

BIG CAT CHRONICLES

FALL 2026



Turpentine Creek
FOUNDATION, INC.

Scar

Male Lion (*Panthera leo*)
Born December 25, 2021
Rescued October 21, 2025
Learn about me on page 4.

**Make your year-end
gift today - help us
transform more lives!**

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act was a tremendous victory for captive wild animals. By ending cub petting and restricting private ownership, we've taken an important step toward ending the exploitation of big cats. But while we've made tremendous progress, the need for rescue is far from over.



Today, public education is more important than ever. The protections provided by the Big Cat Public Safety Act only work when people understand the law, recognize when something is wrong, and speak up for animals who cannot speak for themselves. Education helps prevent suffering before it begins and helps future generations understand why wild animals belong in the wild.

When animals are removed from harmful situations, accredited sanctuaries like Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge provide what enforcement alone cannot—a lifetime of specialized care. Working alongside the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state wildlife agencies, law enforcement, and organizations such as PETA, we help ensure rescued wild animals have a permanent place to heal and thrive.

In May 2025, Turpentine Creek partnered with the USDA and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide a permanent sanctuary for eight wild cats removed from a facility that had lost its permit due to repeated animal-welfare violations. This July, white tiger Zuri arrived safely at the Refuge following a separate USDA confiscation involving the same owner and a collaborative rescue with Oakland Zoo. Her journey reminds us that rescue does not always happen overnight. It requires cooperation, patience, and a shared commitment to ensuring animals reach the lifelong sanctuary they deserve.

That lifelong commitment is why we've embraced our New E.R.A.—Education, Rescue, and Advocacy. Every rescued animal becomes an ambassador, helping visitors understand why wild animals belong in the wild and inspiring future generations to protect them. Education changes hearts. Advocacy changes laws. Rescue changes lives. Together, they create lasting change.

As we build that future, we are also creating meaningful opportunities for supporters to leave a lasting legacy at the Refuge. Through commemorative naming opportunities, families can honor loved ones, celebrate their commitment to wildlife, and help advance our mission for generations to come.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing beside us as we continue to rescue, educate, and advocate for captive wild animals. Together, we are creating a future where every rescued life has the opportunity to flourish.

With gratitude,

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

Tanya Smith, Founder and President
Turpentine Creek Foundation & Wildlife Refuge

To inquire about Naming Opportunities, contact sandy@tcwr.org

Join us! Two unforgettable evenings.

Golden Hour Tour

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
5:00–6:45 P.M.

Begin your experience with an exclusive evening at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before embarking on a **guided behind-the-scenes twilight tour** as the sun sets over the Ozark Mountains. Hear remarkable rescue stories, meet some of the Refuge's residents, and experience the mission in a way few ever do.



TOUR: \$150 PER PERSON
Limited availability.

Sip for Sanctuary

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
4:30–7:30 P.M.

Join us for an elegant autumn evening celebrating rescued wild animals while enjoying award-winning wines, artisan charcuterie, live music, and the breathtaking beauty of Sassafras Springs Vineyard.

Browse one-of-a-kind artwork created by the Refuge's tigers and lions, meet Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's leadership team and President, and discover how your support helps provide lifetime sanctuary for captive wild animals.



SIP: \$60 PER PERSON
Limited availability.

Experience Both Events



\$185 PER PERSON
(a \$25 savings)

Scan here
to sign up:

qrco.de/bgwAqd



Nearly a year ago, brothers Scar and Mufasa arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge after an extraordinary international rescue.

ADOPT OR SPONSOR



Mufasa



One Year Later: Scar and Mufasa Are Learning What It Means to Simply Be Lions

Nearly a year ago, brothers Scar and Mufasa arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge after an extraordinary international rescue from a failed roadside zoo in Quebec, Canada. Their journey spanned two countries, months of planning, and countless people working together to give them something they had never truly known—a permanent home.

Today, their story is no longer about rescue. It's about recovery and life at the Refuge.

The brothers continue to share a habitat, and their bond is unmistakable. While they're separated during mealtimes to prevent competition over food, once the gates reopen, they're often found side by side. Whether resting together or exploring their habitat, Scar and Mufasa remind us that family can remain a powerful source of comfort, even after years of uncertainty.

Like all lions, they have distinct personalities—and a playful side. The brothers are obsessed with enrichment, but each enjoys it in his own way. Mufasa tends to settle down and savor his enrichment boxes, while Scar grabs his and sprints around the habitat with it. Both are always eager to see whether their keepers have brought treats, are curious about everything happening around them, and are especially fascinated by their neighbor, Bam Bam.



The brothers continue to share a habitat, and their bond is unmistakable.



Scar

After surviving neglect, Scar and Mufasa now spend their days exploring, playing, and enjoying life together.

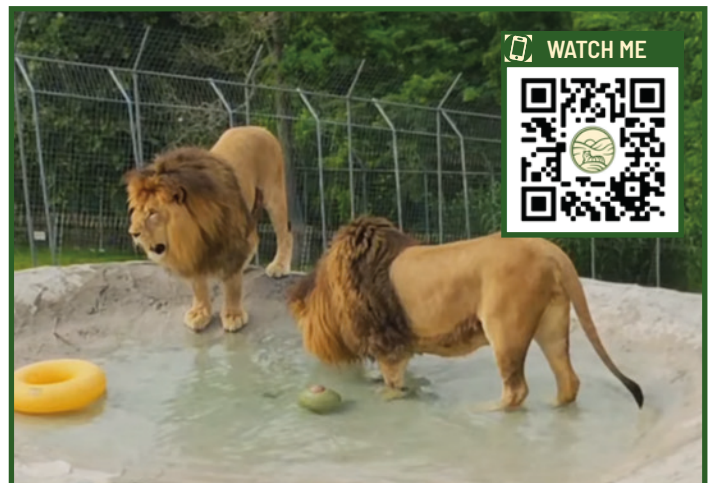
Although lions aren't known for swimming, the brothers have discovered their own way to enjoy the large in-ground pool in their habitat. As part of regular habitat maintenance, Animal Care and Maintenance teams routinely drain, clean, and refill the pool with fresh water. Rather than waiting until the job is finished, Scar and Mufasa eagerly investigate as the pool refills, turning routine care into enrichment.

One day, several enrichment balls floated into the pool. Scar stood at the water's edge, watching one drift just out of reach. As he debated whether to retrieve it (remember, lions aren't fond of water), Mufasa positioned himself behind his brother, repeatedly nudging and pawing at his hindquarters, creating a playful exchange that highlighted their close bond and natural curiosity.

Every rescue story continues long after the transport is over. Providing lifetime sanctuary means nutritious diets, expert veterinary care, enriching habitats, and dedicated Animal Care Staff every single day for the rest of an animal's life. By becoming a monthly donor, you help ensure lions like Scar and Mufasa—and every animal who finds refuge here—receive the consistent care they deserve, no matter when the next rescue call comes. Your ongoing support gives rescued wildlife the chance to heal, thrive, and simply be wild animals again.

These simple moments may seem ordinary, but they represent something extraordinary. After surviving neglect and uncertainty, Scar and Mufasa now spend their days making choices, exploring, playing, and strengthening the bond they've always shared. At Turpentine Creek, they aren't part of a show or an attraction. They're simply lions—living the life they always deserved.

Although lions aren't known for swimming, Scar and Mufasa love watching their pool refill—it turns routine habitat care into enrichment!



Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack



Protecting big cats requires more than laws; it requires enforcement. For decades, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) has fought to strengthen protections for big cats. Our efforts have led to important victories, including stronger federal restrictions on the private ownership and exploitation of big cats. Without consistent enforcement, these protections cannot fulfill their promise.

Big cats continue to live in roadside zoos and exhibition facilities where concerns about inadequate housing, veterinary care, breeding practices, and public safety persist. Many of these facilities remain licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). A USDA exhibitor license is not a certification of excellence. It simply indicates that a facility has met, or is expected to meet, the minimum standards established under the Animal Welfare Act. Those standards have long been criticized by veterinarians and animal welfare organizations as falling short of what big cats need to thrive.

Even when inspectors identify deficiencies, enforcement does not always result in immediate license suspension or revocation. Facilities are often given opportunities to correct violations; enforcement actions may take months or years, and limited agency resources can delay meaningful action. While some facilities work to comply with the law, others continue operating despite repeated citations. A clear example is our 2025 rescue of Lucy, a lioness from California, who was found suffering from Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) during multiple USDA inspections, yet was left behind for almost nine years while the facility was allowed to attempt to provide minimum care standards.



Lucy

Lucy endured years of inadequate care despite repeated inspections. When she arrived at TCWR in 2025, she was suffering from Metabolic Bone Disease and finally received the lifelong care she deserved.

The passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act marked a significant milestone in ending the private exploitation of big cats. The law restricts private ownership and prohibits direct public contact with cubs and adult big cats, addressing practices that fueled irresponsible breeding and commercial exploitation for years. Yet federal legislation cannot achieve its intention without proper oversight. Federal and state agencies need the staffing and funding necessary to enforce these laws consistently and effectively.

We urge regulatory and licensing agencies to fully enforce existing federal and state animal welfare laws. TCWR is often called upon by these agencies, and we will continue to step up whenever an animal is in need. It is infuriating to rescue cats that should have been removed years earlier from these roadside zoos. We need these agencies to hold repeat violators accountable through impactful penalties and close the loopholes that allow irresponsible exhibitors to continue operating despite chronic noncompliance.



Two different AZA facilities allowed public contact with big cat cubs this past year, yet neither was fined or penalized for violating the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

As supporters of wildlife protection, your voice matters. Public education and awareness helped bring national attention to the exploitation of big cats, but continued advocacy is essential. Enforcement is critical. Two different AZA facilities allowed public contact with big cat cubs this past year, yet neither was fined or penalized for violating the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

Together, we can encourage stronger oversight, promote accountability, and support policies that put animal welfare first. Because protecting big cats should never end with passing a law—it should begin with enforcing it.

You can report animal welfare concerns or suspected abuse to the USDA using the following specific channels:

- **Online:** Submit a detailed narrative on the [**USDA APHIS Animal Welfare Complaint portal**](#). You can choose to remain anonymous, though it may limit their ability to follow up with you.
- **Email:** Send your information, including location, dates, and evidence, to [**aceast@aphis.usda.gov**](mailto:aceast@aphis.usda.gov) (Eastern Region) or [**acwest@aphis.usda.gov**](mailto:acwest@aphis.usda.gov) (Western Region).
- **Phone & Fax:** Contact the APHIS Customer Service Center directly at **1-844-820-2234**. You can also reach the Eastern Region at **(919) 855-7100** or the Western Region at **(970) 494-7478**.
- **Mail:** Send physical documentation to: USDA/APHIS/AC, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Because of You, Zuri is Finally Home

On the morning of July 8, a transport trailer arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge carrying Zuri, a white Bengal tiger who has spent her life unable to judge distance. Born in 2012 with strabismus, a condition that left her eyes crossed and her depth perception impaired, Zuri learned to navigate her world through scent more than sight. When the trailer doors opened, she stepped into a place she had never known, trusting a world she could not fully see.

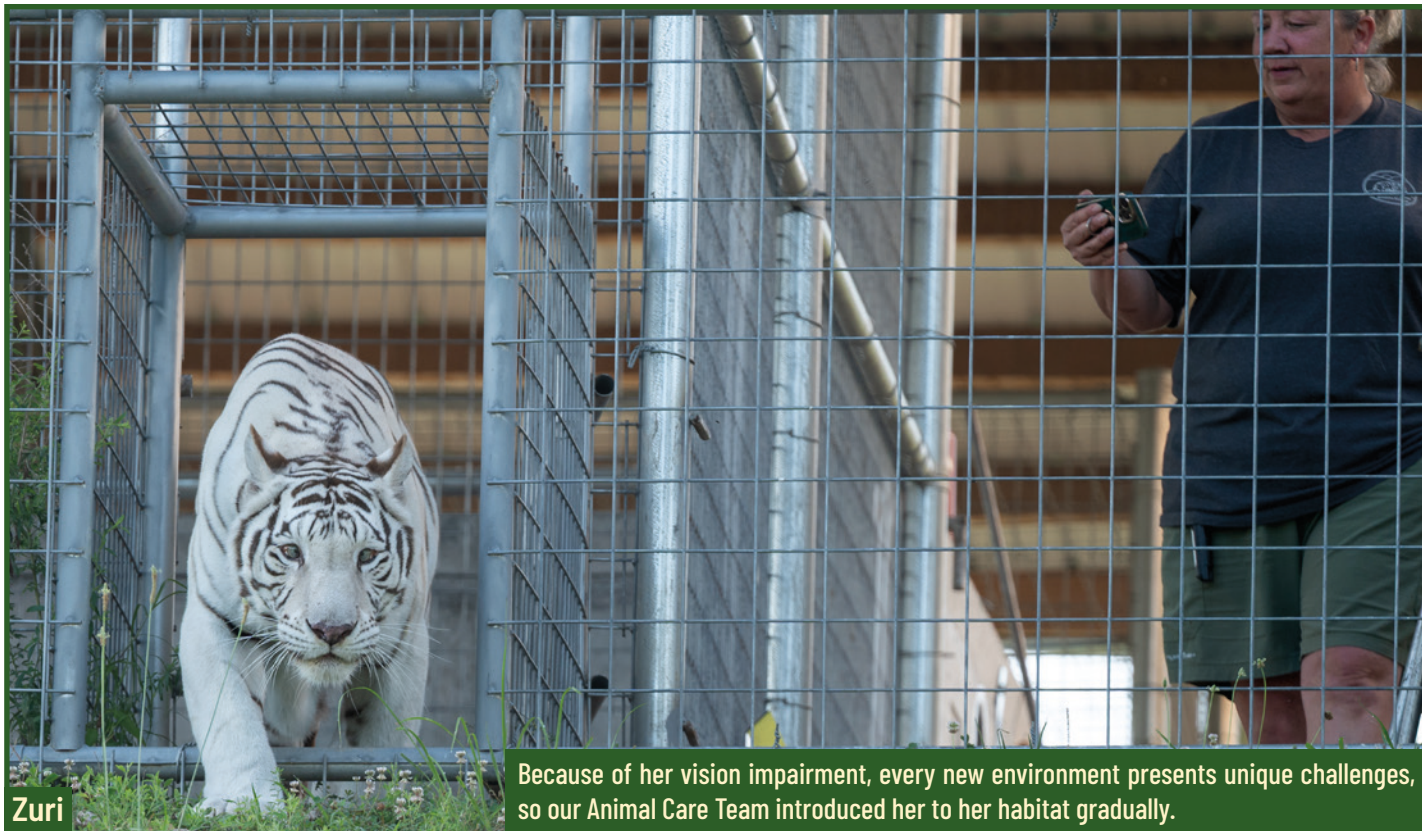
"Every animal that comes to us has already survived the hardest part alone," said Tanya Smith, Founder and President of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. "Zuri stepped off that trailer not knowing what was ahead of her, the same way she's had to move through most of her life. Our job now is simple: give her every reason to trust that this time, she's finally safe."

Zuri's story began at the Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation, a roadside zoo in Oroville, California. For over a decade, USDA inspectors cited the facility for inadequate veterinary care, improper nutrition, unsafe public interactions with dangerous animals, and poor welfare conditions. PETA documented the pattern for years, at one point naming Kirshner "the Worst Roadside Zoo in America," and pushed California's Department of Fish and Wildlife to intervene. In 2024, after a tiger cub was confiscated with broken bones, the state denied the facility's permit renewal, and it closed.

Zuri



After years of inadequate care and improper nutrition at what has been described as "the Worst Roadside Zoo in America," Zuri arrived at TCWR on July 8. Despite a lifetime of limited vision, she stepped into her new world with courage and trust, beginning a new chapter of care and compassion.



Zuri

Because of her vision impairment, every new environment presents unique challenges, so our Animal Care Team introduced her to her habitat gradually.

Many readers may remember what happened next. Last May, Turpentine Creek's rescue team drove to California to bring home eight of those animals. Many arrived underweight and carrying the effects of neglect.

But Zuri's journey continued. After leaving Kirshner, she spent the next year at another non-accredited facility. When legal action brought additional scrutiny, the operator agreed to relinquish the remaining tigers. Oakland Zoo coordinated Zuri's rescue, provided veterinary care, and transported her to Albuquerque, where she met TCWR's rescue team for the final journey home.

Her story is a reminder that no organization rescues an animal alone.

After settling into the sounds and smells of her new surroundings, Zuri is now exploring her grassy habitat at her own pace. Because of her vision impairment, every new environment presents unique challenges, so our Animal Care Team introduced her habitat gradually, allowing her confidence to grow with each new step. She'll continue moving at her own speed—not ours.

We may never know how many other animals were impacted by Kirshner's facility. What we do know is that when another animal needs help, the same collaboration that brought Zuri to sanctuary will be ready to answer the call.

To learn more about Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, plan a visit, or support future rescues, visit www.tcwr.org.

Zuri



After spending time settling into the sounds and smells of her new surroundings, Zuri is now exploring her grassy habitat at her own pace.

Healing Beyond the Headlines

California Rescue Update

More than a year has passed since eight rescued animals arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge from California. While the rescue itself marked the end of their suffering, it was only the beginning of their recovery. Today, our veterinary and animal care teams continue treating the lasting physical effects of years of neglect—conditions that will require specialized care for the rest of their lives.

As we recently welcomed Zuri, another survivor connected to the same California case, we've been reminded that rescue is only the first step. The true measure of a sanctuary is what comes afterward: providing the medical care, rehabilitation, and lifelong commitment these animals need to heal. While legal proceedings related to the case continue, our focus remains where it belongs—on the survivors.

For many of these animals, rescue was only the beginning.

Perhaps the most sobering discovery was that we believe every big cat rescued from this case is a survivor of metabolic bone disease—a preventable condition caused by years of improper nutrition during development. Its effects are permanent, leaving many animals with misshapen limbs, painful joints, and lifelong mobility challenges. Although we cannot undo the damage, we can manage it. Through individualized pain management, specialized nutrition, thoughtful habitat design, and ongoing veterinary care, our goal is to provide each cat with the comfort, dignity, and quality of life they were denied. Cats receiving specialized pain medications also receive stool softeners as part of their routine medical care to minimize side effects.

Every rescue begins with removing an animal from danger. True healing takes much longer.

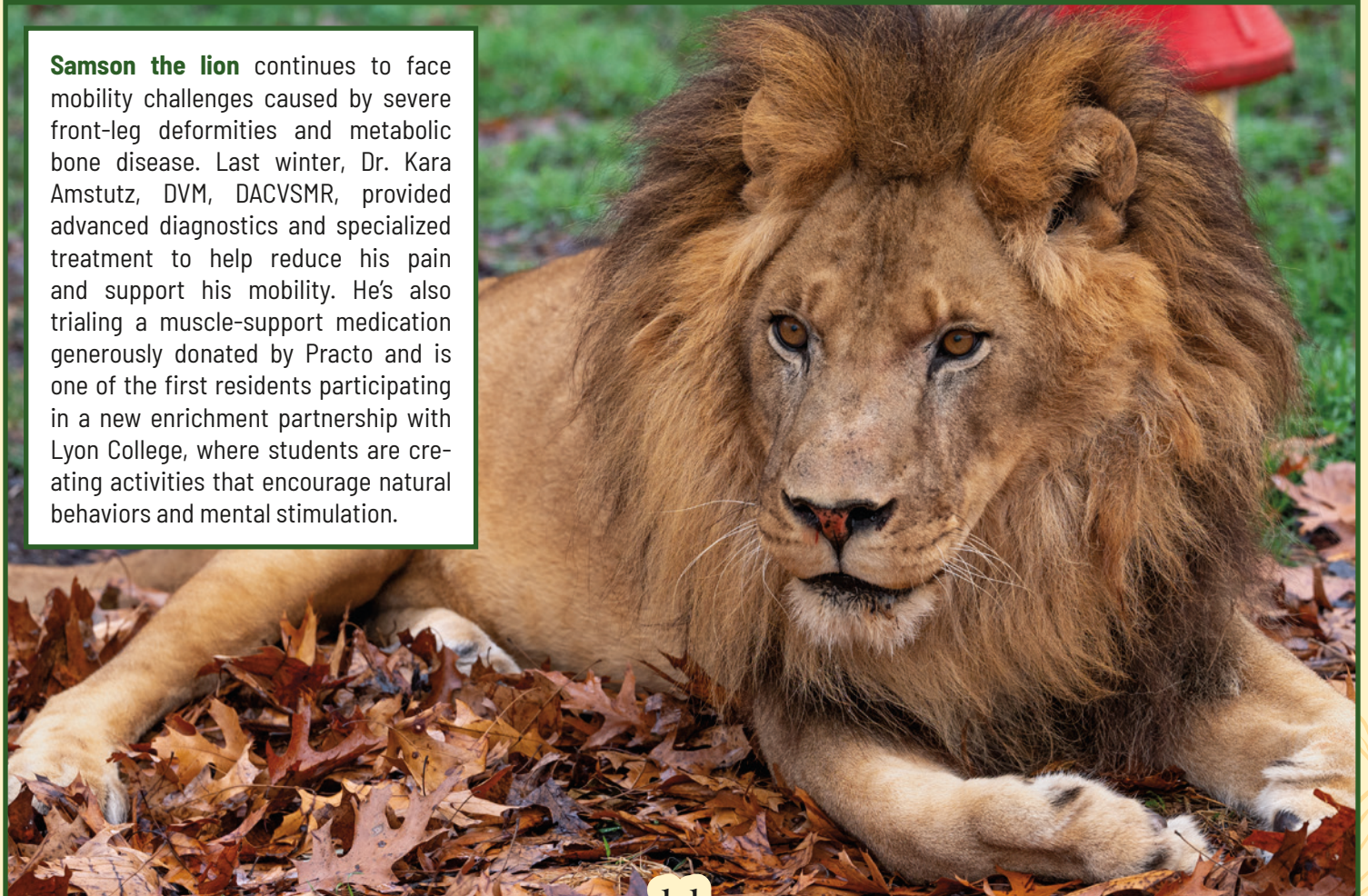
Because of your support, these remarkable survivors now have what they were denied for so many years: expert veterinary care, compassionate animal caregivers, enriching habitats, and the dignity of lifelong sanctuary.

Black leopard Axle enjoys lounging on the highest platform of his bench, playing with his favorite toys, and eagerly waiting for breakfast—especially the chicken leg quarters he loves. He's very food-motivated and is always hopeful that his care team might have a treat for him. When he wants attention, he'll roll on the ground, "talk" to his caregivers, and even make the distinctive leopard "sawing" call. Axle is also receiving treatment for chronic kidney disease that went undiagnosed before his rescue, along with pain management for the lasting effects of metabolic bone disease.

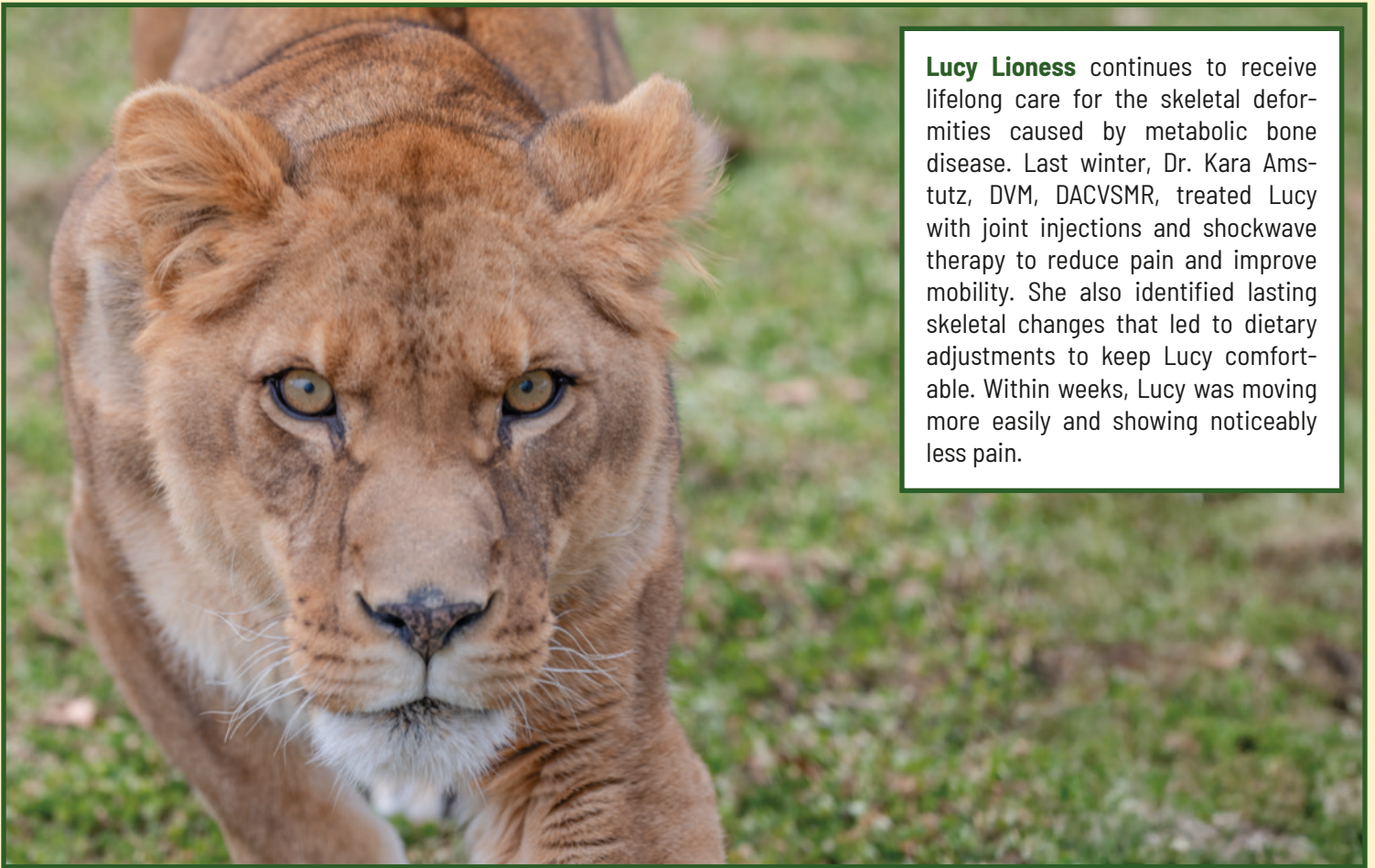




Kaia, a fishing cat, has undergone one of the most remarkable transformations. When she arrived, she showed signs of chronic stress, including hair loss documented by visitors at her previous facility. She began a behavioral management program to help ease her transition into sanctuary life. Today, Kaia is a happy, lazy cat. She eagerly takes her medication and can often be found chasing enrichment balls through her kiddie pool.



Samson the lion continues to face mobility challenges caused by severe front-leg deformities and metabolic bone disease. Last winter, Dr. Kara Amstutz, DVM, DACVSMR, provided advanced diagnostics and specialized treatment to help reduce his pain and support his mobility. He's also trialing a muscle-support medication generously donated by Practo and is one of the first residents participating in a new enrichment partnership with Lyon College, where students are creating activities that encourage natural behaviors and mental stimulation.



Lucy Lioness continues to receive lifelong care for the skeletal deformities caused by metabolic bone disease. Last winter, Dr. Kara Amsutz, DVM, DACVSMR, treated Lucy with joint injections and shockwave therapy to reduce pain and improve mobility. She also identified lasting skeletal changes that led to dietary adjustments to keep Lucy comfortable. Within weeks, Lucy was moving more easily and showing noticeably less pain.



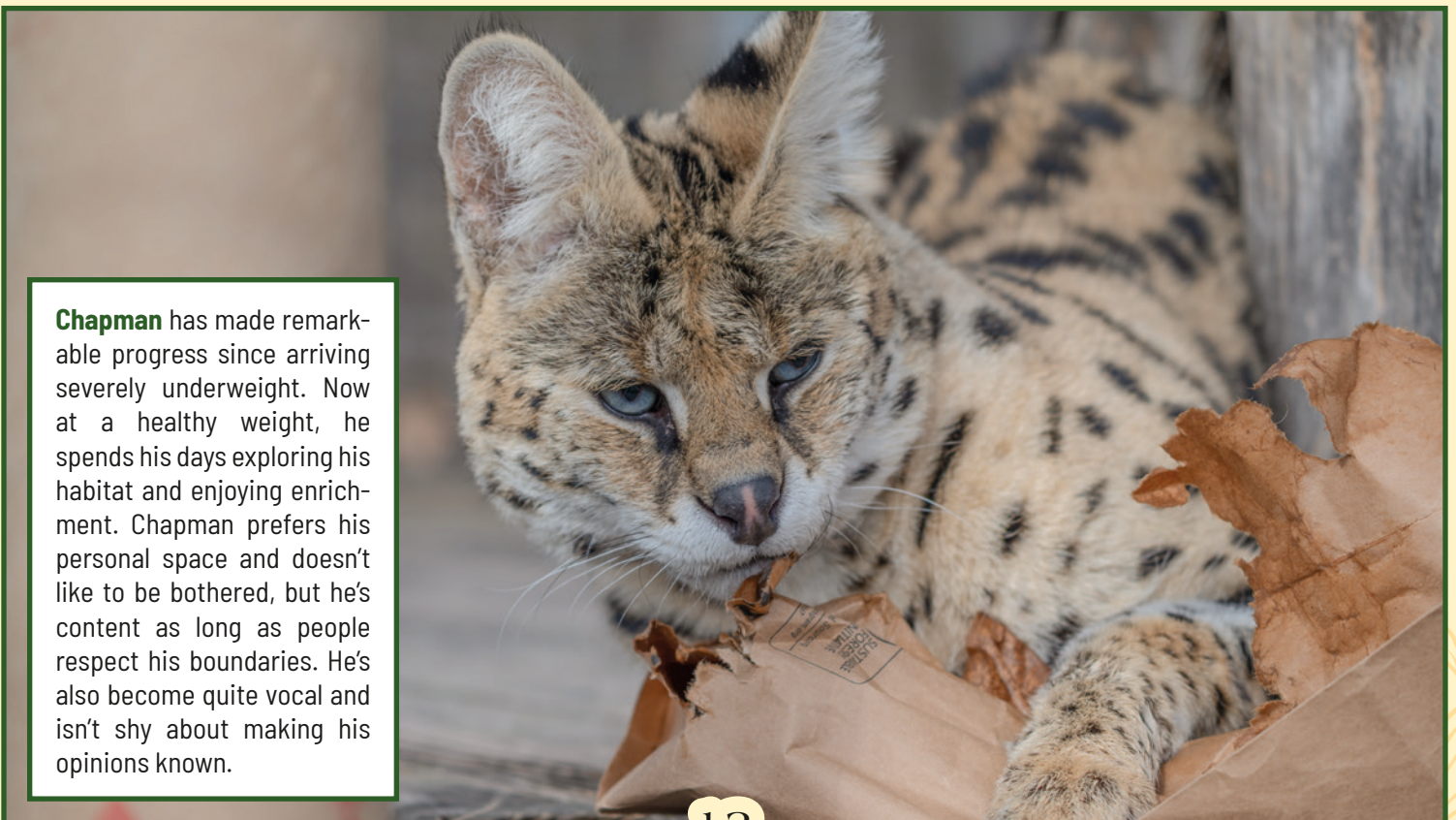
Zeus Caracal has adjusted wonderfully to life in Freedom Field and enjoys being surrounded by his small cat neighbors. He spends much of the day napping in his dog igloo or soaking up the sun on his favorite benches. Curious by nature, Zeus loves to watch the daily activity around him from a comfortable distance, but he'll come running when it's time for his medicated treats. He remains on an individualized pain management plan to help keep him comfortable despite permanent skeletal damage.



Amari Lioness has continued to thrive since arriving at the sanctuary. Curious and especially chatty, she's often one of the lions filling the Refuge with her signature "caroling" calls. While she's traded her early fascination with watching her neighbor Fred for more naps and quiet observation, she's still quick to investigate anything new happening around her. Amari also remains on an individualized pain management plan to help maintain her quality of life despite permanent skeletal damage.



Leyah Lioness—whose vision is severely limited—has adapted beautifully to sanctuary life, confidently navigating her habitat and settling into a comfortable daily routine. She loves stretching out in sunny spots for a nap, enthusiastically batting her boomer ball toys around her habitat, and joining the other lions in their booming "caroling" calls. Whether she's exploring or sleeping belly-up in complete relaxation, Leyah continues to show just how comfortable she's become in her forever home.



Chapman has made remarkable progress since arriving severely underweight. Now at a healthy weight, he spends his days exploring his habitat and enjoying enrichment. Chapman prefers his personal space and doesn't like to be bothered, but he's content as long as people respect his boundaries. He's also become quite vocal and isn't shy about making his opinions known.

Letter from the Veterinarian

Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, DVM



One of TCWR's most beloved tigers, "Mama" Shakira, continues to inspire hope for animals rescued from the most difficult circumstances. Rescued through the Colorado Project, a six-month effort that relocated 115 animals from a failing roadside facility, she arrived at TCWR after years of exploitation. This past May, however, she faced a life-threatening medical emergency.

After being kept in her night house overnight due to storm risks, staff noticed the next morning that Shakira II was acting very differently. Instead of waiting by the door to return to her habitat as she always does when locked up, she was hiding in her den and refusing to eat or take her treat meat with her daily meds. She remained depressed throughout the day. Concerned by her behavior, staff monitored her via camera overnight and planned to anesthetize her the following morning for a full diagnostic examination.

Based on her history and symptoms, one of three serious conditions was suspected: a uterine infection (pyometra), a small intestinal blockage, or severe constipation. Once sedated and moved to the hospital, the initial work-up began. This usually consists of blood work, a physical exam, and X-rays. However, during her physical exam, we discovered bloody discharge near her vulva, and bloodwork confirmed severe infection. Therefore, pyometra became the clear diagnosis. X-rays were skipped so we could prepare immediately for emergency surgery.

Upon opening her abdomen, it was discovered that her infected uterus had perforated, spilling infected hemorrhagic material into her abdominal cavity and causing secondary peritonitis. Advanced vessel-sealing equipment was used to successfully remove her uterus and ovaries quickly, greatly minimizing both surgical risks and surgical time—important considerations in a potentially unstable patient.

Shakira II continues to inspire hope for animals who have survived unimaginable circumstances. When her care team noticed a sudden change in her behavior, Shakira II was immediately brought in for examination.

Shakira II





Bloodwork revealed a life-threatening uterine infection and secondary peritonitis, requiring emergency surgery to remove her uterus and ovaries.



Shakira II

Following surgery, Shakira II recovered with close monitoring as she continued battling secondary peritonitis.



Shakira II

Within three weeks, Shakira II was back to her normal routine—eating well, taking her medications, and relaxing in her habitat. Today, she is healthy, healed, and enjoying the life she deserves.

Although the surgery was successful, Shakira II's recovery remained challenging as we continued battling her secondary peritonitis. She continued to refuse to eat, requiring daily injectable antibiotics. Four days later, she underwent a second sedation for additional treatment, including IV fluids, supportive medications, appetite stimulants, and a long-acting antibiotic costing more than \$700 for a single dose. Bloodwork at this time showed significant improvement, but she still had a way to go. The greatest breakthrough came when she awoke hungry, eagerly eating four pounds of meat—her first meal since before her emergency surgery.

Her appetite continued to improve, allowing medications to be given orally, and her recovery accelerated. Within three weeks, Shakira II had returned to her normal routine, eating well, taking her medications, and relaxing in her habitat.

Thanks to the generosity of TCWR supporters, we were able to provide the specialized surgery and intensive care that saved her life. Today, Shakira II continues to do well, and her remarkable resilience continues to inspire everyone who knows her.

Sincerely,

Kellyn Sweeley DVM

Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, Veterinarian,
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge



Louisa & Marissa

Leave a Legacy of Hope

A gift in your will costs nothing today, but it can provide a lifetime of care for rescued wildlife. Create your free, legally valid will through Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and FreeWill, and consider leaving a legacy that protects wild animals for generations to come.

 WATCH ME



Changes to Membership Program

Beginning in 2026, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has introduced a new membership program that rewards your cumulative support throughout the year. You can still purchase a membership with a one-time payment, or you can earn the same membership benefits once your cumulative annual giving—including donations, adoptions, sponsorships, and other qualifying gifts—reaches a membership level.

Once you qualify, your membership benefits remain active for one full year, and any additional giving during that time may qualify you for even higher membership benefits. **The highest level you achieve during the year will remain in effect for the following 12 months.** All members should have already received an email with their membership information, including their Member ID and instructions for adding their digital membership card to their Apple Wallet or Google Wallet through our booking platform, FareHarbor. If you did not receive this email or have questions about your membership benefits, please contact our Philanthropy Team at philanthropy@tcwr.org.

Are You a Member of Turpentine Creek?

Imagine being able to bring your friends and family to the Refuge to introduce them to your favorite animal. Is it Joey? Is it Shakira II? You can help your close circle learn about the cats' individual stories and connect with them too. With all the memberships on this page, you get free entry to TCWR for you and four guests all year long. **These memberships also include discounts for lodging, the gift shop, specialty tours, and more.** Become a member today and be the voice of the animals, bringing your friends and family into our world together. TCWR.org/support/memberships/

Wild About Wildlife Membership Program

Help the animals that call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge home and make it easy to visit them often with friends and family by signing up for one of our membership options. Members help spread our mission by bringing friends and family to visit TCWR!

All Members Receive: Free year-round entry for cardholder & four guests, TCWR yearly calendar, an annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles, recognition in our annual report and website, and exclusive member e-mails & events.

NEW Exclusive Insider Access! All Wild About Wildlife members will have access to our live streaming quarterly Happy Hour with exclusive videos and Q&A with TCWR senior team members.



Friends of India \$375- \$1,249*

- Friends of India membership I.D. number
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 10% off of lodging
- 10% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition on the TCWR website and in our Annual Report

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

- Bam Bam Benefactor's membership I.D. number
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 20% off of lodging
- 20% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition on the TCWR website and in our Annual Report

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

- Kenny Fellowship membership I.D. number
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 30% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- A Senior Staff Liaison
- Recognition on the TCWR website and in our Annual Report

The Hilda Jackson Society \$10,000+*

- Hilda Jackson Society membership I.D. number
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 50% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Senior Staff Liaison
- Recognition on the TCWR website and in our Annual Report

You can join at any membership level with a one-time gift, or your cumulative donations throughout the year will automatically qualify you for the corresponding level and benefits.

*To be part of a membership level you must either sign up for that level, or donate the amount required to be part of that specific level and are encouraged to pledge to make a similar donation the following year. **Limitations on lodging dates may apply.

Yes, I want to give!

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:
100% of my donation goes to help the animals!

Donate Online



Your Contribution: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$ _____

I would like to make my loving donation recurring:

-----> ☐ Repeat Monthly



☐ Go Paperless: You can opt to receive this newsletter by email. Enter your address here: _____@_____

☐ \$25 X _____ quantity + \$5 shipping. Pre-order **2027 TCWR Calendars!** Featuring Refuge residents, makes a great gift!

Choose Your Membership

A membership with TCWR is the perfect opportunity to help support the amazing work that the Refuge does every single day and also gives the opportunity to visit multiple times a year!

☐ **\$100 Wild Within PAWS Membership** Visit (tcwr.org/wild-within) to learn about all the extra benefits this special kids & teens membership offers for a limited time only!

☐ **\$45 The P.A.W. Club, Kid's Membership (Ages 6-13)** Name of child: _____
See TCWR.org/kidsclub for more info. Email address: _____

☐ **\$175 Pride Membership - You and 3 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge. BEST VALUE!**

☐ **\$375+ Friends of India**

☐ **\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors**

☐ **\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship**

☐ **\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society**

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

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

Total:
\$ _____

☐ Opt Out of Membership Signup Gifts

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

Printed Animal Adoption:

☐ \$175 annually (printed certificate)

☐ \$150 annually (digital certificate)

Animal Sponsor:

☐ \$1,000/yr - Small Cat

☐ \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard/Jaguar

☐ \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear/Hyena

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

☐ Membership Opt Out

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

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

Total Contribution Today: \$ _____

Donor Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Recipient Name (if different): _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: _____

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

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

A Team Approach to Keeping Cyrus Comfortable

When Cyrus arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in 2023 after the closure of another accredited sanctuary, he brought with him a lifetime of challenges. Confiscated from an illegal breeding facility in Ohio in 2017, the serval had been declawed on all four paws—a painful procedure that continues to affect his mobility today.

Now a senior resident, Cyrus recently received his annual wellness exam, demonstrating the comprehensive approach our veterinary team takes to managing chronic conditions before they impact quality of life.

His examination revealed osteoarthritis in multiple joints, particularly his wrists and elbows, resulting from the long-term effects of declawing. To help keep him comfortable, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley has expanded Cyrus's pain management plan to include twice-daily medication, therapeutic laser treatments to reduce inflammation, massage, pulsed electromagnetic field (PEMF) therapy, and joint-support supplements.

Cyrus



Now a senior resident, Cyrus recently received his annual wellness exam as our veterinary team continues to manage his health and quality of life proactively.



Cyrus's wellness care included chiropractic treatment from Dr. Betsy Blair-Flynn, followed by therapeutic laser therapy from Dr. Sweeley to support mobility, comfort, and overall well-being.

Routine bloodwork also identified a mild anemia caused by progressively smaller red blood cells. To support healthy red blood cell production and his immune system, Cyrus was started on a specialized iron and multivitamin supplement. He also received treatment for a minor urinary tract infection, along with routine dental cleaning, vaccinations, and grooming.

A special part of Cyrus's care was provided by Dr. Betsy Blair-Flynn, who once again generously donated her time and expertise to provide chiropractic treatment to the Refuge's residents. During Cyrus's session, she performed gentle adjustments to his spine, pelvis, wrists, elbows, and ankles, followed by muscle and fascial therapy to improve flexibility and relieve tension. Dr. Sweeley then completed the treatment with therapeutic laser therapy to his paws, creating a comprehensive approach to reducing pain and inflammation while supporting mobility.

Together, these therapies help slow the progression of arthritis, improve comfort, and allow Cyrus to continue enjoying life. For animals like Cyrus, lifelong sanctuary means more than providing a safe home—it means continually adapting their care to ensure they can thrive at every stage of life.

Become a monthly donor and help provide the dependable care Cyrus and every rescued animal rely on every day.



The Thorns dedicated a habitat naming in memory of their son, Paul, honoring his love for animals and creating a lasting legacy of compassion for rescued wildlife.



Their recent three-year pledge will help provide a lasting legacy of care for animals like Max and future rescued residents of the Refuge.

A Lasting Legacy of Love

For Mike and Pam Thorn, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge became more than a place they visited—it became a place where their son found joy, peace, and a connection with the animals he loved.

Less than a week before Paul passed away from cancer, he visited the Refuge for the first time and experienced a Behind-the-Scenes Tour. Throughout his life, Paul had a deep love for animals, and that day brought him a happiness his family will always treasure. Filled with curiosity, he asked Tanya questions throughout the tour and embraced every moment. In the days that followed, he spoke often about the experience with a joy that touched his family.

When Paul passed, his parents wanted to create a tribute that reflected what brought him comfort. After considering several ways to honor his memory, they chose a habitat naming plaque at the Refuge—a lasting tribute surrounded by the rescued animals that had given him such peace.

The Thorns dedicated a \$100,000 habitat naming right in Paul's memory, ensuring his love for animals will continue making a difference for generations. They have also made a three-year commitment toward another naming opportunity that will support the Refuge's mission of providing lifetime sanctuary for rescued wild animals while educating future generations about ending the captive wildlife trade, conservation, and protection of wildlife.

A naming opportunity at the Refuge is a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a family's values, and create a legacy that will inspire compassion for years to come.

Rescue is the moment. Refuge is the promise.

Double your legacy impact this fall! Thanks to the generosity of Liebchen's Gift Foundation of New York, naming opportunity gifts made this fall can be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling their impact for rescued wild animals.

A naming opportunity at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a family's commitment to wildlife, and help provide lifetime sanctuary while advancing our Education, Rescue, and Advocacy mission.

To learn more about creating your legacy at the Refuge, contact: Sandra Ames, sandy@tcwr.org

Double Your Impact Before the End of the Year

As year-end approaches, you may be able to double the impact of your generosity—without making another donation.

According to our employer matching gift platform, more than \$1 million in potential employer matching funds may be available to support Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's mission. Many of these funds are tied to donations that have already been made but have not yet been matched.



Checking is easy:

- Visit turpentinecreek.org/support/double-the-donation/
- Search for your employer.
- If your company participates, click "Go To Matching Gift Form."
- Complete the steps provided by your employer.

Many employers have year-end deadlines for matching gifts. Take a few minutes today to see if your donation can provide twice the care for rescued wild animals!

SCAN HERE



Fall for Others

This fall, become part of an unforgettable moment at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. With a Big Cat Call Out, you can create a personalized message that is painted or printed on enrichment for one of our rescued residents. Choose the preferred animal that you'd like to receive your gift from, then experience the moment as your message is presented to them—either in person at the Refuge or live on social media from anywhere in the world.

Reserve your Big Cat Call Out today at TCWR.org/support/other-ways-to-give/

Big Cat Call Outs





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Savanna

Savanna's story of healing includes more than veterinary care—it includes the comfort and companionship of her pride.

Because of You, She Found Her Pride

Every resident at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) carries a unique story of survival. Healing often happens in unexpected ways—not only through expert veterinary care and enriching habitats, but also through the quiet comfort of familiar neighbors.

For Savanna, those neighbors have become her pride.

Shakira II arrived at TCWR during the Colorado Project, a six-month rescue effort that relocated 115 animals from a failing roadside facility where she had been exploited in performances and bred repeatedly. Today, the white tigress affectionately known as “Mama” enjoys a calm, predictable routine.

A few years later, Savanna arrived after a court-ordered rescue from a roadside facility in Indiana. Despite enduring inadequate care, intestinal parasites, and an inhumane declaw procedure, the lioness has become one of the most attentive cats in her area.



Animal Care Staff have repeatedly observed Savanna's protective nature. When Shakira II developed pyometra this spring and was confined to her night house while recovering from surgery, Savanna remained in the closest night house, watching over her neighbor. Whenever keepers approached Shakira II, Savanna greeted them with loud lion "barks." After severe storms brought down a tree near Shakira II's habitat in early summer, she closely watched staff as they brought in a tractor and saws to remove it. Most recently, when neighboring lioness Luna was diagnosed with diabetes, Savanna again stationed herself in the closest night house, overseeing every move the Animal Care Staff made. She is remarkably intuitive whenever something is wrong. Interestingly, neighboring lioness Ungowwa pays little attention to the same activity.

Rescue is only the beginning. Through our Rescue to Refuge Fund, your generosity provides the specialized veterinary care, nutritious food, enriching habitats, and dedicated Animal Care Staff that allow rescued animals to thrive. Help us continue this work so lions like Savanna, tigers like Shakira II, and every animal at TCWR receive the lifelong care they deserve.

We can't know exactly what Savanna is thinking, but observations like these remind us that sanctuary is about more than lifelong care. It is about creating a place where rescued animals find comfort in the familiar presence of trusted neighbors.

The Care Behind Every Feeding

Summer heat brings unique challenges for the animals at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Warmer temperatures can affect appetite, especially for lions who conserve energy during the hottest parts of the day. When an animal eats less, every meal becomes more important.

Our Animal Care Team carefully tracks food intake, body condition, medications, and behavior to identify changes early and adjust care plans for each resident's needs.

Chief



This summer, Chief's reduced appetite has required extra attention from his caregivers. After eating his medicated meat, he's offered his full meal while the team carefully monitors his appetite to ensure he receives proper nutrition.

This summer, Chief's reduced appetite has required extra attention from his caregivers. After he eats his medicated meat, he's offered his full food tray, and the team carefully monitors his appetite to ensure he receives the nutrition he needs. Samson's care team has adjusted his diet and is trialing a muscle-support supplement donated by Practo. Because his deformed front legs and metabolic bone disease make movement difficult, he also receives daily pain management and supportive care.

Lucy continues receiving pain management for the lifelong effects of metabolic bone disease. Axle receives medications for pain management, kidney disease, and related complications, including stool softeners to maintain his comfort.

Samson



Samson's daily medicated meat is just one part of his specialized care. Along with pain management, his team has adjusted his diet and added a muscle-support supplement to help him stay comfortable.

These are the moments most guests never see. Behind every feeding and medication is a dedicated team making careful decisions and adapting care to each rescued animal's unique needs.

Your monthly support provides the stability needed to meet these daily challenges and ensure every resident receives the care they deserve. Join our recurring donor family and help provide lifelong sanctuary every day.

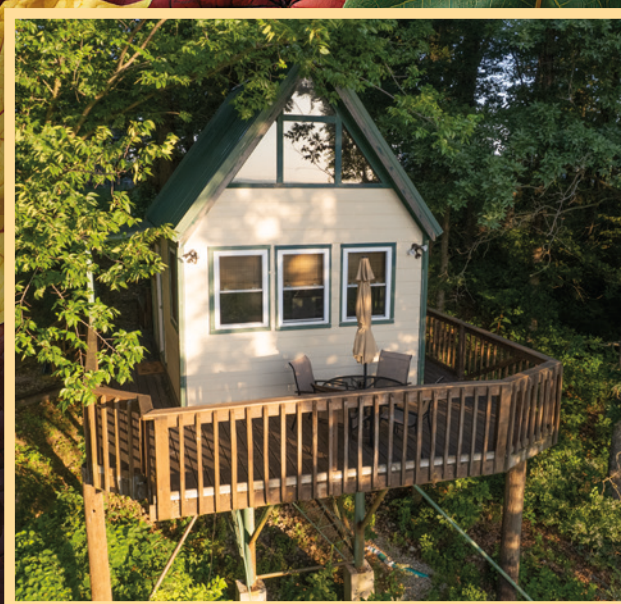
Donate Online





Stay Among the Ozarks This Fall

Autumn is one of the most spectacular times to visit Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. As the Ozark Mountains transform into a breathtaking display of crimson, amber, and gold, your visit becomes more than a wildlife experience—it becomes an unforgettable fall getaway. Whether you're watching rescued tigers explore beneath colorful canopies, listening to lions call through the crisp morning air, or relaxing on your private deck surrounded by vibrant woodland, there's no better place to experience the beauty of the season. Extend your adventure by staying in one of our unique lodging accommodations and wake up immersed in one of the country's most stunning fall foliage destinations, all while supporting lifelong care for rescued wild animals.



Education is the Future: Learning Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

As you plan your year-end charitable giving, there is an exciting opportunity to make your generosity go even further for rescued wild animals.

Thanks to the generous matching challenge from Liebchen's Gift Foundation, every qualifying cash gift of **\$5,000 or more** received this summer and fall to support Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's **education initiative** will be matched dollar for dollar.

Your gift will help us expand our ability to educate students, families, and visitors about the realities of the captive wildlife trade—helping prevent future suffering before rescue is ever needed.

Beginning with the 2026 tax year, many taxpayers who take the standard deduction may qualify for a federal income tax deduction of up to **\$1,000 for individuals** or **\$2,000 for married couples filing jointly** for qualifying cash gifts. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual circumstances.

Together, we can rescue today, provide sanctuary for life, and educate for a future where fewer wild animals need us.



After years of confinement in Nevada, Salvador arrived frightened and defensive. With patience and compassionate care, he slowly began to understand that he was safe.

Salvador's Spirit Was Never Broken

When Salvador arrived at the Refuge in April 2025, our team knew he had endured a life no wild animal should experience. He was one of seven tigers rescued from a private facility in Pahrump, Nevada, where he had been confined to a cramped, shipping-container-sized enclosure filled with nails, screws, and debris, with limited access to clean water and protection from harsh desert conditions.

Like many animals rescued from the captive wildlife trade, Salvador's past could have shaped the rest of his life. Some animals carry the effects of trauma for months or even years before they feel safe enough to trust again. But Salvador's story is a reminder that every animal responds differently when given the space, care, and respect they deserve.

When he first arrived, Salvador was frightened and snarling at our team. He had no reason to understand that the people around him were there to help. Yet, within a remarkably short time, something changed. As he explored his expansive Freedom Field habitat, he discovered room to run, enrichment to engage his mind, a cool den in the summer, a heated space in the winter, benches to climb, and a pool to splash and play in.

Today, Salvador's personality shines. He is curious, vocal, loves his toys, chats with staff, and races alongside vehicles as they pass his habitat. His zest for life emerged so quickly once he finally had the freedom to be a tiger.

Salvador's journey shows the profound difference true sanctuary can make—and why your support allows rescued animals to thrive, not just survive.



Salvador's true personality emerged once he experienced freedom. Today, he's a curious, playful tiger who loves his toys, chats with staff, and enjoys every day of sanctuary life.

Salvador

ADOPT OR SPONSOR



Zuri has always been wild, but life in a natural habitat was completely new. Though cautious initially, she grew increasingly confident and now eagerly patrols her habitat, keeps a watchful eye on everything around her, and has become an accomplished snake hunter.

Zuri

Because of You, Zuri Serval Is Growing More Confident Every Day

When Zuri, an African serval, arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in August 2024, the sights and sounds of a large natural habitat and other nearby animals were unfamiliar. Raised as a privately owned pet, she had always been a wild animal with strong instincts, but the outdoors was an entirely new experience. At first, she was cautious, uncertain, and hesitant to explore.

Today, Zuri is a different story.

While she still enjoys checking in with her keepers on her own terms, Zuri has grown increasingly confident in her natural surroundings. Her wild instincts were never missing—they simply needed the space and confidence to shine. Today, she eagerly patrols her habitat, keeps a watchful eye on everything around her, is fascinated by her neighbors, and has become an accomplished snake hunter.

You can help Zuri continue to thrive. By adopting or sponsoring her, you'll provide the nutritious diet, expert veterinary care, enrichment, and spacious habitat that allow her to live the healthy, fulfilling life every wild animal deserves. Your support ensures she'll receive that specialized care for the rest of her life.

Zuri's story is a powerful reminder that wild cats are never truly domesticated. No matter how lovingly they are raised, the instincts that define them inevitably emerge as they mature. Recognizing this, Zuri's family made the selfless decision to give her the life she deserved. Today, thanks to supporters like you, she has the freedom, space, and lifelong expert care to thrive as the remarkable serval she was born to be.

When Nature Challenges Us, Care Never Stops

Life at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) is closely connected to the natural world. While each season brings enrichment opportunities, it also brings challenges for the rescued animals in our care.

This year, environmental conditions increased vegetation growth and the number of rattlesnakes and copperheads on the property. Wildlife is part of life in the Ozarks, and occasionally that includes encounters with venomous snakes.



Juancito

This year's increased vegetation growth has brought more rattlesnakes and copperheads to the property. Juancito, who traveled from Honduras to Turpentine Creek, was recently bitten on the leg but responded well to immediate treatment and care.



Aria

Aria, one of our geriatric residents, was also bitten by a snake on her toes. With prompt care from our Animal Care Team, her swelling quickly decreased, and she continues to receive the specialized support she needs.

Recently, Juancito, who made the long journey to TCWR from Honduras, was bitten on the leg, causing severe swelling. Aria, one of our geriatric residents, was also bitten on her toes. Both animals were immediately treated with Benadryl and steroids to reduce inflammation and support healing, and the swelling decreased quickly.

Juancito's habitat in Freedom Field had never housed a cat before his arrival and was one of the last occupied after the expansion. Because snakes generally avoid areas with regular large animal activity, they may have become established there before he moved in.

Every resident is observed daily, and health or habitat concerns are discussed during end-of-day meetings. Along with routine habitat maintenance, the grounds receive monthly tick-control treatments, and every resident receives Bravecto to help protect against ticks and the diseases they carry.

Preparing for the unexpected is part of providing lifelong sanctuary. Monthly donors provide the dependable support that allows our Animal Care Team to respond quickly to emergencies while continuing the preventive care every rescued resident needs. We invite you to join our recurring donor family and help provide that care every day.





Growing Up Lion: Reggie & Archie's Next Chapter

Visitors may have noticed a new look developing on lion brothers Reggie and Archie. Along their necks and shoulders, longer tufts of hair are beginning to stand up—a stage the Animal Care Team affectionately calls the “mohawk phase.”

Reggie and Archie arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in 2025 after being rescued from Canada as young cubs. Like all lion cubs, they began life with softer coats and visible spots that help provide camouflage while they are small and vulnerable. As lions mature, those spots gradually fade, and young males begin showing the first signs of mane development.

The longer hair now appearing around Reggie and Archie's necks is part of that natural transition. A full mane will take several years to develop, but this early growth offers a glimpse of the adult lions they are becoming.

A lion's mane serves important purposes. In the wild, it can help protect the neck during conflicts and may communicate information about age, maturity, and overall condition. Mane development is influenced by hormones, genetics, age, and health, making each lion's appearance unique.

Reggie and Archie continue to grow and discover the world around them. Thanks to supporters of our Rescue to Refuge Fund, these brothers will grow up together under their mother, Nirvana's, guidance, learning to be lions, forming natural bonds, and experiencing the life they were meant to live—with lifelong care and protection.

Visit the Discovery Area to experience this special stage of their journey.

ADOPT OR SPONSOR



As lions grow, their juvenile spots fade and young males begin developing their manes. The longer hair appearing around Reggie and Archie's necks marks this natural transition into adulthood.

Archie & Reggie



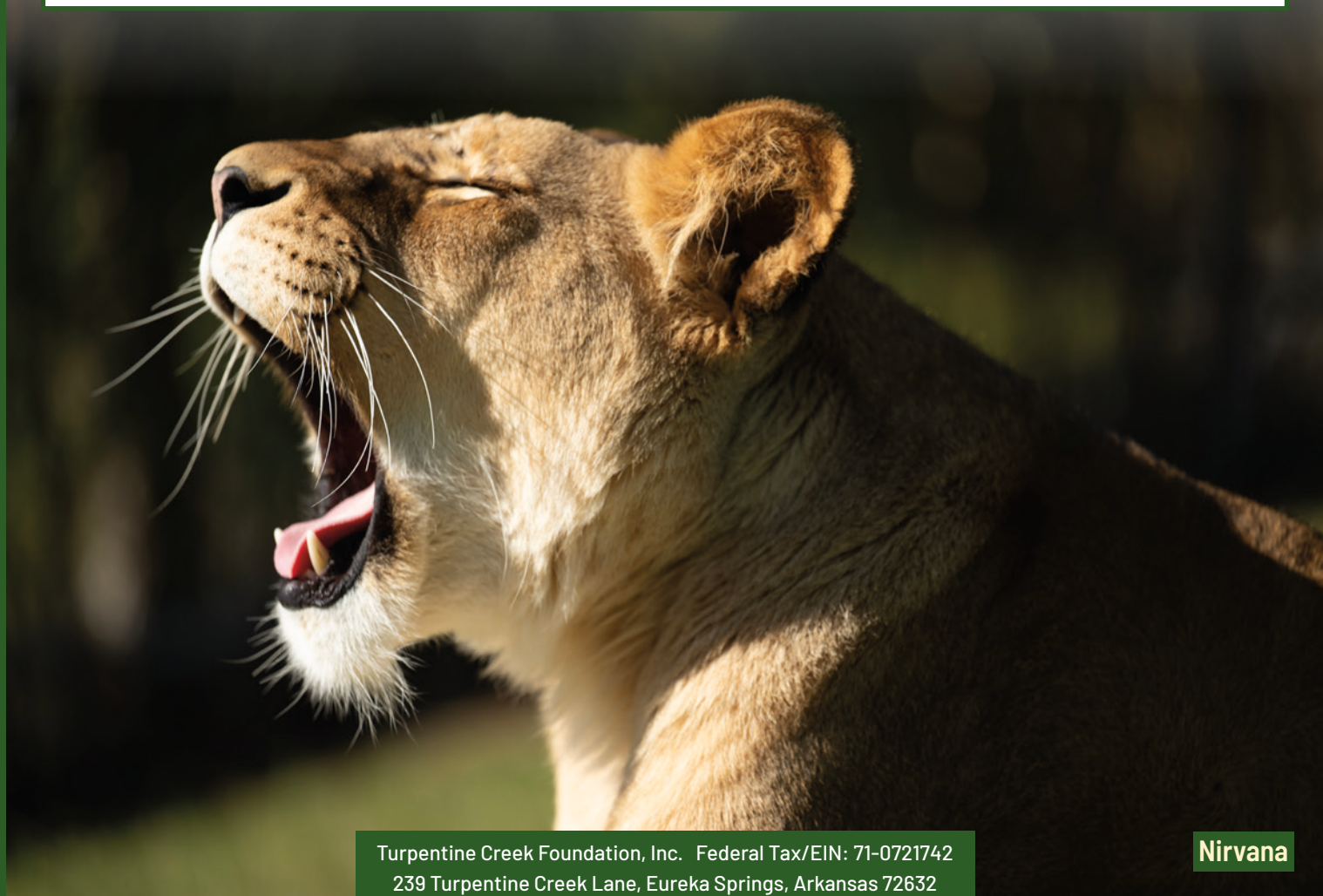
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Nirvana's story is a reminder of why rescue matters.

In May 2025, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge welcomed Nirvana as part of our first international rescue, partnering with Humane World Canada, Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, and The Wildcat Sanctuary to provide a safe future for seven lions from a closed roadside facility in Quebec.

Now thriving at the Refuge, Nirvana has shown remarkable resilience. She has embraced sanctuary life, raised her cubs, Reggie and Archie, with care, and become a favorite among her caregivers with her playful spirit and gentle greetings. Her journey represents the hope that comes when rescued animals are given the space, care, and time they need to heal.



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Nirvana