

# Big Cat Chronicles

Fall '18

Learn all about  
me on page 13!

**Spyke**

Species: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Sex: Male

Born: August 15, 2008

Tourism  
**Ethical**  
Destination



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



# Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

As time marches on, the gravity and scope of our work at TCWR continues to increase: After 26+ years, more big cats and bears need to be rescued than ever before. There is still no federal law to protect these animals from being bought and sold like inanimate trinkets. We have only scratched the surface of this enormous problem; it is estimated that over 15,000 big cats and bears currently exist in private residences, backyards, basements, at breeding farms, pseudo-sanctuaries, canned hunting ranches, and cub-petting operations in the U.S.

When we rescue animals, it is disheartening to find them in conditions that no sentient being should ever have to endure. The poor animals don't understand that life can be better until they arrive at the Refuge and receive the care that they deserve. Time and time again we witness the change in animals that arrive at TCWR suffering with pain, malnourishment, filth, and often, abuse. Here, they come to enjoy good health through proper diet, medical care, and enrichment; they learn to feel safe and respected as wild animals, and through this treatment come to forgive and trust humans. This is what drives us to work even harder. "Saving one animal might not change the world... But surely, for that animal the world will change forever!"

Since our Mountainburg Rescue in 2012, we have created affiliations with such organizations as IFAW, GFAS, and Tigers in America, who have introduced us to others that are working to stop the Exotic Pet Trade. For the past six years, we have been attending conferences across the nation, where we have met some great organizations that take excellent care of rescued exotic animals. Newly formed in 2017, the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) unites the big cat sanctuary community and supporting organizations, with the aim of working towards the day when sanctuaries are no longer needed because the ownership and commercial exploitation of wild cats has been eliminated. The organization engages in advocacy, education, and capacity building for legitimate big cat sanctuaries.

This year, TCWR is excited to host the BCSA conference in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, from September 24-26. A special thanks to the 1905 Basin Park Hotel for their generosity as host for the conference. We appreciate anyone that has donated to help bring BCSA members together. Great change is needed, and we feel like this is a good start.

Please continue to support TCWR and our efforts; it is only with your contributions that we can make a difference.

Until next time...



BCSA Conference 2017

Tigers@TarpentineCreek.org 479-253-5841 TarpentineCreek.org

# Giving Tiger Siblings Some Space

Wild tigers, especially mature male tigers, are solitary animals and very territorial. Because of these traits, introductions of tigers are more successful when they are young. Even then, we often have to separate siblings as they age. Despite brothers Montana and Poncho having grown up together, the time has arrived for them to enjoy their own space. At 8-years-old and nearly 600 pounds, each tiger's drive to claim their own territory has escalated in recent months. Therefore, for both their well-being and happiness, the decision was made to separate them.

As the more dominant brother, Montana was chosen to remain in their original habitat; whereas, Poncho became the neighbor of an older (and mellow) tiger, Colby. Separated by a fence wall, the pair responded with a round of friendly chuffs. Poncho and Colby will remain apart; however, they will be able to continue chatting through habitat fences.

Since the move, Montana also seems to be in a better temperament – marking his territory with vigor and sunbathing on his bench. Having their own space was exactly what the brothers needed!



# Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular

October 27 · 7pm to 9pm  
{Saturday before Halloween}  
don't be a scaredy cat

The only night of the year to see our animal residents after dark, when they're most active.

Family event including themed games, prizes, hayrides, and more!

Tigers@TarpentineCreek.org 479-253-5841 TarpentineCreek.org



# Seven Exotic Cats Rescued from New York

Recently, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge worked with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and World Animal Protection to rescue seven animals that were being held at a property in Buffalo, NY. The individual who had the four servals, two caracals, and one Savannah cat was allegedly trying to sell them as pets.

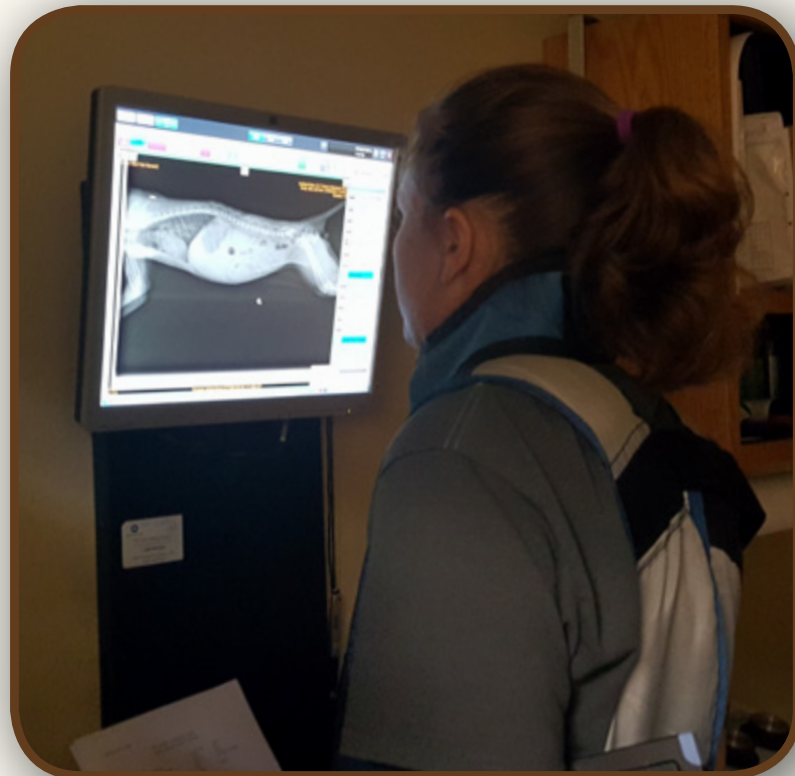
After receiving basic medical care, all the animals made the 1,050-mile trip back to TCWR, arriving on Friday, July 7th. Sammy and Enzo, two serval brothers estimated to be 12 weeks old, and a 3-year-old Savannah cat named Tigger found their forever home here at the Refuge. The other two servals and two caracals continued to their new home in Nevada.

Upon arrival, TCWR staff immediately brought the young servals to our veterinarian for an examination. They were underweight, at just 2.8lbs and 3.8lbs, and diagnosed with severe malnutrition, requiring immediate and continued veterinary care. Both were treated for coccidia, giardia, and intestinal worms. The smaller boy's bloodwork also showed an infection, along with anemia.

Another form of abuse is the lack of nutrition we have encountered in so many rescues over the years. Since both servals displayed symptoms of malnutrition, we ran tests on their ionized calcium levels. The results came back extremely low, indicating metabolic bone disease. Once again, we have rescued young animals suffering from this preventable condition, which indicates a lack of proper diet when young animals need it the most. Both serval cubs are being monitored and treated, and we are happy to say that both are on the road to recovery.

Tigger, the Savannah cat, was also examined by our veterinarian and was found to be in good health, although he had been declawed on all four paws under his previous owner's care.

African servals can weigh up to 40lbs when fully grown. Though smaller in size, these cats are not meant to be pets, and it is extremely selfish for anyone to think these animals could be domesticated. They are wild predators. People that purchase these animals are only contributing to and fueling the exotic pet problem in the U.S. We are very proud to be working with other reputable organizations to stop the Exotic Pet Trade. With your help, we will continue our mission to save these magnificent creatures and provide them with the best captive life possible. Thank you to everyone who continues to support these new arrivals.



Sammy

**Species: African Serval**

**Sex: Male**

**Birthday: April 13, 2018**

**Arrival Date: July 5, 2018**

Sammy is one of two serval brothers who were rescued in New York. He came to TCWR showing signs of severe Metabolic Bone Disease. With extra care and proper nutrition, Sammy is growing stronger every day.

**Species: African Serval**

**Sex: Male**

**Birthday: April 13, 2018**

**Arrival Date: July 5, 2018**

Enzo is the larger brother of the two. Although his medical issues were not as severe as his brother's, he was still underweight and in need of medical attention after his arrival.



Enzo

**Species: First Generation Serval/Domestic Cat Hybrid AKA Savannah Cat**

**Sex: Male**

**Birthday: July 5, 2015**

**Arrival Date: July 5, 2018**

Don't let Tigger's cute, cuddly appearance fool you! Tigger displays many wild behaviors. Hybrids, like Tigger, make poor pets.



Tigger



# Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

It's hard to remember a time before the Jackson Memorial Hospital existed at TCWR. It is amazing how fast time flies as we progress, with constant upgrades to improve the lives of our resident animals and ongoing construction of new habitat enclosures to welcome future rescues. To once again advance our level of animal care, we are welcoming home former animal care staff member, now veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley.

Originally from Massachusetts, Dr. Sweeley began her first internship at the Refuge in 2008 after earning a B.S. in Biology from Manhattan College. Because of her dedication to both the TCWR animals and mission, Kellyn served another two internships at the Refuge before being hired full-time as part of our animal care team. Kellyn left TCWR in 2014 to attend the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine to focus on Zoological Medicine, with the goal of one day returning home to Turpentine Creek. Dr. Sweeley graduated in May 2018 and accepted our offer to rejoin us in August as TCWR's first staff veterinarian.



Over the past 26 years we have had the opportunity to work with some of the most dedicated veterinarians in the field. TCWR and all the animals they have helped give thanks for their devotion and continued support over the years. Having an onsite veterinarian can open new prospects for TCWR, including the introduction of our first internship program for veterinary students, which the hospital was designed to accommodate.

Throughout Kellyn's studies she remained in contact with the Refuge to stay updated on our residents and policies. She is familiar with all daily safety protocols and veterinary procedures, which gives our staff great confidence in her return. Besides performing regular exams, immunizations, surgeries, and prescribing medications to improve the well-being of resident animals, Dr. Sweeley will also conduct weekly evaluations of each animal's physical health and social-psychological wellbeing to provide an individual plan for their lifelong care. Thank you again to all of you for your continued support of our hospital and veterinary care. Your donations will continue to improve the lives of so many animals!

Tigerse@TurpentineCreek.org 479-253-5841 TurpentineCreek.org

# Remembering Lucci

In 2002, TCWR was contacted by a facility in Quitman, Arkansas, that had 56 big cats in need of rehoming. Our animal care team transported 21 of the big cats home to the Refuge; the rest were taken to a sanctuary in Tennessee. Lucci was one of the 21 cats that came to TCWR; just under two years old when rescued, he lived with his brother, Wyoming.

Lucci was a special lion from the beginning and quickly became a favorite of all staff, interns, and guests who had the privilege to meet him. Although almost totally blind, he could discern some of the movements and shadows of those around him. His unique gait, due to slightly bowed front legs, only made him more endearing. Lucci and Wyoming lived in the first habitat on our guided tour loop for several years. Here, Lucci loved to use their huge log as a scratching post each morning. Throughout the day he would play with enrichment toys, always sticking close to where his brother lay napping.

When Wyoming passed in 2016, TCWR staff made the decision to move Lucci down to Rescue Ridge, where the flat terrain and quiet make an ideal retirement area for our older residents. Lucci adjusted well to his new enclosure where he enjoyed access to grass 24/7 and seemed content in the peaceful, relaxing environment. He loved the enrichment items provided by interns and often napped in the sun near his bench.

Lucci was one of the lucky survivors of the Exotic Animal Trade, fortunate to call Turpentine Creek his forever home. It is always difficult for staff and interns to say good-bye to the animals we love, but we take comfort knowing that we have provided the best care possible for them during their time at the Refuge and are grateful for the happiness they shared with us. Your generosity makes it possible for us to give big cats like Lucci a second chance at life. Thank-you from all of us and from all of them.



**Our beloved Lucci called the Refuge home for nearly 16 years. One of the things we will miss most is the sound of his caroling, which he continued to do even after his move to Rescue Ridge, chiming in with the other lions on the tour loop.**

## ***Lucci's legacy lives on at Turpentine Creek. Through legacy giving, yours can too!***

Supporters of the Refuge can leave a portion of their estates to ensure that all of the present and future animals rescued will be able live out rich, safe, and peaceful lives. Please speak with your attorney and consider arranging legacy giving to **Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.**

DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge **FEIN #:** 71-0721742  
**Address:** 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
**Phone #:** 479-253-5841 **Fax #:** 479-253-5059 **Website:** TurpentineCreek.org  
**President:** Tanya Smith **Vice President:** Scott Smith **Secretary/Treasurer:** Amanda Smith

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



# Sweet Scent of Success - Big Cat Senses

In the wild, Snowball and other big cats would rely on their sense of smell for survival. Scent allows them to communicate with each other and track prey. They depend on chemical (olfactory) signals to mark territory, find mates, and sense danger. They use urine, feces, as well as glandular secretions from the sides of their face, mouth, paws, and the base of their tail to leave a trace of themselves behind.

Big cats have a special organ in the roof of their mouth called the Jacobson's Organ that detects scent particles. They will curl their upper lip, exposing their front teeth while opening their mouth, thus allowing scent pheromones to pass over their Jacobson's Organ. Called Flehmen's Response, this behavior is also affectionately nicknamed the "Stinky Face."

At the Refuge we use enrichment to stimulate this natural behavior in our big cats by spraying scents and scattering spices for them to rub in throughout their habitats, on toys, in lunch bags, cardboard boxes and tubes. All our animal residents receive a variety of enrichment in their habitats, which prompts them to investigate and explore their surroundings and is vital to their mental and physical well-being.



Spyke



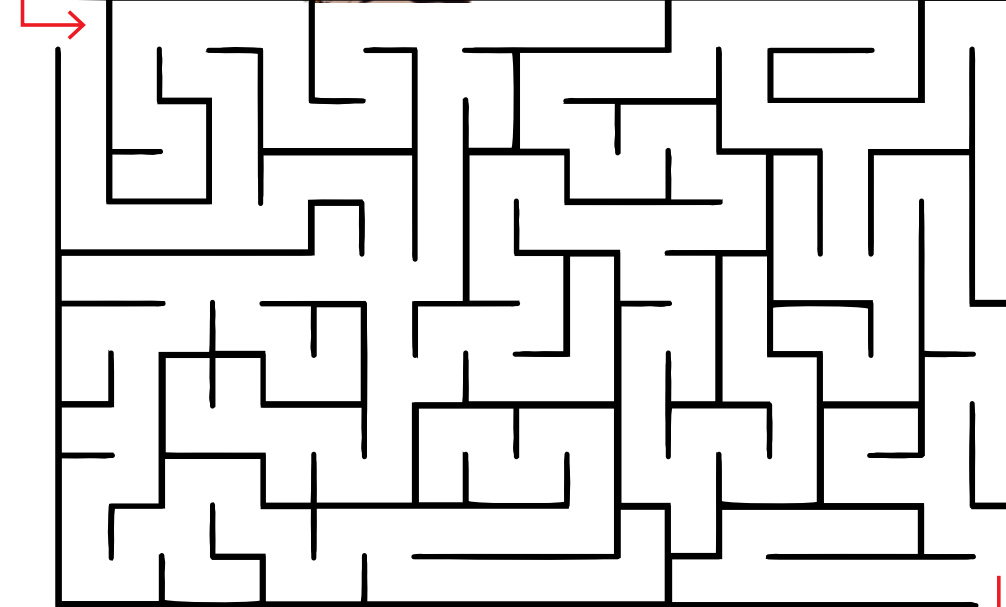
Snowball

Psst! 2019 is coming . . .

Preorder next year's calendar today! Use the order form in the center of this newsletter, or order online at [TurpentineCreek.org](http://TurpentineCreek.org)

## The Cub Club Presents: Wild Child Activity Worksheet

**Directions:** Help Titus Creek (TC) get through the Habitat Maze to the Enrichment Pumpkin Patch!



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

See the tear out form on page 11 to sign up for Turpentine Creek's Kid's Membership, the Cub Club, and help your cub get involved in solving the BIG problems facing big cats in the world today!



# Choose Your Giving Level Today!

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

## 1 The Friends of India annual donation of \$300 - \$1,249\*

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

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

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

Members of the Bam Bam Benefactors will receive:

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

## 3 The Kenny Fellowship annual donation of \$3,000 - \$9,999\*

Members of the Kenny Fellowship will receive:

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

## 4 The Hilda Jackson Society annual donation of \$10,000+\*

Society Members will receive:

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

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

**Yes, I will help the animals!**  
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

- Donations:**  \$25  \$35  \$50  \$100 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_  Repeat monthly.  
**Visitor Education Center Building Fund:**  \$50  \$100 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_  Repeat monthly.  
**2019 Calendars:** \$20 each X \_\_\_ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Edition Coloring Book:** \$5 each X \_\_\_ coloring books + \$5 S/H = \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Choose your Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier

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

- \$45 The Cub Club, Kid's Membership** – You are never too small to make a BIG difference in the Cub Club. A membership with the Cub Club includes entry into the park, a membership card and certificate, a coloring book, plush cat of your choice, sticker, and big cat photo.  
 Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite TCWR Animal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please circle the plush cat you would like: **LION TIGER LEOPARD**
- \$50 TCWR's Single Membership** – For a full year have access to the Refuge, including free trolley tickets and 10% off in the Gift Shop.
- \$90 TCWR's Family Membership** – For a full year have access to the Refuge for two adults and all your children 19 years old and younger, including free trolley tickets, and 10% off in the Gift Shop.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$300+ Friends of India</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors</b>  | } <b>Total 2018 Pledge:</b><br>\$_____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship</b><br><small>T-Shirt Size (circle one) S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society</b><br><small>T-Shirt Size (circle one) S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL</small> |   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Opt Out of Membership Sign-Up Gifts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Opt Out of Membership Card |

### Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Animal Adoption:</b>                               | <b>Animal Sponsor:</b>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird | <input type="checkbox"/> \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100/yr - Small Cat/Monkey  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125/yr - Cougar/Leopard    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear  |

Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships, See Website: [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org)

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

Adopted/Sponsored Animal's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Contribution Today: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*To be part of a membership tier you must donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level.

\*\*Limitations may apply.



# TCWR Summer Survey Results!

To help us understand you better, we asked TCWR supporters to respond to a survey in the Summer Big Cat Chronicles regarding the things in which they would be most excited to see at the Refuge – here are the results!

**70% of supporters were interested in the construction of new habitat space to accommodate future rescues.**

**46% of supporters were interested in TCWR creating a sustainable landscape program that would provide native groundcover for wildlife and enrichment plants for animals.**

**34% of supporters were interested in a New Visitor Education Center with wildlife exhibits, classrooms, adult seminars, a café, and giftshop.**

**27% of supporters were interested in increasing TCWR's handicap accessibility.**

**16% of supporters were interested in the creation of new exclusive touring opportunities, such as: a Summer Sunset Safari Tour with dinner and speakers.**

**5% of supporters were interested in a "Run for the Wild" event with family walk/run and 5K running competition at TCWR.**

**0% of supporters were interested in a Pledge Party Luncheon honoring donors for doing something special.**

**Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey!**

Doing so has helped TCWR identify what our supporters are thinking the most about! We really appreciate you and all you do to ensure that Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge continues to do its good work!

Share your favorite/first memory of the Refuge with us and the top 3 will be shared on our social media!

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## Please Welcome Your Fall 2018 Interns!



Back Row				
<b>Megan Keller</b> U. of Hawaii Manoa BS Zoology December 2016	<b>Geena Darnell</b> Purdue U. BS Ecology, Evolution, & Environmental Biology December 2017	<b>Lizzy Sartain</b> Rice University BS Ecology & Evolutionary Biology/BS Environmental Science May 2018	<b>Sunni Rice</b> Appalachian State U. BS Biology May 2018	<b>Samantha Hoff</b> North Carolina State U. BS Zoology May 2018
<b>Sierra Daniels</b> Arkansas Tech U. BS Animal Science & Agricultural Business May 2016	<b>Abby Hickam</b> Arkansas State U. BS Science/ Biology May 2018 (education intern)	<b>Brittany Leonard</b> Hope College BS Biology/ BA Psychology May 2016	<b>Cadence Hunkins</b> SUNY ESF BS Conservation Biology May 2018	
Front Row				
<b>Abby Gleason</b> U. of Central Missouri BS Animal Science August 2018	<b>Sadie Wagnell</b> U. of Puget Sound BS Biology May 2018	<b>Dalia Badamo</b> U. of Maryland BS Animal Science May 2018	<b>Jason LaVarnway</b> SUNY Oswego BS Zoology December 2016	<b>Elizabeth Cofone</b> U. of Rhode Island BS Animal Science & Technology May 2018
<b>Lauren Cass</b> Texas A&M BS Wildlife & Fisheries December 2017	<b>Diana Vincent</b> Rhodes College BS Biology December 2017			

## Featured Animal: Spyke

Spyke is a melanistic Leopard born at Turpentine Creek to Santania and Zambo, who had been a breeding pair at an upstate New York private zoo. When the state refused to reinstate the small zoo's license because of inadequate facilities, their animals needed rehoming. Although we neutered Zambo after the rescue, Santania was already pregnant when we rescued the pair and gave birth to Spyke just months later.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge animal care staff traveled 1,431 miles to reach the zoo and retrieve Spyke's parents. As soon as the animals were loaded, our team transported the animals directly back to Eureka Springs, where Santania and Zambo were placed in quarantine per standard TCWR procedure. In the capable hands of our animal care team the pair quickly acclimated to their new home, finding the peace and security they had long been without. Spyke was raised in an environment that fostered those elements from the moment of his birth.



Spyke is now 10 years old and has matured into a beautiful leopard. He has been raised with love, and hands-off respect for the wild apex predator he is, along with every possible means to enrich his life in captivity. What would that life look like had he not been raised in an accredited sanctuary like TCWR? How would his health be without a proper diet enhanced with the correct vitamins? What about his demeanor? Would he be aggressively untrusting and attack the fence when people approached? Often, we ponder these questions while observing our animal residents and always, the thought process makes a circle back to you- the loving, giving donors of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Thank you for so many success stories; please keep helping where you can.

**Spyke has always been provided enrichment, plenty of habitat space, and a healthy diet. Despite being raised his whole life in captivity, he is still all predator and will stalk TCWR staff members through his fence.**





## Your Heartful Giving Blossoms into Freedom for Bears

After a year of hard work and ingenuity on the part of TCWR team members, six bears have two beautiful new homes, made possible by our generous donor support. They are situated behind Rescue Ridge on a stretch of land typical of wild black bear habitat in the Ozarks.

The two habitats span over 3 acres of land and were built to indigenous brown bear guidelines (USDA): 16 feet high fences interlaced with electric at 3 feet, 8 feet, and 16 feet to prevent climbing are surrounded by a 2 feet wide by 3 feet deep concrete trench to prevent digging. They are filled with trees to climb, berries to forage, plenty of denning material, and space to roam. Additional enrichment includes two 20 feet wide, in-ground pools, with a gradual slope from 6 inches to 3 feet deep. The pools can be emptied and filled from outside the habitat by staff to ensure that the bears will have fresh water on a regular schedule. We appreciate the generous donation of time and labor from Aquacrete of Bella Vista, who also helped construct Bam Bam's pool.

Left in our custody due to a lack of space in existing U.S. bear sanctuaries as the Colorado Project wound down in 2016, 4 female black bears, Holli, Lolli, Xena, and Koda G, along with Russian brown bear, Huggy, were brought back to the Refuge. Popper's story was particularly heart breaking: removed from the wild after she attacked a woman who came between her and her cubs, she escaped confinement in the first facility trying to reach her cubs housed nearby and spent the next two years at a Florida zoo before needing to be rehomed again. These six bears will now have their own little slice of freedom in our two new bear habitats.

These new habitats benefit current bears with a natural setting and will allow for multiple introductions in future bear rescues. They also afford an ideal environment for observing natural bear behaviors. An Arkansas State Bear Biologist visited the Refuge on July 24th to help identify plants that they would typically forage and eat in the wild. We will use satellite collars to study how much time they spend in trees, how long they nap, forage, and other behaviors, which will enable us to continually improve the quality of life of captive bears in accredited sanctuaries and zoos throughout the country. Future plans include similar multi-acre habitats for our feline residents. Only through your donations can these plans become reality - please, help us help them!



Xena



Koda G



Popper

Popper, Koda G, and Xena will be sharing one of the two new habitats. Since Popper was wild-born, we are hoping she will teach Koda G and Xena natural bear behavior once they have been introduced.

## You Can Make a Difference for Big Cats Nationally The Big Cat Public Safety Act H.R. 1818 and S. 2990

Big cats need your voice! Every day across the U.S., roadside zoos and private breeders take young cubs from their mothers and sell them to people as pets or for use in cub-petting schemes, putting thousands of juvenile captive tigers through malnutrition, neglect, abuse, and premature death.

Rocklyn, Black Fire, and Peyton spent their first months being passed around as props and starved for the next photo, causing severe malnutrition. You can stop the suffering of captive tigers used for profit by supporting the Big Cat Public Safety Act!

This critical bill rests in the House (H.R. 1818) and the Senate (S. 2990); it must be passed by both chambers, then signed by the President by January 3, 2019.

Please reach out to your representatives at:  
[www.turpentinecreek.org/hr1818](http://www.turpentinecreek.org/hr1818)

**Only with your help  
will they be saved.**



Black Fire & Peyton

## TCWR is Lending a Paw to Local House Cats

TCWR has partnered with local shelters to highlight adoptable domestic felines by promoting #MeetMeMonday through social media and "small cat of the week" in our e-newsletter.

There are at least 2,000 tigers in the U.S. being kept as pets, yet aspca.org says over 1.5 million unwanted domestic cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters each year. More than 3 million cats currently wait for their forever homes.

Take time to meet a domesticated shelter cat. Visit your local shelter or follow us on Facebook, where we offer an album full of adoptable cats, with a new one featured weekly.



Bright Eyes at Friends of Lester C. Howick Animal Shelter





## Aging Gracefully - Elvis Bobcat



Elvis

It is possible to train even elderly animals with patience and positive reinforcement: Take Elvis, an older bobcat who is slowly but surely being crate-trained by animal care staff member, Suz Manning. Elvis turned 17 on August 29th which increases the odds of him needing medical care soon. Being successfully crate trained means he can avoid potential complications that stem from sedation for transport to our vet hospital.

Suz worked with Elvis for approximately four months before she introduced him to the crate. "He isn't afraid of it. I haven't tried to get him to go in yet," she explained. "Right now, I'm just leaving it in his cage and training him next to it to desensitize him." The crate stays in Elvis' cage even when he is not being trained. Suz noted that others have observed him going in and out of it throughout the day. "Cats are perceptive to their environment; if you change something, they know. If we keep the crate as a constant, it won't seem new and strange to him and won't scare him," she said. Behavioral training allows us to better care for our animals; it will allow animal care staff to address Elvis' future health issues in a safer, and more humane manner.

## Your Donations Provide Comfort at the Refuge

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge rescues animals whose species exist in many different habitats throughout the world. Although tigers live in climates that range from the frozen tundra of Siberia to the balmy tropics of Bali, animals such as lions exist solely in warmer climates. While the Arkansas summer heat can rival that of the African planes, our winters can prove harsh for the warm-weather furry friends. They may choose to play and explore outdoors on sunny winter days but require a warm refuge to rest within.

In the past we have filled their dens with comfortable bedding such as straw and mulch, which kept them 20-30 degrees warmer than the outside air. With our recent Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) Accreditation came the decision to take it one step further and provide electric heat to a significant portion of the animals' dens. We have recently finished running electricity throughout Rescue Ridge, which will also be used to power the electric for our two new bear habitats, and a section of our habitat tour loop, warming each den with two small heaters.

The new heaters will provide our African lions warm places to get out of the harsh Arkansas winter weather. They will also help make our senior cats, who suffer a variety of health issues including arthritis, more comfortable during the colder months. Senior cats, such as Izzy with her improper declaw, Styx with his enzyme deficiency, and beautiful African lioness, Chloe, will get to rest this winter snug inside their new heated dens. The space heaters can be turned on independently, so animal care staff can adjust the warmth to each animal's needs.

Creating habitats for the animals that call the Refuge home isn't just about giving them large grassy areas to live on, but also making sure they have plenty of shade in the summer and warm spaces in the winter. With your help, we can continue to expand and improve how we build our habitats to ensure our animals are comfortable year-round. [Please, donate to our habitat fund today and help us, help them.](#)

**Warm-weather cats, like Chloe and Giselle, need a little extra help staying warm during the Arkansas winter.**



Chloe



Giselle



## Giving Big Cats a Chance: Changing Lives and “Purr”sonalities

It's common for TCWR staff to observe a shift in animals' personalities from our first encounter with them during a rescue to the time they adjust to sanctuary life. They come from a variety of situations: Some have never touched grass, nor seen another of their own species, and many suffered mistreatment by humans through malnourishment, cramped and filthy quarters, and sometimes physical abuse. Upon arrival at the Refuge some animals adjust quickly to their new freedom and regular care, while others take time to adapt.

Our animal care team takes steps to acclimate new residents, spending time getting to know each animal to determine how to best help them settle in. Those who are especially distrusting of humans are given frequent treats throughout the day, to associate their care takers with positivity and build trust. The establishment of a stable routine - knowing when they will be fed, watered, and shifted in and out of their night houses - also helps them adjust.

Shakira II arrived at TCWR during our 2016, Colorado Project. Her medical exam made it apparent that she was the victim of unhealthy breeding practices. The skittish white tigress alternated between covering away from rescuers to lashing out with hostility. Even after being introduced to her new grassy habitat and stable life at the Refuge, it took time for Shakira II to trust humans. TCWR Animal Curator, Emily McCormack, spent time each day talking to the tigress from outside her habitat, inching closer each day to the fence while speaking calmly and assuring her that she meant no harm. Now, Shakira II can be found comfortably lounging atop her habitat bench, playfully splashing in the hose during the summer, and giving friendly “chuffs” to her care givers.



Shakira II

Duke came to the Refuge in 2012, from our Mountainburg Rescue. He was an extremely aggressive, territorial tiger who would swipe through his cage, bare his teeth, and let out immense “roars.” He was especially vicious at meal time and never got over being protective of his food. However, his overall transformation upon settling in at the Refuge was astounding. It is hard to believe that this once-terrifying big cat became a well-adjusted tiger that loved nothing more than a good nap or a visit from his favorite keepers.



Duke

## Cooler Weather Brings Diet Changes for TCWR Animals

As the weather cools, our big cats need more meat than they do in the summer months to fuel metabolic energy, which helps keep them warm. A large tiger like Montana may eat up to 12 pounds of meat each day in the winter versus only about 8 in the summertime!

In warm weather, male bears like Michael receive 25 - 32 pounds of food, while females like Popper require 21-22 pounds. Buckets of produce are scattered throughout their habitats to encourage natural foraging. In the winter, we reduce our bear diets to 7-8 pounds of food, which keeps them healthy and satisfied between long naps.

Although most of our meat is donated, we must purchase an enormous quantity of specialty meat and fresh produce to keep our animal residents healthy. Your donation to our food fund will help provide our animals with the nutrition they need year-round! See the perforated tear out on page 11 to begin today.



Duke



Lolli

## Getting You The Nitty-Gritty on Every Bear & Kitty

If you're wild about the Refuge, make sure you are getting the low-down on every lion, the talk on every tiger, and the “blabber” about every bear by “liking” and following us through our digital channels.

“Like” our Facebook page: [facebook.com/TurpentineCreekWildlifeRefuge/](https://facebook.com/TurpentineCreekWildlifeRefuge/)

“Follow” our Twitter or Instagram accounts: @Turpentinecreek

“Join” our new Facebook groups: [facebook.com/TurpentineCreekWildlifeRefuge/groups/](https://facebook.com/TurpentineCreekWildlifeRefuge/groups/)

“Sign up” for our weekly e-newsletter: <http://bit.ly/kittEnews>.

Be the first to know about what is happening at the refuge!  
Follow, Like, and Join in on the conversation!





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239 Turpentine Creek Lane  
Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

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Tanya



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge  
239 Turpentine Creek Lane  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632  
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