are. Although we love what we do, we feel it is better to prevent the abandonment, abuse, and neglect of big cats at the source: pet ownership. Please contact your federal representatives and let them know that you support H.R. 1818 – the Big Cat Public Safety Act.



There are no current federal laws preventing the private ownership of dangerous exotic animals like lions, tigers, and cougars. Ownership laws are left up to individual states. Some states do not regulate private ownership at all.



The Humane Society map from January 2015 of Big Cat Laws Across The USA. Red colored states are states that currently have no laws about private ownership of dangerous exotic animals.

The Bear Necessities Habitat Campaign Update

It is that time of year again, when our long dormant bears shake off their winter inactivity and start becoming busy in refuge life once more. This time of year is usually a lot of fun with the bears of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, as you get to see more of their individual personalities. Take longtime residents Thunder and Harley for example; the two male black bears, who are 9 years old and 15 years old, often act like brothers who annoy one another and are frequently found wrestling. Newcomer, Koda G. is a sweet little bear who is particularly fond of sugary treats, and her sister Xena is quite exuberant in her enrichment play with donated trees and boomer balls.

Currently, all of our new bears: Koda G., Xena, Holli, Lolli, and Huggy, are being housed in refurbished big cat habitats. However, the process for building brand new bear habitats has already begun. The hope is that in beginning construction while we fundraise, the sooner these habitats will become available to the bears.

Bear habitats have very different requirements from that of big cats. Among others, there are various regulations involving the safety measures for containing bears and preventing predators or unauthorized people from entering their habitats. The habitats we are erecting go beyond typical habitats to those that are more conducive to multiple bear introductions. These habitats will allow for the possible introduction of Popper, Xena, and Koda G. while also providing the perfect conditions for expressing appropriate bear behavior. In natural domains like the ones we are building, all of these bears will be able to forage, climb, and nest, significantly improving their quality of life.

So far, the footers, which are used to support the foundation of the habitats, have been dug, and some pipe has been driven for the walls. However, there is a lot of work left to do, and the only way we can do it is with your support. Of the \$150,000 needed, just over \$46,963 has been donated to date. Keep the momentum going by donating to the Bear Necessities Habitat Campaign today. Please help us help them.



Team members worked together to drive habitat fence posts with the new hydraulic post driver. The two new bear habitats will be the largest to date, sitting on 1/2 acre and 1 1/2 acres. We've raised \$46,963 so far towards our \$150,000 "Bear Necessities" project. With your help, we can reach our goal and give our bears the best lives possible in captivity.



Huggy, Holli, and Lolli are some of the bears that will be moving into the two new bear habitats once they are completed.

Your Lion Choir Sings Notturmo in C



Pharaoh's voice can be heard easily from our lodging rooms when he joins the lion choir. He and his mate Fergy live directly across the tour path from our suites.

Summers in the Ozark Mountains often paint a picture for its residents and tourists, alike. A picture of green mountains, BBQ, and thunderstorms that carry the slightly sweet and warm smell of sulfur on the back of a much-needed breeze. The wind traveling past Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge carries another kind of majestic swell - music.

It's not the breathtaking intensity of an operatic soprano, nor the rich bellowing baritone of a leading man performing at Opera in the Ozarks but instead the subtle crescendo of a raw and thrilling carol. Lions can create many different sounds in order to express themselves: they snarl and grunt, meow and roar - but it is the caroling of lions that will leave you spellbound. Generating from their diaphragms, a lion's caroling can be heard from over five miles away. It is used both within prides (a group of lions living together) and outside of prides. Within a pride of lions, caroling is used to communicate with other members when hunting. Caroling toward outsiders is meant to warn them to stay away.

Despite common belief, female lions are also capable of caroling, and lionesses Chloe and Savannah at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge are active choristers. While the sounds that they project are not nearly as deep as the sounds that Pharaoh, Tsavo, Willy, Daniel, Lucci, and Thor create, they still have an incredible resonance. Not unlike Mozart's nighttime inspiration for Notturmo in D Major, caroling is also inspired by the evening. However, this is primarily because it is the time in which lions are most active.

If you have not experienced the excitement of our wild chorus, consider spending an evening at TCWR. With camping available as well as indoor lodging, you will not soon forget this unique composition. Come enjoy the lion choir, book your room online today.

Education - Your "Beary" Different Bears



Huggy

Common Name: Russian Brown Bear or Kamchatka Brown Bear
Scientific Name: *Ursus arctos beringianus*
Average Life Span in Wild: 20-30 years
Size: 7 - 8 feet long
Weight: 700 lbs Female - 1,500 lbs Male
Territory Size: 640 acres - 435,200 acres
TCWR Resident Russian Brown Bear: Huggy

Russian brown bears are some of the largest bears in the world. They live on the Kamchatka peninsula in Russia, which is about the size of California. There are an estimated 10,000 - 14,000 Russian brown bears left in the wild today. Typically, these bears will hibernate for approximately six months in their native territory in Russia. Females can reproduce as early as four years old and will have two to three cubs in each litter. The cubs will stay with their mother until they are roughly two years old and then create new territories of their own. Territory size is dependent on the availability of resources, and males have larger territories than females.



Bam Bam

Common Name: Grizzly Bear
Scientific Name: *Ursus arctos horribilis*
Average Life Span in Wild: 20-25 years
Size: 5 - 8 feet long
Weight: 400 lbs Female - 800 lbs Male
Territory Size: 32,000 acres - 320,000 acres
TCWR Resident Grizzly Bear: Bam Bam

Grizzly bears are large bears but not the largest in the United States. There are 31,000 grizzly bears living in Alaska, about 1,500 in the lower 48 states, and many others in Canada. Typically, these bears hibernate for three to six months, depending on where they live. Females can have cubs as early as three years old with litters of one to four cubs. The cubs will live with their mother for the first one and a half years; then they will leave and claim their own territory. Grizzly territories can overlap, and the female cubs sometimes claim territory within or close to their mother's.



Popper

Common Name: North American Black Bear
Scientific Name: *Ursus americanus*
Average Life Span in Wild: 20 years
Size: 5 - 6 feet long
Weight: 200 lbs Female - 600 lbs Male
Territory Size: 1,600 acres - 38,400 acres
TCWR Resident North American Black Bears: Koda B, Betsy, Thunder, Harley, Popper, Michael, JoJo, Xena, Koda G, Holli, and Lolli

North American black bears are medium-sized bears and are excellent diggers and climbers. There are more than 600,000 left in the North American wilderness. Their coats can have a variety of colors from black, blue-gray, blue-black, blond, brown, cinnamon, and even white. Females can start breeding as early as three years old with litters of one to six cubs. North American black bear territories are dependent on resource availability. Although females prefer not to have other females in their territory, they will share when resources are scarce.

Gaining an Animal's Trust

Staff Biologist Mary Schlieve

The animals rescued by TCWR have come from an assortment of backgrounds and situations with their own personalities and quirks. With all of the new smells, sounds, neighbors, and routines, it is understandable that when they arrive, they take their own time in adjusting to their new home.

Each day that we work around the animals, we are building relationships and begin to gain a level of trust with them. The time it takes for them to trust us is very individual, and they may not respond to one person the way they respond to another. This is because animals speak an entirely different language than we do. They do not always understand what we are asking of them. Therefore, when we do finally gain an animal's trust, it means the world to us. Their trust is an indication that they feel safe and comfortable in this new environment.

Trust can be exhibited by them when loading into a roll cage, shifting in and out of the night houses and habitats, or simply coming up to the fence for food. In 2016, we implemented our behavioral training program with some of the animals at TCWR, and as a result, have noted some significant increases of trust. The animals in the program trust their trainers enough to perform certain behaviors on cue. This behavioral training has especially helped with Magic, a leopard. Magic had an incision from a veterinary procedure that needed to be checked routinely. The program allowed for Magic to respond to her trainer's cues so that the wound could be observed without sedating her. Boo Boo, a bobcat, was able to load into a pet taxi to see the vet. Wanoka, another bobcat, will even come up to the fence without being stressed out.

Just recently, Amber, one of our female tigers, who was rescued with her mate Thurston from Colorado, loaded herself onto a roll cage without the use of any sedatives. Eight months earlier, when Amber was rescued, she had to be sedated with our dart gun in order for us to load her.

It is moments like these that show clearly that the staff and interns of TCWR are doing some amazing work in gaining the trust of survivors of the exotic pet trade. This is what makes this job so rewarding: being able to gain their trust and knowing that probably for the first time in a long time, they feel safe.



Amber, one of the animals that came to us from Colorado, has changed a lot since her arrival. When she first came to us she was very cautious, but with time and work we have gained her trust, and now this beautiful girl spends her days chuffing at team members and exploring her new habitat.

Plan for Future Legacy Giving

As our animal population ages we face a sad reality, one day we will have to say goodbye. This is a heartbreaking time for our team as well as for our supporters. We know that we have given these animals the best lives possible in our care and that their passing, though sad, leaves room for us to continue our mission and save more lives. Our beloved animals leave behind a legacy for future rescues and the hope for a better tomorrow.

After a long life of supporting Turpentine Creek, you too can leave a legacy for future rescues. No one can live forever, but we can forever change the lives of hundreds of animals in need. We ask our wonderful supporters to consider leaving a portion of your legacy to our animals so that we can continue providing shelter to those in need for years to come.

Leaving a portion of your estate to Turpentine Creek will make sure that your animals, and the many animals rescued after them, will be well cared for and live long, happy lives. Talk to your attorney today and set up your legacy to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge to help us, help them for many years to come.

All you need is our address, legal name, and our tax ID number provided here:

Turpentine Creek Foundation Inc, DBA

FEIN #: 71-0721742

Address: Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, 239 Turpentine Creek Ln, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Phone #: (479) 253-5841 **Fax #:** (479) 253-5059 **Website:** www.turpentinecreek.org

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

Your Support On Arkansas Gives Day

Our wonderful supporters turned out in droves to help us raise money on Arkansas Gives Day. This annual day of giving allows people to show support to their favorite Arkansas-based nonprofits. Initially, we had set a goal of \$5,000. That goal was met one week before Arkansas Gives Day when an incredible supporter sent Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge a check for the entire amount.

A few days before Arkansas Gives Day took place, our hydraulic post driver, which for 22 years had helped us to build all of our habitats, finally moved on to that great junkyard in the sky. This gave us the perfect opportunity to set a new goal of \$6,000 (the same amount we raised in 2016) to buy a replacement.

On April 6, 2017, the big day arrived and garnered momentum quickly. Fundraising started at 8 am, and by 11 am our generous supporters had already donated enough to surpass our \$6,000 goal. With nine hours left of this fundraising opportunity, we set a third goal, of an additional \$2,400, for six new weedeaters and a fourth goal, of an additional \$1,600, for a brand-new welder to help us build our new bear habitat. This raised our Arkansas Gives Day total goal from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

We were overwhelmed when we met our new \$10,000 goal by 4 pm, and with four hours left in the giving day, we decided to take a risk and set an additional \$6,760 goal - enabling us to build our two heavy-duty bear night houses, bringing our final goal to \$16,760. With only four hours to go, we waited to see what our final outcome would be.

When the dust settled and final numbers rolled in, we had raised an astounding grand total of \$17,751, almost \$1,000 over our ultimate goal. We are truly touched by how many people banded together on a single day to make sure that our animals continued to be well cared for and our five bears could finally have a large natural forever home.

We appreciate everyone who donated on Arkansas Gives Day. Thanks to you we are closer to finishing our two new bear habitats. We still have a long way to go until our "Bear Necessities" campaign is fully funded. With your help, we can make sure our animals can live the best lives possible in captivity. Thank you for your support.



Our supporters banded together on Arkansas Gives Day to help us raise the \$6,000 needed to purchase a new post driver. With their help, we raised a grand total of \$17,751 in a single day.

★ ★ You Can Become Turpentine Creek S.T.A.R.S ★ ★

We all know how Jiminy Cricket's hauntingly perfect song goes in the 1940 Disney classic "Pinocchio." "When you wish upon a star... Anything your heart desires will come to you." There are many things that Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge wishes for - things that we need. Unfortunately, we cannot get these things on our own. We need stars - more specifically we need Turpentine Creek S.T.A.R.S or Supporters That Aid in the Rescue's Success. TCWR S.T.A.R.S are people who provide the supplies that keep the Refuge equipped to do work that we need to do.

Some of the items on our wish list include:

1. Element ELCF34100 Contractor/Farm Lead Free, Kink Resistant 3/4-Inch-by-100-Foot Garden Hose, Brick *Needed for cleaning habitats, watering animals, and filling pools.*
2. Rubbermaid Easy Find Lids Food Storage Container, 42-Piece Set, Red — *Needed to store medicine.*
3. True Temper #12 Poly Grain Scoop - 1680000 — *Needed to remove waste from habitats.*
4. Vermont American 30210-10 18 Tooth Bi-Metal All Purpose Metal Cutting Reciprocating Saw Blades, 6-Inch Blade Length, 10-Pack — *Needed for building.*

The more tools we have access to will mean better and more efficient work being produced at the Refuge, enabling us to give the best possible care to the animals under our protection. If you would like to become one of Turpentine Creek's S.T.A.R.S, please consider purchasing items from our Amazon Wishlist, and also by making all future Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile - taking a percentage of your qualified purchases and donating it to the Refuge. You can find our Amazon Wishlist on our website donation page at www.turpentinecreek.org. We can do this, we can save these animals, but only if we work together. Thank you for your support!



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
239 Turpentine Creek Lane
Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 20
Eureka Springs, AR



Magic is our featured animal!

See page 10.

Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail to:
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge • 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
Thank You!

Yes! I will help!

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

















2017 Calendars - Order Today: \$5 each X ____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

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

Membership:

<input type="checkbox"/> Single Annual Pass	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Annual Pass	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Fund - Bear Necessities	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Education Center	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	\$_____

Visitor Education Center : We are currently fundraising to build and equip a new visitor education center. Among other things, the new facility will enhance your visitor experience with interactive educational opportunities, expanded retail space, a multi-functional conference area, and a light-fare café. Please support our efforts in making this dream a reality. Donate today!

Bam Bam's Brick Program: Lay personalized bricks in Bam Bam's viewing walkway and support the Habitat Fund, making grrreat new habitats for other residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> 4x8" Brick (Up to 3 text lines of 20 characters each)	\$100
	Choose picture: (Reduces text to max 3 lines of 15 characters each)	
	       	add \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8x8" Brick (Up to 6 text lines of 20 characters each)	\$250
	Choose picture: (Reduces text to max 5 lines of 20 characters each)	
	       	add \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4x4" Replica Tile (with brick purchase only, ships to you)	add \$25

Please write your brick text on back of this form, noting maximum characters and lines in selection above.

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Animal Sponsor:

<input type="checkbox"/> Small Mammal/Bird	\$700/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Cat/Monkey	\$1,000/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Cougar/Leopard	\$2,200/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion/Tiger/Bear	\$2,500/yr

Animal Adoption:

<input type="checkbox"/> Small Mammal/Bird	\$100/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Cat/Monkey	\$100/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Cougar/Leopard	\$125/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion/Tiger/Bear	\$150/yr

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

☐ Membership Opt Out

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: _____
Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships, See Website: www.turpentinecreek.org

Total Contribution: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #:

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