

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Scar

Turpentine Creek
FOUNDATION, INC.

Mission Statement

To rescue and provide lifetime sanctuary for captive wild animals.

Vision Statement

Through public education we work to end the Exotic Animal Trade, making sanctuaries like Turpentine Creek no longer necessary; together, we can preserve and protect these magnificent predators in the wild for our children's future.

Education

As a living museum, we prioritize educating to public on the exotic pet trade, wildlife conservation, animal welfare, and animal husbandry. TCWR is evolving how we educate today's youth with in-classroom visits and onsite programming through interpretive learning.

Preservation

We rescue survivors of the Exotic Animal Trade with a focus on wild cats and bear, providing them a safe lifelong home with exceptional diets and proper care, while working to preserve endangered species in the wild through public education and advocacy.

Compassion

We believe wild cats are predators, not pets or entertainment for the masses. They and other exotic and native wildlife deserve to live out their lives with dignity, allowed to be the wild animals they instinctively are. We will continue to be their voice, both for those forced to live in captivity and those struggling for survival in the wild.



Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Tanya Smith
Founder, President
and Chairperson

Scott Smith
Vice President

Amanda Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Virginia Rankin Secretary (Event Planning and Fundraising)

Dr. Julie Howard (Clinical Psychiatrist)

J.R. Shaw (Veteran Tourism Professional)

Amanda Rials (Engineer - Food Safety with the Alabama Technology Network)

Jim Jackson (Attorney & Real Estate Developer)

In our 33rd year, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge took one of the most meaningful steps in our history. We expanded our mission – **to rescue and provide lifetime sanctuary for captive wild animals** – because the need is growing, and animals are counting on us to say “yes” when no one else can.

2025 became a landmark year. We assisted with **three government seizures** and completed our **first international rescue** from Canada. Working together with government agencies, international animal-welfare partners, and accredited sanctuaries, we built new relationships that opened doors for animals in desperate situations.

Together, we welcomed **24 new residents**, each with a story of neglect, loss, or uncertainty – and each now have guaranteed safety, compassionate veterinary care, and daily care for the rest of their lives. That responsibility is significant, and we embrace it because it is the heart of who we are.

None of this happens without you. Your belief in our mission allows us to step forward – to rescue, to heal, and to provide lifelong sanctuary. Together, we are changing what is possible for captive wild animals.



Archie & Reggie

INFRASTRUCTURE

In spring, our team planted more trees at Freedom Field to provide shade and natural enrichment to our animal residents. Throughout the summer, animal care staff built 17 ramp structures for the small cats to enjoy.

NEW WATER TANK AND TANK HOUSE

This winter, we completed an important upgrade to ensure a reliable water supply for the animals in our care. During the summer months, water is essential for filling the large in-ground pools that help our big cats and bears stay cool, play, and express natural behaviors. It also allows our animal care team to regularly refresh pool water and provide fresh drinking water up to three times a day for the 127 animals who call the Refuge home.

Reliable access to water helps reduce heat stress and supports the daily enrichment and wellbeing of every animal at the Refuge. To support this need, we constructed a dedicated tankhouse and water system this winter. The \$50,500 project ensures we can consistently provide clean water for habitats, pools, and daily animal care.

Your support makes these essential improvements possible and directly enhances the quality of life for the animals we rescue.



NEW ENRICHMENT FOR SMALL CATS

Thanks to a generous donation of concrete culverts from Brad Johnson of Scurlock Industries, TCWR installed tunnels and hiding spaces in several small cat habitats in Freedom Field. These culverts, along with newly added runway benches, provide our cats with opportunities to climb, explore, and lounge that support natural behaviors and enrichment. Residents like Ginger Serval, Kaia Fishing Cat, and Smalls Bobcat are already enjoying these additions, which give them choice, stimulation, and security. Thoughtful in-kind and general donations make improvements like this possible, enhancing the daily lives of our small cats.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER ENRICHMENT

Six new pools were constructed in Freedom Field and Rescue Ridge this year, offering our water-loving big cats the ultimate in summer enrichment. These in-ground, waterproofed cement pools, edged with natural rock borders, provide easy in-and-out access for cats who suffer from arthritis related to untreated metabolic bone disease in their cubhoods.

Beyond helping our residents cool off during increasingly hot Arkansas summers, the pools also encourage natural behaviors in species that would swim, wade, or hunt in water in the wild.



NEW EQUIPMENT:

- **New Rescue Trailer**
- **Four Kawasaki mules and one Polaris Ranger for daily hauling of all supplies to the animals, including their diets**

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Public education remains a vital part of our vision. In 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge reached 45,428 people of all ages through both in-person and virtual programs, expanding our reach well beyond our gates.

TCWR offers the only non-formal, STEM-focused curriculum that teaches how to evaluate whether a facility truly prioritizes animal welfare, why predators should never be kept as pets, the alarming realities of the wild cat crisis, and how families can help protect apex predators and their ecosystems.

As the exotic cat trade continues to operate worldwide, it is crucial that we expand not only our on-site education but also our online and international outreach. By reaching audiences in other countries, we can help reveal the harms of this industry, promote support for genuine sanctuaries, and teach what ethical, lifelong care for captive wild animals truly entails.



If you know of a local or international event where our Education Team could contribute, please have the organization contact shayleen@tcwr.org.

Expanding TCWR's educational reach is essential to enforcing the Big Cat Public Safety Act and ending the abuse and exploitation of wild cats worldwide. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help us spread awareness.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANIMAL CARE EXPERTS

Since 1996, the TCWR Internship Program has been a cornerstone of our commitment to excellence in wildlife care and professional education. This highly competitive, six-month immersive program is designed for college graduates in zoology, biology, and related animal science disciplines, offering an unparalleled hands-on experience that helps shape the future of animal care and behavior professionals.

TCWR alumni now apply the skills they gained at the Refuge across the globe, working in reputable zoos, accredited sanctuaries, and veterinary and conservation settings. More than 84% of our internship graduates remain in the animal care field, many advancing into leadership roles that make a lasting impact on animal welfare.

The influence of TCWR's internship program extends far beyond our gates. Many interns return for additional terms, building deeper expertise and a stronger professional foundation. Through this continued learning, they leave prepared not only to care for animals at the highest level but to mentor and train the next generation of animal care experts.

Spring 2025 Internship Cohort:

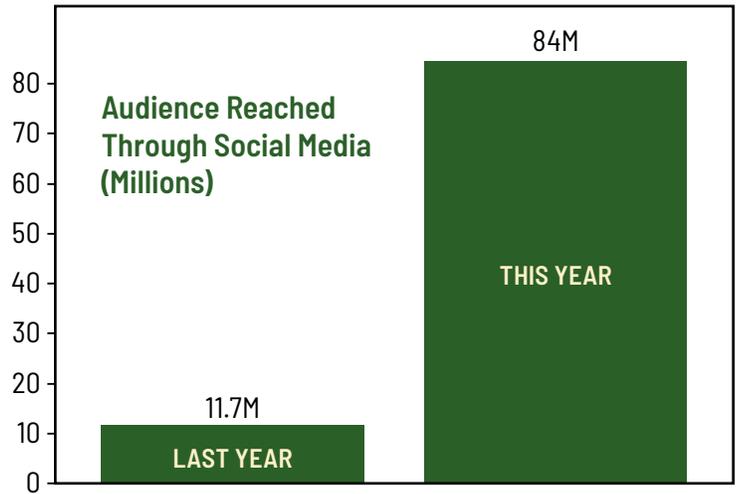
- 15 total interns
- 10 new interns
- 5 returning interns
- 8 graduates

Fall 2025 Internship Cohort:

- 15 total interns
- 8 new interns
- 7 returning interns
- 4 graduates staying for another internship from this current group

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Through our social media channels, we are expanding global awareness of captive wildlife and the work being done to rescue and protect these animals—reaching 84 million people and generating 7.4 million interactions this year alone, an increase of more than 72 million people compared to last year’s audience of 11.7 million.



OUR MOST VIRAL ANIMAL RESIDENTS



OTHER WAYS WE SPREAD AWARENESS - LOCALLY

CHEERS TO 33 YEARS: CELEBRATING A NEW ERA AT TCWR

On April 26, we were honored to welcome supporters, both long-time and new, to our Sanctuary Soiree at the Park, commemorating 33 years of nationwide rescue and unveiling an exciting new era for Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Held at the historic Basin Park Hotel in Eureka Springs—thanks to the incredible generosity of Elise Roenigk and Jack Moyer—this milestone event served as the perfect backdrop for President and Founder Tanya Smith to introduce our expanded mission statement and refreshed logo, representing our evolving role in the world of big cat rescue and advocacy.

Whether you attended in person or donated the value of your ticket, your support helped make this evening truly meaningful. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner, appetizers handcrafted by Maintenance Director Victor Smith, and live music from Tim Hillwood while bidding in lively silent and live auctions that directly supported our mission.

The evening also featured a powerful new video created by our content team and offered guests a special opportunity to connect with TCWR staff and fellow advocates. Together, we stepped forward into a new era of compassion, collaboration, and commitment to wildlife.



SIP FOR SANCTUARY – *Raising a Glass for Lifelong Care*

In October, longtime supporters and new friends gathered at Urban Cellars Winery in Fayetteville for an evening that perfectly reflected the heart of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge – community, compassion, and a shared commitment to animals in need.

Our Sip for Sanctuary event brought together supporters who have stood with us for years alongside those just discovering our mission. Over good wine and great conversation, guests learned more about the animals we rescue and the lifelong care sanctuary provides. Most importantly, the evening helped spread awareness of the growing need for accredited sanctuaries and the critical role TCWR plays in meeting that need.

Guests were introduced to two exclusive wine labels created in honor of TCWR's rescued residents – Big Cat Cabernet and Bam Bam Blanc – and many participated in the hands-on bottling experience, taking home bottles that tell a story of rescue, healing, and hope. Through bottle purchases and continued wine sales throughout the month, supporters directly helped fund daily care, veterinary needs, enrichment, and habitat maintenance for the animals who call TCWR home.

We are deeply grateful to Urban Cellars Winery for hosting this special evening and to every guest who attended, purchased wine, and shared our story with others. Whether you've supported TCWR for decades or joined us for the first time, your involvement strengthens our mission and ensures the animals we rescue receive the care and dignity they deserve. Together, we're raising more than a glass – we're raising hope.



SPREADING AWARENESS - REGIONALLY

In October 2025, our lifesaving international rescue of six African lions from a closed roadside zoo in Ontario, Canada, was featured in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. The report highlighted the months-long cross-border collaboration – involving Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Humane World for Animals, Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, and The Wildcat Sanctuary – to secure permits, navigate complex logistics, and bring these lions safely to their new permanent sanctuary in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where they are now thriving in spacious, species-appropriate habitats.

NWAonline.com/news/2025/oct/23/rescued-in-canada-six-african-lions-now-living-at/

SPREADING AWARENESS - NATIONALLY

TCWR WAS FEATURED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES!

In April 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge was featured in The New York Times for our role in the Nevada rescue of seven tigers from the property of Karl Mitchell. The widely-read article highlighted the complex operation in Pahrump, Nevada, where authorities removed seven unpermitted big cats – which their owner claimed were “emotional support animals” – and coordinated their transfer to our sanctuary in Arkansas, underscoring our commitment to animal welfare and public safety.

NyTimes.com/2025/04/07/us/tigers-nevada-arrest-joe-exotic.html

SPREADING AWARENESS - INTERNATIONALLY

EYES IN THE DARKNESS

Our story – beginning with our very first international rescue – is now being featured in a new CTV investigative television series, Eyes in the Darkness.

This five-part series takes a hard look at the roadside zoo industry, and Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is included as part of the narrative showing what ethical, lifelong sanctuary care truly looks like. The fact that this is an international production makes it especially meaningful, as it highlights the cats we brought home from outside the United States for the very first time.

When we reflect on that rescue, it feels like a milestone built on milestones:

- **Our first international rescue**
- **A chance to share the cats’ story on a global stage**
- **And an opportunity to show why true sanctuary work matters**

We are deeply proud – and deeply grateful. Your support made that rescue possible, helped those cats find safety, and now helps their story reach far beyond our gates.

Click here to view the series:

CTVnews.ca/barrie/eyes-in-the-darkness/

OUR COLLABORATIONS

BIG CAT SANCTUARY VET WORKING GROUP MEETING

In May 2025, our veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, attended the Big Cat Sanctuary Vet Working Group meeting hosted at The Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, MN. This gathering brought together exotic cat veterinarians from several accredited sanctuaries to network, discuss complex cases, and tour the host facility. Dr. Sweeley's participation allowed her to exchange knowledge with colleagues she had previously interacted with virtually, fostering stronger professional connections and sharing best practices in large feline care.



Dr. Kellyn Sweeley and the Big Cat Sanctuary Vet Working Group.

BIG CAT SANCTUARY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE 2025

In October, our President & Founder, Tanya Smith, traveled to Sacramento, CA, to attend the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) conference. TCWR helped to form the alliance during our Colorado Project of 2016- 2017. BCSA member sanctuaries work together on nationwide rescues and strive to improve the care of captive big cats. In 2025, Tanya Smith served on the Rescue and Finance Committees. TCWR Curator Emily McCormack served on the BCSA Board and Event Committee.



BEAR CARE GROUP CONFERENCE 2025

Assistant Curator Laurie Vanderwall recently represented Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge at the Bear Care Group's 2025 virtual conference, an international gathering focused on advancing bear welfare and conservation.

The Bear Care Group's mission is to improve global bear welfare through communication, cooperation, and education among professionals working with rescued bears around the world. In May 2025, the organization hosted a two-day virtual conference titled BEARing with Temporary vs. Permanent: Outcome-Based Husbandry, which built upon themes introduced at the 2024 conference, Advancing Bear Care: The Next Level.

The conference explored the distinct management challenges involved in caring for rescued wild bears in both temporary and permanent human care. Seventeen speakers and a panel discussion examined how outcome-based husbandry practices can be used to maximize animal welfare across a wide range of care settings.

As Secretary of the Bear Care Group's Board of Directors, Laurie attends monthly board meetings, assists with conference planning, and supports fundraising efforts throughout the year. Planning is already underway for another virtual conference in 2026, with early discussions also beginning for an in-person international conference in 2027.



ONLINE FUNDRAISING

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS GIVING TUESDAY OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER!

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, we exceeded our Giving Tuesday goal—raising \$153,157, with more than \$3,000 in pledged company matches. This record-breaking day of giving is our most successful Giving Tuesday ever, and it directly fuels the life-changing transformations you make possible for animals who once endured years of neglect, confinement in barren cages, and little to no veterinary care.

Because of you, every animal at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is treated as an individual. Your support provides critical medical care, regular wellness exams, and carefully prepared, species-appropriate diets with essential nutritional supplements. It also creates the mental healing these animals need—replacing concrete and wire with spacious, natural habitats where they can run, climb, explore, and engage with weekly-changing enrichment that restores long-buried instincts. Together, you are transforming lives once defined by suffering into lives of dignity, care, and genuine opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for standing with us, and with the animals, this Giving Tuesday!



YOU MADE NWA GIVES A SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Heating Up campaign during NWA Gives last April. Together, you raised \$29,657.89 to help keep the animals at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge safe and comfortable amid the wide, unpredictable temperature swings we experience in Northwest Arkansas.

Your generosity ensures that when temperatures drop—or fluctuate suddenly—our residents remain protected. From powering heaters and maintaining warm night houses to keeping pathways clear and accessible for daily care, your support allows us to meet winter's challenges head-on. Because of you, the animals who call the Refuge home stay warm, secure, and cared for through every season.

Please join us on April 9, for NWA Gives 2026!

RESCUES/ANIMAL CARE

AS OF JANUARY 2026, TCWR CARES FOR 127 ANIMALS!

- Total # of sedation events for the year, including rescues: 57
- Sedation events performed on small cats: 15
- Sedation events performed on big cats: 42
- Field exams performed: 33
- In-hospital exams performed: 24
- Average sedation events per month: 5
- Wellness exams: 41
- Emergent exams: 7
- Microchips administered: 8
- Vaccines given: 127
- Surgeries: 9
- Animals sedated via dart from new CO2 dart pistol (acquired in July): 6
- Number of times gas anesthesia was used: 16
- Routine blood work performed: 95
- Urinalyses: 25
- Fecal flotation exams performed: 24
- Abdominal ultrasound exams performed: 10
- X-rays taken: 160
- Full set dental x-rays: 12
- Dental cleanings: 6
- Laser therapy treatments: 8
- Advanced treatments: 8



In December, TCWR hosted the Dental Coalition for Conservation (DCC), which expanded our access to advanced veterinary dentistry for several residents with complex oral diseases.



In 2025, TCWR expanded its rehabilitation program through ongoing collaboration with Dr. Kara Amstutz, DVM, DACVSMR, and her team at Momentum Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation in Springfield, Missouri.

VOLUNTEERING

In 2025, 136 volunteers participated in 10,827 hours of volunteer work to support our Animal Care, Donor Relations, Education, Communications, Marketing, and Social Media teams.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING

NWA Gives	\$29,658
Giving Tuesday	\$153,157
Online Auctions	\$1,547

LOCAL AWARENESS & FUNDRAISING EVENTS

TCWR Soiree at the Park, KiteFest, MOPAR Classic & Sip for Sanctuary raised **\$36,887**.

MAJOR EXPENSES

- Habitat Construction/Repairs/Maintenance: **\$25,422**
- Total value of animal food fed in 2025: **\$1,346,183**
 - Freezer storage cost \$29,517
 - 8,305 lbs. of meat donated by Tyson Foods \$36,667
 - Meat donated by local farmers/donors \$2,505
- Animal Enrichment (treats & toys): **\$24,288**
- Animal Care/Veterinary/Medications: **\$168,137**
 - \$4,400 on pain medications
 - \$41,000 on oral Bravecto
 - \$900 on vaccines
 - \$900 on sedation/anesthesia medications
 - \$1,450 on specialty-made compounded medications made for Chief, Diablo, Shiloh, Philmo, and Flint

KiteFest



Sanctuary Soiree VIP Event



Sip for Sanctuary



MOPAR Classic



FINANCIAL TOTALS

Dedicated fund donations:	
• Capital Campaign	\$25,953
• In-ground pool enrichment project	\$0
Foundation/Grant support	\$226,126
Private Donations	\$2,229,054
In-Kind Donations	\$270,683
Adoptions	\$55,004
Sponsorships	\$136,619
Memberships	\$334,828
Lodging	\$289,246
Admission	\$957,712
Special Tours	\$78,700
Other Revenue Streams/Other Income	\$644,071
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,247,997
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$6,234,494
NET OPERATING REVENUE	-\$986,497

A NOTE ON OUR YEAR-END FINANCIAL POSITION

This year, our organization closed with a negative net position, which warrants a brief explanation. The variance reflects a deliberate operational decision rather than financial distress.

In prior years, we accepted larger volumes of gifts-in-kind food donations – most notably from Tyson Foods – which significantly boosted our reported revenue. This year, due to well-stocked freezer capacity and strong existing inventory, we made the responsible choice to decline a portion of those donations. Accepting product we could not properly store or distribute would have been inconsistent with our commitment to the health and safety of the animals in our care.

As a sanctuary dedicated to the lifelong care of captive wild animals, responsible resource management is not just a financial practice – it is a direct reflection of our animal welfare standards. Our year-end position is lower on paper, but the animals in our sanctuary were well-fed, well-cared-for, and thriving. That is the truest measure of our performance.

This variance does not reflect financial instability. It reflects an organization operating with intention, integrity, and the animals' wellbeing at the center of every decision.



Hutch



Marissa

TOTAL 2025 IN KIND DONATIONS: \$270,218

We greatly appreciate Google Ads for donating Google advertising valued at **\$171,167**.



Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of the donors who purchased items through our Amazon Wishlist to support our mission and the animals in our care. Because of your generosity, we spent **no funds** on deworming products this year – every dose was donated through the Wishlist. That's pretty amazing.



In total, these gifts provided **\$40,691** worth of essential animal supplies.

For over 32 years, Tyson Foods has donated most of the meat we feed our animal residents. We cannot thank them enough for giving the animals we rescue the best care possible in captivity! In 2025, Tyson Foods donated 8,305.10 lbs of meat – \$4.42 per lb – value: **\$36,667**.



We also wish to offer the following donors for their significant in-kind contributions:

- Romance Christmas Trees donated 107 Christmas Trees, valued at **\$12,000**
- Lowes Donated 44 Christmas Trees, valued at **\$3,211**
- Sharon Ackerson donated meat valued at **\$2,000**
- Adjacent Properties for their discount on Billboard Rental, valued at **\$1,500**
- Cindy & Dwayne Lowry donated Games and Storage Bins for Lodging valued at **\$986**

We also want to thank each of you who donated to our auctions and helped them succeed!

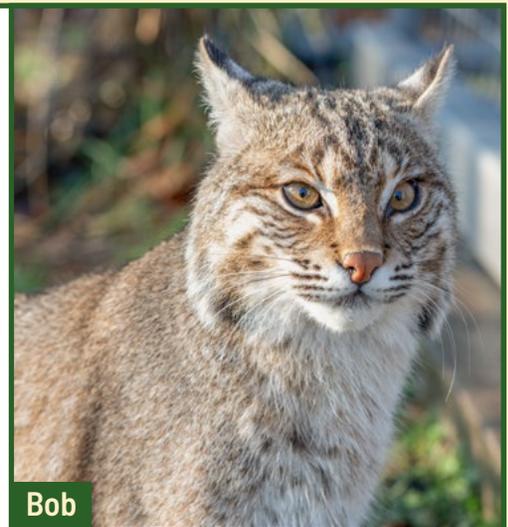
RESCUES – A LOOK BACK: BOB THE BOBCAT

In April 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge welcomed its first new arrival of the year – **Bob**, an eight-month-old bobcat found abandoned and severely underweight beneath a roadside sign deep in the woods. A caring local woman rescued him and cared for him at her home for six months. As Bob regained strength and his wild instincts reemerged, she realized he needed a true sanctuary environment and contacted TCWR.

Upon arrival, staff veterinarian **Dr. Kellyn Sweeley** performed a thorough medical assessment, discovering a large hernia near Bob's spine and signs of past eye injury. Bob underwent two surgeries to repair the hernia, which was a challenging recovery for such a young and lively wildcat. Throughout his treatment, he endeared himself to the animal care team with his curious nature and gentle demeanor.

Bob's world expanded when he was carefully introduced to **Malcolm**, a 3½-year-old bobcat living in an adjacent habitat. Through a gradual, monitored process, the two developed a strong bond – often seen playing, exploring, or resting side by side.

Today, Bob is thriving in a spacious, natural habitat built for climbing, running, and exploring. He receives weekly enrichment that promotes his natural behaviors, with expert veterinary care, a balanced diet, and the company of Malcolm. Thanks to the dedication of our team and supporters, Bob now enjoys the safety, care, and quality of life that every wild animal deserves.



Bob

RESCUES – NEVADA TIGERS

In April 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge responded to a **government seizure in Pahrump, Nevada**, when seven tigers were confiscated by local and federal authorities from a property where they were kept illegally and in unsafe conditions. Working alongside the **Nye County Sheriff's Office, county officials, and federal partners**, TCWR mobilized overnight to provide immediate placement for the tigers, who had been living in cramped enclosures without reliable access to water or adequate care.

The seven tigers – **Livia, Nakita, Maggie, Thelma, Louise, Salvador, and Mustafa** – arrived at the Refuge thin, weak, and stressed from years of captivity. Over the past year, each has made great progress through proper nutrition, veterinary care, and the ability to roam freely in spacious, natural environments. Several, including Salvador, Maggie, and Nakita, rebuilt lost muscle after months of balanced diets and increased activity, while others gradually gained confidence and stability.

Today, all seven have reached healthy body condition and settled into predictable routines. Once fearful and withdrawn, tigers like Thelma and Nakita now greet caregivers with curiosity and calm engagement – a powerful reflection of what time, space, and consistent care can provide. Their recovery stands as a testament to the critical role sanctuaries play when enforcement actions leave animals with nowhere else to go, and to the impact of donor support that makes this work possible.



Maggie



Livia



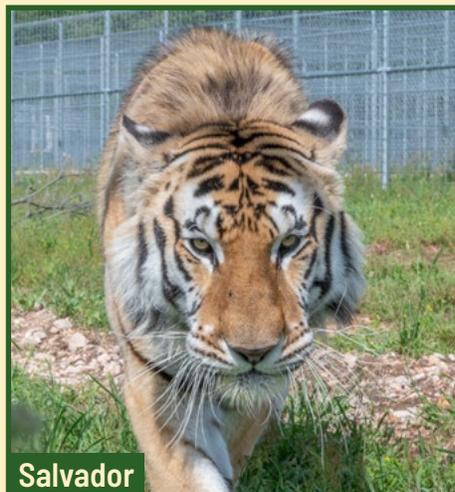
Louise



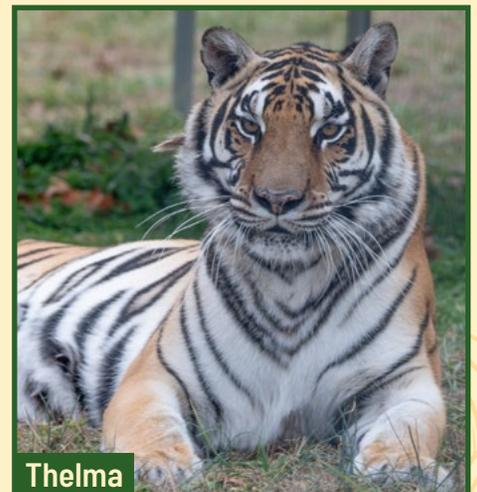
Mustafa



Nakita



Salvador



Thelma

RESCUES — CALIFORNIA

In May 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge responded to a government-led seizure in California after a facility lost its permit due to repeated animal welfare violations. Eight exotic cats were left without lawful care or placement, and TCWR collaborated with the **USDA and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife** to ensure these animals were safely re-located to a permanent sanctuary.

The rescue brought **four lions**—**Lucy, Leyah, Amari, and Samson**—and **four wild cats**—**Axle the leopard, Chapman the serval, Zeus the caracal, and Kaia the fishing cat**—to the Refuge. Several arrived with serious, long-term health issues, including deformities and **Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD)** caused by improper nutrition and inadequate care.

Today, each cat receives **personalized diets, veterinary supervision, and enrichment** designed to promote healing and long-term well-being. Their arrival highlighted both the effects of neglect and the vital importance of accredited sanctuaries when enforcement actions leave animals with nowhere else to go. Thanks to donor support, these eight cats now live in spacious, natural habitats and will get the lifelong care they deserve.



Zeus



Chapman



Samson



Kaia



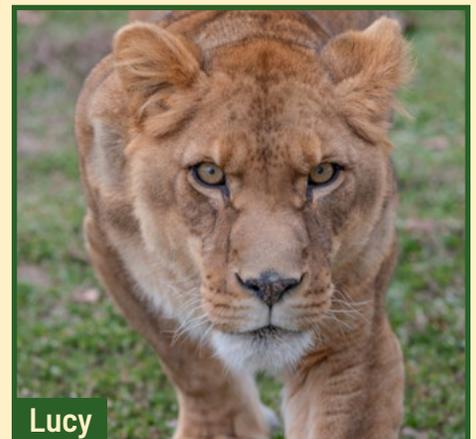
Amari



Axle



Leyah



Lucy

RESCUES — A LOOK BACK: THE CROWN RIDGE REHOME

In early October 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge welcomed two tigers, **Sebastian** and **Shakira Luna**, after the closure of **Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary** in Missouri. When the GFAS-accredited sanctuary announced it could no longer continue operations, TCWR was honored to provide lifelong homes for its residents. This marked the second time in two years that a closing accredited sanctuary turned to TCWR for help, following our 2023 collaboration with Big Cat Rescue and the expansion of Freedom Field.

For 15-year-old Shakira Luna, the move held special significance. She was reunited with her sister, **Jasmine Magnolia**, who had been rescued years earlier from a roadside zoo and now resides nearby at Rescue Ridge. Although separated physically, the sisters can once again see and hear each other — a rare and heartfelt reunion made possible through teamwork within the sanctuary community. Shakira Luna continues to receive specialized care for the long-term effects of Metabolic Bone Disease and is thriving in her peaceful, enriched environment.

Sebastian's arrival completes his own story. Originally rescued from Tiger King Park in 2021, he was placed at Crown Ridge through the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance because TCWR's habitats were full. His late mate, **Priscilla**, and their cubs — **DOJ**, **Jinx**, and **Rosie** — already call TCWR their home, making Sebastian's rehome a meaningful return to familiar territory.

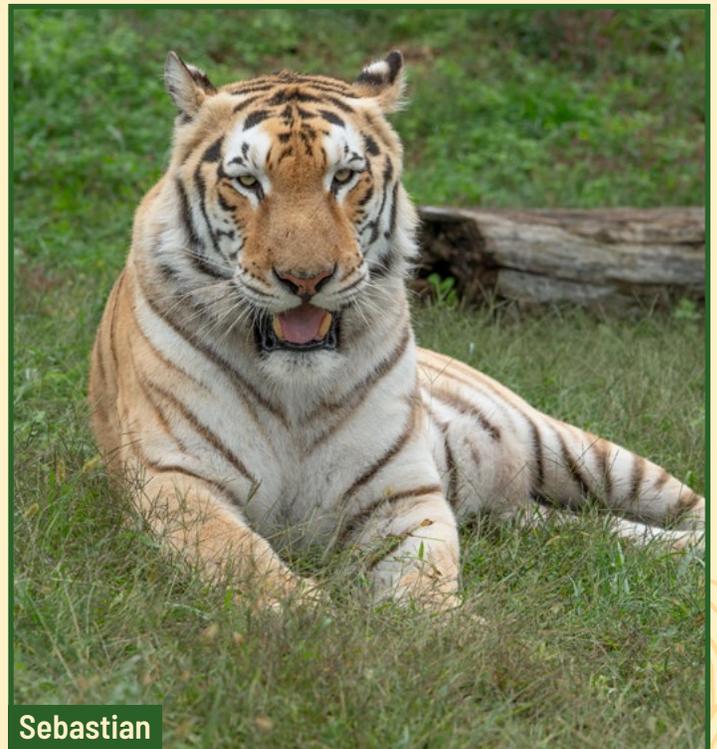
As the year ended, both tigers settled in beautifully. Shakira Luna finished treatment for a lingering infection that started before her transfer and has shown steady improvement. Sebastian — who had previously undergone surgery to remove what was initially believed to be a benign tumor — embraced his new habitat, quickly claiming a favorite bench for lounging and naps.

Sadly, further evaluation of that recurring oral mass revealed it to be an aggressive cancer with a poor long-term prognosis. After thoughtful consultation and specialized review, Dr. Kellyn is focusing Sebastian's care on comfort, proactive pain management, and quality of life vs. invasive interventions. He is currently eating well, engaged with his caregivers, and continuing to enjoy his days in Freedom Field.

Thanks to your generosity, every chapter of Sebastian and Shakira Luna's lives is being met with compassion and care.



Shakira Luna



Sebastian

RESCUES – NORTHSTAR LIONS (QUEBEC, CANADA)

In May 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge carried out its **first international rescue**, working with Humane World Canada, Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, and The Wildcat Sanctuary to assist in the government-led seizure of **seven African lions** from a closed roadside facility in Quebec. TCWR had been secretly coordinating with government agencies and partners since winter 2024 to prepare for what became one of the most complicated rescues in the Refuge's history.

Following a two-phase operation that included temporary placement in Canada, international permitting, and a 1,500-mile transport, TCWR welcomed **Scar, Mufasa, Thor, Nirvana**, and her cubs, **Reggie** and **Archie**, to Arkansas in October. Scar and Mufasa arrived as an inseparable bonded pair, Thor finally gained a permanent home after years of being moved for profit, and Nirvana was able to raise her cubs safely alongside her – an opportunity rarely afforded to lions born into captivity.

This extraordinary rescue was made possible through the generosity of **Liebchen's Gift Foundation**, which helped ensure these lions were not only rescued but also received lifelong care, specialized habitats, and enrichment in accordance with TCWR's highest standards.



ADVANCED REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, TCWR expanded its rehabilitation program through ongoing collaboration with Dr. Kara Amstutz, DVM, DACVSMR, and her team at Momentum Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation in Springfield, Missouri. During visits in June and November, Dr. Amstutz provided advanced musculoskeletal care for Luna, Lucy, and Samson, three residents with complex orthopedic issues related to untreated metabolic bone disease in their cubhood.

Luna received targeted hip and knee injections and shockwave therapy, showing significant improvement in mobility and activity within weeks. Lucy underwent multiple joint injections and shockwave therapy to address severe limb deformities and pelvic changes, along with dietary modifications aimed at enhancing long-term comfort and function.

For Samson, advanced imaging showed that his weakness was mainly caused by significant muscle loss rather than end-stage arthritis, allowing his care team to cut back on pain medications and focus on rehabilitation. Through this collaboration, Samson also started receiving a donated oral muscle supplement from Virbac, which led to early improvements in his strength, activity levels, and willingness to move around his habitat.

These collaborations allow TCWR to bring leading-edge rehabilitation medicine to residents whose complex histories require highly specialized care.



Dr. Amstutz provided advanced musculoskeletal care for Luna, Lucy, and Samson (shown here).

SPECIALIZED DENTAL CARE FOR LIFELONG HEALTH

In December, TCWR hosted the Dental Coalition for Conservation (DCC), which expanded our access to advanced veterinary dentistry for several residents with complex oral diseases. Working alongside our veterinary team—who managed anesthesia, monitoring, and full wellness exams—the DCC specialists performed three canine root canals for Livia, a canine root canal for Donner, a retained canine extraction for Prince, and tumor removal with associated tooth extraction for Sebastian.

For Livia, three severely fractured canines were treated, with additional follow-up care planned. Donner's long-standing problematic fractured canine was successfully saved with a root canal. Prince underwent removal of an unerupted adult canine embedded deep in the jaw, preventing serious future complications.

Sebastian, who had a tumor removed before rescue, was found to have regrowth at the surgical site. During his procedure, additional biopsies confirmed an aggressive oral melanoma. The DCC team debulked the tumor to improve comfort, and Sebastian is now on a dedicated pain management and quality-of-life monitoring plan.

This collaboration enables TCWR to offer a level of dental care that is rarely available in sanctuary settings. These pro bono partnerships eliminate financial barriers and ensure exceptional, compassionate treatment for our most medically complex residents.



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FULL YEAR OF BRAVECTO TREATMENT

You'll be excited to know that 2026 marks the first full year of providing Bravecto to all eligible residents—a program that has added \$60,000 to our veterinary budget. Since 2018, we've dreamed of implementing a comprehensive preventive parasite plan, and now it's a reality! While our tick-spraying program helps decrease environmental exposure, Bravecto provides systemic protection, keeping our residents safe from the rising cases of tick-borne diseases in Arkansas, including bobcat fever—a disease that is especially destructive to felines.



Beyond ticks, the oral Bravecto protects animals from fleas, flea-borne illnesses like feline infectious anemia, and mites that cause sarcoptic or demodectic mange. With so many threats covered, choosing this treatment helps keep the animals we rescue healthy and well-protected. Preventing these infectious diseases is crucial to maintaining the high veterinary care standards TCWR champions, and the TCWR animals deserve.

BOB'S HERNIA REPAIR WITH SURGICAL MESH

Bob the bobcat had a hernia repair that required a specialized approach. Since his abdominal hernia had been chronic, a standard veterinary repair alone wouldn't have been enough. To ensure the best outcome, we brought in retired veterinarian Dr. Ron Eby, whose 30+ years of surgical experience made him the ideal partner for this procedure. Using surgical mesh—a product not commonly used in veterinary medicine—Dr. Eby helped perform the repair successfully.

The surgery was completely successful! Seven months later, Bob is thriving. He's been introduced to Malcolm, and the two have quickly become good friends. Bob's repair continues to stay strong despite all the jumping, running, and playful pouncing he does every day—living life like a typical, energetic young bobcat, now with a new best friend by his side.



NEW SURGICAL TOOL DONATION: VESSEL SEALER

We were thrilled to receive a generous donation from an anonymous veterinarian at the Wildcat Sanctuary, which allowed us to buy a vessel sealer—an advanced surgical tool that has already improved our operating capabilities. Dr. Kellyn Sweeley had been asking about their vessel sealer during a veterinary group meeting, and they surprised us by funding our own.

This device has now been used in four surgeries, including neuters for Malcolm, Hunter, and two other animals. The vessel sealer uses high-temperature cauterization to seal blood vessels in seconds, eliminating the need for traditional sutures. This greatly reduces surgery time and significantly lowers the risk of bleeding—especially important for our large cats, where vessels are bigger, and complications can be serious.

Thanks to this tool, procedures that used to take 30 minutes now take as little as five, enabling us to perform additional diagnostics and wellness care—such as teeth cleanings, X-rays, and ultrasounds—during the same anesthetic event. This results in safer, faster, and more comprehensive care for every patient.

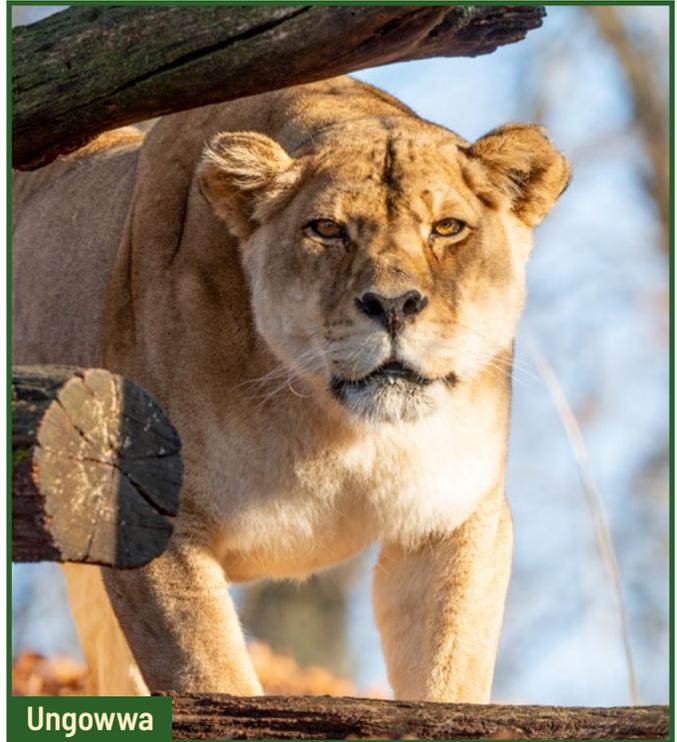
Every animal at TCWR benefits from personalized care, including tailored diets, enrichment activities, expansive natural habitats, and protection from the elements. In summer, water-loving cats enjoy cooling off in pools, while heated dens and buildings keep African and elderly cats snug all winter. TCWR's leadership in animal husbandry is so well-regarded that AZA-accredited zoos send their staff to learn from our practices.

World Lion Day

August 10 was World Lion Day. Nineteen lions currently reside at the Refuge, free from exploitation and neglect. As an overnight visitor, you can delight in listening to their caroling. Because of your generosity, the TCWR lions now enjoy individually designed diets, enrichment programs, and regular wellness exams. While some of our lions enjoy sunny winter days in their habitats, they can all keep cozy in their heated dens. Sponsoring a lion ensures they will continue to get the care they deserve all year.



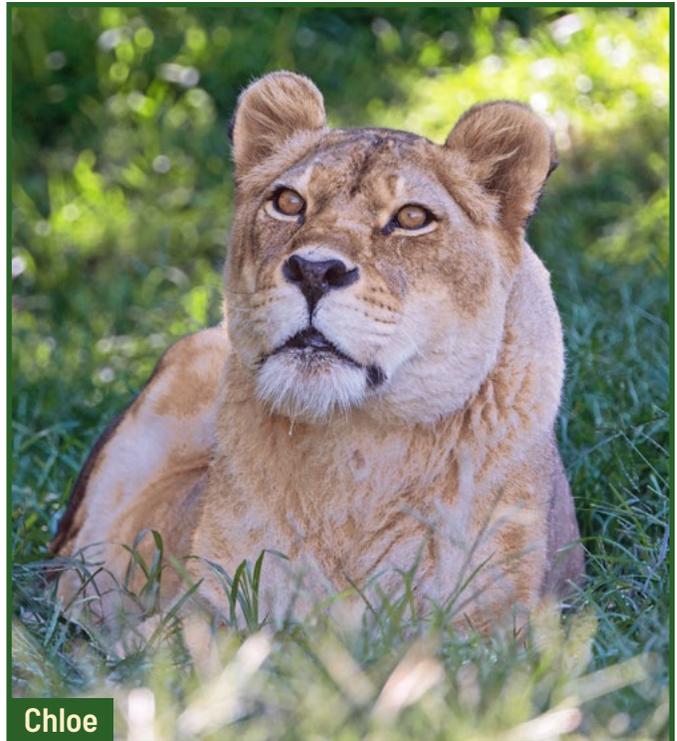
Scar



Ungowwa



Lyla



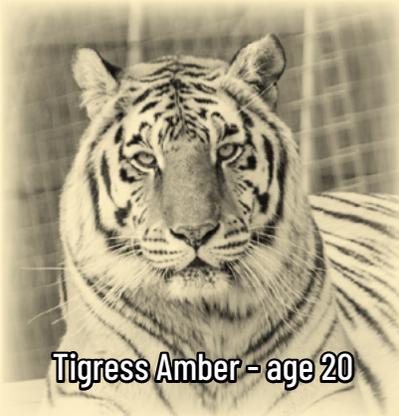
Chloe

In Memoriam

This year, we said goodbye to several cherished residents of the Refuge. Each one was known, cared for, and respected, and their presence continues to shape our work and our hearts. Though they are no longer with us, their legacies and stories will continue to inspire our fight to end the exploitation of all wild cats and bears.



Bobcat Dillian - age 20



Tigress Amber - age 20



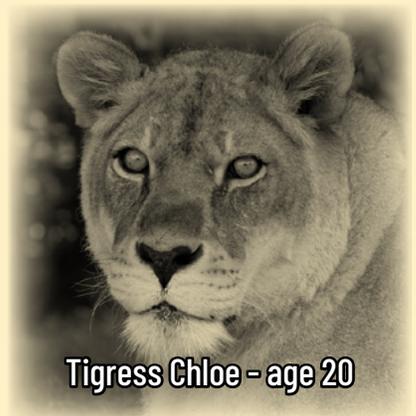
Tigress Mack - age 17



Tiger Montana - age 15



Tiger Detroit - age 19



Tigress Chloe - age 20



Tigress Rayn - age 19



Tiger Glacier - age 18

Though they are no longer with us, their legacies and stories will continue to inspire our fight to end the exploitation of all wild cats and bears.

WE WANT TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL DONORS:

The members of the Hilda Jackson Society, the Kenny Fellowship, the Bam Bam Benefactors, and the Friends of India include Turpentine Creek's most committed members who support TCWR's rescue and education initiatives. By enrolling in a membership tier and pledging to give again, these dedicated stewards enable us to budget for more significant projects with greater impact in the coming years. Our humble thanks also go to all who did not sign up for membership benefits or acknowledgments but chose to give at a membership level. We could not have achieved all we did this past year without your fantastic support. Thank you.

THE HILDA JACKSON SOCIETY

Annual Donation of \$10,000+

Brad & Sandy J
Debbie & Stu S
Gordon & Shyanne M
James & Linda J
Jane B
Jason M
Julie & Jady H
Louis & Debi C
Maxine B
Nancy P
Scott & Vicki J
Sherry S
Warren & Gail T

THE KENNY FELLOWSHIP

Annual Donation of \$3,000 - \$9,999

Audrey A	Lois Y
Brad & Tambria H	Marcia D
Brett & Andrea B	Mary N
Charleen & Ed C	Michael & Catherine B
Charles & Deborah S	Pam H
Dolores P & Chris L	Patricia B
Donna & Steve M	Richard & Tonya B
Ed Hein & Sonika H	Rob & Connie W
Emmett P	Robert & Gloria S
Jady H & Jillian H	Ruth B
Jerusha W	Samantha C
Joe R	Stacey C
John & Glenna L	Tom F
Ken & Sharon D	Tre & Jeta H
Leward F	Valerie B
Linda C	

BAM BAM BENEFACTORS

Annual Donation of \$1,250 - \$2,999

Alisa L	John & Colleen I	Regina D
Angelique K	John & Denise F	Ronald & Jane B
Anne M	John & Kelli H	Scott & Christi E
Bonnie A	Johnna T	Sheila & Norman P
Caren F	Jose & Anne D	Tara L
Charlotte & Marvin A	Junen A	Trish W & John M
Cristina N	Pamela M	William D
Joan T	Patricia R	Zorah P

FRIENDS OF INDIA

Annual Donation of \$375 - \$1,249

Alan & Donna E	Garry & Paula W	Michael & Connie D
Alexandra M	Gary & Melissa C	Millie S
Alisa A	Gary M	MJ J
Amanda P	Georgia K	Morgen V
Anabelle S	Heidi R	Nichole S
Anna J	Henry M	Pamela B
Anna Moon B	Herbert & Jeanne H	Pat Q
Audrey S	Jaig R	Patricia & James L
Barbara F	James P & Lola V	Patricia R
Bob K	Jane S	Patricia W
Bonnie H	Jean E	Paula C
Brenda K	Jeffrey O	Phillip & Joanne H
Brett P	Jerry S	Phiroza S
Brian V	John & Laurie L	Rachel C
Brigitte W	Josue R	Raja B
Brooke Plack B	Judy K	Richard B
Bruce B	Judy U	Robert & Nancy Y
Carla F	Kandyce P	Robert H
Carol M	Karen C	Ron & Karen V
Carol Sue & Alan W	Karen K	Ron L
Carolyn S	Karen M	Roy & Melanie H
Cherie C	Katherine B	Ruth K
Chris & Laura M	Kathleen G	Scott & Tanya S
Chris O	Kathy W	Scott H
Christine B	Kayleen Y	Sharon H
Chrystie W	Kenneth & Laurie F	Sharon H
Cindy B	Kevin & Renee K	Shawn & Julie S
Craig & Jona S	Kjerstin B	Shirley M
Cris Y	Kristin S	Stacey C
Cynthia H	Lacey V	Stephanie W
Cynthia Pogue B	Larry & Debra M	Steve & Kathy A
David & Deborah M	Larry M	Steve & Terri F
David & Jen H	Laurie C	Steve T
Debbie & David R	Lavon & Brenda M	Susan & Robert H
Deborah P	Linda C	Susan A
Debra A	Lisa M	Susan F
Dennis & Gail E	Louise & David B	Tamara B
Diane P	Luci B	Tammy B
Diane W	Marcy M	Teresa & Randall B
Dominic & Lee D	Mark & Donna C	Terry T
Donna T	Mark & Judith S	Travis Coe & Donna T
Dylan & Ericka D	Marney & Brenda G	Wendell F
Edward & Katherine D	Mary D	Wendy & Ron S
EJ & Jeanine B	Melissa V	William, Debbie & Blake H

THE TCWR LEGACY SOCIETY

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you who have joined our Legacy Society by providing written notification of your intention to include TCWR in your legacy giving. Your generosity will help ensure that future generations of wild animals receive lifelong sanctuary at the Refuge—allowing them to live with dignity, comfort, and the freedom to experience each day on their own terms.

In recognition of your commitment, your name will be added to our Legacy Wall in the Education Center. Stay tuned this summer for updates on this important project, which will include much-needed office space for TCWR staff, dedicated classrooms, and a new gift shop to support our mission.

<i>Anonymous X 3</i>	Marilyn & Henry L
Suzi A	Larry & Cindy M
Debra A	Tom & Lynne M
Matthew & Melissa A	Sherri M
Edward & Ruth B	Audrey M
Jacqueline & Gerard B	Jennifer N
Caroleta M & Gina B	Norman & Sheila P
Louis & Debi C	Gabrielle Q
Theresa C	Gary & Veronica R
Karen C	Brenda Selby R
Niki D	Katlyn R
Susan D	James R
John & Deborah F	Robert & Gloria S
Edward G	Charles & Deborah S
Jane G	Fred & Sherry S
Mark G	Linda S
Thomas H	Anna Marie S
David & Sharon H	BJ & Taylor G
Michaelyn B & Rick J	Joan T
Jacque J	Melissa V
Carolyn K	Chrystie W
Sandi K	Samuel W
James K	Larry & Kayleen Y
Bob K	Carol Shante Z
Kevin & Renee K	



Thank you for helping us have a groundbreaking year of rescue. In 2025, your support enabled us to give lifetime sanctuary to 24 new wild cats – each with a story of hardship – who are now starting a new chapter filled with safety, dignity, and proper care for life.

Every rescue embodies hope made real. Tigers and lions that once endured cramped, barren conditions now thrive in spacious habitats where they are respected and free to express their natural behaviors. Among them are the cubs – Reggie and Archie – who will grow up with their mother, Nirvana, protected from exploitation, hunger, and neglect. Watching this pride begin their lives in true sanctuary captures the heart of our mission, and it is only made possible because of you.

Your generosity in 2025 was truly life-changing. Every monthly gift and donation toward rescue support ensured that animals in our care received exactly what they needed – from medical treatment and specialized diets to warm dens, enrichment, and comfort during the winter months. Every contribution made a difference. Every gift transformed a life. And the work continues.

Already in 2026, TCWR welcomed three lions rescued from Honduras in January. Each arrived with complex medical needs requiring immediate and ongoing care. Their rescue highlights both the increasing need for accredited sanctuaries willing and able to step in when animals have nowhere else to go, and the long-term responsibility we bear for every life entrusted to us.

This rescue has gained international attention, with coverage from the Honduras National Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF), *People* magazine, the Arkansas State Gazette, and Aaron Parnas of *The Parnas Perspective*, reaching hundreds of thousands of readers and raising awareness of the plight of animals in need.

As we look ahead, we do so with deep gratitude. You are part of every rescue, every recovery, and every peaceful moment an animal experiences here. **Today, 127 rescued animals call TCWR home – each one a living testament to what compassion, dedication, and partnership can accomplish.**

From all of us at the Refuge, thank you for your trust, compassion, and unwavering support. Together, we may not be able to change the world for every animal – but for every animal we rescue, we change their world forever.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya Smith".

Tanya Smith, President/Founder
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

THANK YOU



Ariel

Ariel's rescue story began in July 2014 when a woman and her son in Florida sought to rehome their unlicensed four-year-old pet bobcat. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission brought Ariel to an accredited sanctuary in Florida that attempted to rehabilitate her for release into the wild. Unfortunately, Ariel had spent too much time with humans and was deemed non-releasable.

In 2023, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) agreed to take in the remaining 33 wild cats from this Florida sanctuary, including Ariel, and constructed 44 new habitats in Freedom Field to accommodate them. At TCWR, Ariel settled into her new home and is often seen perched atop her den. She enjoys shady spots in for long naps and sunbathing. Her habitat includes enrichment from natural rocks, artificial nooks, and vegetation, encouraging her to use her instincts.

