

Rescue to Refuge

Big Cat Chronicles

Spring 2023



New Rescue!
See page 4.

Rayn

Female Tiger
(*Panthera tigris*)
Born 8/10/06
Rescued 5/12/08



Letter from the President

Founder Tanya Smith



This past year has been an incredible one for all big cats. Our team has worked for more than a decade to realize the passage of national legislation to protect big cats. It is your advocacy that has finally made all the difference! The Big Cat Public Safety Act was signed into law on December 20, 2022, after being unanimously passed by the U.S. Senate. Our vision to end the Big Cat Trade in this country is going to be realized within our lifetime!

Turpentine Creek celebrated 30 years of rescuing big cats nationwide in 2022. In addition to achieving turn-to status from the federal government for all large-scale rescues, our sanctuary received unprecedented national exposure through the media. TCWR also was given wonderful recognition from state and local government officials. Meanwhile, our capital campaign gained new energy from meetings with local businesses and through campaign events hosted by our supporters.

Your support has allowed us to continue improving how we care for the animals we rescue, with upgrades to both their medical care and the enrichment we provide them. Now, with passage of this new national legislation, we need your help more than ever.

First, we must work together to expand TCWR Public Education. Expanding our educational programming is critical if officials are to succeed in enforcing the new national legislation. Understaffed federal and state agencies will need the help of an informed public to apprehend animal abusers. Our new Big Cat Education Center and Museum will increase our educational outreach by approximately 300%!

Second, authorities must turn to accredited sanctuaries to place big cats once they are confiscated. With all 11 US accredited sanctuaries mostly full, new habitat space is critical, or big cats will be rescued from abuse only to be euthanized. With your help, we will build new habitats in our Freedom Field, so when future calls for rescue come, TCWR can say “yes” to big cats in need. Meanwhile, we plan to build these new habitats to accommodate a variety of species. That way, once the big cats we rescue have lived out their lives, we can turn our focus to rescue other species in need of our help.

Since Turpentine Creek began over 30 years ago, your support and belief in our team have made incredible things happen for big cats. I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in 2023!

Email Sandy@tcwr.org for more information on our capital campaign.

Enjoy and thank you! Until next time,

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

Tanya Smith, President & Founder



Check out our new website! TCWR.org

Payson



Your Support Gives Payson a Bright Future

White tigress Payson arrived at TCWR from Nebraska's Omaha Zoo in February of 2018. We were contacted by the Zoo because they were revamping their big cat area to focus on their Species Survival Program (SSP). Since Payson is a white tiger, she was not part of the SSP. Thanks to your support, we were able to give this gorgeous girl a new home.

It was lucky for Payson that the zoo contacted TCWR. Payson suffers from a pancreatic disorder/deficiency. Her pancreas does not produce sufficient enzymes to break her food down for proper digestion and absorption. At the time of her arrival, we already had a male tiger named Styx whom we were treating for the same disorder! We began administering the same two powdered enzymes, pancreatin and optimum, to Payson in a ground meat ball at least 30 minutes before her meals. This helps her digest food and absorb more nutrients, vastly improving her overall health and quality of life.

Since her arrival, Payson adjusted well to the wide-open spaces of the Refuge but remained aloof from visitors. Since her move to the quiet life of Rescue Ridge, Payson has really come out of her shell. These days, this stunning 18-year-old tigress delights in playing with her different enrichment items and chuffs at team members!

We have also included Payson in our Behavioral Training program. Due to her previous training from the Zoo staff, Payson is familiar with the process and seems to enjoy it. That is making it easier for her to pick it back up, thus facilitating any necessary vet checks and vaccinations we may have to do in the future. Due to your generosity, TCWR can help genetically impure big cats like Payson transition from zoo life to sanctuary life, making way for valuable programs like SSP at AZA zoos.

You can ensure that Payson continues to get the lifelong care she deserves by sponsoring her! There are many TCWR animals still in need of sponsors: [TCWR.org/support/adoptions-sponsorships/](https://www.tcwr.org/support/adoptions-sponsorships/)



Recurring donors are the foundation of the refuge, thank you!

Introducing our Newest Rescue!

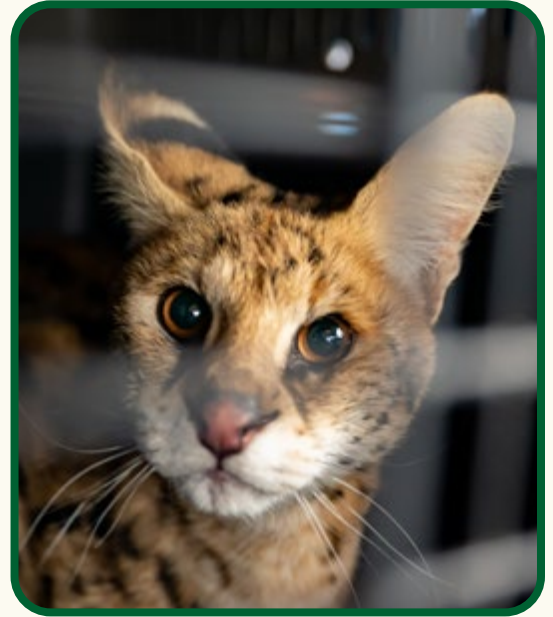
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) received an email request about a female African serval that had been living in a family farm's hay barn for the past six months. They finally succeeded in trapping her in a live trap and contacted TCWR after they took her to their veterinarian to find out she had no microchip. Since there was no way to identify who she belonged to, they received clearance from their local game warden that it was OK to place her. Immediately, TCWR team members made the trip to Missouri to bring this lucky serval to her new forever home.

"It was amazing that this young serval could survive six months like she has, but she obviously was successful by the amount of bird feathers we found onsite," said TCWR President Tanya Smith. Upon arrival at the open ended barn our team noticed bird feathers under the round bales of hay; the skilled huntress had obviously been bringing her kills back to her adopted 'den' to consume them in safety. We also noticed that her eyes appeared runny, but this was most likely due to the hay particles she'd been surrounded by.

This is the third African serval that TCWR has rescued through the years (after Whistler in 2017 and Hunter in 2019) due to someone either letting them go in the wild, or the animal escaped from a residence or enclosure.

Even though these cats are much smaller than tigers and lions, in the wild they are the best hunters in the cat world. That said, many times these cats are not equipped to hunt due to being raised by humans and not taught to hunt by their parents, or they may have been declawed. These wild cats are nonetheless predators, not pets.

This serval was very lucky to be rescued; in the shape she was in she most likely would not have survived much longer. In her wellness exam, Dr. Kellyn treated the flea infested girl for an extremely infected toe wound and then had to amputate a portion of her tail, likely due to frostbite. She also received all vaccinations. A dental exam helped estimate her age to be about six. She will be quarantined while she heals in our vet hospital. Then, she will get the lifelong care she needs to live as close to the wild as possible, in safety. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to introduce her to other TCWR African servals, giving her a much richer life than the solitary one she has been living. Your support will make that possible!



This lucky female serval was caught in a live trap after roaming the Missouri countryside for six months.



This beautiful African serval will now get the lifelong care she needs, including a heated den to protect her during the cold winters.

Are you inspired by our animals stories?

Your love can help them in several ways!

Pandemic, inflation, layoffs, a possible recession; some of us may be feeling the inspiration and passion to help, while hampered by the challenges of our current economy. The Refuge would like to share the best ways that you can make a huge difference for the cats, even during these unpredictable times.

First, an extremely valuable way to help is to advocate and spread knowledge. It is important for the general public to understand that cub petting is illegal and private ownership of big cats is being phased out. It is also important for them to understand that small cat exotic species are facing the same cycle of abuse we have seen with big cats. We need your help to spread this information and report unlawful behaviors to the authorities.

Second, TCWR has developed a number of giving programs to meet our supporters where they are, financially. With our Monthly Giving program, you can toast to our cats each month by giving an equivalent to one glass of wine or flute of champagne (\$5-15) to support an animal, like Abigail.

Third, by purchasing your retail items from our online store each purchase gives directly back to the animals. Amazon Smile will be discontinuing, but our team is working to create easier, automatic ways to contribute through regular shopping. So stay tuned on social media and through our email announcements.

Finally, you can help us plan for the future with our Legacy Giving Program. This program is a pledge of future bequests and will help the Refuge continue to save animals for generations to come.

After the Act Passes: Sanctuaries Remain Critical

After hearing that the Big Cat Public Safety Act was signed into law, we spoke with TCWR Animal Care staff members Carly Hepburn and Mary Schlieve about their reactions. Both women expressed excitement about the changes and what it means for the Refuge, and for the animals they care for. You can watch Carly's interview through the listed QR Code.

After pushing for progress for so long, Carly noted a sense of relief from the entire TCWR team. When asked how the new laws may impact TCWR's future, Mary replied "Definitely, now that the BCPSA is passed, I can see there being more calls to rescue and more of a need for sanctuary. Ultimately, in a perfect world we wouldn't have to be here. Now, because of this Federal Law, other bad places are being shut down, which is creating more need for Rescue to Refuge." Mary went on to say "With the influx of rescues we expect we're eager to see a decrease in cub petting and breeding which won't automatically fix the ongoing problem but will help to stop adding to it, which is still a step in the right direction".

When asked what else can be done in the fight to end the exotic animal trade both Mary and Carly explained how important education is. There's still a need for us all to be informed and advocate for these animals protected by this law, as well as those that are left unprotected, such as servals, bobcats and other native animals. Turpentine Creek's next big move is to build habitats and an education center.



Your advocacy made a difference!

Thurston



The End of Fantasy Cats!

Up until now, breeders have capitalized on creating 'fantasy' cats by inbreeding and crossbreeding species together. This includes hybrids like ligers and tigons, and it also includes rare color variations in tigers like Tigger the Golden Tabby Tiger and Thurston the (almost) Pure White Tiger.

While the new law prohibits the breeding of these 'fantasy' cats, there is still a long road of managing the existing animals for chronic health issues, disorders, and birth defects. This is why Legacy and Monthly giving are so important because our work continues well beyond the animals' arrival.

Thurston is currently in need of a Sponsor and was one of 115 big cats rescued by Turpentine Creek in Colorado. Aside from being abused at a cub petting and breeding facility, records indicated deep ties to some of America's most infamous breeders and animal abusers. Before his time in the Rocky Mountain State, Thurston was a performer for Dirk Arthur - a famous magician who notoriously abused animals for show business. In one of his illusions, Arthur placed a white tiger in a metal case suspended in the air - subjecting the trapped animal to loud music, fire tricks, a roaring crowd, and much more.

To make Thurston "safer" to interact with, his teeth were filed down and he was completely declawed - health concerns that we continue to address. He also has sun damage from the lack of shade in Colorado. Each day, the Animal Care team observes and documents every animal in our care. Thurston is on our pain management program and we monitor him closely for a chronic stomach condition.

Thurston now enjoys his own habitat at Rescue Ridge - a complete transformation from show business to solitude. This has drastically changed his behavior; when he first arrived he was very frightened and aggressive. Now, Thurston has begun to regain his trust in people. He loves his barrel and enjoys rolling his toys on rainy days, getting them covered in mud!

With new laws in place, we need your help for a sustainable future. This means continuous support for life long care, building new habitats, and focusing on education so that the public is well informed about the laws and welfare of big cats. Please help us continue to fight for these amazing animals and provide them with the best quality of life possible, for the rest of their lives.



Your advocacy has helped end the breeding and abuse of 'fantasy cats,' like Thurston. Your support will help give all big cats a bright and sustainable future.

Your Assurance of TCWR Transparency

After many years of working to track the required metrics, TCWR has earned not only the coveted Four-Star Rating, but also a 100% score from Charity Navigator! This rating means we exceed industry standards and outperform most charities in our cause. Less than one-tenth of one percent of charities rated earn a perfect score! We do this so you can rest easy, knowing your dollars are going to help the big cats and bears you care so much about.

Charity Navigator is a highly respected U.S. 501-charity assessment organization, evaluating hundreds of thousands of charitable organizations annually. Since 2001, their ratings have shone a light on the cost-effectiveness and overall health of a charity's programs, including measures of stability, efficiency, and sustainability. The metrics inform donors of not just where their dollars are going but what their dollars are doing.



Less than .1% of charities receive a perfect score - TCWR outperforms hundreds of thousands of U.S. charities in stability, efficiency and sustainability.

Charity ratings range from one-star, meaning the charity fails to meet industry standards and under-performs most charities, up to the highly prized four-star rating. This is given to organizations who score a 90 or above and considered "Exceptional." These organizations are highly impactful in their given cause area, are fiscally responsible and transparent, and follow leadership and organizational culture best practices.

Your trust and support have allowed 30 Years of Sustainable Rescue to Refuge. Together, we will end the Big Cat Trade in this country in our lifetime! Learn more about TCWR's rating here CharityNavigator.org/ein/710721742

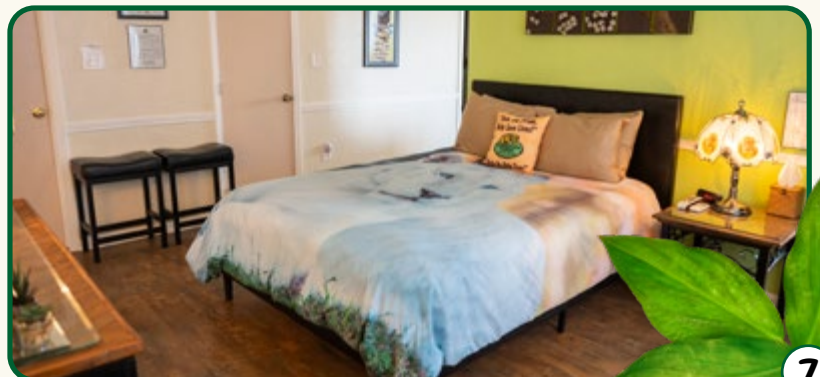
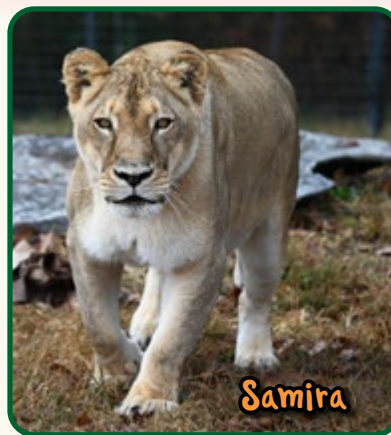


AFRICA IN THE OZARKS

Create a Story to Tell for Your Lifetime!

Unlike anywhere else in the U.S., when you stay at Turpentine Creek's unique lodging near Eureka Springs, AR, you can hear lions caroling as if you were in Africa. Since a lion's roar can be heard five miles away, imagine staying within a one square mile radius of ten lions! Lionesses Samira, Chloe and Ungowwa usually start off the caroling, causing a chain reaction across the Refuge. Male lion Simba almost always continues the longest, making sure to let everyone know he is there. Sometimes, it's as if the other lions do not appreciate his lengthy performance, and can often leave him performing a solo. Although, Chloe will often step in as our closer, carrying out the last act.

Down at Rescue Ridge, lioness Lady typically is the first one to start the chorus, with male lion Tsavo following suit. But, if Tsavo starts, Lady politely declines. Each lion animal has their own personality, and you can hear them asserting their strength and territory through these instinctual vocals. All of Turpentine Creek's lion residents will do a spectacular job at keeping the sounds of Africa in the Ozarks alive throughout the entirety of your stay with us.



Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

Bear with me...



The passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act into law was a monumental step in protecting big cats and their cubs from harmful abuse and neglect. While we celebrate this accomplishment, I can only think about the bears and other species of exotic or wild animals that will continue to be exploited in the same way. There will certainly be an increase of bear cub petting encounters as a result of the new law. What about the small cats, African servals and caracals? What about sloths and primates? Ultimately, our native bears may stand to suffer the most.

Just like the cats, bear cubs are torn away from their mothers. Most of these cubs never get to see their mothers, as they don't open their eyes for four to six weeks. In the wild, bear cubs stay with their mothers for up to two years. Bears that survive cub petting encounters typically are shipped off to roadside zoos. Many develop intense stereotypic stress behaviors and are forced to live in barren environments. Unlike cats, bears are extremely active and require an extensive, appropriate diet and varied enrichment in a captive environment.

The most horrific situation after bears have "outgrown" the encounters, is that some are sent off to be slaughtered. One notorious roadside zoo owner was quoted saying, "they will be made into jerky". Bears are not protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In fact, it is legal to hunt black bears in many states in the U.S. How are we going to get the world to care about bears?

Many of our bear residents came from horrific bear cub petting encounters. Bam Bam and Thunder were rescued together in Oklahoma; it's highly likely that both bears endured this suffering as cubs. Their previous owner had direct ties with the infamous "Tiger Kings"; almost all of them engage in bear cub petting. Huggy, Holly, Lolli, Koda G and Xena were rescued from the defunct roadside zoo in Colorado where we saved 115 animals from 2016 to 2017. All five of these bears were used in cub encounters. Huggy, Koda G and Xena were originally purchased from two different roadside zoos that had or have multiple USDA violations. Lolli was purchased at an infamous exotic animal auction. And Holly (well, shockingly), came from Joe Exotic!

Let's stand together and continue the fight, not only for all wild animals, but specifically our native species. We can't wait to protect animals until their species becomes threatened or endangered. We need to stop the cruelty and abuse in captivity, and educate the next generation about respecting all animals and learning to coexist peacefully. Thank you for your support and continuing to advocate with all of us at TCWR.

Together, we can **Be Their Voice!**

Lolli and Huggy playing in their pool, located in our multi-acre natural Rescue Ridge bear habitats.



Dangers of Private Ownership

Private ownership of a 300 - 400 pound apex predator is never a smart idea, yet the draw of having an exotic as a pet has been widespread across the US, and not just in rural areas. In 2003, a tiger was found being kept as a pet in Harlem, and our very own Sasha cougar was rescued in 2021 from a city lifestyle. One of our most historic rescues was of a female tiger named India, who may sound familiar as she is honored through our Friends of India Membership.

In 2003, India was purchased as a three-month-old cub and raised by a private owner in Bergman, Arkansas. Her owner treated India as anyone would a pet animal, designating an entire room in their house for her and allowing her to go outside for free exercise. At one and a half years old, India was nearly full-grown and weighed close to 375 lbs when her owner was diagnosed with cancer. Realizing he could no longer keep her due to his failing health, he became desperate. So desperate that before exploring better options, he took India deep into the Buffalo National River/Forest (where people hike, camp, and enjoy outdoor recreation) and left her there!

By some miracle, India traveled 60 miles in less than four days to find her way right back home to her owner's doorstep - very hungry. The next day, he loaded India into his truck and brought her to Turpentine Creek. India lived a life of sanctuary at the Refuge for over a decade before she was taken by cancer in 2016. During that time, she was loved by many of our supporters and visitors, living in a habitat in the middle of our tour loop, where Shakira II and Bosco now call home.

India's story represents the extreme dangers of allowing citizens to own dangerous exotic animals - not just for the animals but for our communities. With the passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act, the private ownership and breeding of big cats will disappear, and the risk to public safety will disappear along with it. Most importantly, tiger enthusiasts can refocus their energy on conservation in the wild, where these animals are an endangered species and where our focus belongs.



In 2003, NYPD respond to a full grown pet tiger in a Harlem apartment.



In 2021, TCWR rescued a pet cougar living in an apartment in the Bronx.



India, rescued in 2003, was also privately owned and released into a local forest.

India is the namesake of our Friends of India Membership, which includes free entry to the Refuge and discounts for lodging, our gift shop, and specialty tours. Join today and become part of the Friends of India!

Your Support Will Determine Their Future

TCWR's campaign to Educate the Next Generation of Wildlife Advocates has taken on a new urgency. President Biden signed the Big Cat Safety Act into law on December 20, 2022 granting big cat owners 180 days to register their animals, and prove that safety and care requirements are being met. Moving forward, several critical topics must be addressed.

First, law enforcement will need the help of an informed public to identify offenders. TCWR must expand our education programming to meet this need. The new Big Cat Education Center & Museum will triple our educational outreach with museum quality exhibits, year-round classroom space and a broadcast studio for our virtual educational offerings that will reach worldwide. When you visit TCWR this coming summer, you will get a taste of what's to come as you stroll through our Discovery Area. There, we plan to install our new outdoor Wayside Educational Exhibits, made possible by supporters Beverly and Richard Gooch, and the Roy & Christine Sturgis Charitable Trust.



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Tiger Ln

Rescue Ridge

Second, we must be ready for future rescue calls that may come in response to enforcement of this new national legislation and the increasing economic pressures on private owners. TCWR has moved our Freedom Field habitat development to the front burner! With your help, these new habitats will be built to accommodate multiple species that will require rescue over the coming years. Once this project is completed, the extra staff and maintenance it will necessitate will be sustained by the increase in revenues generated by our new Big Cat Education Center and Museum through new visitors and supporters!

Lastly, we must also educate and advocate for the other species to whom ruthless breeders and roadside operators will turn to for profits. Small exotic cats like servals and caracals, along with native species like bears and bobcats will need our voice and sanctuary over the coming years. Our new education center and museum, coupled with continued habitat construction and improvements, will guarantee that TCWR will remain a leader in wildlife education and rescue, for many decades to come.

Freedom Field - 13 acres

- 16 Habitat Enclosures F1-F16 & Species Specific Rescue Area 2.26 acres - 31 enclosures
- perimeter fence - 7316 ft of fencing
- pools
- trees
- covered Nighthousing Areas - with heated dens
- tour road - .45 miles/797 yards
- perimeter access road - .79 miles/1383 yards
- Event Pavilion, including restrooms & catering area

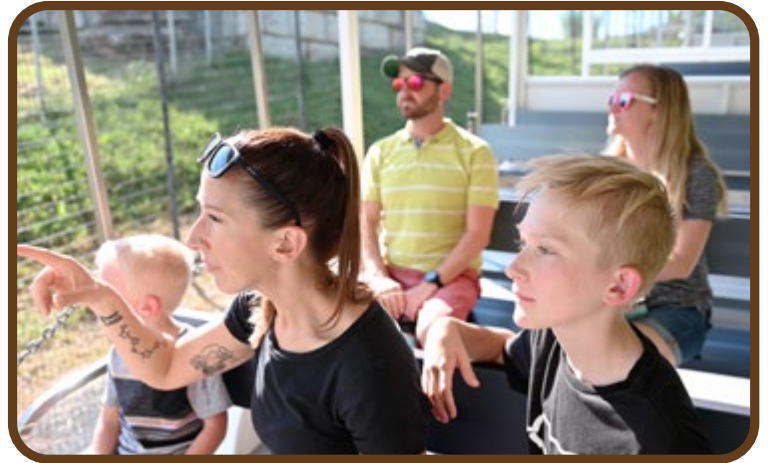


You can make a positive difference in the lives of these amazing animals for years to come! Donate today to help us build.

Are you a Member of Turpentine Creek?

Imagine being able to bring your friends and family to the Refuge to introduce them to your favorite animal. Is it Spyke? Is it Shakira II? You can help your close circle learn about the cats' individual stories and connect with them too. As a member, you get free entry to TCWR for you and 3-4 guests all year long. Not to mention higher levels of memberships include discounts for lodging, the gift shop, specialty tours, and more. Become a Turpentine Creek Member today and be the voice of the animals, bringing your friends and family into our world together.

TCWR.org/support/memberships/



Wild About Wildlife Membership Program

Help the animals that call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge home and make it easy to visit them often with friends and family by signing up for one of our membership options. Members may bring up to four guests each time they visit, and receive valuable discounts on lodging, specialty tours and our gift shop inventory!

All Members Receive:

Free year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests, TCWR yearly calendar, an annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles, recognition in our annual report and website, and exclusive member e-mails & events.

Friends of India \$300- \$1,249*

- Friends of India membership card & decal
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 10% off lodging
- 10% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Framed 5x7 photograph of India

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

- Bam Bam Benefactor's membership card & decal
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 20% off of lodging
- 20% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Framed 5x7 photograph of Bam Bam
- Bam Bam Travel Mug

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

- Kenny Fellowship membership card & decal
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 30% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- A Senior Staff Liaison
- Framed 8x10 photograph of Kenny
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Kenny Travel Mug

The Hilda Jackson Society \$10,000+*

- Hilda Jackson Society membership card & decal
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- 50% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Senior Staff Liaison
- Framed 8x10 photo of favorite animal
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- The Hilda Jackson Society Travel Mug

*To be part of a membership level you must sign up for that level, donate the amount required to be part of that specific level and are encouraged to pledge to make a similar donation the following year.

**Limitations on lodging dates may apply.

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

100% of my donation goes to help the animals!

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

I would like to make my loving donation recurring:
 **Repeat Monthly**



Roar Box

Subscribe with a CC and you will receive a box of surprise TCWR gifts on your doorstep each month!

Shirt size (circle one): **S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL**

- \$35/month
- \$385/year

Choose Your Membership

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

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

\$150 Pride Membership - You and 3 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge. *BEST ADMISSION VALUE!*

\$300+ Friends of India

\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors

\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship

\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society

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

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

Total:
\$ _____

Opt Out of Membership Signup Gifts

Opt Out of Membership Card

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

Printed Animal Adoption:

- \$150/yr - Small Cat
- \$150/yr - Cougar/Leopard/Jaguar
- \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear/Hyena

Animal Sponsor: TCWR no longer limits the number of sponsors per animal because sponsorships help all rescues.

- \$1,000/yr - Small Cat
 - \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard/Jaguar
 - \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear/Hyena
- Sponsorship includes membership. Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.
- Membership Opt Out**

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

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

Total Contribution Today: \$ _____

Donor Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Recipient Name (if different): _____

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!

Assessing Quality of Life in Aging Animal Residents

Kellyn Sweeley, DVM

At Turpentine Creek, we strive to give each animal the best possible life considering their captivity. It is our responsibility as caregivers to ensure that they live lives as close to their wild counterparts as possible while affording them with proper care. This allows our animals to outlive their natural expected lifespans in comfort and good standing. Therefore, when handling an aging population of senior animals, it is imperative that we closely monitor their quality of life (QoL) on a regular basis. We must ensure that we are preserving quality in all five domains of animal welfare: good nutrition, good environment, good health, appropriate behavior, and positive mental state. Among caregivers, QoL can be perceived quite differently as it is such a subjective measurement. Because of this, I created a QoL assessment tool to make this subjective measurement as objective as possible.



Dr. Kellyn's QoL Assessment was used for Bobby, a blind bobcat who lived to be 23 years old.

The assessment categories help create a more objective picture of each animal's QoL and are set up for easy use and interpretation of results. Every animal at the Refuge over 15 years of age, or those whose QoL may be in question due to pre-existing conditions, is assigned a QoL assessment. Assessments are made monthly. Based on each animal's results, this could increase to weekly or even daily. The assessment consists of 20 detailed categories covering topics pertaining to the five domains of welfare.

For each category, the assessor chooses from provided options of what they believe most closely aligns with that individual animal. At the end of each assessment, a score is given based on the answers chosen. If a low score is recognized, it alerts the caregiver's attention to the animal for closer evaluation. In this way, we can determine if adjustments can be made to enhance the animal's QoL, or if the best gift we can give them is humane euthanasia to relieve their suffering.



The QoL Assessment was applied to Hurricane who was suffering from severe osteoarthritis.

It was through using this tool that we were able to more objectively make QoL determinations in both cases of Hurricane tiger and Bobby #2 bobcat. This tool could be shared among other sanctuaries that would be interested and easily tailored to better meet their individual assessment categories. We aim to instill an environment of collaboration among true sanctuaries to promote a higher standard of quality animal care in the sanctuary world allowing these rescued animals to live out their best lives in freedom from suffering.

Your recurring donations provide the dependable support necessary to give TCWR animals regular QoL assessments, along with any medical treatment needed to better their quality of life.

New Night Life at Turpentine Creek



For almost three decades, TCWR was unable to leave our animals in their habitats overnight - even though most cats are nocturnal. This has been a challenge for the Refuge because it is our belief and a Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) criteria for cats to have full access. Leveraging our partnerships and community, last year the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission passed a regulation to allow our cats access to their habitats overnight!

We now feed in the evening, locking the cats in their nighthouse area so that we can monitor how much they eat and can perform a quick visual exam. "The first night we started giving them access, some of the cats looked at us like we were crazy for letting them back out into their habitats after feeding," recalls Mary Schlieve, TCWR Animal Care Staff. "Glacier will run down the hill chasing the trucks as Staff leaves for the evening!"



All of the cats have been extra excited and grateful for their night time access, using their wild instincts to exhibit more natural behaviors. "Lyla gets so excited she starts jumping back and forth. Once we open her nighthouse door, she immediately runs out to play with her toys," explains Carly Thompson, TCWR Animal Care Staff. Meanwhile, Simba lets everyone know when he is back out in his habitat by caroling. Once Priscilla and her cubs DOJ, Jinx and Rosie get back into their habitat each evening, their play time begins and lasts until they have exhausted themselves; then they find a nice spot to sleep.

We appreciate Oakland Zoo, Little Rock Zoo, Wildcat Sanctuary, Performing Animals Welfare Society (PAWS), and GFAS for advocating to Arkansas State officials on behalf of the Refuge and the animals.

Answering Your Questions

Question: *What do the animals eat, and when do you feed them?*

Answer: The 92 animals currently at TCWR consume 600-700 pounds of meat daily. Tyson Foods donates most of our poultry. We still purchase nearly \$79,000 in specialty meat and produce for our animals annually, and local businesses and farmers also donate meat to the Refuge. Most of our animals eat bone poultry with other supplemental powders to ensure they get the nutrition they need in captivity. We try to feed outside of tour hours to reduce stress on our animal residents. Some are fed early in the morning, and others in the evening just before they are let back into their habitats.



Question: *Do you go into the enclosures?*

Answer: TCWR is a non-breeding rescue facility, per our accreditation by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). Physical contact with any animal is only permitted for medical purposes under anesthesia. The majority of the animals we have rescued come from the exotic pet trade and private owners. This includes roadside zoos, breeding facilities, the entertainment industry, and cub petting operations. These businesses exploit animals to make money by allowing the public to interact with them. It becomes a cycle of abuse where the animals are declawed, their teeth are filed down, or they are drugged to facilitate a "safe" interaction with people. Under these circumstances, those animals will have a challenging future, suffering from arthritis and chronic health issues. With cubs, once they are too big for interaction with the public, new cubs must be bred, thus continuing the cruel cycle. Although this is now illegal nationwide for big cats, other species will continue to suffer.



The Abuse of the Cub Petting Industry Doesn't End with Tigers

Marissa and Louisa were rescued during our Colorado Project of 2016-2017. TCWR purchased the 12-acre breeding and cub-petting facility to rescue the 115 animals suffering within its cramped confines. What we found upon inspecting their records revealed what a well-oiled and profitable machine the Big Cat Trade had evolved into, often cloaked in small roadside attractions like this.

When TCWR President Tanya Smith, Vice President Scott Smith and Animal Curator Emily McCormack inspected the facility that August, Marissa and Louisa were being used in a cub petting scheme. When our team returned a week later to take over, Marissa and Louisa were just over three-months-old, so had aged out of the lucrative practice. However, we noted that two new white tiger cubs had just been born.

Onsite records revealed some cold hearted and calculated planning. Marissa and Louisa were purchased in between “Mama” Shakira’s speed-breeding. The tiny cougar sisters were brought in just as white tiger triplets Blackfire, Rocklyn and Peyton had aged out of cub petting, and were timed to phase out just in time for the owner to start exploiting Shakira’s next batch of cubs, Tanya & Kizmin. Our take-over ended that plan.



Footage of Marissa and Louisa being used for cub petting before being rescued by TCWR.



At TCWR, Marissa and Louisa have made a full journey from Rescue to Refuge, and from cub petting to sanctuary.

Luckily, unlike the unfortunate triplets, Marissa and Louisa never suffered from metabolic bone disease. Upon arrival at the Refuge, they were housed in a recovery enclosure inside our veterinary hospital, due to their age and winter conditions. Gradually we transitioned them to their own habitat, designed specifically for their species. This long, high-roofed natural habitat gave the growing cougars plenty of room to run, while keeping them and all of us safe.

Since that time, they've grown into adult wild cougars. While smaller compared to most other cougars, we respect Marissa and Louisa's instincts as true apex predators. Marissa, who is smaller than Louisa, is the first to run up to their care team chirping to greet them. Louisa usually follows along. The chatty sisters enjoy all sorts of enrichment, from cardboard boxes, to boomer balls and jolly eggs. However, what these two huntresses love most is observing and stalking their neighbors, along with any humans near their habitat!

Since passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act, cougars and other big cats can never legally be used again for cub petting. Your monthly support allows them to live out their lives at TCWR in freedom and safety.

The Year of the Tiger



DOJ

According to the Chinese zodiac, 2022 was the Year of the Tiger. It was also symbolically one of the most important years for tigers to date:

- Turpentine Creek celebrated its 30th year of operation
- April 30th was announced as “Turpentine Creek Day” by the Mayor of Eureka Springs
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) found that average tiger numbers have increased from 3000 to 4500 in the wild
- TCWR made national news for an Oklahoma rescue, which demonstrated the power of animal organizations working together on a united mission of Rescue to Refuge.
- The Big Cat Public Safety Act became law.

Inspired in part by these events, Turpentine Creek was featured by “This is Life With Lisa Ling” in an episode titled *Tiger Queens*. The episode explained the exotic pet and cub petting industry, highlighting TCWR as an accredited sanctuary, and tying it all back to what is being done to protect wild tigers. As a national platform, the show helped to educate the American public that lion and tiger hybrids exist.

The Refuge is home to two ligers, Karma and Fergy; Lakota the ti-Liger, and Kyro the li-liger. Kyro took center stage in the episode to help explain how hybrids are made by people, and do not occur naturally in the wild. His story reflects the worldview of people that breed these animals for profit. Kyro was kept in an enclosure no bigger than a shipping container, and was forced to walk on rotting plywood and compact sand. He had part of his ears missing, the result of painful flystrike wounds caused by unattended food waste and feces. In a true Rescue to Refuge story, Kyro came to us with severe neurological symptoms that left him unable to walk, caused by a lack of simple nutrients. Today, as seen on our social media, Kyro is one of the most active and joyful animals at the Refuge.

While it was certainly the Year of the Tiger, many other animal species will benefit from last year’s accomplishments as we move into 2023. We are beginning to build new habitats, and now we must refocus our goals to include small cats and bears; species that are not protected from the exotic animal trade. Despite the big wins of 2022, this is just the beginning. We need to continue to advocate for other animal species, spread education, and continue to provide sanctuary nationwide.



Lisa Ling interviewed Dr. Kellyn and watched an exam on Luna.



During our 30th Anniversary celebration, the Mayor proclaimed April 30th Turpentine Creek Day!



Kyro



Subscribe Today!

We are excited to announce a new experience for all of our supporters! Adapting to the times, we will be launching our Sanctuary Swag Box Membership Program. This subscription-based membership is designed to get you all the cool TCWR gear you want, all year long. When you become a Sanctuary Swag Box Member, you will receive a mystery TCWR gear item each month. You may get a "Rescue to Refuge" t-shirt. You may get a shot glass and some coasters, or a snow hat and gloves. The idea is to create a modern fundraising strategy to support our animals while also giving back to our supporters for their generous monthly contributions. Visit [TCWR.org/support](https://www.tcwr.org/support) for more information.

Lexi's integration is complete and she has made new friends!



Lexi

Whistler

Lexi, the African serval, has successfully completed her Rescue to Refuge journey with a triumphant introduction to the other resident servals in their large habitat. The proof is in the featured picture, where you can see Lexi and Whistler happily sharing a bench together.

Feast with the Beasts

Saturday, April 29th

We invite all of you to join us to celebrate
31 Years of Nationwide Rescue
and the historic passage of the
Big Cat Public Safety Act.

This fun and exciting evening will take place on TCWR grounds, so you'll be able to enjoy a visit with the big cats and bears you have helped from Rescue to Refuge!

This will be a fantastic evening of celebration and revelation. Together, we will break ground on our new Big Cat Education Center & Museum, and the new habitat space in our Freedom Field. Then we'll introduce you to a surprise celebrity speaker and never-before-seen rescue footage! Of course, there will also be a delicious dinner and silent auction, all accompanied by the soothing Folk sounds of Brick Fields Music.

Our team will be on-hand to answer your questions and explain how our new educational center and museum will make both our Freedom Field project and our entire organization sustainable for the next 30 years! Stay tuned to our main page events for your link to more details on the agenda, hotel blocks, and ticket sales.

Simba

Ty's Rescue to Refuge Story



Providing a lifetime sanctuary for big cats is no small task. Rescues gain public attention, while the media often ignore the day-to-day delivery of the promise. It's a huge commitment, with the average cost of care per big cat running about \$25,000 annually at TCWR. That price can increase significantly if health issues develop.

In July of 2011, the Turpentine Creek team rescued four tigers and one hybrid from a facility in Coffeyville, Kansas. The facility had been trying to start a sanctuary for big cats for seventeen years until it was forced to close for financial reasons. Eleven cats suddenly found themselves homeless; five came to TCWR, while the other six were taken in by a nearby zoo. Of those five cats, only one remains to celebrate this new year. Ty is now the oldest cat at the Refuge and celebrated his 24th birthday on July 13, 2022. That makes Ty a very senior tiger!



Ty celebrated his 24th birthday in 2022. He is the oldest cat at the Refuge and has been here over 11 years.

Ty lived with a female tiger named Crysta. They spent their first two years at TCWR residing in the compound area, now called the Discovery Area, but Ty was never a fan of the public. In 2014, space became available at Rescue Ridge and the animal care team moved Crysta and Ty to improve their quality of life. They lived very peacefully together until Crysta passed away in June of 2021 at the age of twenty. Over the years, Ty has been a favorite among many keepers and donors. He has a very sweet chuff, but is also extremely timid.

In July of 2011, TCWR committed to provide sanctuary for the remainder of Ty's life. We never know how long that commitment will be. We sadly say farewell all too soon when cancer and genetic issues take lives at an early age, while others remain with us for many years. With proper diets and veterinary care, pain management, mental stimulation and enrichment, the exotic cats and bears in our care can live long and happy lives. Ty has enjoyed eleven and a half years at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge due to the care your support has allowed.

Help Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge continue to deliver on its commitment to providing lifetime sanctuary to the cats and bears in their care by setting up a recurring donation. Be the force that fuels **Rescue to Refuge!**

Ty's companion, Crysta, passed away in 2021. She was 20 years old and had lived peacefully with Ty for 9 years at the Refuge.



Small Cats Need Your Help, Too



Prince

Small wild cats like bobcat Prince and his brother, Tony will still need your advocacy and support for lifelong sanctuary.



Tigger



Tony

While the new national legislation protects lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, cougars and hybrid big cats, other felines species are less fortunate. Bobcats, African servals, caracals, lynx, and small cat hybrids are not protected. Yet, they are just as much in need of our advocacy and of sanctuary.

Bobcats Tony and Prince were privately owned in Arkansas. They were left behind during a flooding evacuation, locked inside dog crates. Rescuers found them chest deep in the rising water. As their rescuers were unable to properly care for two young bobcats, they contacted TCWR.

African serval Whistler was privately owned in Colorado. His owner could no longer care for him, and released him into the wild. Eventually, he was picked up by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, who handed him off to TCWR during the Colorado Rescue.

Small cat hybrids, like our resident Savannah cat Tigger, also need your help. Exotic breeders are creating record numbers of small cat hybrids, for high profits. Just as quickly, pet owners are surrendering them, because they are not good pets. Companion animal shelters are not equipped to properly care for wild hybrids. Our homes and neighborhoods are no place for wild animals.

With your continued support, through our Monthly Giving Program, Memberships, and Legacy Giving, we can continue our mission in this new era of animals in need of **Rescue to Refuge**.

Remembering an Original Member

Donald Reynolds



On Tuesday, January 17, 2023 Turpentine Creek lost one of our board members from our early years, Donald Reynolds. Don began serving on the TCWR Board in 1992. He is remembered for his kindness to both humans and animals, and his passion for our mission. Scott Smith, TCWR Vice President, remembers that “Don always delivered great input during our board meetings in our early years.”

Don was born June 10, 1933, and after serving in the US Air Force for 26 years, he retired in 1978 as a Colonel and Deputy Inspector General for the Air Force Logistics Command, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. Don went on to spend decades providing financial planning services to military families. Don was also an adventurous world traveler and curious explorer.

Since joining our Board, Don and his wife, Carolejean enjoyed spending time at their lake house in Holiday Island, and visited the Refuge often. Don’s family has asked his mourners to donate to TCWR in his memory.

Don't miss the
Kite Festival

March 25, 2023

FREE EVENT

Sponsored by KaleidoKites

TCWR.org for more info



The **31st Annual Kite Festival** will be held on Saturday, March 25th on the spacious event field at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge! Sponsored by **KaleidoKites** of Eureka Springs, your whole family will enjoy high flying fun at this all-ages event. Bring your own kite or make one onsite with the experts from KaleidoKites. Food vendors, giveaways, and more! Kite Fest starts at 10 AM and ends at 4 PM, rain or shine. Mark your calendars, and don't miss this popular event! (Standard admission applies to tour the Refuge and advance reservations are encouraged.)



Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
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Eureka Springs, AR 72632
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Your Legacy can Grant Forever Freedom!

With passage of the Big Cat Safety Act into law coupled with increasing economic pressures on private owners, many big cats may need rescue over the next three years, along with sanctuary for the coming two decades to live out their lives with proper care. Other species, from small wild cats to bears, will also need our help in the coming years. By joining the TCWR Legacy Giving program, you can continue to help Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge rescue animals, and provide them with the best quality of life possible in captivity. Your legacy gift will help ensure that from Rescue to Refuge, animals will live out their lives in peace and safety at TCWR.

To learn more about leaving a Legacy of Giving to ensure a brighter future for all the animals we love, visit:
TCWR.org/support-us/legacy-giving/



Bosco



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
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