

Big Cat Chronicles

Summer 2021



Featured Animal

Chuff

Male Tiger
(Panthera tigris)
Born 3/16/07
Rescued 3/16/10



Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

As we welcome summer of 2021, I want to thank all of you for your support to keep our mission intact throughout another incredibly challenging winter and spring. Despite extreme weather that wreaked damages to our property and the toll of the pandemic on our lives and the economy, your generosity has allowed us to continue transforming lives. In this issue you can read about the rescues your support enabled this winter for lucky servals JJ and Ce' Ce', as well as our first-ever hyena resident, Rambo.

May 1st marked our 29th anniversary. Scott and I were extremely honored to recently be presented with the Silver Cup Award at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion from the Arkansas Hospitality Association (AHA). Last February, we were honored by AHA for our team's hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic, along with TCWR Hospitality Coordinator Miranda Smith and Assistant Animal Curator/Gift Shop Coordinator Laurie Vanderwal, who were recognized as Hospitality Heroes and Stars of the Industry. Of course, our true heroes are you! Without you, our animal residents would not be thriving in the way they are. In addition, by sharing awareness of TCWR, you have helped us earn recognition by AY Magazine as a Top Three Best of Family Attractions in the state of Arkansas!

More than ever before, I am filled with hope for the future of big cats as we see increased scrutiny by law officials and the courts on the big cat trade. Many of the largest breeders and cub-petting attractions in the United States are finally facing lawsuits or criminal charges. These court cases are exposing the exploitation and abuse that is rampant in the cub petting trade and have the potential to overhaul the industry. Meanwhile, your advocacy has helped the Big Cat Public Safety Act gain unprecedented momentum in Congress. We'll tell you how you can do even more to help get this life-changing bill for big cats passed into law by joining our new Turpentine Creek Task Force.

The challenges we have faced over the past year have taught us to adapt how we fundraise, to survive in a changing world. I want to extend a special thanks to everyone who donated, both in advance and on April 9th, to help us reach our \$35,000 NWA Gives 2021 goal! One of our objectives was to help restore our emergency fund for rescue response. We often incur large medical expenses when rescuing animals who have suffered long-term neglect, to restore their health and provide them with the best lifelong care. You'll learn why giving ahead of a fundraiser can be vital to its success in our Donor Spotlight article.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing more of you this year, and discuss the road back to 'normal' at the Refuge. Summer is a perfect time to join one of our Tier Memberships; the unlimited entry makes it easy to visit TCWR often with friends and family, and each level includes valuable discounts on gift shop inventory and lodging!

Remember, because of your advocacy, your willingness to share our mission, and your dependable monthly donations, we are making real progress for big cats. **Together, we can end their exploitation and ensure them a brighter future!**

Until next time,



Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder



Scott and I were extremely honored to recently be presented with the Silver Cup Award at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion from the Arkansas Hospitality Association (AHA).

Celebrating 29 Years of Rescuing Big Cats in Need

When Don and Hilda Jackson rescued their first lion, Bum, in 1978, they probably never imagined it would lead to the start of a non-profit that would save hundreds of animals from the Big Cat Trade. Though Bum was the Jackson's first big cat, the first tiger to be saved by "Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge," when it gained its nonprofit status was a grumpy, four-year-old tiger named Jasper. Jasper was born in 1988 and had been passed around from home to home by the time he came to the Refuge in 1992. Because he'd faced a mountain of abuse in his short life, he was an especially angry fella. At Turpentine Creek, he learned to trust the people who fed him treats and cleaned his enclosure. In 2006, as the Refuge grew and expanded, he was able to frolic through a huge grass habitat for the first time in his life. Jasper lived to the age of 20, spending the last 16 years of his life free of pain, knowing only love and care.

Jasper's story is like that of many others who have found sanctuary at Turpentine Creek. Big cats bred into the Trade often start their lives with abuse and neglect; if they are lucky, they end up at a true sanctuary where they not only live to an old age, but thrive. May 1st, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge celebrated 29 years of being the place animals come to do just that.

We have had many milestones in our last 29 years of existence: from "crashing the compound" and building our large grass habitats, to achieving "certified" status by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, creating an on-site state-of-the-art veterinary hospital, building all-natural bear habitats, and more recently, breaking ground on a project that will put a pool in every habitat. In 2021, we find ourselves named a "Top 3 Arkansas Family Attraction" by AY Magazine. TCWR has earned the GuideStar Platinum status, a 100/100 Charity Navigator score, and is a Top Rated charity with Great Nonprofits. None of these achievements would have been possible without our supporters. Thanks to you, Don and Hilda Jackson's legacy is able to live on in the work we do, day in and day out. Because of your help, we are able to answer the call when an animal is struggling to find their way out of an abusive situation, or when they simply need a lifetime home.



Male lion cub Bum was the first big cat Don and Hilda Jackson rescued in 1978, leading to the start of a non-profit that would save hundreds of animals from the Big Cat Trade.



Don and Hilda Jackson's legacy lives on in the work we do at TCWR, day in and day out.

Bum was just a lion who needed help. The Jacksons could have never guessed there were thousands more like him across the nation. By working together, you and we have been able to make a lasting impact on the animals trapped in the Trade. Our work isn't over yet.

Educate: education.turpentinecreek.org

Advocate: tcwr.org/advocacy

Donate: tcwr.org/donate

Adopt or Sponsor, it is a great way to support the TCWR animals!

Two Free & Easy Ways to Help Big Cats Right Now

The Big Cat Public Safety Act is better positioned for passage than ever before, since being re-introduced to Congress as H.R. 263 this January. **On April 20th, the bill was reintroduced to the Senate as Senate Bill 1210 with bi-partisan support!** Now we need your help to see this life-changing legislation made into law.

The current bill is the first step in demanding a higher quality of life for big cats in captivity, as well as safer standards to protect first responders, law enforcement officials, and the general public. By visiting our website, you can learn important information about the legislation in order to have productive conversations about big cats and public safety. Even if you already reached out to legislators last year, it is vital to do so again now. Please revisit our Advocacy Page to contact your senators, ask someone you know to do the same - and to pass it on!

In addition, there is much more we all can do to help get Senate Bill 1210 selected to be voted upon! That is why we have created the Turpentine Creek Task Force (TCTF): A group of like-minded individuals who are passionate about saving big cats and preventing future abuse.

Joining the TCTF doesn't cost anything! Task force members will work together to bring awareness to the Big Cat Public Safety Act and garner support for the bill. As a member, you will get tools to help talk to your friends, family, and representatives. You'll also get monthly email updates about the bill's progress, support for any questions you may have, and the chance to take part in a community resolved to protect big cats. We'll send you a 'call to action' when important progress needs to be made on the bill, volunteer opportunities, and more!

You can join this nationwide community that's working together to create a better life for big cats today, by visiting our Advocacy page or typing TCWR.org/turpentine-creek-task-force/ into your search bar. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for big cats!

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



Become an advocate. Visit tcwr.org/advocacy to learn important information about big cats and public safety; privately owned animals often live in shoddy, unsafe enclosures.



Join the Turpentine Creek Task Force (TCTF) to save big cats and prevent future abuse of animals like Thor, who was exploited as a traveling exhibit and suffered greatly before his rescue by TCWR.



S. 1210 demands a higher quality of life for big cats in captivity, as well as safer standards to protect first responders, law enforcement officials, and the general public.

New Employee Spotlight: Melissa Doble - Lodging Coordinator

If you recently booked a lodging stay over the phone, there's a good chance Lodging Coordinator, Melissa Doble, assisted you. Melissa joined the team in September 2020 and has stuck with us through the unforeseen changes we've experienced during the pandemic. Perhaps dedication comes naturally to her, especially after spending 20 years as a military wife. It could also be the fact she loves our animal residents so much, she couldn't pick one to single out for this article.

Melissa is originally from Alamogordo, New Mexico. Her family includes her wonderful fiancé, as well as a 14-year-old chocolate lab, and a stray Siberian cat who wandered into her home three years ago and never left. It's safe to say she's always been an animal-lover.

"I never would have guessed I would have been so blessed to work with such majestic animals and equally wonderful, compassionate people," Melissa says.



We're proud to have Melissa on our team! Serving as Lodging Coordinator, she is dedicated to giving our overnight guests the ultimate experience at our little piece of "Africa in the Ozarks."

Experience "Africa in the Ozarks" by Lodging on the Wild Side!

Need a fun place to getaway to this summer? Experience *Africa in the Ozarks* and hear our lions carol throughout the night from the comfort of your exotic lodge! Turpentine Creek offers accommodations ranging from Glamping and RV sites to Zulu Safari Lodges, Suites, and even a Tree House Bungalow! TCWR lodging was inducted into the Trip Advisors Hall of Fame in 2019 and voted 2020 Traveler's Choice Award. All proceeds from lodging, add-on packages, and gift shop sales benefit our animal residents. So plan your visit and share your experience. Reserve your room today by visiting TCWR.org or by calling our lodging department at (479) 244-6099.



Zulu Safari Lodges

Help us to help them, donate today to be a positive change for big cats!

A New Breed of Animal Joins Our Roster!

Rambo



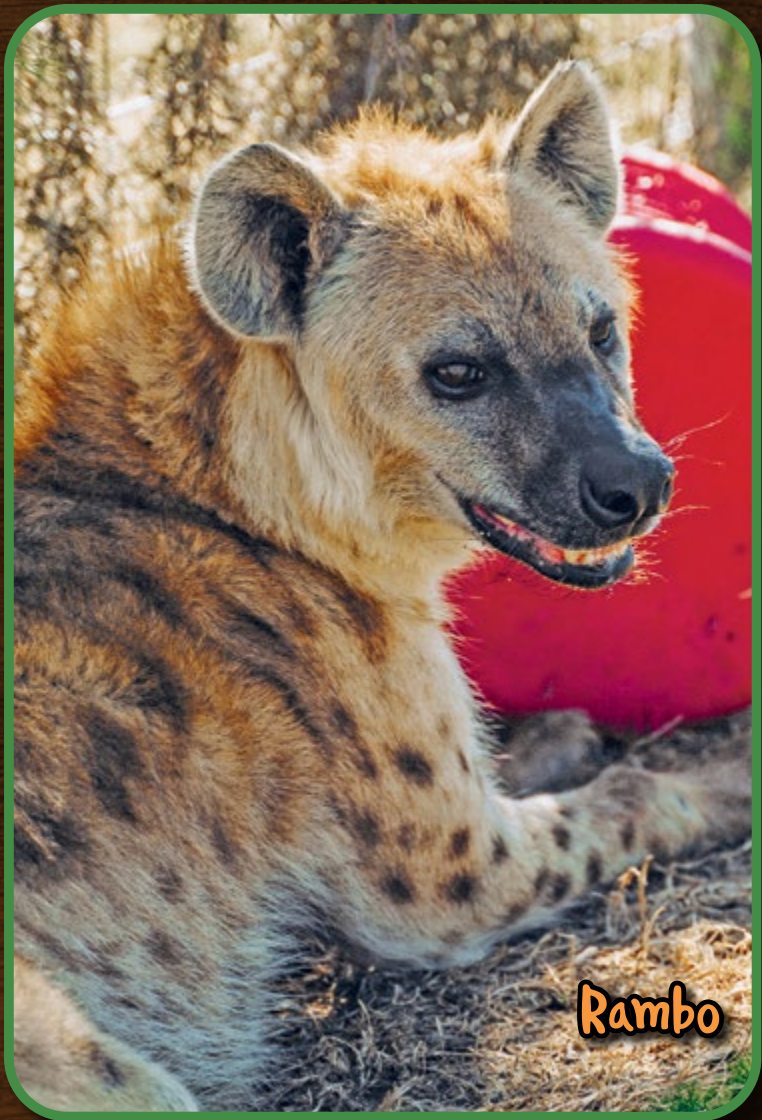
Rambo expresses delight in his new environment with recurrent bouts of the “Zoomies”- flashing across his habitat in an expression of pure joy!

For those of you who may not be aware, in late February we were able to add a new species of animal to Turpentine Creek’s rescue roster! This animal is frequently described as resembling a wild dog or dingo. Behaviorally, it is more closely related to a cat, and yet, it’s related to neither! Its closest genetic family is that of Herpestidae, which includes small animals such as mongooses and meerkats. This animal, however, is quite a bit larger and extremely powerful; It’s an African native and can eat as much as a third of its body weight in a single setting! Any ideas yet? It’s scientific name is *Crocuta crocuta*. One final hint - it appears to have an excellent sense of humor...

If you guessed a Hyena - you guessed right! Rambo, our newest animal resident is actually a *Spotted Hyena*. He only *appears* to have an excellent sense of humor, because the “laughter” that these creatures are so frequently known for is really not a display of amusement, but rather one of apprehension and/or social discomfort. That doesn’t mean Rambo may not actually have a sense of humor; time will tell!

From all outward appearances, Rambo is a healthy and robust animal that has been well-cared for, despite his previous need for a forever home. Coming from the Southern Arkansas town of Strong, Rambo had been privately owned by a family whose head of household was his primary caregiver. Sadly, that gentleman was recently involved in a fatal automobile accident. The remaining family members were unable to continue to provide the level of care that a large and powerful animal such as a Hyena requires. Consequently, they reached out to us to provide Rambo the “forever” home that they could not.

Rambo



Rambo

Rambo was immediately able to trust his caregivers, routinely greeting them with cheerful grunts and chirps.

Since this rehome was at the former owner's request, it was a smooth and straight forward operation to pick Rambo up and transport him to our facility; the complete opposite of the frequently drama-ridden exchanges that are common when animals are seized by authorities. Rambo arrived at our facility Monday evening and was positioned to enter his new habitat, complete with a heated den, by Tuesday morning.

At first, Rambo was apprehensive about his new surroundings and proved reluctant to leave his transportation trailer. Despite staff's promptings, even with food... Rambo still hesitated to make the leap from transport trailer to habitat. By mid-morning, animal care specialists had grown increasingly concerned for the animal's state of mind, and decided to fashion him a ramp to ease his transition into his new space. Gathering mounds of mulch, and building it up to a gradual slope from the habitat to Rambo's transport trailer, it was just what was needed to restore his comfort level. Within just a few short moments, Rambo was able to comfortably make his ascent into his habitat to explore his new range and heated den!

Only after an animal is comfortably settled and well adjusted do we consider a rescue complete. In Rambo's case, it was a fast and easy transition, once he got off the trailer. He was immediately able to trust his caregivers, routinely approaching the fence to greet them with cheerful grunts and chirps. Most recently, he expresses delight in his new surroundings with recurrent bouts of the "Zoomies"- flashing across his habitat in what appears to be an overt expression of joy!

Featured Animal: Chuff

Forever Wild at Heart

Male Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Born 3/16/07

Rescued 3/16/10

Chuff enjoys every part of his habitat, and loves all forms of enrichment. While he offers an occasional chuff to certain team members, we are constantly reminded that Chuff, like all of our residents, is a dangerous apex predator, and we respect him as such.

In December 2009, Chuff and his sisters Abigail and Athena came to live at TCWR. These tigers were rescued with four other big cats, a black bear, and a coatimundi, from a closed-down roadside zoo in Branson, MO. Chuff and his sisters almost didn't make it.

Shortly before that rescue call, the adolescent siblings had injured a young man at the facility, which allowed cub-petting and photo-op interaction. The trio had been handled by people since birth and the man had entered their enclosure daily and felt a bond with the young tigers. However, at only 2 years of age their instincts as opportunistic hunters had already matured.

On that day, the young man in their enclosure tripped and the appearance of vulnerable prey immediately triggered the trio's natural response. While the episode was tragic for the human, leaving him paralyzed, it normally would have also cost the lives of the three tigers. It was only at the young man's insistence that they were spared euthanization and allowed live out their lives at the Refuge. These kinds of events sadly happen only too often when people interact with big cats, expecting them to react as a domesticated species. It reinforces why a hands-off policy is critical to a true sanctuary.

At the Refuge, Chuff was apprehensive at first but grew into the totally-confident, wild tiger we know today. Despite being born into proximity with people, or maybe because of it, Chuff becomes aggressive when animal care staff are near. Just as wild tiger siblings claim territory as they age, mounting aggression between Chuff and Abigail necessitated a timeshare of their habitat. Chuff tolerates Athena, however, only asserting dominance vocally. While he offers an occasional chuff to certain team members, we are constantly reminded that Chuff, like all of our residents, is a dangerous apex predator, and we respect him as such.

Chuff enjoys every part of his habitat and loves all forms of enrichment. His absolute favorite thing is to wildly attack stacks of enrichment boxes, making him a huge favorite for Big Cat Callouts because of his joyful exuberance. By scheduling a Big Cat Callout for Chuff, you allow him to exercise his prey instincts in a harmless manner, while enhancing his quality of life. It is your support that allows animals like Chuff to live out their lives being cared for and respected as wild animals.

To set up monthly donations to ensure the future care of animals like Chuff, visit TCWR.org/donate; to schedule a Big Cat Callout, go to TCWR.org/big-cat-callouts/

Donor Spotlight: Why NWA Gave Early this Year!

Prior to Northwest Arkansas Gives on April 9th, we called several of our most generous supporters to help make this online event a success. With many people back at work vs being quarantined at home in front of a computer as they were last year, early donations truly helped make this online fundraiser a success! The event turned out to be a fun day, with live feeds and prizes for our participants, and all who donated helped us meet our \$35,000 goal! Afterwards, we asked some donors who'd given early why they felt it was important to do so.



When we asked NWA Gives donors why they gave early to TCWR, respondents told us they wanted to ensure we were ready for future rescues, ensure that we could care and feed existing residents despite revenue losses from the pandemic, and that events like NWA Gives are critical for the survival of Turpentine Creek.

Shelby & Jerry R. feel that there must be care and housing ready so that TCWR can continue rescuing captive wild animals from exploitation, and neither are inexpensive. "Matching fund drives have raised our awareness of others' fundraisers. Likewise, we feel that if we show our belief in TCWR by encouraging others through a 'double dip, someone else might be motivated to give and learn more."

Meanwhile, Marilyn and Henry L. stated that their donation was to help ensure the care and feeding of TCWR animal residents, as the pandemic deeply cut the revenue necessary for their care. "What inspired us to offer a match in the NWA fundraising event was the numerous requests we receive from animal charities advising donor matches of two and three times for every dollar that is donated. These matching opportunities motivated us to donate to those causes."

Our last respondent, Martha F., believes events like NWA Gives are critical for the survival of Turpentine Creek. "People like myself who live out of town and cannot visit the refuge often appreciate the opportunity to reach out financially to the Refuge. Receiving a phone call in advance of the fundraiser also allowed Turpentine Creek to know who would be giving and for how much. Some people may not follow TCWR on Facebook or Instagram, and may not be aware of upcoming fundraisers."

If you would like to help make our next online event a success, you can help encourage others to give by donating early! Just call **479-253-5841 ext. 711**.

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

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

In January 2021, a TCWR Advisory Committee was formed. Proudly, two intern alumni joined the committee to work on some new projects. The first project was to help grow our TCWR Alumni Association, keeping them involved with our mission as well as continuing their support. So far this year, our Alumni have raised just over \$5000 and attracted 84 new members!

In 1996, TCWR started an intern program which has grown immensely over the years. The internship is designated for college graduates who have obtained a degree in zoology, biology or any other animal related discipline. It is a 6-month program, but many of the interns over the years have reapplied and continued their dedication for 2, 3 & 4 internships. Participants gain an incredible experience and build their resumes, while working their “tails” off for a reputable, accredited sanctuary. Roughly 90% of TCWR internship graduates stay in the animal care field, working for reputable zoos, sanctuaries, or field studies, along with several who have become amazing veterinarians. (Including our Dr. Kellyn Sweeley!)



Interns work hard long hours at TCWR, becoming emotionally attached to both the mission and to the animals they care for, like Bam Bam, our resident Grizzly.



Participants work their “tails” off at our accredited sanctuary, gaining experience in all aspects of animal care, including participation in our behavioral training program.



During their tenure at the Refuge, each of our interns grow both professionally and personally.

During their time at the Refuge they work hard long hours, becoming emotionally attached to both the mission and, of course, to the animals they care deeply for. Many of them stay in contact with each other and have formed lifelong relationships. Numerous former interns also keep in touch with me, not only to help them succeed and gain awareness of possible job openings, but on a personal level. In fact, our 2016 Colorado project was made possible due to the great number of alumni who stepped up, traveling from miles away to help care for the 115 animals until they could all be safely moved to other sanctuaries.

During their tenure at the Refuge I enjoyed watching each of our interns grow both professionally and personally. I am very proud of our alumni, who continue to help animals in any capacity they can. Now, I'm so excited to offer Alumni Association members an important role they can play in the future of the Refuge and our mission. There are exciting things coming down the pike for TCWR Alumni in the coming months! Alumni can learn more on our Facebook Alumni Group page.

Visit TCWR! See lions, tigers and bears enjoying the habitats you gave them.

New Pools for Ligers & Tigers & Bears, Oh My!



This spring we launched a very special enrichment program to encourage natural behaviors among our water-loving residents! In-ground pools will replace the stock tanks we normally haul out each spring and put away in fall. They will lend each inhabitant a more natural-looking environment, while allowing all our animals easier entry and exit with graduated depth.

The first pool, being constructed for tiger brothers BB King and Mack, was made possible by a generous \$5,000 grant from Trees for Tigers Foundation, USA. We estimate this to be the average cost per pool, taking into consideration how each will be scaled to suit different species - from small cats, like servals, up to multiple tigers or bears! Of course, the pools will also be constructed in different shapes and sizes depending on the topography we have to work with. All labor will be performed by TCWR Maintenance and Animal Care staff to keep costs as low as possible.

Over the next five years we plan to install this very special form of enrichment in each of our 64 habits, thus enabling every space to accommodate a variety of future species - with your help. Whether you wish to fund an entire pool for your favorite animal, or give \$5 towards the project as a whole, you will be giving wild animals the freedom to live as they were born to, all summer long! For more information on making a major contribution to this project, call **479-253-5841 ext. 711.**



The first pool, being constructed for tiger brothers BB King and Mack, was made possible by a generous \$5,000 grant from Trees for Tigers Foundation, USA. We estimate this to be the average cost per pool, taking into consideration how each will be scaled to suit different species - from small cats, like servals, up to multiple tigers or bears!

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

What Your Donations Do



Hurricane & Avalanche



Luna & Remington



Naula had a wonderful Easter



We're proud to wear a mask to keep our animal residents safe!



Harley



Aurora & Joey



Daniel & Chloe



Louisa & Marissa

Thank You!



Bobby



Thunder B



Selbit



Savanna has so many toys, but sticks are her favorite!

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

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. 

Sponsor A Pool: \$5000 each. X _____ pools = \$ _____

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
- \$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!

Wild About Wildlife

Membership Tier 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, which include valuable discounts on gift shop inventory and lodging!

The Hilda Jackson Society \$10,000+*

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Hilda Jackson Society decal
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive HJS Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 50% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- Senior Staff Liaison

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 8x10 photo of favorite animal
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- The Hilda Jackson Society Travel Mug

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

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Bam Bam Benefactor's Fellowship Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Bam Bam Benefactor's decal
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive BBB Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 20% off of lodging
- 20% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 5x7 photograph of Bam Bam
- Bam Bam Travel Mug

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

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Kenny Fellowship decal
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off of Gift Shop purchases.
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website
- Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive KF Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 30% off of lodging
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report
- A Senior Staff Liaison

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 8x10 photograph of Kenny
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Kenny Travel Mug

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

Exclusive Yearly Membership Perks and Privileges

- The Friends of India Membership Card
- Free Year-round entry for cardholder & 4 guests
- TCWR Yearly Calendar
- The Friends of India decal
- Trolley Tickets.
- 15% off of Gift Shop purchases
- Annual subscription to the Big Cat Chronicles
- Recognition on our website Exclusive member e-mails
- Exclusive FOI Members-only Facebook group
- Member events
- 10% off of lodging
- 10% off on specialty tours for cardholder and up to 4 guests
- Recognition and access to the Annual Report

Signup Gifts:

- Framed 5x7 photograph of India.

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

**Limitations on lodging dates may apply.

Feelin' Like Big Shots:

An Update on COVID-19 Restrictions & How to Plan Your TCWR Summer Tour

In April, we took steps towards “returning to normal.” Our team received their doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. Big cats are susceptible to the virus; several zoos and sanctuaries faced outbreaks among their feline populations. As a hands-off facility, we were already minimizing risks, but we’ve employed extra precautions, including strict sanitation, masks, and distancing protocols to keep our vulnerable big cats safe and healthy.

After the governor lifted state mask mandates, we continued requiring visitors to mask and social distance. We’re grateful for the respect everyone has shown our animal residents, and at the time of this writing, none have contracted the virus. By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, it’s hard to say what life will look like at the Refuge. Masks may no longer be required, especially now that our team is vaccinated. A few things will always hold true, though, and we ask you keep them in mind for your visit:

- Many animals like to hang out in the shade during the hottest parts of the day. Monitor temperatures and book an early tour, at 9 AM or 10 AM, to see the most activity.
- Reserving your tours (tcwr.org/visit) and lodging stay (tcwr.org/stay-with-us/view-all) ahead of time is highly encouraged since we’re entering our busy season.
- Arrive 25 minutes BEFORE your scheduled tour time, in order to get checked in. Tours leave promptly on the hour.
- Hydrate, slather on some sunscreen, and maybe wear a hat to protect yourself from the Arkansas sun. All tours are conducted outside, and take it from us: it’s hot out there!



In April, we took steps towards “returning to normal.” Our team received their doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. We are proud to protect our animal residents and look forward to giving you the experience you are accustomed to.

Leaving a Legacy of Compassion

By including TCWR in your will or trust you can leave a portion of your estate to the Refuge, ensuring the animals we rescue are cared for as they live out their lives in peace long into the future. Speak with your attorney today to set up your legacy of compassion for these beautiful animals.

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
EIN #: 71-0721742

239 Turpentine Creek Lane,
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
479-253-5841

Tanya Smith, President
Scott Smith, Vice President
Amanda Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

Learn more at
TCWR.org/legacy-giving



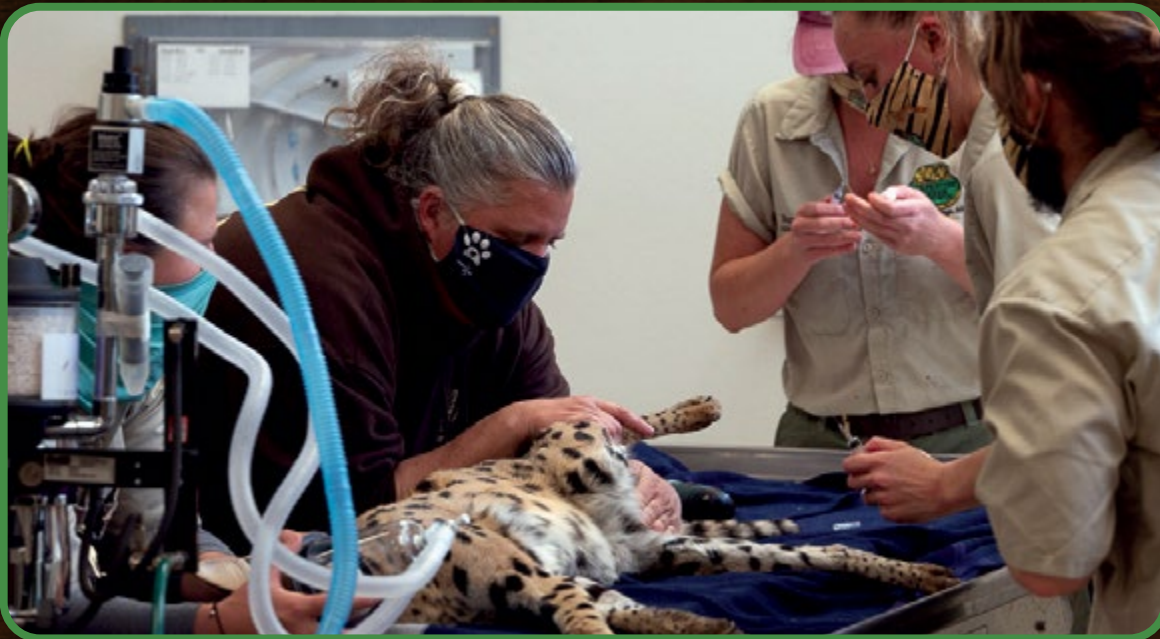
Welcoming New African Serval Residents Ce'Ce and JJ

Two of our newest residents, African Servals Ce'Ce ["SAY-SAY"] and JJ, are adjusting nicely to their new forever home at TCWR. We would like to thank you for your continued support for these two. Due to their history, they will need several veterinary visits to ensure long, happy lives with us.

Ce'Ce and JJ were relinquished in February by their owner, who was unable to bring them along as she moved to a new home. We encountered a hurdle finding a veterinarian to examine them in Texas in order to secure the paperwork to quickly transport the siblings to Arkansas. But our supporters answered our call for help on social media with several references, allowing us to get on the road!

According to their previous owner, the pair were purchased as kittens from a breeder in Kentucky. Though Ce'Ce and JJ originally enjoyed a small outdoor play area, the pair lost their "outside privileges" a few months ago after JJ escaped and spent three days on the run. It's a wonder she survived, given the fact she was declawed.

After JJ's escape, the servals' owner said the feline was "never the same." She attempted more escapes and became stand-offish with her owner. From then on, JJ and Ce'Ce were kept inside the home. We found evidence of what they were up to at home during their veterinary exam at TCWR.



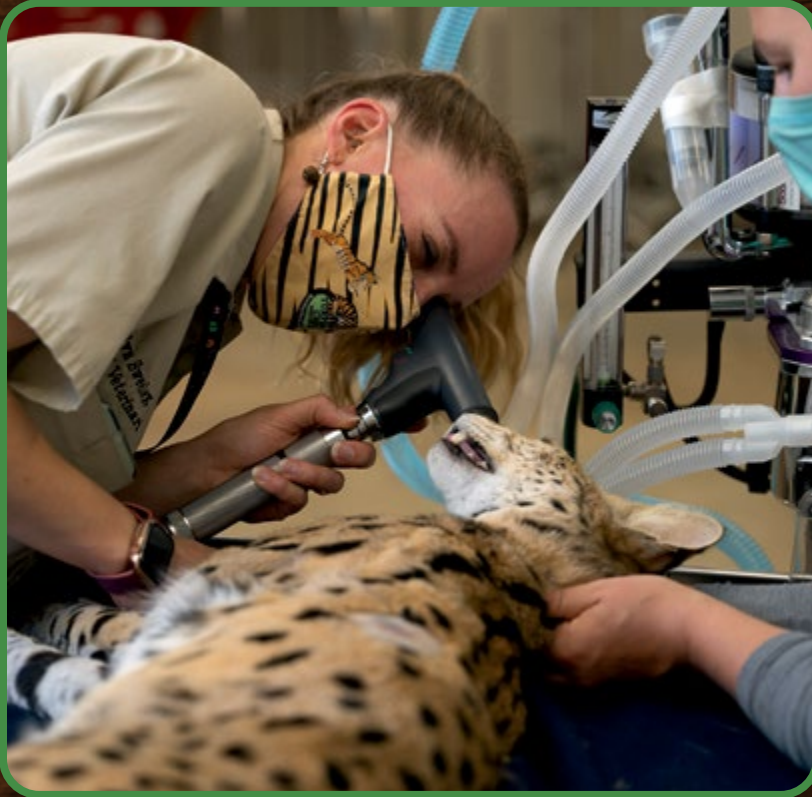
Initial exams show both to be in fairly good health, aside from the degenerative bone disease we commonly see when kits or cubs are prematurely separated from nursing mothers.

Ce'Ce had a history of intestinal blockages. This was an extra cause for concern because, when examining their stool, we found remnants of "potty pads," dryer sheets, and even a blue towel. In fact, there was more foreign material than actual feces in their digestive tracts!

Because of this, TCWR Staff Veterinarian Dr. Kellyn implemented a transitional dietary plan for the two. They were slowly introduced to assorted raw meats in order to avoid any digestive disturbances. Later, they began a regime of vitamin and mineral supplements, which is important for the health of all exotic cats who cannot be released into the wild.

Other initial exams showed the pair to be in fair health, though there was evidence of degenerative bone disease common in infants are prematurely separated from nursing mothers. Their declawing likely exacerbated the matter.

Ce'Ce underwent a second exam a few weeks after his first. Our team wanted to ensure the health of his digestive tract and to remove a shock collar, which had been placed on him by his previous owner. Though it was no longer functioning, we wanted to remove it before the device caused harm or pain to his neck. We had hoped to sedate him and take it off sooner, ideally when Ce'Ce was feeling more comfortable and trusting of his caregivers. Because each animal adapts in their own time, and Ce'Ce was taking a bit longer than expected, we finally made the decision to move ahead with the procedure.



Ce'Ce's incisors, canines, and first bottom premolars appeared healthy and unremarkable during his dental exam.

Because both animals remain wary of humans, even after 12 weeks at TCWR, we will wait until they have been given sufficient time to adjust to their new surroundings before performing more in-depth medical exams. Both animals are progressing slowly but steadily toward that goal, with JJ, the female, taking the lead.

Initially neither were observed venturing out of their night-house except under full cover of darkness. In recent days however, JJ has graced visitors with her appearance more and more, albeit in brief increments. In time, we expect to see her less adventurous litter mate follow her lead.

One thing that sets these two beautiful cats apart from their reserve mates is their lighter colored coats. This genetic distinction is a welcome addition to our existing serval population. We at TCWR couldn't be more pleased to have them as a part of our forever family and we appreciate any support you can give them in order to make this next chapter of their lives the best one yet.

Sponsor a Pool Today!

This spring we launched a very special enrichment program to encourage natural behaviors among our water-loving residents! With your help over the next 5 years, we will replace summertime stock tanks with in-ground pools in each of our 64 habitats. This will create a more natural-looking space, while allowing easier entry and exit with graduated depth.

Your \$5,000 sponsorship will give both present and future inhabitants of the habitat the freedom to live as nature intended, all summer long! For more information on making a major contribution to this project, call **479-372-5841 ext. 711**.



Build a stronger foundation for big cats by setting up a monthly recurring donation.

Get to Know Rambo: Hyena Facts

*Getting to know Rambo has been interesting!
We've brushed up on our hyena facts and
want to share a few with you.*

Rambo

Hyenans are strange animals. They are a large species that can weigh anywhere from 77 to 170 pounds, growing to 60 inches in length and up to 33 inches in height. While many people believe that hyenas are related to dogs, they are actually more related to the cat family; the Mongoose and the Meerkat are their closest relatives.

In captivity hyenas can live 30 to 40 years depending on living conditions and space, and up to 20 years in the wild. Wild hyenas are very social, living in clans that contain up to 80 individuals. In the clans, females rule over the males, with both sexes growing more aggressive as they age. When the females become mothers, they become the best mothers in the animal kingdom, investing more time and energy per cub than any other terrestrial carnivore!

All hyenas, both wild and captive, have some odd and interesting features and habits. Did you know that these carnivores eat anything and everything? While they have a problem digesting hair, horns, and hooves, they manage to regurgitate those in pellet form! Hyenas also have excellent nighttime vision and hearing. Their laugh can be heard up to 3 miles away, (much like our lions, whose vocalizations can be heard up to 5 miles away) and this “laugh” can be used to alert the clan about food and intruders. Last but not least, is their huge heart, which is twice as large as all other mammals close to their size!

These distinctive, social carnivores are also extremely intelligent! In different experiments, spotted Hyenas outperformed even chimpanzees when it came to collective or group problem solving, showing that hyena intelligence may even exceed some of the great apes in certain aspects. Did you know that they can also count?! Studies have shown that spotted hyenas can determine the number of other hyenas in a rival clan and decide their best course of action. Similarly, males looking to join a new clan will always join the clan with the least number of other males after doing a quick census.

Caring for Bears!

That's who resides in the most remote corner habitats of Rescue Ridge! Not just two or three, but five of these magnificent and oftentimes rambunctious, creatures. One in particular comes to the forefront of our minds when it comes to big, bold, larger-than-life personalities... that's Huggy. The largest of the five at Rescue Ridge, and even larger still than our well-known Grizzly, Bam Bam, who resides near the entrance of our sanctuary. While Griz Bam-Bam tips the scales in the upper six hundreds, it's estimated that Huggy on the other hand, comes in at a whopping eight-hundred-plus pounds!

It's our staff's estimate that approximately six hundred and fifty of those pounds are pure personality; with about two hundred pounds being attributed to playfulness, ninety-five pounds to mischief, about five pounds food-related impatience, and three hundred and fifty pounds of aspiring Hollywood Actor / Comedian. The remaining one hundred and sixty pounds would of course, have to be - well, bear. Kamchatka Brown to be exact; more commonly known as Russian Brown. Also sometimes referred to as Eastern Brown bears, they are believed to be relatives of the Kodiak and are the largest bear in Eurasia, routinely growing to a full 1500 pounds!



Huggy loves to play and frolic in his pool!



Sharing Huggy's habitat are Holli and Lolli, two black bears rescued at the same time and from the same facility as Huggy, who are playful and adventurous companions for him.



Two additional black bears rescued in 2016, siblings Koda and Xena (above), reside in an adjacent habitat and have grown closer to the behavioral norm of bears in the wild.

This great big bundle of personality can be routinely witnessed performing for anyone willing to so much as cast him a side-ways glance. Frequently caught leaning back on his fence with one leg propped up, striking an amazingly human-like pose (did we forget to mention his sense of humor?) ...and waving at staff members as they walk by. Huggy twirls, somersaults, and contorts; anything to elicit a chuckle or a grin. Once he's gained his caregivers' attention close to feeding time, he's quick to preemptively shove the lid off his meal compartment, and straight at them - in order to expedite delivery of his next tasty morsel! He also loves to play and frolic in his pond, and while blissfully indulging, our staff affectionately describes him as turning into a "Giant Cuddle Puddle."

Although Huggy is not the only bear residing at Rescue Ridge, he is the most fun to write about! But Huggy's neighbors are no less special or interesting, just perhaps a little closer to the behavioral norm of bears in the wild. Sharing Huggy's habitat are Holli and Lolli, two black bears rescued at the same time and from the same facility as Huggy, who are both playful and adventurous. Two additional black bears, siblings Koda and Xena, (also from that rescue) reside in an adjacent habitat. Koda, is as cautious as she is dainty in stature, but has demonstrated an enthusiastic appetite for sweets! Items that are high on her list of favorites include honey, fig newtons, assorted fruits, and marshmallows, just to name a few. Xena on the other hand, is fond of exuberant play and can make a toy out of just about anything, even a downed tree!

We frequently wonder if perhaps Koda and Xena's rather banal behavior - albeit fairly indicative of bears in the wild, isn't a veiled attempt to undo damage done to their (species) reputation by "THAT GUY..." in the habitat next door!

Do you have treats for our bears? We accept in-kind donations!

Not So Solitary: The Special Relationship Between Two Serval



Bowden

Bowden has been a resident of the Refuge since November of 2001, and was introduced to Giselle in 2016.

In February of this year, we moved 20-year-old Bowden to our Jackson Memorial Hospital to monitor his upper respiratory system.

Bowden and Giselle are two servals that have shared a habitat since the fall of 2016. Bowden has been a resident of the Refuge since November of 2001, and when Giselle arrived in 2016, we looked forward to a day when we could introduce the two in hopes they would be companions for one another. In the wild, servals are solitary, but in captivity, they can enjoy companionship. Social companionship and shared housing encourage healthy interactions, which can reduce stress and anxiety, as many of us learned personally during the year of the pandemic. In the fall of 2016, the introduction was deemed successful. Over time, the two have become quite close and remained close even when moved to the more extensive serval habitat that they share with Sammy, Enzo, Tigger, and Whistler in the fall of 2019.





Giselle

Since arriving in 2016, Giselle has become quite close and remained close to Bowden, even when moved to the more extensive serval habitat that they share with Sammy, Enzo, Tigger, and Whistler in the fall of 2019.

In February of this year, we moved Bowden to our Jackson Memorial Hospital to monitor his upper respiratory system and keep him on observation. Bowden just turned 20 in April, and as one of our older residents, we wanted to be sure he was fully recovered before moving him back to the habitat. His stay was lengthened to a whole month while he completed an extended antibiotic regimen. That was a long separation for Giselle! As is typical with cat personalities, she was a little cool with him when he returned, but we found them snuggling together within hours. Thanks to our supporters, our animal residents can access the Jackson Memorial Hospital to get the best care possible, ensuring their health and comfort. Bowden seemed to enjoy his vacation and the extra attention but is happy to be back with Giselle.

Please give what you can - a monthly \$5 gift helps animals in need!

The Reintroduction of Chief & Mauri

Everyone Needs A BFF!



Despite recovering nicely from his past health challenges, Chief is still ten years ahead of Mauri.



Mauri is a very energetic and sometimes mischievous young lady.

Best Friends Forever... That may just be what Chief and Mauri are meant to be. Despite their shared history, and our big plans for a “glorious” reunion, things didn’t go quite as anticipated. However, it’s never about what we want for the animals, but about what they want that matters! Just like people, animals have their own personalities, quirks, and preferences that have absolutely nothing to do with what we think they would enjoy. Such introductions or reintroductions are animal-specific and differ according to individual situations, and the animals involved. In the case of these two, they may have simply outgrown their relationship as partnered animals, as time seems to have exacerbated the age difference between them. If you recall, Chief has had significant health issues and despite recovering nicely, he is still ten years ahead of Mauri, who is a very energetic and sometimes mischievous young lady.

During the course of their planned reintroduction, Mauri further demonstrated what might have been either a territorial or dominant behavior toward her former partner, attempting to pin him down. This may have been an instinctual response to his increased vulnerability during his recuperation, or it may have simply been an act of play aggression.

Either way, Chief didn’t seem to enjoy or even welcome the exchange. Given that both were declawed by their previous owners, it was certainly less worrisome than it would have been had either or both had claws intact.

Change the life of a big cat: join our mission today!



Chief has had significant health issues, including muscle atrophy and kidney problems. Thanks to the specialized care he has received by our trained professionals, he is now thriving in his new home.

We were excited to reunite Chief and Mauri, but the pair had other plans. Mauri and Chief will remain close but separate for the foreseeable future.



Chief

Just like people, animals have their own personalities, quirks, and preferences. Chief has decided he prefers a distant relationship from rambunctious Mauri.



Mauri

However, we still want to respect the desires and comfort level of our animals, every bit as much as their safety! Consequently, we are no longer anticipating the two sharing habitat space more intimately than they currently are, which allows for them to alternately swap green space for night enclosure, on a daily basis, while interacting through their innermost fence. By maintaining this current living arrangement that provides individual space for each, in addition to face-to-face interaction, we avoid severing the emotional bond that clearly exists between the two. The animals also avoid the undo trauma and anxiety that would most likely result from that separation.

As the old saying goes: "A friend in need, is a friend indeed." When it comes to these two, they certainly have shared a great time of need. Thanks to you, our members and customers, and your generous donations and loving support, the time of need for these two, is forever over! And for the first time, perhaps ever - it's all about them!

Schedule your next trip to the Refuge to see these beautiful animals in person!



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