

Big Cat Chronicles

Fall 2020

Surviving COVID-19 Together

Read more about
Tsavo on page 13.

Tsavo

Species: Lion (*Panthera leo*)

Sex: Male

DOB: March 17, 2005

Arrival Date: March 17, 2010



Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, including all of us at TCWR. Our team still works every day to ensure the animals in our care and their day-to-day activities remain unaffected by COVID-19. They continue to receive daily feedings, medications, fresh water, enrichment, mowed grassy habitats, vet care, and wellness checkups as needed. Our animal care team is quick to respond when an animal shows any signs of illness. This is why so many of our animals live twice as long as they could in a wild environment! Your donations are what have made 28 years of rescuing animals and educating the public possible. Thank you.

We were extremely grateful in July to have received a \$100,000 grant from the DJ&T Foundation to help cover a portion of our medical and veterinary care for our animal residents. Being closed to visitors for 12 weeks of our busiest Spring Break time was financially devastating to the foundation's reserves. By the beginning of August, with the help of our donors and grants, we had reduced our loss of income to under \$274,000. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has responded to our request for recurring monthly donations; even \$5 - the cost to stream entertainment - helps to ensure our mission will go on! We appreciate your one-time donations, monthly recurring donations, your viewing and sharing of our social media, and for visiting us during these uncertain times.

If you are planning a visit, COVID-19 has changed how your experience will unfold: From how we welcome guests to how you'll tour our facility on our new trams, we have restructured your experience to protect your safety and that of our animals and animal care team. First, we ask that you buy your tickets online; reserving your tour date and time allows us to safely plan for the number of guests each day. After checking in at one of the two gift shop windows you'll proceed to a shady seating area nearby where you can be dazzled by Bam Bam the grizzly bear's antics while you watch some amazing TCWR videos, so make sure to arrive at least 25-30 minutes before your tour time to get checked in and enjoy! Then your educational guide will collect your group, escorting you through our Discovery Area while relaying a bit of our history before you board an open-air tram. You are required to wear a mask from check-in until you exit the grounds (the big cats can get COVID-19; if you are unwilling to wear a mask, I must ask you to wait to visit until the restrictions are lifted). We have had to implement many changes. We have all had to make adjustments to keep our animals safe; this is the best way we can stay open to the public and allow people to visit the sanctuary. We appreciate your patience and continued support as we all adjust.

While we are thrilled to see you all again, we must also prepare for the unknown if we are to get through this trying time. The reality of COVID-19 means we may once again need to temporarily close if things get worse. You can help us plan ahead by simply becoming a monthly donor and/or joining one of our membership levels. Then, continue your support beyond your lifetime through Legacy Giving [TurpentineCreek.org/support-us/legacy-giving/](https://www.turpentinecreek.org/support-us/legacy-giving/). Remembering the animals of TCWR in your will helps ensure them a safe, and well-cared-for future.

Thank you for all you do.

Until next time....

Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder



There have been many changes at the Refuge to enhance the visitor experience, including the addition of an outdoor TV that shows educational videos about Turpentine Creek to view before your tour departure.

Discover TCWR From Around the World!

The Education Department at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge enjoys connecting children to the mission of TCWR, helping them to discover how they can become the voice for wildlife everywhere. This year we implemented a new platform to virtually reach kids around the globe. Zoom, a virtual video meeting platform, has enabled us to reach kids in eighteen different states and seven different countries, helping our youth discover how to become wildlife advocates.

Starting this fall, we will also offer a virtual field trip that will allow students to see the animals at TCWR. During their virtual tour, kids will meet the animals found along our tour road as if they were at the Refuge! Students will hear our animal residents' stories, discover fun facts about each species and learn how to help save them for the future. In addition, we will offer our virtual classroom lessons such as "Predators Not Pets," that we started with our distance learning.

We know this year is full of many challenges for everyone, no matter your geographical location. We would love to help your class enjoy TCWR even if they cannot be here in person. It is through education that we can be the change for wildlife around the globe. To schedule a virtual field trip with your class, contact our Education Department at education@tcwr.org.



Our 3D printed props are still very useful when engaging participants during virtual sessions. As students return to school we will continue to offer virtual classes for kids around the world. Talk to your child's school about participating in one this school year! We can also be your Civic Club Presenter for the week!



Utilizing video conferencing technology, our education department can continue to work with students to educate them about the plight of big cats in captivity.

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: TCWR.org

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

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

Learn more at [TCWR.org/legacy-giving](https://www.tcwr.org/legacy-giving)

ROAR for big cats: talk to friends and family about TCWR and our mission.

Experiencing the Refuge in a New Way

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is dedicated to keeping all animals, staff, and supporters safe during the pandemic. Since our reopening June 1st, we have introduced a new way for you to take a tour: An open-air tram! The tram tours offer comfort on hot days to our visitors, who are required to wear masks, and safety to our animals. Groups are seated with their party only, and tours are limited to a total of 45 guests. Guided tours are from 10 am-4 pm on the hour.

As ambush predators, the big cats are very excited about the new addition to the tours, as they think they can stalk everyone on the tram. You might find Luna the white tiger slowly stalking the tram from the top of the hill. Poncho, our orange tiger, loves to come right up to the fence and size up the groups. Our animals are just as excited about this new tour option as we are.

We recommend arriving 25-30 minutes before your scheduled time, as tours depart at the top of the hour. Arriving early will allow you to enjoy our educational videos and concession stand next to Bam Bam, the Grizzly bear, before the tour starts. Thank you for your continued support! We cannot wait to share our tram tours with you and your group.

To pre-book your tour, go to our website at TCWR.org and select "Buy Tickets."



New open-air tram tours make it easier to enjoy a tour at the Refuge. Arkansas heat and facemask requirements can make our Ozark paths more difficult to navigate on foot.



Our animals seem very interested in the new tram, many times coming down from the tops of their habitats to investigate. Taking a tour at Turpentine Creek is easier than ever with our new trams!



Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

In September 2012, TCWR's team traveled to an Oklahoma private residence to rescue three tigers, Izzy, Max, and Shasta. Max passed away the following year after a battle with bone cancer. Recently, we had to say farewell to Izzy at seventeen and one-half years old. Both Max and Izzy required multiple surgeries at the Refuge, to try to make them as comfortable as possible and fix the damage done by the selfish procedure of declawing.

Declawing is a horrific procedure involving amputating each of a cat's toes up to the first joint to remove the claw. This surgery is extremely painful and results in many negative side effects, including infection and regrowth of abnormal claws through the skin. Sometimes, a veterinarian does not completely remove the first knuckle and some claw tissue remains. This tissue tries to grow a new claw; in Max and Izzy's cases, deformed claws grew under their skin leading to abscesses. This can be exceedingly painful and made it necessary for Izzy to require four corrective surgeries after her rescue. Lameness or abnormal gait occurs because the cat cannot carry their weight as usual, which leads to back pain and arthritis as they age. Izzy had been on TCWR's pain management program for years to keep her comfortable and have a good quality of life.

It is now illegal in the U.S. to declaw big cats such as lions and tigers after a veterinarian at a southern Indiana facility reached a settlement with the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Inc. (PETA) in 2018. PETA sued the veterinarian, alleging he surgically declawed twelve big cats. In the settlement, approved by a judge, the veterinarian admitted to performing the procedures and agreed never again to declaw a big cat. More importantly, according to PETA, the settlement sets a legal precedent: Declawing exotic cats without medical necessity is a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Declawing should have been illegal years ago, but now tigers, lions, and other big cats will not have to go through their life altered due to a person's ignorance. Izzy, though she had to undergo surgery repairs, had a wonderful life at the Refuge and a great demeanor towards most of her animal keepers. We all had a soft spot in our hearts for Izzy as we went through her life journey together. She will forever be missed.

Over the years, we have encountered so many veterinary issues with the animals we rescue. We can never actually compute what the cost will be to care for each one we save. Cats like Izzy can require multiple surgeries, some get special diets, others need multiple medications, and now B.B. King needs chemotherapy. Your monthly donation helps us plan for every day expenses and allows us to be prepared for surprises, like Izzy's surgeries or B.B. King's chemo, that can occur. Your monthly contributions are vital to our mission. Thank you as always for your support in caring for and giving these animals the best life possible.



Claw shards removed from Izzy's paws due to an improper declaw performed by her previous owner.



When claws are removed they can regrow under the skin if they are not fully removed. This causes life long pain for the animals.



RIP Izzy, 2002 - 2020.

Share your love of TCWR, tell a friend about our mission, share our social media.

Big Ears and No Fears: Hunter Serval is Thriving at TCWR

Hunter celebrates his one-year “Turp-a-versary” in November 2020! You can celebrate this big-eared feline with an even bigger (grumpier) personality by becoming a symbolic adopter at TCWR.org/support-us/adoptions-sponsorship.

In late fall of 2019, we listened, all ears (much like a serval), as the harrowing tale of an African Serval in need was relayed. He and another serval allegedly escaped the person who illegally owned them in 2016. No one knows what happened during the three years they were apparently living in the cold mountain wilderness of New Mexico, or what happened to Hunter’s female companion. Regardless of how long he was left to fend for himself, his ability to survive despite being declawed was remarkable.

Understandably, Hunter was jaded when he first arrived at the Refuge. He didn’t trust his keepers, seemed frightened of the other animal residents and hostile towards our other male servals. In the wild, servals can fly solo or live in groups. Hunter made it very clear that he would prefer the former.

Hunter is now provided a steady diet, meaning he no longer has to grapple for food with his mangled paws. He also has an amazing heated night house so battling the cold is a thing of his past. His mistrust towards team members and uncertainty of his new home has been redirected through behavioral management training; he loves being engaged in this enriching activity!

Hunter now spends much more time roaming his habitat with confidence, though he is still particular about who is allowed near.



Gift purchases help us care for the animals...

~~\$24~~ Shutter Tiger Ladies T-Shirt

This comfy, scalloped ladies v-neck tee is a tri-blend with a tiger face design in distressed stripes to give a window shutter appearance.



~~\$20~~ \$15 Stainless Steel Water Bottle

This 17oz stainless steel water bottle is double walled and features a simple design and the Turpentine Creek namedrop

Shop.TurpentineCreek.org

You're Making a Difference: Big Cat Public Safety Act Update

The Big Cat Public Safety Act is running out of time! The 116th session of congress ends on January 3, 2021 and so far, this bill is still sitting in the House and the Senate.

The House of Representatives has 230 co-sponsors on The Big Cat Public Safety Act - H.R. 1380, more than enough to get the bill passed when it is presented on the House floor. However, in the Senate, The Big Cat Public Safety Act - S. 2561 only has 19 out of the needed 51 co-sponsors to guarantee passing when it is presented to the Senate floor.

On June 8, 2020, H.R. 1380 was assigned to the Union Calendar No. 344. This means that the bill is on a list of things to be presented on the floor. As of now, there is no set date and being on a calendar does not guarantee it will be presented, just that it is in a lineup of topics to discuss. The Union calendar is the 'to discuss' list that involves financial requirements for the bill.

We know that right now, our government's priority is dealing with COVID-19 but this is also the perfect time to draw attention to the Big Cat Public Safety Act and gain more co-sponsors so that it quickly passes. Getting the Big Cat Public Safety Act passed right now is easier than ever; public attention has been brought to the big cat issue in the media and since big cats can get COVID-19 from humans this issue is twice as visible as it was in the past.

Please reach out to your Senators to let them know you want them to stand behind the Big Cat Public Safety Act (S. 2561) and put an end to big cat abuse in the USA. You can reach out to them today at [TCWR.org/advocacy](https://tcwr.org/advocacy).

Joey & Aurora



Joey, Aurora, and their habitat mates are survivors of the cub petting industry. The Big Cat Public Safety Act prevents hands-on interaction with big cats of any age. Contact your congressman today at tcwr.org/advocacy to support the BCPSA.



Boscoe & Shakira II

Boscoe and Shakira II were a breeding pair at a cub petting facility. Four litters of cubs were stolen from them moments after birth to be used for cub petting.

Lakota



Lakota, a ti-tiger big cat hybrid, was bred to get around laws that prevent the sale and transport of endangered animals across state lines.

Signup for weekly emails and stay up-to-date on your favorite animals!

Using Technology to Keep Our Animals Healthy

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we shut our doors not only to the public but also to members of our team that do not live onsite. One of these team members was our vet, Dr. Kellyn Sweeley. You might be wondering how we were able to assess our animals' health if our veterinarian couldn't come to the Refuge? Like other businesses and jobs, we went virtual!

Historically, even before having an on-staff vet, our animal care team would assess the animals and report any issues or health concerns. End-of-day reports are compiled in regard to each animal and their health. Pre-COVID-19, Dr. Kellyn would read these reports weekly when she was onsite.

After quarantine began, virtual communication became incredibly important to our team. Photos, videos, and the end-of-day reports were sent to Dr. Kellyn daily to keep her updated on current concerns. Furthermore, FaceTime calls became very useful, allowing her to assess an animal in real-time. An example of this is Daniel, a 16-year-old male lion from the 2016 Colorado Project. He had developed a growth in his left nostril, of which our team sent many photos to Dr. Kellyn. After prescribing antibiotics and anti-inflammatories for approximately three weeks, the mass subsided. But, during this time, our team continually sent updates in the form of photos and videos.

Even with today's technology, virtual communication is not identical to being here in person. Thankfully, Dr. Kellyn is now able to be back on site with us and do all necessary medical procedures and checkups for our animal residents. Of course, precautions are still being taken, especially by team members who are around the animals.

"Unfortunately, many of our animals, young and old, have compromised immune systems. This could be due to poor genetics from inbreeding or crossbreeding, poor nutritional upbringing/development, a lack of veterinary care prior to their residency at our facility, or some, frankly, are just seniors whose immune systems aren't as strong as they used to be. For these animals and our entire population, it is our duty to keep them safe during this time, and all times."

- Dr. Kellyn Sweeley



While we were in quarantine we utilized FaceTime to allow our veterinarian Dr. Kellyn to see the animals from a safe distance.



The team used photos and video to allow Dr. Kellyn to see the sore on Daniel's nose and start treatment early.



Now that we are out of quarantine, we have resumed on site treatment for animals, while still taking extra precautions to protect them from COVID exposure. Your donations allow us to provide quality veterinary care for all the animals who call the Refuge home.



Gift purchases help us care for the animals...

\$7.50 Turpentine Creek Custom Face Mask

Stay Safe! Stay Protected! Protect Others! Show your support of Turpentine Creek! Double layered, 100% cotton fabric with adjustable elastic ear loops. Features the Turpentine Creek logo and TC, our tiger mascot, leaping on each side. Size: 5.25" (14 cm) height x 9.50" (24 cm) wide.

Shop.TurpentineCreek.org

You Can Have a Ball in the Fall at TCWR

As the waning heat of summer subsides and crisp autumn temperatures sweep in, the big cats at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge come out to play! They have spent the majority of summer sleeping in the shade and resting the hot days away. Our animals love the cooler weather, as they do not exert as much energy to get up and move around. Big cats do not sweat like we do, and they try to conserve their energy as much as possible. It takes a lot of effort to move around with a permanent fur coat during the hot summer! Even though some big cats are native to warmer climates, they sleep upwards of eighteen hours each day. Big cats typically are more active around dusk and dawn. If you have ever visited during the warmer months, visiting in the colder weather of autumn will be an entirely different experience, with the cats enjoying the cool breeze and fallen leaves. This is the perfect time to plan your visit to see the cats out and about.

Although we do not force our animals to move around, their favorite time of the year is during the fall when they get special enrichment treats. They can be found lounging in their leaf piles and prowling throughout their habitats stalking the tram tours. Autumn is our lion Tsavo's favorite time of year not only because of the crisp fresh air, but also because of our fall enrichment donations. His favorite enrichment toy is a pumpkin, which he'll carry in his mouth as he runs around his habitat! The big cats do not eat the pumpkins but love something to sink their teeth into. Supporters and local pumpkin businesses donate uncarved pumpkins; all of the animals enjoy this special treat. Visit our enrichment article on page 22 to find out what you can bring on your next visit for the animals to enjoy throughout the year.

Whether you are visiting our daily tours or lounging in our lodging accommodations, we appreciate your continued support throughout the hard times brought on by the pandemic. It is because of our supporters that TCWR is able to ensure our animals care no matter the circumstances, and we look forward to your next visit. Please pre-book your tour or lodging online at [TCWR.org](https://www.tcwr.org).



Willy

Willy, like most big cats, tends to be more active at night. During the hottest parts of the day he sleeps, but you can catch him playing with his toys when it is cooler.

Chuff & Athena



Chuff & Athena love when the temperature begins to drop, they always get special enrichment like trees and pumpkins when the weather turns cold.

Make a difference in a big cat's life. donate today!

B.B. King and a Rare Form of Cancer

Dr. Kellyn Sweeley

B.B. King is a long-term tiger resident of TCWR. B.B. King and his brother, Mack, turned twelve-years-old this May. On June 8th, during a routine wellness exam, we surgically removed a small growth from the underside of B.B. King's tongue. We sent the growth to Kansas State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Veterinary pathologists diagnosed the growth as cancer, specifically a lingual hemangiosarcoma (HSA).

Most commonly, HSA's primary site of development is in an internal organ such as the spleen or heart. In this form, the malignant cancer is known to be extremely aggressive and spread quickly. It is much more uncommon for HSA to first develop in the tongue. A rare finding in domestic species, this is an undocumented finding in a tiger. Due to the small number of cases seen in domestic species, it is hard to determine how this form of cancer will behave. However, it appears to be less aggressive in nature with a metastatic rate (spreading of the cancer to other organs) of about 50%. As with any cancer diagnosis, it is crucial to first stage the cancer before any treatment protocol is developed. Staging of a cancer determines how far the cancer has spread throughout the body at the time of diagnosis. This commonly involves a thorough physical exam, blood work, urinalysis, chest x-rays, and abdominal ultrasound at minimum. B.B. King's staging exam was performed on July 12th, and it was determined that the cancer likely had not yet spread from the area of his tongue, which was excellent news.

After consultation with a veterinary oncologist from Kansas State University, we decided to pursue further cancer treatment in the form of chemotherapy due to the higher potential of this cancer to spread. This decision was based on many factors, including B.B. King's younger age, temperament, training ability, and overall health, as well as the high probability of chemotherapy to work against this type of cancer. Unlike human chemotherapy, most animal patients enjoy a good quality of life while on treatment, tolerating it well and experiencing a few side effects. This being said, his quality of life will always be our number one priority. If at any point we believe he is becoming too stressed or the side effects too great, treatment will be discontinued.



12-year-old B.B. King receives chemo to help treat a rare aggressive form of cancer known as lingual hemangiosarcoma. Other than the cancer he is a young, healthy tiger.



For B.B. King's treatment plan, which began August 2nd, he is receiving five to six chemotherapy treatments intravenously every three weeks. Blood work is performed before every treatment, and he is being closely monitored over the entire three-month period. He is pre-emptively receiving supportive treatment for any possible side effects he may experience. It is our hope to destroy all potential HSA cells still in his tongue and give him many more years of cancer-free life here at TCWR. Please donate to help support our veterinary care program. Your support allows us to offer our animals, like B.B. King, life-saving treatment.

Your Education Experience at TCWR has Expanded

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is dedicated to educating all of our supporters on the dangers of the exotic pet trade and entertainment industry. We help people from all walks of life discover how they can be the change for wildlife everywhere. Whether you are visiting the refuge in person or following us on social media, you can learn how to become an effective wildlife advocate.

This year Turpentine Creek is excited to announce the launch of our new educational website! Our Education team of Wildlife Interpreters, certified through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), will offer many interesting topics to discover such as individual species information including hunting behaviors, history of the species, lifespan, fun facts, and so much more. The new website also provides information for educators worldwide to book a trip to visit TCWR or one of our virtual classroom lessons and field trips. The site will consist of downloadable lesson plans on various topics, information on our summer day camps, upcoming events, programs, videos, and more.

We invite you to explore this excellent resource and discover how you can be a positive change for wildlife around the globe. Visit TCWREDU.org and begin exploring today.

TCWREDU.ORG



Are you interested in bringing in a school group or private group to TCWR?

Field trips include a guided walking tour with a member of the education department and access to the self-guided discovery area. During your trip, students will learn about the big cats, bears, and other species that call

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is an accredited big

Gift purchases help us care for the animals...

Shop.TurpentineCreek.org



~~\$7.50~~ Real Wood Slice Magnet

This small, round, wood magnet has a wood burning of a paw print and the Turpentine Creek namedrop.

Choose your Membership Tier today and create a better future for our animals!



Donor Spotlight: Joy Reeber

Joy Reeber became a Pride member after visiting the Refuge in June of 2019. Since falling in love with our mission, she decided to become a recurring donor at \$5.15 each month after our newsletter pointed out that \$5 a month was roughly what she pays for one of her streaming or reading subscriptions.

"When I considered the amount of joy I get out of visiting the Refuge and watching the cats, as well as the videos y'all post, it was an easy decision to make."

The pandemic and our subsequent closure made Joy concerned about Refuge cash flow.

"I had a membership ...and really enjoyed bringing friends with me to the Refuge to watch the cats and proselytize about how important your work is, and I figured that the long closure (especially in the spring...one of the heaviest times for visitation, with the nice weather and families around for school graduations) was probably making things even more difficult; I wanted to help y'all with financial planning in a small way."

Joy is looking forward to a post-COVID-19 time when she can once again bring people and introduce them to the Refuge.

"Until then, she says, "I feel donating is the least I can do considering how much y'all do for the cats!"

Pillian



Roman



Donor Joy Reeber set up a \$5.15 recurring monthly donation to help us care for the animals that call TCWR home. "I feel donating is the least I can do considering how much y'all do for the cats!"

Abigail



Featured Animal - Tsavo

Species: African Lion

Sex: Male

DOB: March 17, 2005

Arrival Date: March 17, 2010

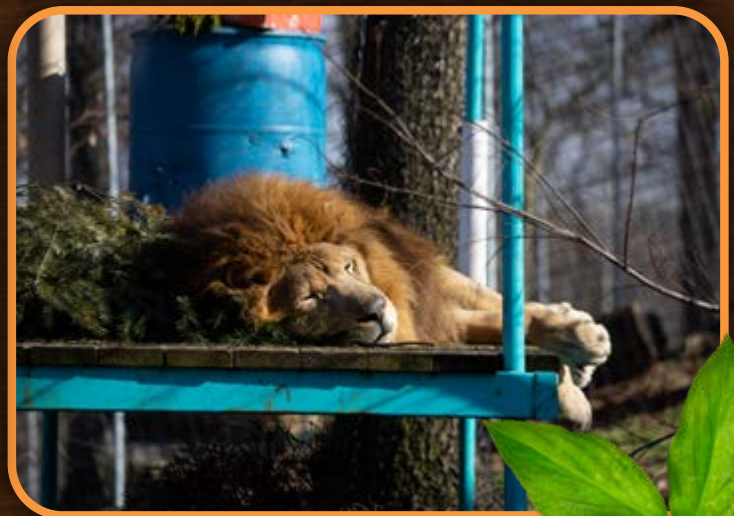
Tsavo is a playful lion that enjoys sleeping on his bench, destroying enrichment, caroling at his neighbors Daniel and Chloe, and stalking his new neighbor Frankie. He is a favorite among team members and visitors alike. His big beautiful mane is a highlight during tours.

In December of 2009, Turpentine Creek received an email from a roadside zoo in Missouri that had their USDA exhibitors license revoked. They needed to rehome all of their mammals if they wanted to reopen to the public. Tsavo was one of seven big cats, a black bear, and a coatimundi that Turpentine Creek rescued from the facility.

This 15-year-old lion is still very energetic and active for his age. Tsavo doesn't let anything stop him as he barrels towards stacks of enrichment given to him by team members and interns. His favorite treat is raw beef but he also enjoys 'bloodcicles' during the warmer months. During the fall he is a pumpkin and spice fanatic that loves to 'kill' all the pumpkins and spice bags provided to him. Nothing can limit this handsome king of Turpentine Creek!

Although the majority of lions live in prides in the wild, Tsavo is a loner, like most males. In the wild, male lions leave their birth pride to wander in solitude or small groups of 2-4 male lions called a coalition. Sometimes male lions will find and win a pride to call their own, but others remain rogue for almost if not all of their lives. This is part of nature and Tsavo doesn't appear to mind being a pride of one. He seems to enjoy flirting with his neighboring lioness, Chloe, when her mate's back is turned.

We are glad we could offer a forever home to Tsavo, but only with your support can we continue to rescue big cats in need. Become a recurring donor today, and your monthly contribution will help provide refuge for other big cats still waiting for rescue.



Join our adoption program for \$150 - you will help us care for our animal residents.

Donate Today To Help Us Recover From Covid Closure!

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

Donations: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____

I would like to make my loving donation recurring: Repeat monthly. 

Pre-order 2021 Calendars: \$20 each X _____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

Choose your Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier

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

\$45 The P.A.W. Club, Kid's Membership (Ages 6-13) Name of child: _____

See TCWR.org/kidsclub for more info. Email address: _____

\$100 Pride Membership You and 3 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge.

\$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 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

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!



What Your Donations Do



Thank You!

Donate to create a better future for the animals that call TCWR home.



You're Building a Better Future for Small Cats

After months of hard work, weather delays, and adjustments to our initial design, we have completed our most recent habitat project! The Discovery Area has a beautiful new habitat that can accommodate any type of small cat for years to come. The newly-finished habitat expands beyond the footprint of the three old bobcat habitats, expanded the perimeter line, and includes additional vertical space for small cats to explore.

We foraged our property for natural resources to utilize for the new enclosure that will enrich future residents' lives. The new grassy habitat now includes benches and shade structures created from beautiful native rocks for small cats to lounge upon or seek privacy underneath; it also features strategically-placed dead logs for them to sharpen their claws upon and encourage their natural instinct to mark their territory. In addition, we have built a variety of vertical platforms for climbing and resting. These constructs come together to create an environment conducive to healthy wild animal behaviors.

This habitat isn't just a simple combination of the old three smaller bobcat habitats. We have removed most of the old cement and expanded the area to four and a half times the footprint of the original three habitats combined, offering 1,800 square feet of grass for the small cats to enjoy. Of course, the enclosure is fully roofed, with the same heavy-duty wire mesh we use on the walls to protect the safety of these agile climbers and jumpers, as well as your own. The new habitat will stand for years to come, providing a lifelong safe home for any small cats that need future refuge. Future occupants could be bobcats, lynx, caracals, servals, or even Geoffroy's cats, depending on the rescue.

By setting up a monthly recurring donation, you can help ensure that TCWR will be here to keep rescuing survivors of the Big Cat and Wildlife Trade, providing them with lifelong refuge and dependable care for years to come.



This new habitat is built with plenty of space for any type of small cat that might eventually need a home with Turpentine Creek. Your donations help us rescue all types of animals and offer them forever homes with us.

We utilized natural elements, like rocks and logs, from around our property to create vertical spaces for the habitat inhabitants to enjoy.



Pulling Through for Payson

Your Recurring Donations Give Animal Residents Special "Treat"ment



Recurring donations make sure that Payson and our other animals get the medication and care that they need even during a global pandemic.



Payson's 'meatball' is filled with special enzymes that help her digest her food and get the needed nutrients.

Animal care team members carefully give Payson her meatball before her meal.

Payson has a pretty busy schedule. Between "chuffing" at her keepers, lounging in the sun, and hiding in her pool to stalk her neighbors, she has to remain in tip top condition to cross off her to-do's. As a white tiger, she is especially prone to health issues that could make even the most relaxing activities difficult. She is one of many high-risk, special-needs animals who are under our care.

Payson receives regular veterinary exams so we can catch any major health problems before they start. With a laundry list of genetic diseases and skin disorders that can emerge out of nowhere due to the white tiger bloodline, we remain vigilant in monitoring her well-being. She is already given a variety of supplements for joint issues as part of our pain management program.

When we were forced to close to the public at the start of COVID-19, recurring donations from the National Enzyme Company allowed Payson to continue her special enzyme meatball treatment. Their recurring commitment to our mission and animals assured us that Payson and the other animals in our care taking enzyme supplements would not run out, despite the fact we had lost over \$500,000 dollars from lack of visitors and guests that we typically rely on this time of year.

You can also help us get through times of trial by committing even \$5 a month (less than the cost of most streaming services). Your recurring donations help keep our animal residents healthy through global pandemics, unexpected health crises, and other unexpected emergencies.

Payson relocated to Rescue Ridge this year. She has always been fascinated by other animals and loves snooping on her new neighbors. At just fifteen-years-old, she has a long life being a busy-body ahead of her thanks to you.



Protect big cats: Setup a \$5 recurring donation - less than a subscription service- today!

A Night on the Wild Side



Imagine relaxing on the private back deck of the opulent Okavango Lodge, one of ten comfortable accommodations available to overnight guests at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

The sun sets in a beautiful blaze of red on the distant Ozark Mountain horizon. As the day fades to dusk, a doe and her playful young fawn forage in the field below. The fall air is crisp and just cool enough to need a light jacket or sweater. Suddenly, the doe's ears arc forward and the protective mother stands alert as the adjacent valley begins to echo. It is a hauntingly beautiful sound, and others soon join in. The lions have begun to speak! This is known as "caroling." Lions are one of the loudest animals in nature. A lions' roar can carry up to five miles and reach above one hundred and ten decibels.

After the sun sets, the hot tub nearby is inviting and steaming, ready to be enjoyed by guests. It sits across the large deck which encircles the covered gazebo and fire pit shared with the other adult-only lodges. Hearing the rumble of lions while being blanketed by billions of twinkling stars is enchanting. The Refuge is nestled far away from night sky pollutants, and the sky is clear. It is easy to believe you are somewhere in Africa, without the side effects of jet lag and the expense of international travel.

You will sleep well in the comfortable queen-sized bed, snugly warm as the nighttime temperature dips. Oatmeal, fruit cups, muffins, juice, bottled water, and coffee are there to enjoy when you rise and begin your day. Each room has a small refrigerator, coffee maker, and microwave.

Isn't it time to stop dreaming? Book your stay today, and experience Africa in the Ozarks at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge!

Take a Virtual Tour!

The summer of 2020 has been an unusual one for families trying to plan vacations and outings. While we have restructured our educational tours to ensure your safe visit, many of you may still not feel comfortable traveling right now. The good news is you can explore the wild wonders at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge from the security of your living room!

In early April we learned that tigers are susceptible to the Coronavirus; to limit contact with our elderly population at Rescue Ridge, we have had to temporarily suspend our popular Coffee with the Curator and Carnivore Caravan tours. However, for a donation of \$100, you can have an exclusive private virtual tour with one of our animal care staff members!

Adults and children will be equally delighted and entertained by these live tours we are currently offering. If you have a favorite resident, we can even try to feature that animal in your tour. We ask for at least three (3) days to set up your event, and please remember our team is only available from 9 am to 5 pm daily. You can get more information and locate the form to sign up at our website at TCWR.org/virtual-private-tours. Book your virtual tour today!



Some of our animals can only be seen during private tours, with a virtual tour you can see the animals at Rescue Ridge!



Taking a virtual tour allows you to see your favorite animal at the Refuge! Take a one on one tour with an animal care team member!

Reunited at Last: Remington and Luna Together Again



In late June, five months after Luna and Remington were rescued and after careful observation, we decided it was time to introduce the two. Upon rescuing the pair, we had hopes for an introduction after learning that they had lived together at one point in their lives. Remington was neutered a month after his arrival as a preempt to this possible introduction. We then placed them in adjoining night houses with alternating access into their shared habitat so they could become accustomed to living near each other once again. Their interactions through the fence were always positive, full of chuffs, and lots of fence rubbing.

With these positive interactions, we decided to take the plunge and see if they would be happy living together again. Initially, they were given access to each other in the smaller area of their night houses, without access to their habitat. This allowed Animal Care Staff to better control the situation if anything were to go wrong. Remington was very intrigued and quickly made his way to Luna. Luna was quite apprehensive at first and tried to swat at him. Remington didn't let this stop him, and continued to approach her to attempt to be near, smell, and play with Luna. At first, anytime he approached she would become skittish and move away. The two had a few quick spats, hitting each other with their paws (claws always retracted), and then their nerves started to slowly disappear. Soon, a constant chorus of chuffing was heard back and forth between the two.

A few days later, we gave them access to the habitat together and the chuffing continued! They both began exploring the habitat separately but always seemed to be checking where the other was. It became very apparent that they both wanted the other's attention on them! Remington would roll around in the grass and look over to see if Luna was watching and vice versa. The flirting continued as we let them out for a few hours daily together. Eventually, Remington got the courage to walk over to a relaxed Luna and plop down next to her. This made Luna very nervous, and it took a few tries from a non-discouraged Remington until Luna allowed him to lay next to her without her moving away. It was apparent that Remington was giving Luna enough space until she was comfortable enough to be around him.

After three weeks of supervised visits from our Animal Care staff, we began to "hide" and see how they reacted when staff was not watching. Their interactions did not change, so we decided to leave them completely unattended, and it went wonderfully!

Today you can spot Luna and Remington on our tours exploring their habitat, swimming in their pool, sitting on their bench, or enjoying their favorite past time together, eating grass! It is only because of your support that we could not only offer these two amazing tigers a forever home but also give them enough space to be comfortable living together. Please donate today to help us continue our mission to provide lifetime care for big cats in need.

Spread the word, talk to your friends about the dangers of Cub Petting today!

Loving Life In Our New Habitat

At least that's what Tigger, a golden tabby tiger, and Floyd, an orange tiger, might tell you if they could. These two tigers, along with four others, came to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge from a facility in Oklahoma that was closing in January of 2019. When they first arrived, Tigger and Floyd shared the habitat beside our office building and our Siberian guest lodge.

Tigger was quickly identified as one of our more curious residents, taking an interest in visitors and staff, but Floyd was leery of his new home. The team tried their best through enrichment and behavioral management to help him settle in, but Floyd continued to be shy and spent a lot of time in his night house. The pair was relocated to an empty habitat on the lower tour loop when the opportunity presented itself this past spring.

Soon after their move to the lower loop, we noticed a change in the orange tiger with a grumpy face. He began spending more time out with Tigger and especially enjoyed reclining under the big tree in his new habitat. His ears are now perkier, and that has much improved the grumpy look he was once known for! Floyd does not pace as much and has become relaxed in his new home, enjoying his time in their sizable grassy enclosure.

Tigger has relished the move as well. He continues to attack his enrichment with much enthusiasm and enjoys spending time in their pool. When the pair first arrived at the Refuge, we had discovered that Tigger was taking care of Floyd with food deliveries. Tigger can relax now and enjoy retirement knowing his buddy Floyd is right there beside him. We could not do what we do without your support. Your assistance means Tigger and Floyd can live together and depend on their forever home. Consider setting up a recurring donation today to help with their needs.

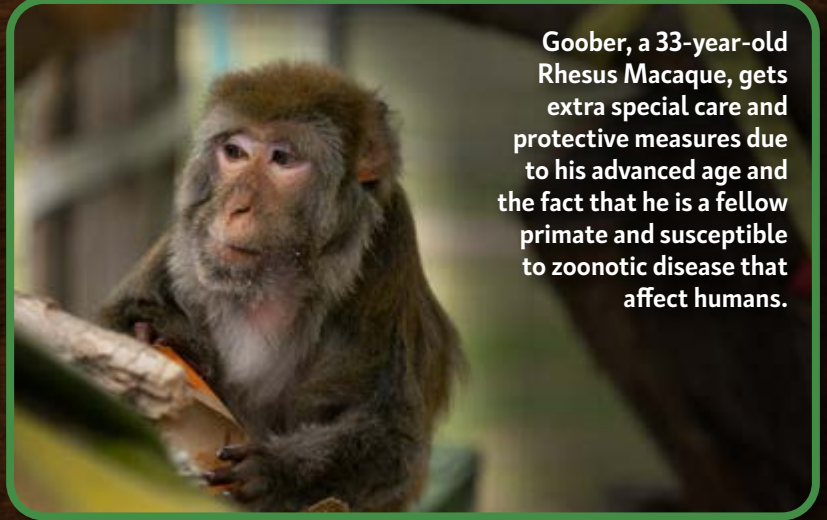


Tigger and Floyd were recently moved to a new habitat on the lower part of the tour loop. Although Tigger loved chuffing at visitors, Floyd never got comfortable with the activity in their old habitat. This move has completely changed how Floyd behaves, he seems much more content in his new home.

Caring for Senior Animals During COVID



Some of our animals can only be seen during private tours, with a virtual tour you can see the animals at Rescue Ridge!



Goober, a 33-year-old Rhesus Macaque, gets extra special care and protective measures due to his advanced age and the fact that he is a fellow primate and susceptible to zoonotic disease that affect humans.



Heather, a 19-year-old tiger, lives at Rescue Ridge. To protect her and many other senior animals we have temporarily suspended private tours to Rescue Ridge. Your recurring donations help us protect our senior animals, like Heather.

For many months extra precautions have been taken to protect all of our animals at Turpentine Creek from COVID-19. With confirmed cases in the United States of big cats testing positive for the virus, we want to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Since a large portion of our animal population consists of senior animals, we have to be extra cautious when providing care. We have stopped all tours to our senior animal area Rescue Ridge, placed plastic barriers between the public and certain animal residents, wear masks, and frequently hand sanitize to protect all the animals.

One animal we are taking particular precautions with is Goober, our 33-year-old rhesus macaque. As a primate, he is more susceptible to zoonotic diseases like the coronavirus. To protect Goober as much as possible, our animal care staff implemented strict safety procedures specifically for his area. Only limited staff are allowed to clean his building. Not only are these strict safety measures into place for his habitat and building, but also his food preparation. Our animal care team has also limited the number of people who prepare his meals.

With your support we can continue to protect our animals and offer a little extra care for our senior animal population. A monthly recurring donation of \$25, less than the price of a meal out, helps us provide care for all our animals every day of the year.

Our donation means more than ever for the animals depending on us; donate today!

Spicing Up Fall Enrichment

Fall has arrived in Northwest Arkansas, leading to lots of seasonal enrichment like leaf piles in habitats across the Refuge. This bountiful time of year typically brings donations of locally-harvested fruits and vegetables such as pumpkins, gourds, and squash. While the majority of animals we have rescued might not eat the seasonal enrichment, they have a blast using it as toys! Donations of locally grown fruits and nuts like persimmons, black walnuts, and acorns are also very appreciated by our omnivorous residents.

Persimmons and acorns are a fan favorite with our bears, especially Koda B., a 16-year-old black bear. Koda B. was rehomed from Arbuckle Wilderness Center to TCWR in 2004. He is known for being a very food-motivated bear, especially during this time of year. Cooler temperatures and falling leaves mean that it is time for our bears to bulk up for their winter dormancy. Edible seasonal enrichment items donated to us are a great way to stimulate the bears' natural foraging behaviors and offer a great way to enhance their diets.

As carnivores, the cats that live at TCWR will not eat these fruits and vegetables, but they love to play with them! Pumpkins will get pounced on and smashed; leaf piles will get jumped in, slept on, or will sometimes even be used as a hiding place by stalking tigers! By donating seasonal enrichment items, you can be sure that these big cats and bears have an amazing fall again this year!



Black Fire

Although carnivores, big cats enjoy destroying pumpkins in the fall. Slaughtered pumpkins decorate most feline habitats throughout the fall and winter at Turpentine Creek.



Whitney

Fall leaves make fun napping spots for big cats in the cooler months. The fall is a great time to visit since our animals are more active!

Harley



During the fall when our bears are bulking up for winter, we use natural food enrichment like nuts, seeds, and persimmons to encourage foraging and winter prep.

What Big Ears You Have!



If humans had the same size ears as servals relative to our body size, we would have ears the size of dinner plates!

Sammy

Their long necks help them peak above tall grasses to spot their prey.



On average, servals catch up to 4,000 rodents a year!

Sammy

Servals are some of the best hunters with a 50% success rate!



Sammy, Enzo, Whistler

These sneaky spotted cats are sometimes called the cat of spare parts due to their large ears, long legs, and odd looks. When you visit, see if you can spot one of the six servals that call Turpentine Creek home.

With large ears, long necks, and extra-long legs, servals have received many nicknames, like “giraffe cat” and “the cat of spare parts.” Though they may be small and unproportioned, this species of wild cats is one of the most successful at catching prey. They can capture their prey half of the time, making them 20% better at hunting than a lion! Do not let their size fool you, they are surprisingly powerful wild animals!

All of their quirky features work together to make them exceptionally successful hunters. Their large ears are one of their most useful features. They tend not to stalk their prey, but rather sit in clearings and wait, listening for potential food. If it is a windy day, their long, giraffe-like necks will stretch to help them see over the tall grass to look for game. Once their target has been heard or seen, it is time to pounce. Extra-long legs allow them to leap up to thirteen feet with no running start. If they are only able to hear their prey, they can adjust their position after they pounce to have a better chance at landing on their quarry. When it comes to landing, the front paws brace for the impact, and most of the time the prey is killed instantly.

Even their fur patterns are a little different. Servals have spots, but sometimes they merge, creating what looks like stripes. The mix of spots and ‘stripes’ makes it a little more challenging to see them in the grass. Much like tigers, no two coat patterns are the same. Servals that spend a lot of time in the woodlands of Africa tend to have spots that are smaller than those that live on the savanna. The differences are believed to help them blend into shady areas.

Currently, six servals call Turpentine Creek home. Of these, five reside in our serval habitat on our tour loop which was generously donated by the Roop family. These cats love to hang out in their building but also enjoy hiding under benches, behind rocks, and in the grass. Giselle, in particular, loves to hunt beetles and butterflies throughout her habitat. Hunter, who was rescued in October of 2019, lives in his own habitat and seems to enjoy having space to himself.

Thanks to our donors and supporters, we can offer the best species-specific habitats possible to our animal residents. For our servals, this means lots of space to run, jump, and catch bugs! Please donate to our Habitat Fund or become a Recurring Donor, to help us ensure that these animals always have spacious, grassy habitats to call home!

Donate to create a better future for the animals that call TCWR home.



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