

Big Cat Chronicles

Winter '18



It's time for
...
2019 Calendars!
Order yours today,
see page 12.

Mack

Species: Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)
Sex: Male
Born: June 31, 2008



Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Winter is descending on the Ozarks, presenting challenges for the TCWR team. Shorter daylight hours mean less time available to perform daily work, while colder temperatures mean that animals need extra insulation; fresh mulch must be hauled in and out of dens every five days or sooner if the big cats decide their mulch is kitty litter. Frozen water must be broken up and refilled a minimum of 3 times per day to ensure thirsty animals can always access fresh drinking water. Meanwhile, medications, supplements, and diets must be adapted to the colder temperatures, with higher calories for big cats and restricted calories for napping bears.

Much like the bears in torpor, many humans hibernate in their homes and do not visit during winter. Due to the lack of guests, now is when we need your contributions and support more than ever. We encourage you to visit during every season! Fall and spring are my two favorites, but sunny winter days also provide excellent viewing opportunities as many of the tigers are frisky - running, playing, and loving the cooler temperatures. Winter hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, with walking tours from 10 AM to 3 PM.

My thanks to our team for the fantastic job they do, not only caring for our rescued animals, but also for their work in completing our newest bear habitats, which 6 of our bears are currently enjoying. These habitats are revolutionizing the care of captive bears by enabling studies we will share with accredited sanctuaries and zoos to make captive life better for bears everywhere.

Many other improvements in progress this winter, with heat in our African animals' dens and the rebuild of our oldest cougar enclosure to accommodate any animals from servals to leopards. Plus, we are moving forward with your new Visitor Education Center!

TCWR gave refuge to five animals this year; including 14-year-old white tigress Payson from a Nebraska zoo and recently rehomed tigress Jasmine from a Kansas zoo. Read more about how Jasmine and Payson are settling into her new lives at the Refuge as you enjoy your updated Big Cat Chronicles.

Our mission relies on people that want to make a difference in how animals are treated. It is only with YOUR continued support that WE can continue to save and provide a lifetime of loving care to these unwanted, abused and neglected Big Cats. Please donate to help us, help them!

Until next time...



One day after finishing the new bear enclosures we started the new Serval Habitat! This will be over 4000 square feet and include an enclosed building for comfort to the African descendants.

Payson is Settling into Her New Home

Payson, an 14-year-old white tigress, made the 430-mile journey from a prominent Nebraska zoo last February. The long ride combined with an environment, unlike the one she had known for a decade, made Payson understandably nervous. As the months have passed since her arrival, she has grown more comfortable and is spending more time outside her den, becoming "open and chuffy" to interns and staff, who describe the tigress as "feisty."

Never having seen another tiger, much less bears, Payson displays significant interest in her neighbor Snowball, a younger male white tiger who is enamored with her and bears Huggy, Holli, and Lolli, whom she will watch for hours. Her favorite enrichment is to roll frozen watermelons down the hill, attack them, then tote them back up and do it again! She loves "toy swaps," which allow her to explore scents left behind from the previous animal.

We look forward to seeing more of her personality emerge as Payson's adjustment period continues!



Payson



Please Welcome Morgan Lazar Staff Biologist

Morgan ensures each animal has a clean habitat, fresh water, nutritious meals, and engaging enrichment; she performs habitat upkeep and construction, and occasionally conducts educational tours for our visitors. We are excited to see how she flourishes in her transition from intern to team member!

Through legacy giving, your legacy can live on at Turpentine Creek.

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.



Rayn

At TCWR, we give rescued animals a lifetime home. They are never moved to a different facility once placed in our care. This means we frequently must create extra space when welcoming new animal residents or adapt our current habitats to fit the needs of a new species.

In 2008, when a privately-owned zoo in upstate New York closed, TCWR staff made the 2,900-mile round trip to retrieve several big cats, including Rayn. Though difficult to load in the rescue trailer, her playful and laidback nature shone through once she arrived at the Refuge.

Two years ago, Rayn transitioned to Rescue Ridge due to her age, and the influx of animals from the Colorado Project. We never know when the next breeding facility or roadside zoo will close, leaving exotic animals with nowhere to go. Donating today means we can continue to take in new rescues while still accommodating our current residents.



Monumental Rescue of 2016 The Animals Are Safe, Costs Continue to Mount

Time passes quickly when you care for animals. It's hard to believe that it has been over two years since Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge was made aware of 115 animals in need of rescue from an exhibitor and breeding/cub-petting facility in Colorado, who was closing due to a cancer diagnosis. TCWR stepped in with the help of Tigers in America (TIA) and developed a plan to move forward with acquiring the Colorado facility, with the stipulation that all the animals would be donated to TCWR. The former owner had been grandfathered into laws dictating habitat standards; as the new owners, our ethical responsibilities to the welfare of the animals and our affiliation with G.F.A.S. made it evident that we could not leave the animals on the property without severely depleting our resources to rebuild to acceptable standards.

Six months later, all 115 animals were successfully rescued and relocated. TCWR brought 34 animals to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and found homes for the remaining animals at 14 other reputable sanctuaries across the nation. The rescue and rehoming process are done, but the work and financial burden is far from over.

While we are always striving to improve and grow our programming, please remember that the extra cost and labor we took on in 2016, will continue for the duration of these additional 33 animals' lives. We are thrilled to say that all but one of the older lions, Pharaoh, are still thriving at the Refuge and loving their lives here. However, the malnourishment and inbreeding, among other forms of abuse these animals suffered in Colorado, resulted in many medical conditions, which require costly ongoing care and specialized diets for the remainder of their lives. Meanwhile, the rundown facility in Colorado remains a financial burden on our resources as we continue efforts to sell the 11.7-acre parcel.

It was because of your commitment and generosity that we were able to stage the biggest exotic animal rescue in U.S. history, give 34 animals a forever home at the Refuge, and construct state-of-the-art bear habitats to allow multiple introductions and allow natural bear behavior. You have helped us get to where we are today, leading the way to advances in quality of life for captive animals and education of the public. We need your help more than ever if we are to continue doing so while supporting the extra financial burden of this landmark rescue. Only with your support can we finally end the Exotic Animal Trade and stop the suffering of tens of thousands of big cats and bears. Please help us help them.



\$54,353 Specialty Meat



\$52,847 Veggies

It takes money to rescue animals and you always help. Thank you. As the Colorado Rescue continues to surprise us with added financial burdens, we need your help again. Please donate to the food fund. See TurpentineCreek.org and click the "support us" tab.

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

A true animal sanctuary is a nonprofit 501©(3) facility where animals are brought to live and be protected for the rest of their lives; one that does not breed nor allow hands-on interaction with the animals other than for medical purposes, no matter their age. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is proud to be an accredited sanctuary, providing lifetime care needed to each individual who is rescued.

For many years animal care staff members fulfilled weekly health rounds; with the addition of Dr. Kellyn Sweeley on our team, her assessment of each animal is superior. Dr. Sweeley has established a body and muscle condition scoring system to monitor and evaluate every animal's mobility and adjust pain management accordingly each week. For instance, we usually increase dosages in the wintertime, as osteoarthritic animals can show higher discomfort in colder temps. With the growing number of geriatric animals in our care, each individual now has a dedicated plan. Additionally, if an animal shows signs of muscle atrophy, we can develop a unique enrichment plan for them to help strengthen those muscles. Or, if an animal is diagnosed with renal failure, a complete medication regimen is assigned; with Dr. Sweeley here to monitor, she can adjust that animal's medication as needed.

Dr. Sweeley has also helped with multiple medical occurrences since her return. Rocklyn, Blackfire, and Peyton have needed a lot of time and attention, as they had such an extremely difficult start to their lives.

The most challenging task in working with these magnificent animals is maintaining quality-of-life; we never want any animal to suffer. The determination of the end-of-life occurs when there is no longer any human intervention or medication that can provide that animal with comfort. Recently, we had to make that decision for Luna. She was a 19-year-old female cougar TCWR rescued when she was only four months old. During her last few months, Dr. Sweeley prescribed a very strict medication program to keep Luna happy and comfortable. She was able to monitor her daily and change meds when needed for her comfort until the end. As you can imagine, Luna held a very special place in many people's hearts. She was well known by all for her cougar "meows" and "purrs" and is deeply missed.

Working with these animals every day, we become extremely attached. Dedication and passion not only drives all the TCWR team members to work hard, but you, the supporters, who believe in us. We thank you every day for your contributions to the animals and the sanctuary we provide them.



Dr. Kellyn (left) and Emily McCormack (curator) work together with our team to provide the highest level of care for the animals. Your donations go 100% to the animals. Please give today.

The Triplets: Growing Up Tiger!



White tiger triplets Black Fire, Rocklyn and Peyton were rescued from a Colorado breeding and cub-petting facility in 2016 when they were four months old. Due to severe metabolic bone disease from malnutrition, their survival was touch and go at first; now they are thriving adolescents who - thanks to pain management, special diet, and supplements - enjoy playing and exploring new enrichment toys.



The cub-like social play has graduated to play with a purpose as their predatory instincts kicked in: they now stalk each other, lying in wait to pounce. They also 'drown' their toys in their pool, just as they would with deer-sized prey in the wild. There, they would still hunt with their mother for another six months, yet even on their own these instincts have emerged: the progression from cute cub to dangerous apex predator is inevitable - they are predators, not pets.



Rocklyn

Do Bears Hibernate?

Winter is coming, and soon the bears of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge will be enjoying longer naps. Even though bears sleep in the winter, they do not truly hibernate; instead, they go into a state of inactivity called "torpor." In the wild, bears go into torpor for over 100 days without food, water, or passing waste!

In an amazing adaptation to help survive the harsh winter months, bears have specialized fat cells which provide calories and water during torpor. Unlike humans, their muscles and organ tissue break down to supply needed proteins, then rebuild using the urea in their urine. Bear body heat only decreases about 10 degrees F during the winter, unlike hibernators whose temperature drops to nearly freezing. Bears can also wake up when disturbed - in fact, in areas where food is abundant throughout the year some bears never go into torpor at all. New mothers are last to emerge, with new cubs to feed in Spring.

However, our bears are offered food daily and remain somewhat active, weather depending. Our new large bear habitats may stimulate them to take a long nap or continue to forage, time will tell, you helped give them a choice.



The Cub Club Presents: Wild Child Activity Worksheet



Adoptions & Sponsorships

Adoptions - \$150 for any species

- Frameable Adoption Certificate with photo of favorite animal.
- Big Cat Chronicles Subscription
- Letter of Recognition

Sponsorships – Priced per species, only one sponsor per animal.

- Pride Membership (free entry for cardholder and up to 4 guests annually)
- Frameable Sponsorship Certificate
- 8x10 photo of Sponsored Animal
- Name on Sponsor Wall in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles Subscription
- Letter of Recognition

Cub Club - \$50 (Ages 4-12)

You are never too small to make a BIG difference in the Cub Club. Members of the Cub Club get the chance to make a difference in the lives of all the big cats that call Turpentine Creek hom.

Annual Benefits:

- Free entry for cardholder for an entire year
- Frameable Cub Club Membership Certificate
- Yearly changing Activity Book
- Yearly changing Sticker or Temporary T.C. Tatoo
- Special Cub Club Day at the Refuge (Mom & Dad get in free!)
- Exclusive Cub Club Volunteer Activity (Help make enrichment for the cats, or other fun projects for the animals!)

Sign-up gift:

- Plush animal of choice (Tiger, Lion or Leopard!)

W.A.Y. (Wildcat Ambush for Youth) - \$75 (Ages 13-18)

Today's youth need to band together to put an end to the exotic animal trade. The Wildcat Ambush for Youth gives them the perfect opportunity to make a difference in the world, one big cat at a time.

Annual Benefits:

- Free entry for cardholder and 1 guest - unlimited visits throughout the year.
- Frameable W.A.Y. Certificate
- W.A.Y. Members-only page on TCWR Website to view educational webinars geared to them alone - a chance to learn about the inside workings of TCWR, pick up valuable skills to become leaders in animal advocacy and learn about careers in animal care.
- Members-only Facebook group –meet new friends, share ideas and create fundraisers.
- W.A.Y. Volunteer Opportunities - work with our Volunteer Coordinator and earn points for a Special Award!

Sign-up gift:

- Exclusive W.A.Y. T-shirt



Annual Memberships

Pride Membership annual donation of \$100

Annual Benefits:

- Free entry for cardholder and 4 guests for unlimited visits throughout the year–increase your effectiveness as an advocate for the animals by bringing family, friends and co-workers to the Refuge to experience our mission and learn how they, too, can help!

The Friends of India annual donation of \$300+*

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

- Friends of India Pride Membership
- Complimentary Trolley Tickets
- 15% off on Gift Shop Merchandise
- Big Cat Chronicles subscription
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Members Only Facebook Group to meet new advocacy friends and exchange ideas
- Member Only Events
- 10% off Lodging**

Sign-up gifts:

- A Framed 5x7 Photograph of India
- TCWR Calendar
- F.O.I. Decal
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet

Bam Bam Benefactor annual donation of \$1,250+*

Annual Benefits:

- Bam Bam Benefactor Pride Membership
- Complimentary Trolley Tickets
- 15% off on Gift Shop merchandise
- Big Cat Chronicles subscription
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Members Only Facebook
- Member Only Events
- 20% off Lodging**

Sign up gifts:

- A Framed 5x7 Photo of Bam Bam in a wood frame
- TCWR Calendar
- B.B.B. Decal
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Bam Bam Travel Mug

The Kenny Fellowship annual donation of \$3,000+*

Annual Benefits:

- Kenny Fellowship Pride Membership
- Complimentary Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles subscription
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Members Only Facebook Group
- Member Only Events
- 30% off Lodging**
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report

Sign up gifts:

- A Framed 8x10 Photo of Kenny in engraved wooden frame
- TCWR Calendar
- K.F. Decal
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Kenny Travel Mug
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt

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

Annual Benefits:

- Hilda Jackson Society Pride Membership
- Complimentary Trolley Tickets
- 20% off on Gift Shop merchandise
- Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Members Only Facebook Group
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging**
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- A Staff Liaison

Sign up gifts:

- A Framed 8x10 Photo of a Favorite Cat in engraved H.J. wooden frame
- TCWR Calendar
- H.J.S. Decal
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Tiger Travel Mug
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt

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

**Limitations may apply.

Yes, I will help the animals!

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

Donations: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ Repeat monthly.
2018 Calendars: \$5 each X ___ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____
First Edition Coloring Book: \$5 each X ___ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier

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

\$45 The Cub Club, Kid's Membership – You are never too small to make a BIG difference in the Cub Club. A membership with the Cub Club includes entry into the park, a membership card and certificate, a coloring book, plush cat of your choice, sticker, and big cat photo.

Name of child: _____ 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"/> \$300+ Friends of India	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship	} Total 2018 Pledge: \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society	

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Animal Adoption:

- \$100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
- \$100/yr - Small Cat/Monkey
- \$125/yr - Cougar/Leopard
- \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Animal Sponsor:

- \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
- \$1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey
- \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard
- \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

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

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

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

Total Total Contribution Today: \$_____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

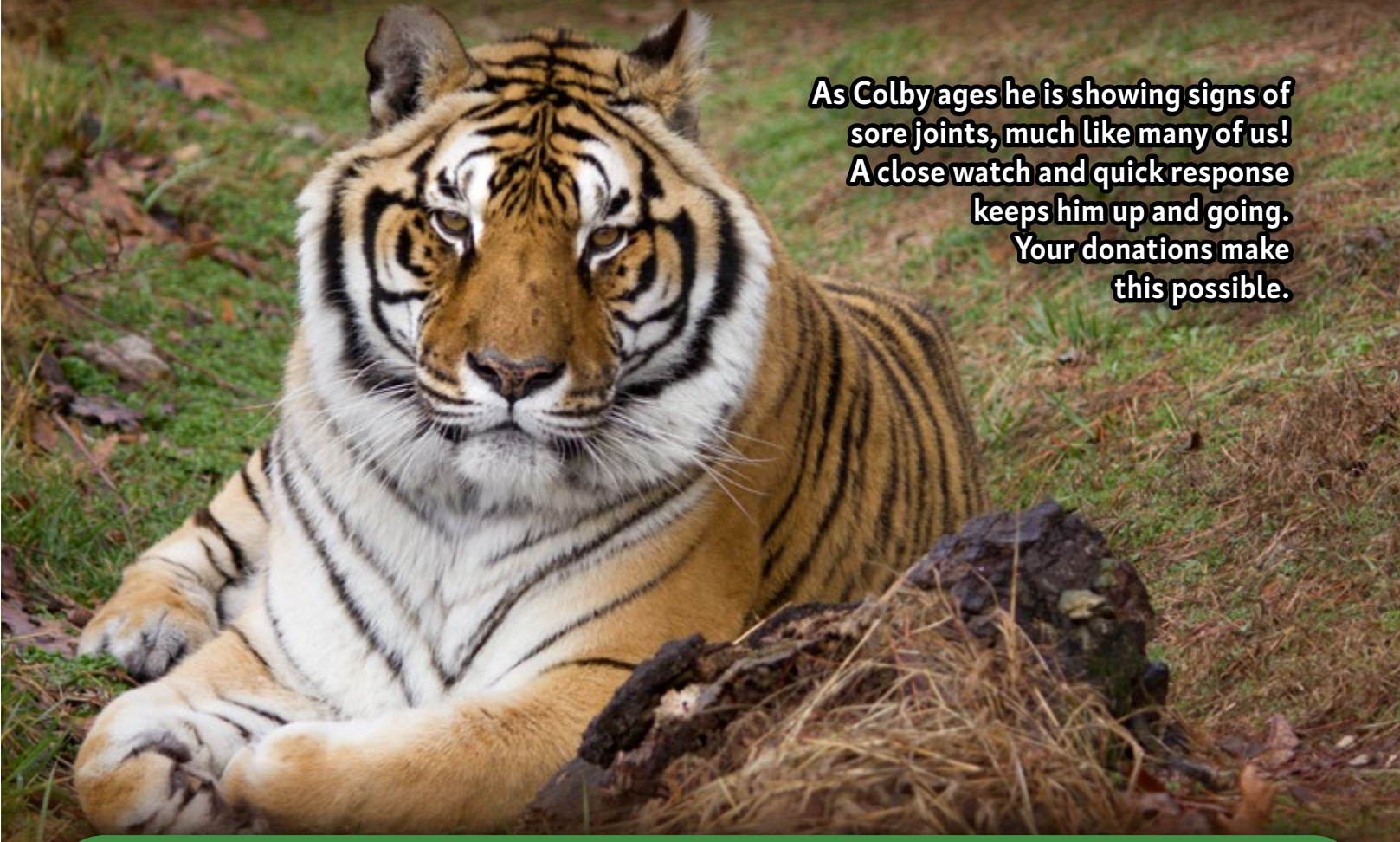
Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: _____

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

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

Featured Animal: Colby



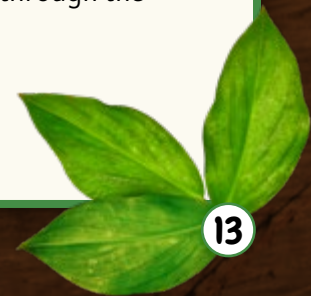
As Colby ages he is showing signs of sore joints, much like many of us! A close watch and quick response keeps him up and going. Your donations make this possible.

Colby arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in 2008 from Texas, where his owner faced stiff fines from local officials and pressure from neighbors to find timely rehoming solution for the tiger. Turpentine Creek staff made the trip to Texas to bring Colby to his new home and since arriving he has been a staff and intern favorite.

Colby is now 18 years old and lives next to Poncho. The two alternate days using the habitat, but don't seem to mind the company. They've been seen chuffing at each other, grooming through the fence, and all around just seeming to enjoy each other's company through their shared night house fence.

Colby can be seen on the guided tour and has been known for making his way down the hill to "chuff" at visitors. Not long ago, that changed. The active, happy tiger became less responsive, and it was determined that his aged joints were causing him pain. Animal care team members developed a pain management plan and started Colby on medication: He improved quickly and in no time, was back vigorously swatting at his enrichment toys, dipping into his pool, and though somewhat more slowly, making his way down the hill to greet interns and guests. Poncho, "the new kid next door" also helps to keep him young; the two have long conversations and walks through the fence.

Many of our animal residents are affected by the cold temperatures winter brings. Some positively, some negatively. The animals care cost goes up in the cold winter months. Please help us meet their needs, donate today.



Welcome Jasmine to Her New Home

In October, Turpentine Creek welcomed our newest family member: an 8-year-old female tiger named Jasmine. This stunning orange tigress was rehomed to us from the Dodge City, KS, Wright Park Zoo where she had been housed with her sister since she was three months old. The cubs were placed there after a notorious pseudo-sanctuary in Oklahoma could no longer keep them.

The staff at Wright Park decided to part with sweet Jasmine to improve her quality of life. While she was friendly to her keepers at the zoo, she became stressed by crowds and was especially frightened of children. When the play between Jasmine and her sister began to escalate in aggression, the decision was made to contact Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, feeling that sanctuary life would be in her best interest.

TCWR team members departed early on the morning of Monday, October 15, to travel 438 miles to Dodge City, returning the 16th with Jasmine. Her onsite health inspection revealed that she was in good physical condition and loading her for travel went smoothly, thanks to her trust in her keepers.

Jasmine will continue to reside in the peace and quiet of Rescue Ridge even after her quarantine period is over to give her time to relax and adjust to her new home. Often, big cats that have exhibited fear of people when they first arrive at the Refuge completely change personalities with the calm environment, regular care, and enrichment paired with respect for their needs as wild predators that they receive at Turpentine Creek.

It may take some time to get used to the other animals, as her only neighbors thus far were her sister and the bobcats housed nearby, but we are confident that soon she will enjoy observing the different species living in harmony at TCWR, happily chuffing at interns and staff, and destroying enrichment in her habitat. We are thrilled to welcome Jasmine to the family at TCWR and can't wait to see her personality emerge as she becomes comfortable in her daily life here at the Refuge. You can be introduced to this gorgeous tigress on our Coffee with the Curator and Carnivore Caravan tours, whose proceeds will help us provide her with the care and quality of life she deserves, for her lifetime. You may also help with Jasmine's future care by adopting her— just fill out the adoption section of the tear out on page 12.



Jasmine arrived from a zoo in Kansas after the aggression between her and her sister continued to escalate. For the safety of them both they decided to call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge to separate the two siblings.

Thank You for Giving Six Bears A New Home

On October 28, 2018, six energetic bears moved into their new forever homes. After eighteen months of hard work, blood, sweat, and so many tears, we finished building our two largest habitats to date. These enclosures sit on over 3 acres of land filled with trees, bushes, and plenty of natural enrichment to keep the rambunctious bears entertained.

Holli, Lolli, and Huggy will share one of the new habitats. The trio loves foraging through their home, climbing trees, and just getting the chance to be bears. The natural Ozark terrain will enrich the lives of these bears by giving them so many choices.

Xena, Koda G, and Popper were, at first, alternating days in their new habitat, but after a short adjustment period, we introduced the three. We will continue to observe them and make sure they adjust to their new roommates.

These two new habitats will give us the opportunity to offer homes to bears and big cats in need for many years to come.



Moving Huggy is not an easy chore for any 8 people! Weighing in at over 8 hundred pounds, Huggy was safely moved to his new Habitat in the woods.



Welcome Stewardship Writer Sandra Ames

Sandra Ames' priorities are donor retention and development; writing grant proposals, development letters, and evolving our memberships to increase our donor base. The addition of her knowledge and experience with donor development is a real asset to the communications department.

Please Welcome Katelyn Feemster Communications Specialist

Katelyn manages and creates content for social media and digital publication, as well as organizes online fundraising events. She is a wonderful addition to our communications team.



Volunteer-Created Fire Hose Ball Was a Hot Item



TCWR volunteers recently helped create an enrichment toy for our tigers: It took six people two hours to craft a fire hose ball that would end up inciting some hilarious antics when dropped into Joey, Aurora, Lakota, and Khaleesi's enclosure!

The four immediately took an interest in their "prey" - but not in sharing it. Aurora was first to monopolize the ball; batting it, dunking it in her pool, and proudly toting it around while keeping an eye on the other three, who were slyly attempting to take possession of the coveted prize.

Hours later, Lakota made his claim, letting out great "roars" to keep his habitat mates away. Meanwhile white tiger sisters Tanya and Kizmin watched next door, entirely absorbed by the shenanigans. Finally, team members removed the toy from the habitat since it was causing unwarranted aggression. Hopefully, volunteers can soon create enough of these popular items to be shared!



With Time Comes Trust

Rescuing big cats can pose many challenges for the team members at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. It takes a lot of blood, sweat, tears, and sleepless nights. But, in the end, the rewards vastly outweigh the physical and emotional costs associated with each rescue effort.

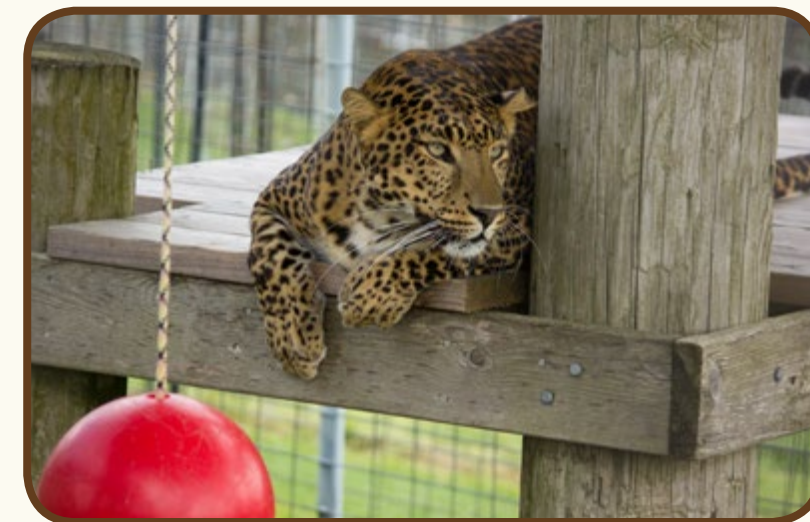
In 2016, Turpentine Creek headed up the Colorado Project, re-homing 115 animals; 34 came to our facility. Included in that rescue was one grumbly leopard, Selbit. From the moment we arrived at the property in Colorado, Selbit was defensive and upset. He was very vocal about his distrust in humans, continuously growled and hissed whenever someone came in his view.

Selbit had once been part of a magic show act before he was taken to the Colorado facility. Much of his vocalization can be attributed to his performing past. Big cats that are involved in magic shows are encouraged to be vocal and "showy." Overcoming his distrust and dislike of his caretakers has been a challenge, but one we are very willing to take on.

Two years, patience, and a whole lot of enrichment has seen Selbit's personality dramatically changing since his arrival. Although Selbit still likes his private space, he now spends more time venturing into his habitat to watch visitors and team members. Most days he can be found stalking the walking tour, watching team members in the discovery area, and chasing children. His deep rumbling grumble can still be heard, but now it is usually accompanied by playful rolling and fence rubbing. He feels comfortable enough with his surroundings to interact with the public and team members-when he is in the mood to.

One unexpected, but fun, change in his interaction with the team is his entrancement with the broom used to clean the leopard building. Whenever the interns are sweeping out the night house area, he will watch them intently, stalking their every move and even occasionally chasing the broom for fun. This cub-like behavior is entertaining and a great way to add a little extra unplanned enrichment to his daily schedule.

We are thrilled that we were able to give Selbit a safe and comfortable place to call home. Seeing this personality change since his arrival is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. With your help, we can continue to rescue big cats in need. Donate now and help us, help them.



Selbit came to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge with an untrusting demeanor. Two years of patience and a lot of work turned his life around for the better. Your involvement in the TCWR mission changes lives forever. Become a member today!

Remaining Wild at the Sanctuary

Little Miss Priss is someone you're unlikely to catch a glimpse of when you visit Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. This elusive bobcat and her siblings were just a few weeks old when they were found in the woods without their mother. Temporarily kept as a pet by a family, she proved her wild nature after she bit through a pair of welding gloves.

It's a common misconception that obtaining a wild animal when they are young and raising them as a pet will domesticate them; Little Miss certainly disproved this theory. Out of all the animals that call the Refuge home, she is the most in tune with her wild nature. She was surrendered to the Refuge on July 7, 2012, at less than 2 months old.

It's been more than six years since that day, and Little Miss is still a very antisocial animal where humans are concerned. She prefers to stick close to her habitat mate, Tiger, who was removed from the wild as a kitten when he, too, was thought to be abandoned, most likely by mistake.

Because she must remain in captivity, Lil' Miss Priss never learned the skills needed to hunt or compete for food from her mother. Bobcats spend the first 8-10 months of their lives learning to survive in the wild from their mothers. We have done our best to encourage her natural behavior, while making sure she feels comfortable and safe. Her habitat is full of places to hide, high spaces to observe her surroundings, and of course a cozy den to escape to when she just wants to get away.

At one time it was rare for her to emerge from hiding when people were around. But since becoming a participant in our behavioral training program using positive rewards such as treats and scents, she has started to slink out more frequently. Slowly, Little Miss Priss is becoming more comfortable staying within the public eye during the day.

However, even though she seems to not mind the public's attention, we will never attempt to make her more "tame" or "friendly." The fact that she has not lost touch with her natural wild characteristics is healthy, especially for an animal living in captivity. Aloofness is part of being a bobcat, and we happily encourage her to be just that- nothing more, nothing less.

Lil' Miss Priss is very elusive and retains many of her "wild" instincts. Unlike most of our "exotic pet trade" bobcats, she was found lost in the wild and rehomed at the refuge.



Donations Enrich the Lives of Your Furry Favorites

Most days, Daniel and Chloe spend their time napping on their bench or at the top of their habitat. Getting these two lazy lions motivated can be a challenge, but our animal care team is on the job! Our big cats really enjoy enrichment, but each animal has their favorite. Recently, the team struck gold and discovered the perfect enrichment combination of spice, boxes, burlap, and toys that smell like other animals to entice these two adult lions to romp and play like cubs.

Enrichment is a great way to stimulate the mind, entice the senses, and encourage big cats to get up and move. All our animals receive enrichment, with treats on birthdays, holidays, and whenever the interns feel extra creative. Thank you for donating, we truly enjoy enriching the lives of our animal residents as much as possible!



Please Welcome Hannah Wherry Your New Wildlife Interpreter

Hannah aids in developing group programming, educational tours, offsite presentations, international volunteer programs, and educational opportunities at the Refuge. We are glad to have Hannah's input in the development of our Education department.



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