

Big Cat Chronicles

Spring '19



Shakira

Species: Liger (*Panthera leo* x *Panthera tigris*)

Sex: Female

DOB: October 11, 2007

Arrival Date: October 10, 2016



Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Welcome to Spring! We wish you and yours a healthy and happy 2019! I want to update you on our progress and efforts to end the Exotic Pet Trade. *Caution: as you read further it is heartbreaking and explicit.*

In the past 27 years, directing TCWR and rescuing over 500 big cats and bear, I've learned of sad events prompting exotic "PET" owners to call us for help: people die, get divorced, laws pass and are only sometimes enforced; homeowners insurance gets canceled, forcing owners to rehome big cats in their yard/home/basement/garage, or people just get too old to care for their menageries, most without an exit plan.

However, nothing prepared me for what I heard during our most recent rescue of 6 male tigers from Oklahoma. The three men operating that facility had worked with many of the truly "bad actors" in the Cub Petting Industry, which is filled with greed and abuse. We heard horror stories of cubs used as props without rest to cram as many photo sessions possible daily until they reached 16 weeks old, then killed and discretely disposed of because they no longer generated income. Tigers called to their caretaker, chuffing, then shot point blank because they'd become a liability. Animal skins and parts sold as a commodity. Stories of people beating, starving, and killing animals – they bring tears to my eyes and nightmares in my sleep. We must stop this madness; only through education can we create awareness, which will help people become advocates and environmentalists. Despite the horrendous acts perpetrated by the other side, we are making a difference. Here are just a few things we accomplished in 2018:

- Implemented website advocacy software, and you sent 2,326 letters lobbying for the passage of the Big Cat Safety Act. **Stay tuned for Advocacy page updates: You Can Bring About Change!**
- Rehomed/rescued 5 exotic cats, plus 6 tigers in January of 2019; some would no longer be alive without the Refuge.
- Education outreach to Arkansas schools created new animal advocates and environmentalists.
- Hosted Arkansas and Texas youth groups during Spring Break, whose help was much appreciated; we have Spring Break 2019 availability - please contact us!
- Welcomed Staff Veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, reducing our need to transport animals 48 miles roundtrip. While stocking our clinic is costly, early intervention with regular exams will prevent many emergencies, improving quality of life for our animals.
- We opened our largest habitats ever; these wooded bear enclosures allow for multiple introductions and natural behavior, perfect for studies to benefit other captive bears.
- In addition to the new bear dens, we also provided heat to Rescue Ridge and a significant portion of our tour loop. While mulch kept dens much warmer than outside temps, the new heaters adjust to each animal's needs.



One of the many accomplishments made in 2018 was the building and opening of two natural bear habitats. Huggy and five other bears now live in spacious habitats filled with trees, pools, and plenty of natural enrichment. It is only through your donations and support that we can continue to provide quality care for the animals that call the Refuge home.

The progress we have made gives me hope, but I issue all of you A CALL TO ACTION in 2019: Share information, visit our Advocacy Page, and support our mission. **TOGETHER we will put an end to the Trade and continue to care for its survivors!**

Until Then,
Tanya Smith, President/Founder

TURPENTINE CREEK WILDLIFE REFUGE

2018 End of Year Accomplishments

Thank you for making 2018 such a memorable year. It is because of you that we are able to give such a strong voice to animals who would otherwise have none and we appreciate your support!

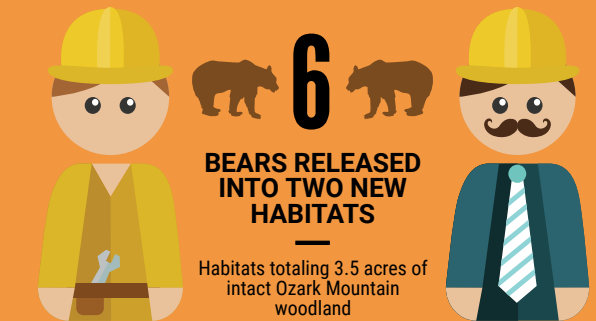
2018 RECAP

100% OF YOUR DONATIONS USED FOR ANIMAL CARE

(\$1.3M in non-donated revenue VS. \$1.2M in administrative and non animal care related expenses)



Through our Big Cats for Small Cats program, TCWR teamed up with local animal shelters, and via social media posts helped place 10 of 22 domestic cats in forever homes.



*Does not include all annual fundraising efforts

- Giving Tuesday = \$35,000
- Supporter-created (Facebook) = \$19,440
- NWA Gives = \$19,105
- Cats at the Castle = \$16,258
- Sipping for Sanctuary = \$3,395
- Online Auction = \$2,423
- Spooktacular = \$2,185
- Golf to the Rescue = \$1,813
- Kite Festival = \$1,299



01 BIG CAT SANCTUARY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

TCWR hosted the most successful BCSA conference to date, with representatives from 20 of the nation's most influential Big Cat sanctuaries in attendance.



Joining Forces For Good



Bosco



Chloe



Black Fire

We invite all of our supporters to join us on April 4, 2019, to support your favorite Northwest Arkansas non-profit. This year, we endeavor to raise \$21,000 for our animal residents during the NWA Gives Fundraiser!

This event is open to all supporters of the Refuge, regardless of where you live. Some examples of how your dollars can change lives include:

- Provide pain management or vitamins/minerals or general medication for a single animal (\$25)
- Provide a year's worth of vaccinations for a single animal (\$50)
- Provide wound management or a physical wellness exam (\$150)
- Cover the cost of a single routine dental exam or mass removal (\$200)
- Cover a week's worth of habitat supplies and maintenance (\$560)

To make an impact with your donation on April 4, go to: <https://www.purecharity.com/nwa-gives-turpentine-creek-wildlife-refuge>
 Donate \$5 or \$5,000, every penny given helps the animals that call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge home.

Your Legacy for The Animals

Supporters of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can continue their legacy by leaving a portion of their estates to the Refuge, and thereby ensuring that all of the present and future animals rescued will be well cared for and live out their lives in peace. Please speak with your attorney today and consider setting up your legacy by providing the information below.

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

EIN #: 71-0721742

Address: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Phone #: 479-253-5841 Website: www.turpentinecreek.org

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

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

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

Daily life at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can be an emotional rollercoaster. Offering lifetime refuge to survivors of the Exotic Pet Trade poses numerous challenges: Many of the animals we rescue suffer from health issues due to inbreeding, malnutrition, neglect and even abuse, but we do our best to provide a high quality of life for all the animals in our care.

We must also face the reality that we cannot always arrive in time to save them.

Recently, we rescued six tigers from Oklahoma. All of them came to us likely suffering from genetic health defects and in grossly overweight condition, but Diesel, a three-year-old orange tiger, was very sick when we picked them up from their old home.

We have a saying at Turpentine: "In a single day, you can experience the highest highs and the lowest lows," and that has never been more true than with Diesel. While in Oklahoma he was lethargic, barely moving, and didn't make a single sound. Since he had to be sedated to load him, we were able to collect a blood sample. After arriving at the Refuge, we ran his bloodwork and found that he had a very high white blood cell count and his red blood cells were only at 10% (normal is 30-52%). Our veterinarian Dr. Kellyn Sweeley identified his disease as feline infectious anemia or feline *hemotropic mycoplasmosis*, it is a tick or flea transmitted illness also known as *Haemobartonellosis*; it targets the red blood cells which are responsible for carrying oxygen.

We immediately began Diesel on a regiment of the strongest antibiotics we had and overnighted the drugs he would need. Three days later, Diesel had begun to sit up and was happily chuffing at the team. His sweet chuffs gave us hope, so reality hit us all that much harder when, after sedating Diesel for another exam, we found that instead of staying steady or improving, his red blood cell count had dropped again to only 7.8%. Knowing that as his red blood cell count continued to uncontrollably decline he would suffer terribly in the end, we had to make the heartbreaking decision to let Diesel go.

Diesel's struggles are over, but his death has come to stand for all the other animals that are still trapped and suffering inside the Exotic Pet Trade, making us fight even harder to stop more needless deaths caused by this heartless, profit-driven industry. Our fight to put an end to both the Exotic Pet Trade and Cub Petting Industry goes on, and we will continue trying to save as many animals as possible along the way, but with your help, we can make a difference in the future of all exotic wildlife. Please continue to only support true accredited sanctuaries, like Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, reach out to your Congressmen and demand change in national legislation regulating exotic animal ownership (see our Advocacy page for updates), and continue to educate others about the plight of Big Cats in captivity. **It is only with your help that we can truly save them all.**



Upon arrival in Oklahoma, Diesel barely moved from a tiny transport tunnel. Our Curator, Emily McCormack, had to use a pole syringe to sedate the sick tiger.



Blood drawn in Oklahoma was tested immediately after arrival at TCWR. Results showed that Diesel had an elevated white blood count, his red blood count was extremely low at 10%, and he had clear signs of a blood pathogen causing his illness.



Diesel spent his short time with us in the comfort of our veterinary hospital. The heated floors and dry conditions seemed to help improve his quality of life for the final days. Sweet chuffs and friendly groans greeted team members frequently until his passing.

Oklahoma Rescue 2019

In early January, we received a plea from the owner of a closing Oklahoma facility. He explained that he was being evicted from his property and had less than a week to find a haven for his tigers. This was on a Monday, and by Wednesday our team members were leaving to make the first leg of the 700-mile round trip to retrieve six male tigers: two white-striped, a pure-white, a Golden Tabby, and two orange.

Upon arrival, the following day, the owner of the facility explained that Tommy, Frankie, Robbie, Floyd, Tigger, and Diesel were victims of the Cub Petting Industry. Their original owner was going to destroy them once they surpassed the legal age to be handled by the public (3 months), but the OK man had offered to give the six cubs a home. They had been saved once, and we were glad we could help the second time.

Even before TCWR Veterinarian Dr. Kellyn Sweeley could perform exams, three things were apparent: all were severely overweight, all were likely suffering from genetic health defects, and Diesel was exhibiting extreme lethargy and allegedly had not eaten for at least 2 days.



Although only 16-months-old, Tigger is a larger tiger and it took a little extra effort to move him. All the cats rescued from Oklahoma are overweight, which added to the challenge of the rescue.



Floyd, one of six tigers from Oklahoma, was the first to load during the rescue.



Robbie
4 years



Tommie
3 years



Frankie
3 years



Floyd
21 months



Tigger
18 months



Gone But Not Forgotten

Diesel (RIP)
3 years

The team returned home Thursday night, and blood tests were run on Diesel, which revealed a blood pathogen infection; appropriate antibiotics and other medications were administered immediately. Floyd and Tigger were released into their habitat outside the Siberian Suite Friday morning. Next, Robbie, Tommie, and Frankie were let into their enclosure, the last along our tour loop. Floyd was the most uncertain of the five; Tigger was cautious but very curious, especially when he heard our lions caroling. The other three were laid back and frolicked through their habitat as if it had always been their home.

Sadly, the following Monday, tests revealed that Diesel was not recovering. With heartbreaking resignation, we allowed the tiger that had “chuffed” his way into our hearts only days earlier to peacefully slip away in a room full of tearful eyes that wept for the one we could not save. If nothing else, he left this earth experiencing what it is to be genuinely cared for and loved.

The painful moments, like the loss of Diesel, and the happy moments, like seeing his five friends continue to thrive, are what drive us to keep fighting for the rights of those still trapped within the Exotic Pet Trade. These tigers were sentenced to die on an expiration date when they could no longer earn a profit; they were only six out of the thousands who will be born into the same situation. We need your help to educate, advocate, and allow us to continue rescuing the survivors of this cruel industry. **Please donate today.**



Robbie, the largest of the six rescued tigers, took seven people to lift and barely fit into our largest transport cage. Since three of the rescues needed sedated, we used the opportunity to take blood for testing.

Come Enjoy the Voices of the Refuge

Throughout the day at the Refuge, you will hear sessions of lions caroling to one another, usually initiated by Willy, who celebrated his 17th birthday in December. During your visit, you will see many different animals, but our African Lions can demand attention with their booming vocalizations. Willy, Tsavo, Savannah, Daniel, and Chloe live in neighboring habitats and function sociably as their own lion pride (group).

Wild lions are the most sociable of the big cats; living in prides, communication by caroling is critical to their survival. Females do the hunting while males protect the territory; their caroling can be heard up to five miles away and helps the pride work together. Here at the Refuge, Savannah lends her voice to the boys' - even though our lions are not all in one habitat together, they still function like a pride by talking to each other after they are fed, when the weather changes, throughout the night, and whenever they feel like it! During your next visit, pause when you hear this beautiful and unique call of our lions communicating with each other as they would in the wilds of Africa.



Savannah



Willy



Daniel



Hannah Wherry 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.

TCWR'S 8TH ANNUAL

CATS

6:30-9:30PM APRIL 27, 2019

at the

CASTLE ROGUE'S MANOR

CASTLE

2272 STATE HIGHWAY 187
BEAVER, AR 72613

Hakuna Matata

IT MEANS

NO WORRIES FOR OUR ANIMAL RESIDENTS!

Join us for a wild evening of fun and fundraising to benefit the animal residents at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge!

FEATURES:

- Gourmet appetizers, entrees and desserts
- Live Entertainment
- Open bar (donations encouraged)
- Silent / Live Auction
- Formal Attire (animal print patterns encouraged*)

Tickets: \$100 each. Limited seating.

Purchase Options:
Online: TurpentineCreek.org
Call: (479) 253-5992
Email: amanda@turpentinecreek.org

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal

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

Sponsorship Amounts:

\$700 per year - Small Mammal/Bird

\$1,000 per year - Small Cat/Monkey

\$2,200 per year - Cougar/Leopard

\$2,500 per year - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Cub Club, W.A.Y. and Pride Memberships

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 home.

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!)

Signup 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!

Signup gift: Exclusive W.A.Y. T-shirt

Pride Membership - \$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!



W.A.Y. T-shirt Graphic

Membership Levels

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

Members of the Friends of India will receive the following signup 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**

Signup 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**

Signup 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

Signup 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

Signup 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.
- 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!

\$50 The Cub Club, Kid's Membership (Ages 4-12) Name of child: _____
Please circle the plush cat you would like for your signup gift: **LION TIGER LEOPARD**

\$75 Wildcat Ambush for Youth (Ages 13-18) Name of teen: _____
Please circle the shirt size for your signup gift: (adult size) **S, M, L, XL, XXL**

\$100 Pride Membership You and 4 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

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

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

Animal Adoption:

Prices changed Jan. 1st to \$150 for all animals, get your adoption now!

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

Animal Sponsor:

One sponsor per animal. New Sponsors, please check to see if desired animal is available for sponsorship.

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

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

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

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: _____

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

Providing Big Freedom to Small Cats

Upgrading habitat space for our animal residents is an important facet of how we consistently improve their quality of life in captivity; it is a constant ongoing project at the Refuge. This spring all our servals will move to a brand-new habitat, thanks to the generosity of donors Rich and Cindy Roop. Our team began construction in late Fall of 2018, on a design that not only allows for multiple introductions, but can also be used for other smaller cat species.

With approximately 6,000 sq. feet of living space, this new habitat features a natural rock formation, logs angled for climbing, platforms for napping, and hollowed out logs for privacy. The large night house is an insulated building equipped with a heater for winter months as well as louvers which open for access to summer breezes. It contains benches to lie on, toys to play with, and mulch litter boxes for cleanliness (wild servals bury their scat to ensure dominant cats don't feel challenged). An in-ground water feature will offer a place to cool off on hot days.

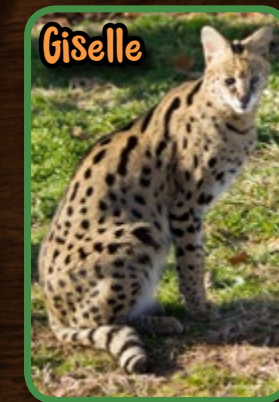
Construction materials have risen in cost over 25% this year, and your donations are needed more than ever to make sure every animal at TCWR receives the best living conditions possible in captivity!



Enzo & Sammy



Bowden



Giselle



Whistler

Please Welcome Our Spring 2019 Interns!



Back Row left to right

Geena Darnell Purdue U. BS Ecology, Evolution, & Environmental Biology December 2017	Cadence Hunkins SUNY ESF BS Conservation Biology May 2018	Diana Vincent Rhodes College BS Biology December 2017	Abby Hickam Arkansas State U. BS Science/Biology May 2018 (education intern)	Isaac Rivera Oregon State U. BS Zoology July 2012	Michael Maniscalco Barry University BS Biology December 2018	Andrew Poarch Arkansas Tech U. BS Fisheries & Wildlife May 2018	Nathan Meier U. of Maryland BS Animal Science Pre-Vet December 2018
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Front Row left to right

Dalia Badamo U. of Maryland BS Animal Science May 2018	Jason LaVarnway SUNY Oswego BS Zoology December 2016	Elizabeth Cofone U. of Rhode Island BS Animal Science & Technology May 2018	Abby Gleason U. of Central Missouri BS Animal Science August 2018	Jennifer LeBlanc Tarleton State U. BS Wildlife, Sustainability, & Ecosystems December 2017	Liah Hens Colorado State U. BS Animal & Equine Science May 2015	Molly Schneider Old Dominion U. BS Marine Biology December 2018	Sadie Gent Midwestern State U. BS Geosciences Environmental & Biology December 2018
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Featured Animal: Shakira - A Liger Living her Best Life

Shakira, a female liger, was one of 115 animals we acquired during the 2016 Colorado Rescue. Asked to take over a breeding facility whose owner's cancer diagnosis dictated he find someone to care for his animals, we brought Shakira to TCWR along with 33 others in the largest exotic wildlife rescue in U.S. history. In 27 years, we have seen similar scenarios played out repeatedly: people dealing with unforeseen calamities in their lives like divorce, illness, eviction, with no exit plan for their menagerie.

Ligers like Shakira are gold mines because of their size. Sadly, these offspring of a male lion and female tiger are bred solely to become curiosities for profit; hybrids have no conservation value and aren't found in nature.

Shakira is still in excellent health at 11-years-of-age. Standing nearly ten feet tall on her hind legs and weighing close to 500 lbs., she daily receives 7 lbs. of bone-in meat in the summer and 9 lbs. in the winter months, plus chondroitin/glucosamine in her food as part of our pain management plan for aging animals. Ligers have larger, thicker bones and longer teeth than both lions and tigers.

Always a playful, laidback girl, even in Colorado Shakira was attentive to people and seemed very interested in what we were doing. Since arriving at the Refuge, she quickly adjusted to her new surroundings next to ligers Brady and Karma, although she can be a bit of a "nosy neighbor" and likes to keep tabs on Karma. She loves to lounge on her bench or in the grass to soak up the sunshine when not playing with all her plastic toys from Boomer Ball and Wildlife Toy Box. One of her favorites is called a "pill," just a plastic disc that resembles a cheese wheel. She also enjoys cardboard boxes and different holiday-themed enrichment items, but her favorite activity is stalking guests and staff through the fence as her "prey."

Like her neighbors, Shakira inherited both her father's caroling and mother's chuffing methods to communicate. The three ligers exchange friendly chuffs throughout the day, and at times will carol together softly. Shakira is able to enjoy a wonderful quality-of-life at the Refuge, but we can't do it alone; your support is needed more than ever in 2019 if we are to give other hybrids like Shakira a second chance.



Getting to the Root of the Problem

Roulon is one of our many senior cats that require extra attention from our veterinarian. Recently, our animal care team noticed that Roulon was showing signs of overgrown claws. TCWR veterinarian, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, decided to sedate the older cat to give him a "pawdicure."

We give our animals logs to naturally sharpen and shorten their claws, as well as shed claw sheaths. However, some animals - especially seniors - don't always utilize this enrichment enough and need a little outside help to keep their claws trimmed.

While Roulon was sedated, Dr. Sweeley also gave him a routine physical and noticed that one of his canines was cracked. Tiger canines usually measure 2 1/2 - 3 inches long, but that is only the visible portion; the root can be just as long if not longer. It takes careful preparation and difficult work to properly remove a tiger tooth, but luckily our generous donors helped us raise the money to purchase a dental x-ray machine that was necessary to prepare for the extraction. Thanks to your donations, Roulon's smile might be a little lopsided, but he is on his way to feeling much better.



Sandra Ames Stewardship Writer

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.

Your Impact on Captive Wildlife



Take An Educational Guided Tour



Make The Most Of Your Visit - Volunteer

Viewing exotic wildlife in their natural habitat is an animal lover's dream, but one that's not feasible for many of us. There's an entire industry in the U.S. that benefits from this dream by giving people the opportunity to see these animals without leaving the country. Lucky for animal lovers, right? Not necessarily.

Pseudo-sanctuaries, roadside zoos, and hands-on encounters in petting and photo operations profit from good-hearted individuals who would give anything to see or even touch an exotic animal. Thankfully, a new trend dubbed "Ethical Tourism" is steering travelers away from shady enterprises by encouraging them to make informed decisions based on the possible consequences of their actions as a tourist.

As an Ethical Tourism destination, we put the health and wellbeing of our animal residents first, which means saying "no" to harmful practices like hands-on interaction. Guests get an unforgettable and respectful wildlife experience while ultimately serving a bigger purpose.

Choosing true sanctuaries, accredited zoos, and planning your vacations based on what is ethical is an easy way to make a tiger-sized impact. Get informed and get ready to set a standard for travel by visiting:

TurpentineCreek.org/ethical-tourism-destination

How TCWR Behavioral Training Benefits Captive Animals

Our Behavioral Management Program is a vital part of creating a stress-free, comfortable environment for all the animals that call the Refuge home. The purpose of our Behavioral Management Program is twofold: This form of animal husbandry encourages animals to partake in enrichment activities, preventing boredom and stress. It also enables routine exams, blood draws, injections, and paw inspections without the use of sedatives. All animals participate only by choice and receive full meal allowances regardless.

We employ a bridge and reward training method. The desired behavior is coupled with a food reward using an audio cue called a "bridge," connecting that conduct with the treat and reinforcing the animal's desired reaction. In the past, if a tiger was limping, we needed to sedate it for examination. Now we can give verbal cues instructing the tiger to lift their paw against the habitat fence so we can check for injury. It also helps to familiarize our animals with syringes.

Take Goober, our 32-yr-old rhesus macaque. Rescued in 1993 from a woman who realized that primates are wild animals and not suitable pets, he was frightened of injections. Animal Curator Emily McCormack recognized that arthritis and other age-related ailments would soon require him to be sedated for evaluation; she offered Goober treats while repeating the word "shot," as an intern gently tapped his rump with a capped syringe, desensitizing him. When Dr. Sweeley came to sedate him, the injection went smoothly while Goober accepted Emily's treats without panicking. Dr. Sweeley discovered arthritis in his spine and the onset of diabetes so she prescribed necessary medications and supplements to manage pain and disease progression.

Tiger sisters, Tanya and Kizmin, arrived as cubs during the 2016 Colorado Rescue. Animal care staff and intern teams began behavioral training before the sisters had reached six-months-old. They are offered meat treats on tongs through the fencing, then worked up to more complicated exercises: placing a log near the fence, they'd entice a sister to step into the space with a reward, teaching them to present their side to the fence for examination or injection. To help them remain calm while receiving an injection, a treat was given by animal care staff repeating the word "touch," while an intern gently tapped the tigress's hindquarters with a capped syringe. Eventually, we were able to give the sisters their needed immunizations in this manner.

As we continue to introduce more animal residents to the program, we encourage visitors to experience this educational opportunity. Training with participating animals can be viewed after the last Guided Habitat Tour in the Discovery Area of the Refuge.



Behavioral Management Training allows team members to easily assess the health of participating animals. With Kizmin standing upright team members can check her paws, claws, stomach, eyes, and teeth without sedation.



Kizmin has advanced in her Behavioral Management Training to the point that team members can touch her side with a blunted syringe without a reaction. Soon, we will be able to give her shots and vaccinations without any stress or issues. Stop in and see Kizmin and all the other participants of the Behavioral Management Training during your next visit.

KITE FEST

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

10am-4pm at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Bring your own kite or make one onsite with the experts at KaleidoKites. Food vendors, music, games, giveaways and more! (Standard admission applies to tour the Refuge.)

#TCWRKiteFest

479.253.5841

TurpentineCreek.org

Art with an Altitude



Cats Big and Small - Help Us Protect Them All!

At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we provide survivors of the Exotic Pet Trade with a forever home and lifelong care. When most people first hear of us, they envision tigers and lions; in fact, we rescue exotic felines of all sizes. TCWR is currently home to seven bobcats, all kept as pets before rescue.

Housing, marital issues, behavioral issues, and attacks cause most bobcat rehomes; Bobby was abandoned when his owners moved. Wanoka was rehomed due to divorce. Elvis and Sadie were brought to the Refuge because their owners realized they were too 'wild' for safety. Dillian and Tiger were surrendered after biting their owner's young children; Little Miss Priss after biting her owner through a pair of welding gloves. They were among the lucky few to end up at an accredited sanctuary.

Fully grown bobcats can weigh up to 55 lbs. in captivity – 35 lbs. heavier than the biggest domestic breed, the Maine Coon. Although bobcat teeth and claws are smaller than a tiger's, they are significantly larger than any house cat's, and bobcats are instinctively primed to use them. They have been known to kill prey five times their own weight.

Although 20 states currently have legislation banning the private ownership of dangerous exotic animals including big cats, most have little to no regulation regarding the private ownership of smaller exotic felines like our native bobcats. Due to loosely written and weakly enforced laws, bobcats and many smaller exotics tend to "fall through the cracks." Arkansas still allows residents to own up to six bobcats.

When owners realize their bobcat is a wild animal and not meant to be a pet, rehoming it can be difficult. Bobcats are not accepted at animal shelters, and most sanctuaries are full or will only accept big cats. Wanoka was one of the lucky ones. After his first two years spent living with his owners, they divorced and reached out to TCWR; we were able to accommodate the 45 lb. bobcat with a forever home and lifelong care.



Wanoka

Bobcats, like Wanoka, do not make good house pets. Even though it is legal to own them in most states, their large claws, teeth, and wild instincts means most 'exotic pet' owners have to rehome them. Wanoka came to TCWR after his owners had marital issues and needed to find him a stable home.

While TCWR continues to provide homes for exotic felines in need, they desperately need **your** help to spread awareness about the growing Exotic Pet Trade Crisis. Please visit our Advocacy Page for updates – not only big Cats, but smaller exotic felines like Wanoka need our protection. Through education and advocacy, we can put an end to private ownership of all exotic felines, large and small.



Wanoka still retains his wild instincts. Upon arrival Wanoka didn't like most of the team but through Behavioral Management Training we have gradually gained his trust.

Your Support Keeps the Wild in Wildlife

Louisa and Marissa can be heard "chirping" down the bear tunnel and emitting purrs as people draw near. Unlike cougars in the wild, these girls employ a team strategy to "hunt." One will distract their "prey" (guests or team members safely on the opposite side of the fence) while the other sneaks up and pounces!

Despite being raised in captivity for their entire lives, Louisa and Marissa are very in-touch with their wild instincts and are living proof that growing up in captivity away from their natural habitat cannot eliminate the predatory behaviors so firmly rooted in their DNA.

We encourage the girls to be true mountain lions by giving them plenty of enrichment and space and respecting the fact that they are not meant to be handled or manipulated like props or playthings.

You can champion their lifestyle by making a donation on our website or paying a visit to the Refuge! Our summer hours - 9 AM - 6 PM - start March 10!



Louisa & Marissa



Louisa

Spring Showers Mean Our Tigers Will Captivate You For Hours



Roman & Donner



BB King & Mack

The passing of winter and its frigid conditions brings forth the temperate days of spring, luring us outside on dry days to plant gardens and do yard work before the heat of summer sets in. Meanwhile, the tigers at TCWR delight in the cool spring weather that is typically accompanied by showers – in fact, they are more visible and active when it is raining!

All tigers love water and swimming; those in the wild are more likely to hunt when it is cooler because they do not exert as much energy as they would when it is hot. Our younger tigers, who still like to play, enjoy the rainfall even more than the older ones: Lakota's group (Aurora, Joey, and Khaleesi), sisters Tanya and Kizmin, and triplets Blackfire, Peyton, and Rocklyn love when the ground gets muddy, so they can run around and play in the puddles!

Springtime, especially during gentle rain showers, is a perfect time to visit the Refuge – and share in the joy of spring showers with our tigers!



Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
239 Turpentine Creek Lane
Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

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To learn more about
our newest rescues
visit pages 6 & 7



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
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