

Big Cat Chronicles

Winter 2019



Frankie

Species: Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Sex: Male

DOB: January 17, 2015

Arrival Date: January, 2019



Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Hello friends! Welcome to the winter edition of your Big Cat Chronicles. Thank you for your time and enthusiasm sharing and “liking” our social media posts! Thank you for the funds you’ve donated to our mission, for staying in our lodging, and for making purchases online and in our gift shops! Our team must constantly diversify how we raise funds to continue the expansion and improvement of our facility and programming, while keeping the animals and humans here safe and comfortable in their environments.

The Refuge is growing at a rapid rate, as is Northwest Arkansas. If you have been following through our social media channels, you know how busy we are taking care of the TCWR residents and visitors. Over the past year we have accomplished so much, because of your support:

- Rescued six tigers from Oklahoma.
- Opened a Communications office at the Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary’s in Rogers.
- Expanded our education staff to three plus 1 education intern.
- Graduated 30 animal care and 2 education interns
- Began Capital Campaign preparations for our planned Visitor Education Center.
- Remodeled some lodging units to improve your visitor experience.
- Opened a multi-introduction habitat now housing 5 African Servals and 1 Savannah Cat.
- Rescued two bobcats confined as pets from a flooded home in Arkansas.
- Rescued an African Serval previously set free with no front claws in a NM State Park.
- Cared for over 90 big cats and bears daily.
- Processed meat at our commissary, 6,000 to 10,000 pounds at a time.
- Added heated buildings and supplied heated dens to all of our African animals (per GFAS regulations).
- Rebuilt the animals’ benches in almost all habitats.
- Re-ran electric wiring in the outdoor stage area.
- Added seven new water/electrical posts for guests and concessions in our event field.
- Replaced the roofs on the Zulu Safari Lodges and office building due to wind damage.
- We’re adding a new well to meet the needs of our animals and humans. This project is critical to provide water to clean habitats and fill pools, for lodging, offices, bathrooms, animal commissary, concessions, staff/intern housing, and the gift shop for the coming decades.

These are just some of the projects that must take place to keep the Refuge alive. Per Amanda, our treasurer, we rely on final-quarter donations for **nearly half** of our annual budget. Thankfully, due to loyal donors like you, we have been fully funded in years past. But I **urge you not to wait**, can we count on you to make your donation today?

Please reach as deep as you can and help us finish off 2019 with a bang! We sincerely appreciate your continued confidence in our team. Come visit as soon as you can, and let us show you what your dollars are accomplishing “on the ground!”

Until next time...
Tanya Smith, President/Founder



Giselle



Robbie

What Your Donations Do:



Whitney



Bam Bam

Ever wonder what your general donations accomplish “on the ground” at the Refuge? Your dollars are the life’s blood of TCWR! Along with the daily hard work of our Animal Care Staff, Development Team, Education Team, Maintenance staff, Hospitality Team, and interns, your gifts are what make the lifetime care and housing of an average of 100 animals per year possible.

Turpentine Creek does not receive any government funding; it is solely due to private donations that we are able to continue our mission. We are also proud to say that 100% of your donations go towards animal care thanks to gift shop, admission, programming, and lodging sales covering all other expenses!

Every day, your dollars give our animal residents:

- Individually prepared diets to suit a myriad of health conditions
- Regular wellness exams along with medical & dental care from our on-staff veterinarian
- Medications & supplements tailored to each animal’s needs
- Enrichment to stimulate natural behaviors & fitness
- Ongoing habitat improvements and construction
- Daily maintained grounds, clean water, and comfortable night houses

In addition, your general donations allow us to:

- Continue to expand our educational outreach & advocacy programs
- Prepare for future rescues
- Network with other true sanctuaries through the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) and the Global Federation of Animal Societies (GFAS) to manage large-scale rescues, spread public awareness and improve conditions of captive animals while working together to ensure their future in the wild.

Thank you for your belief in our mission and your trust in our team. **Without each and every one of you, none of this would be possible!**

You Stepped Up To Stop Exploitation



This past September, it was brought to the attention of the Turpentine Creek team that the Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair was hosting a traveling tiger act. Nerger's Splendid Tigers has a recent history of USDA violations and a history of similar violations in 2017.

Their tigers spend eight to nine months living in 4 foot high by 8 foot square cages, only being allowed out into the performance ring for two to three 30 minute shows and a 20 minute exercise time in the mornings, according to the USDA reports.

The roughly 820 square foot performance cage is made up of 17 flimsy panels that are 11 feet high, each with a 1 foot decorative arch including three panels which have an additional set of 18 inch prongs bent inwards to act as a jump guard. The tigers spend most of the show sitting on 3-5 foot tall platforms that are sitting against this low fence.

Tigers are known to vertically jump 12 feet in the air. This is why the state of Arkansas requires all facilities that house tigers to have a 12ft tall fence with a 3ft inward bent jump guard, a 16ft tall fence, or a roofed habitat.

Our team was appalled that this act would be allowed to take place in our own "backyard." Turpentine Creek quickly shared this information through our social networks and our supporters immediately rallied.

Emails, phone calls, letters, and numerous posts were sent to the individuals who ran the fair. A supporter, A. Anderson, even coordinated a peaceful protest outside of the gates of the fair. In addition to this publicly scheduled protest, reportedly many Ft. Smith locals conducted peaceful protests throughout the entire week of the fair.

Public awareness that traveling exotic animal shows are abusive and detrimental to the health of the performing animals is quickly spreading. It is our hope that these traveling acts will soon be completely shunned by the public, and the animals suffering within them will be relinquished to true sanctuaries to live out the rest of their lives in peace and comfort. Please continue to advocate for the protection of big cats! Your donations and support will help put an end to this abuse and offer forever homes for the survivors. Donate to a true sanctuary today at [TCWR.org/donate](https://www.tigersatcwr.org/donate)



Starting 2020 Off Right

2020 Vision: Your Focus. Their Future!

In 2020, we are setting a goal to recruit over 10,000 new supporters and let them know about Turpentine Creek. Creating awareness is vital to the future of big cats across the world. **Join us as we launch into our new 2020 campaign "2020 Vision: Your Focus. Their Future!"**

This is our slogan for the new year! **Your Focus:** A way that all of you can focus your talents/interests/money/creativity to help protect **Their Future:** ending the big cat trade, providing a safe forever home, passing new laws to stop hands-on interaction, stopping the abuse, and so much more. There are many ways for you to show your **focus** and get involved in our mission to help these amazing animals:

- Consider the ease of **automatic monthly donations** – even \$10 can add up quickly and help the animals!
- Watch our website for our new **"Double Your Donations,"** which will help you find out if your work matches any donations you make to Turpentine! Corporate match opportunities to be unveiled soon!
- Help us distribute **TCWR educational brochures** in your community!
- **Become a peer-to-peer advocate** – spread your knowledge of our mission and organization with a friend or family member and help us gain new supporters!
- **Visit our Facebook page, watch our live feed, and share your favorite posts!**
- Contact Sandy Ames at sandy@tcwr.org to take part in our **testimonial program** – a ten-minute interview to share your story as a donor and tell others why supporting TCWR is important to you, how you rate our work for the animals, and our transparency.
- Sign up for **AmazonSmile** (Turpentine Creek Foundation Inc.) or **Ebay Nonprofit**. These shop to donate programs automatically donate when you shop online.
- **Submit reviews for us** on Facebook, Tripadvisor, Guidestar.org, and Great nonprofits.org

We're starting our "2020 Vision: Your Focus. Their Future!" early with our end of year campaign. In November, make sure to read the **National Geographic** article on the domestic big cat crisis **featuring Turpentine Creek as an example of a true sanctuary!** Some other things you can start doing this year to help us prepare for 2020 are:

- Kick off the Giving Season on **December 3rd** by making sure to visit our Facebook page to support TCWR on **GIVING TUESDAY!**
- Hold a fundraiser at home - We are happy to help you with ideas and supply information to share.
- Volunteerism – contact carley@tcwr.org or visit our webpage **TCWR.org/volunteer** to learn more about:
 1. Volunteer Incentive Program
 2. Volunteering from home
 3. Parade float ride-along
 4. Saturday projects
 5. Group volunteering with friends and family
 6. Weekly or bi-monthly flower & enrichment garden maintenance
 7. Docent Program
- **Advocacy** – Learn more on [tcwr.org/advocacy](https://www.tcwr.org/advocacy)
- **And most importantly, DONATIONS – Without your financial support, Turpentine Creek would not exist.** Every dollar is critical and truly does make a difference, so never feel your donation is too small to matter – it DOES. If every person who "likes" us on social media or reads our newsletter would change from just following our progress to donating just \$10 a month, we could do so much more for these incredible, majestic animals who depend on us for their very future.

Remember, their future starts with you. Support their future by joining us in our efforts – there are many places for you on our team, from volunteering to fundraising to advocacy. We can save lives together!

From all of us at TCWR, we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season, and hope you **JOIN US IN OUR VISION FOR 2020!**

2020 VISION



YOUR FOCUS. THEIR FUTURE.



Spyke

Spyke is locked on his target and ready to POUNCE! We are asking our supporters to focus, like Spyke is, on helping Turpentine Creek securing their future in 2020.

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

It's hard to believe Ringo was rescued 16 years ago. At the time he was a 4.5-month-old rambunctious tiger cub. He'd been recently given to his owners, who'd thought they were pet-sitting for his previous owner, but it turned into a case of abandonment. Interestingly, days after seeing the tiger attack on Las Vegas magician Roy Horn, Ringo's new owners realized they should not keep a tiger as a pet. They brought Ringo to the Refuge on October 7, 2003.

Ringo had been four-paw declawed, and we were told he had been used for "cub petting" in Springfield, MO. All declawed big cats eventually develop osteoarthritis in their limbs due to how the procedure disables the normal function and movement of the paw. In Ringo's current condition, radiographs have revealed osteoarthritis in both his hind limbs and his spine.

In July, Ringo was sedated for a wellness exam including radiographs, microchip, and yearly vaccines, along with his relocation to Rescue Ridge. Rescue Ridge has developed into our "retirement" habitats for the older arthritic animals. With age-developing conditions, we have seen many improvements in the older cats after their transition from the hillside habitats to the flat ground habitats that were constructed at Rescue Ridge.

Ringo has been on pain management for a few years, along with his daily regime of glucosamine and chondroitin. Since his move to Rescue Ridge he has become a transformed tiger! He has been running and frolicking throughout his new habitat; the flat ground seems to have rejuvenated him. Ringo has become young-at-heart again, jumping in and out of his pool, slamming a ball or two all around the enclosure, and destroying almost every toy he has been given. The TCWR team has been in awe watching the "new" Ringo.

So, remember when you come to visit, you might not always see your favorite cat on the guided habitat tour. Know if that animal has been moved to Rescue Ridge, it is for their benefit and best interest. You can sign up for a specialty tour on our website: Both the 'Carnivore Caravan' and 'Coffee with the Curator' tours take you behind the scenes to see Rescue Ridge, the massive bear enclosures, the commissary, and our beautiful vet hospital. Plan your tour today for your next visit at TCWR.org.



Ringo

A reinvigorated Ringo frolicks in his new habitat at Rescue Ridge.



Ringo enjoys investigating, before joyfully destroying his birthday enrichment!

Tigers@TCWR.org 479-253-5841 TCWR.org

Featured Animal - Frankie

Species: Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Sex: Male

DOB: January 17, 2015

Arrival Date: January 17, 2019



Taking a time out from rough play with his bigger brothers.



Considering how to bend his brothers to his will.



The moment before ambush!



Frankie, contemplating the wonders of Refuge life.

Though he is little, he is fierce! Frankie is the smallest white tiger in the habitat he shares with Robbie and Tommie, but that doesn't stop him from bossing them around like it's his job! Frankie is known to snatch toys and will even stoop to pushing one of his "brothers" off the habitat bench so he can claim their spot as his own. This spunky little tiger's fiery attitude likely got him through many difficult times; not only was he once used for cub-petting, he also lost the end of his tail when another animal bit it off before his rescue.

Frankie was one of six tigers rescued from Oklahoma last January when a man who received them from a member of the breeding/cub petting industry contacted TCWR to say he was being forced to close his facility. All of the tigers from that rescue struggled with health concerns, including obesity. One of the tigers, Diesel, eventually died from a pre-existing condition.

When not dictating their every move, Frankie enjoys teaming up with Robbie and Tommie in wild exploits that have resulted in the untimely demise of many Boomer Toys. This dock-tailed dictator does have a softer side: He can sometimes be found lounging amid the trees in his habitat, possibly contemplating the wonders of Refuge life in quiet reverie. Most likely, he's planning how to bend his brothers to his will.

Since this is Frankie's first fall at the Refuge, we are excited to see how he will react to the many forms of enrichment the season has to offer, from pumpkins and leaves, to yummy spices!

Tigers@TCWR.org 479-253-5841 TCWR.org

Far from Home: Hunter's Story

In October we welcomed Hunter the serval into the TCWR family. Hunter was bred in captivity in Arkansas, and after spending time on the lam in New Mexico, has made his way back. His story serves as an excellent reminder as to why we must educate people on exotic feline ownership laws and advocate for stricter bills to protect these animals.

Hunter's story began in Arkansas where his previous owner purchased him and a female serval from a notorious breeder. The man brought his two newly purchased "pets" back to New Mexico. In 2016 the pair escaped; while Hunter was recaptured after a full month of living in the wild, the female was never found. Wildlife officials believe she did not survive the adventure.

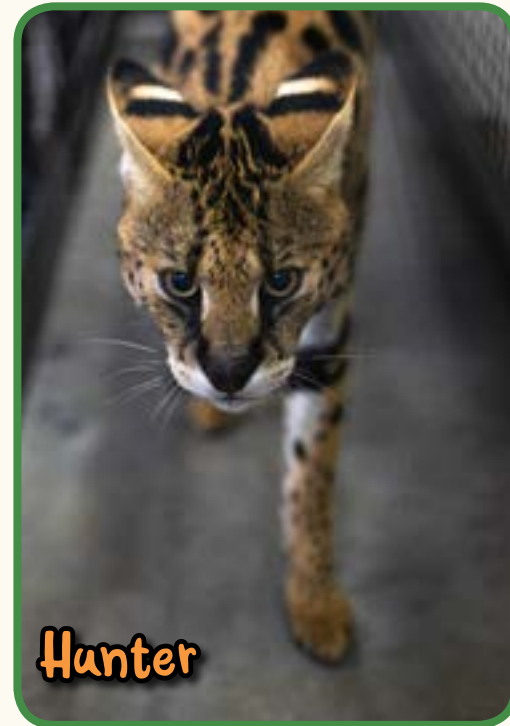
Because it is illegal to own a serval in New Mexico, Hunter's former owner was told he and the animal had to leave the state if he wanted to keep him. The man agreed to relocate with Hunter instead of finding him a new home.

In August 2019, reports of a serval roaming Santa Fe, NM, began circulating. This serval was captured and brought to the ABQ Biopark on September 5th. After scanning the feline's microchip, his identity was discovered: it was Hunter, who allegedly had left the state in 2016! Game and Fish quickly contacted Hunter's previous owner, who was still residing in New Mexico. The man claimed that he did attempt to relocate with Hunter, but Hunter slipped his collar on his way to the car and had been gone since.

Given the state of the serval's health, officials were hard-pressed to believe that Hunter had been fending for himself for three entire years. Aside from being slightly thin and front-paw declawed, Hunter was healthy and alert when brought to the ABQ Biopark. The zoo reported he was a calm, confident cat who was very food motivated and loved behavioral training. This gave us hope that his transition into life at the Refuge would go smoothly.

On October 9th, Hunter arrived at TCWR after making the long trip from Albuquerque, NM, to Amarillo, TX, then on to Eureka Springs, AR! He remains a "foodie" and a lover of all enrichment that engage his senses. We're incredibly happy that Hunter, who is now five years old, didn't meet the same fate his sister likely did. Sadly, there are countless other animals facing similar problems.

Whether they follow their natural instincts and set out on their own despite having no true survival skills, or are turned out and abandoned by their owner, servals, cougars, bobcats and even tigers find themselves in situations like Hunter did. Only you can change their fate. Please remember that even though they are small, animals like servals are not meant to be pets. Do not support places that breed them! You can also educate yourself and others on current exotic animal state laws at tcwr.org/current-big-cat-laws/ and advocate to change them on behalf of public safety and the well-being of the animals at tcwr.org/advocacy/action-bcpsa/.



Hunter



TCWR team members met a New Mexico Game and Fish wildlife officer in Amarillo, Texas to pick up Hunter.



Support your favorite big cats by holiday shopping with Amazon Smile! Your holiday shopping list could feed an animal at TCWR when you register and shop on smile.amazon.com. Just select **Turpentine Creek (Turpentine Creek Foundation Inc.)** as your charity on Amazon Smile then continue shopping just like you normally would! .5% of your purchase will be donated by Amazon to TCWR once you check out! Give the gift of giving this holiday season.

You Are Helping Us End 2019 on the Right Paw



As 2019 draws to a close, we have been left thinking about what next year, the dawn of a **new decade**, will bring for the future of big cats.

TCWR will be focusing on advocating to protect big cats, educating others about how their choices are impacting exotic felines both in captivity and in the wild, growing in a way that will allow us to help even more animals, and of course, maintaining the health and well-being of our current animal residents.

Leading up to 2020, we will be posing the question: how can your focus secure their (big cats') future? In other words, what can you do to support a healthier tomorrow for big cats, especially in a world where their struggles are often overlooked or brushed aside?

Our end-of-year campaign will be centered on our new 2020 Vision: Your Focus, Their Future. We are excited to zero in on the specific issues that are promoting the abuse of big cats in captivity and the decimation of their wild populations while taking affirmative action to erase those problems. We need you to join us in finding your focus (volunteering, advocating, donating) and securing their future!

The campaign will kick off with **Giving Tuesday on December 3**, when we will be asking you to #GiveFocus and #GiveFuture by helping us reach our \$40,000 goal for our #GivingTuesday event. Please donate on December 3, Giving Tuesday, to help us make positive change.

Join us on social media or in person for a day of contests, live updates, special enrichment, and plenty of fun as we celebrate the actions you are taking to create new beginnings!

We will be creating a special Giving Tuesday page on our website. To change the future of big cats by contributing to our overall end-of-year campaign, please visit tcwr.org/donate or mail checks to:

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
239 Turpentine Creek Lane
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

Checks specifically for Giving Tuesday should be mailed at least one week before December 3.



Wishing For A Well

Your generosity has helped us achieve major progress on the construction of our new well and water system! So much has already been accomplished: Since we began fundraising in June towards our \$150,000 goal, you have donated over \$90,000. But we haven't only been fundraising we've been building too!

So far, we've used your donations to dig the well, install the underground pipes, pour the foundation, and even construct the new building to house the equipment, all by early October! However, we still need to install the chlorination system, the reservoir tanks, and finish connecting all the plumbing. We are getting so close to finishing this vital project!

This new well and water system is crucial for the growth of the Refuge. Aside from the fact that a better well and water system will allow us to provide an adequate water supply for lodging guests, staff members, visitors, and our animal residents, its creation is also a legal requirement. With more and more individuals visiting us yearly, we have finally reached the legal limit of how many people our current water supply can serve.

We are using your donations as they come in, building our well piece by piece as we get the money necessary for each step. We still have most of our \$32,000 match, pledged by an anonymous donor, **where every dollar you donate will be doubled!**

Help us take the next step towards our future by fueling this project's completion. Visit tcwr.org/well to make your contribution today!



Housing has been built, ready for chlorination system & reservoir tanks.



Protect All Wildlife (P.A.W.) Club

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is excited to introduce a new club for our youth called the "Protect All Wildlife Club" or "P.A.W. Club" for short. Over the past few years we introduced the Cub Club and the W.A.Y. Program for our youth, however after evaluation, we have decided to combine both for one uniform club. This new initiative will still include free annual unlimited entry to the Refuge for the member, but will also include additional opportunities. Every month we will be sending out age-specific educational activities, videos, animal birthday reminders and more, electronically to each member. Our Education Department is excited to help children discover how they can be the voice for wildlife everywhere. The new P.A.W. Club will cost \$45 for each child ages 6-13 years old and will include a membership to TCWR, a welcome packet, monthly digital activities, and a birthday gift, as well as a resource to help guide them in growing up to become animal advocates. For more information and to sign up, visit tcwr.org/kidsclub.



Big Cat Gifts

Get your holiday gifts here and help the animals that call our refuge home. Please order early as we have a limited supply available. If we run out, we will reorder to fulfill all orders. Also, you **must order on or before December 10th** to get these items delivered to you before Christmas! Place orders using the form on page 12 or see our online store: Shop.TurpentineCreek.org



\$30 Long Sleeve Hooded T-Shirt item code
HD-SM, HD-MD, HD-LG, HD-XL or HD-XXL

This lightweight adult, unisex long sleeve t-shirt with a hood features an attractive front design as well as a name-dropped sleeve. Available in sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large (see item codes).

\$10 Wooden Logo Ornament **WORN**

This laser-cut logo ornament is made in the USA with sustainable wood. Great as gifts or to show your support on your tree and all year round.



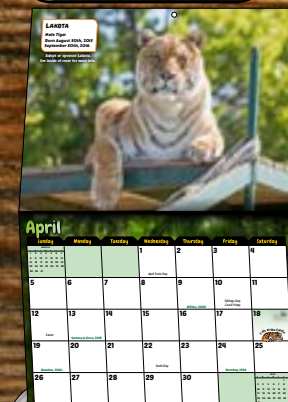
\$22 Children's Knit Lion Sweater **LSWTR**

This unique hand-crafted wool sweater features a lion head hood and a tail on the back. One size available: Child X-Large (chest measurement is 30" around and it is 20" from top of shoulder to the waist)



\$10 Set of 3 Photo Decals **DECL**

Die-cut stickers of turpentine creek family members. These 100% USA-made stickers are uv-resistant and water-proof so work great for indoor and outdoor use. Set includes: Joey and Aurora, Spyke, and Tigger. They are approximately 3"x3".



\$20 - 2020 12" x 9" Calendar

Get your 2020 calendar full of photos of the animals you love at Turpentine Creek, animal birthdays, and animal holidays! Nothing makes a more purrfect gift than a calendar from TCWR.

Big Cat Bucks - \$5+ (any value)
BCB-20, BCB-100, BCB-??
(BCB-desired amount)

Don't know what to get? Have someone that is impossible to shop for? Get them a reloadable Turpentine Creek Gift Card. This card can be used for any purchases made at the refuge including gift shop products, admission, memberships, etc. These cannot be used for online purchases.



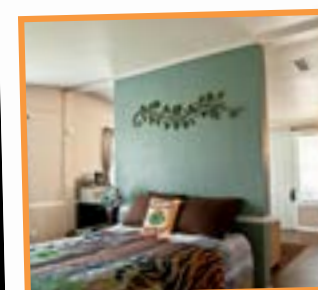
Digital Gift Ideas!

\$5 or \$7 2020 Digital Calendar

This year, upon popular request, we've added digital download calendars to our online store! We will be offering two options, a digital download .ics file for \$5, or a google calendar invite that will be updated throughout the year with special dates, events, rescues, that will allow you to stay up-to-date with what is happening at the Refuge, for \$7. Available at Shop.TurpentineCreek.org

\$150 Digital Adoptions

Upon popular demand, we are now offering a new adoption option! To make delivery faster for those last minute holiday gifts, we will be offering digital file adoptions of our animals. Upon purchase you will receive a downloadable file that you can print your certificate with and write in the recipient's name! They make a perfect holiday gift and are available at Shop.TurpentineCreek.org Printed and Mailed Adoptions Are Still Available!



Lodging Gift Certificates
Custom Amounts!

Give the gift of a great get away! Buy a Lodging Gift Certificate for any amount, from \$175 for a 1 night stay for 2 people or even multiple nights for the whole family! Get your gift certificate delivered to your email immediately!
Buy yours now at TCWR.org/Lodging-Gift-Certificates

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



Donations: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ Repeat monthly.

Visitor Education Center and Well Fund: \$50 \$100 Other \$_____ Repeat monthly.

2020 Calendars: \$20 each X ___ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

Big Cat Gifts See page 11 for gifts & item codes. Example: Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ =

Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____

Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____

Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ Quantity: _____ of Item Code: _____ **TOTAL \$:** _____

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 page 10 or TCWR.org/kidsclub for more info. Email address: _____

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

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

Federal Tax/EIN: 71-0721742

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

Bam Bam: Celebrating 10 Years of Happiness

If you've visited Turpentine Creek in the past 10 years, you will have likely seen Bam Bam, our resident grizzly bear. Ever since he arrived at TCWR, he has been a fan-favorite. He is greatly loved by staff, interns, and the public for his wild, fun, attention-seeking personality that often leads him to cause mischief!

Since his arrival, Bam Bam has developed from a big bear scared of every sound and major movement to a playful animal that loves attention. We are proud that Bam Bam came out of his shell after spending the first part of his life living in a 20x20 cage in a barn, never being exposed to anything but the individuals who cared for him. Many of our animals grow braver with the care and attention we give them, but Bam Bam has grown leaps and bounds beyond what other animals have, overcoming his fears and becoming one of the "stars" of the Refuge.



Bam Bam surveys his admirers, contemplating his next attention-grabbing move.



It's hard to believe that Bam Bam was once frightened of every movement and new sound.

Bam Bam is now a very active bear that loves to attract the attention of anyone that is near his habitat. He especially loves to watch the training sessions of his tiger neighbors across the path, and will try to steal the spotlight! His efforts can consist of many things from splashing and swimming in his waterfall pool, to playing with his giant ice cubes, to even doing bear yoga! He is quite the showoff, but we are a hands-off facility, and do not force him to do any of these things. Our animals are able to do what they want at all times and, because of this, are able to express their personalities freely.

In the last 10 years, Bam Bam has won the affection of everyone that has crossed paths with him. He has a heart of gold, even if he might get into trouble sometimes. If you come out to TCWR, make sure you stop and visit one of our most famous residents!

Your donations help us to rescue animals like Bam Bam, and give them a life where they feel safe. Your support makes a huge difference in the lives of these survivors of the exotic animal trade. Donate now and help us, help them.



Now one of the 'stars' of the Refuge, beloved by everyone for his joyous and playful antics.



Degenerative Joint Disease and its Treatment

Turpentine Creek cares for animals of all ages, from our young year-old bobcats to our senior cats and a young-at-heart Rhesus Macaque Monkey. A third of our animal population is over fifteen years old, which is considered geriatric in the animal kingdom. Most of our older animals are part of our pain management program, established to greatly increase the quality of life of those that have some form of DJD, known also as “degenerative joint disease,” or “chronic progressive osteoarthritis.”

Unfortunately, many of our younger animal residents also have DJD developing due to a history of metabolic bone disease, poor genetics, and abuse such as overfeeding and/or declawing. All of these conditions greatly progress the formation of DJD as bones and muscles do not develop properly, and/or irregular biomechanical stresses are consistently applied to joints leading to quickened degradation and breakdown. White tiger trio Blackfire, Rocklyn, and Peyton are young animal residents at risk for developing DJD due to their history of metabolic bone disease and poor genetics.

Degenerative joint disease is a condition where there is both structural and functional failure of joints, where damage outweighs repair. The most common symptoms seen are pain, lameness, and sometimes swelling of affected joints.

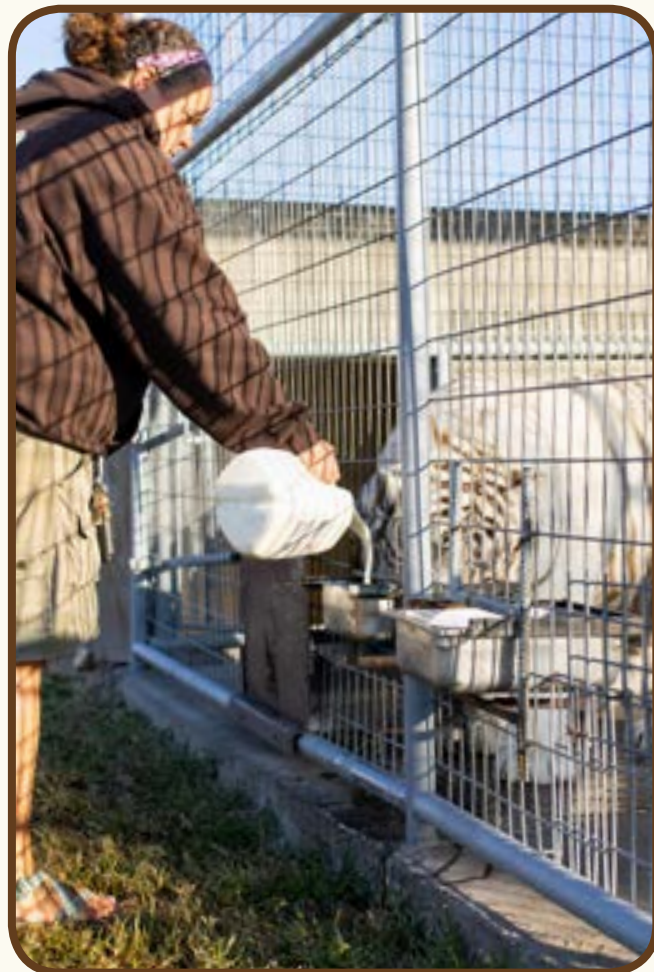
We offer our animals a combination of both nutraceuticals, nutritional supplements, and pharmaceuticals to help with pain management. For DJD we use salmon oil, glucosamine, chondroitin, Vitamine E, Vitamin B Complex with added Vitamin C, and other vitamins. Research has shown that fish oil, when used in conjunction with glucosamine and chondroitin at appropriate ratios, slows down the progression of DJD. All animals who are over 12 years of age, previously declawed, and/or have chronic lameness receive these supplements daily.

To add to our multi-modal approach to DJD, we are working on implementing rehabilitation through increased training and enrichment for affected animals. Low-impact exercise for 10-20 minutes a day has been proven to help manage pain and slow muscle atrophy. Other possible new approaches include laser therapy and CBD oil. Fortunately, there is so much research occurring in the field of veterinary DJD pain management that we are constantly looking for innovative ways to improve the quality of life of our animal residents, keeping them comfortable longer, and slowing the progression of joint deterioration.

Generous donations of medicine, like the recent Carlson Labs donation of over \$15,000 worth of products, and even smaller donations of \$10 towards our general fund, help us continue to provide the best quality care for our animals. Your donations make a difference!



Animal Care staff unpacking a recent donation from Carlson Labs worth over \$15,000, many of which we use for Degenerative Joint Disease: salmon oil, glucosamine, chondroitin, and vitamins.



Big News For Big Cats: The Big Cat Public Safety Act

As many of our followers know, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has been working hard to educate the public about the plight of big cats in captivity. Part of this education process has been stepping up our advocacy programs to bring awareness of one of the many ways that our supporters can put an end to big cat abuse in the USA. Our most recent foray into advocacy has been the Big Cat Public Safety Act, a bill that if passed would stop hands-on interaction with big cats of any age and require either an adequate barrier or 15 feet between these dangerous animals and the public.

The BCPSA has reached two major milestones in recent months. On September 18, the bill was presented to the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife House Subcommittee for “markup” where it was voted 21-14 to be presented to the floor as written! Then, on September 26, the bill was introduced to the Senate and will soon be assigned to a subcommittee.



At the ripe old age of 19, Savannah enjoys her new life here at the Refuge. She has done a lot in her long life, from acting to living at a cub petting facility, this beautiful lady enjoys a hands-off life with us.



Magic was used in a magic show before being rescued. She now enjoys a peaceful life where she doesn't have to worry about being forced to perform for an audience.

What Still Must Happen For The Bill To Pass:

1. House of Representatives - H.R. 1380
 - Go to vote on floor with majority vote in favor of bill (218 votes needed)
2. Senate - S. 2561
 - Be reviewed by Environment and Public Works Subcommittee
 - Be voted for mark-up
 - Go to full committee mark-up and be voted on to be presented to floor
 - Get more co-sponsors (10 co-sponsors as of introduction)
 - Be voted on floor with majority vote in favor of bill (51 votes needed)
3. President
 - Be signed by the president within 10 days or it automatically is passed

The process to get a bill turned into law is complicated with many small steps that have to be accomplished. We are hopeful that with your help, the bill will continue to progress through both the House and the Senate over the course of the next few months. With your support, the BCPSA will pass into law and protect big cats nationwide! Contact your House Representative and Senators today through our website at TCWR.org/advocacy and help us put an end to the big cat trade in the US.

ABC's 20/20 Special on Siegfried and Roy, The Rest of the Story

Siegfried and Roy have enjoyed worldwide recognition from their famous magic show in Las Vegas, Nevada for over 30 years. Audiences were tantalized with their performances including the beautiful and majestic white tiger. The show made worldwide headlines when Mantacore, a white tiger, dragged Roy off the stage and almost killed him.

TCWR was invited by 20/20, interviewing TCWR's President Tanya Smith and Animal Curator Emily McCormack, to play a vital role in education, advocacy, and awareness to expose the truth behind white tiger inbreeding and the exotic animal entertainment industry. Our organization was excited about this opportunity to bring big cat advocacy and education to a national scale. Instead, the two-hour special promoted the "Siegfried and Roy" upcoming biography movie, and provided only a short five-minute segment out of the hour promised to our team.

"Education is key", an important reminder during Emily's segment on the 20/20 special. TCWR's mission is not only to rescue abused and neglected big cats who have fallen victim to the entertainment industry, but also be transparent with our supporters on the true problems that exist with inbreeding white tigers. Although the publicity was not ideal, we hope that those who love big cats will see beyond the promotional biography of big cat entertainment moguls, and help us create positive change through education and advocacy.



Roman suffers poor eyesight from severely crossed eyes. All white tigers have some degree of crossed eyes; the gene causing a white coat makes the optic nerve wire to the wrong side of the brain.



TCWR Animal Curator, Emily McCormack tells why education is key in uncovering the dark underside of the exotic animal entertainment and white tiger inbreeding industries.



TCWR President and Founder, Tanya Smith tries to shed light on the inbreeding of white tigers.

The purpose of a wild animal is not to be held captive and entertain us, they deserve a life of freedom and protection in the wild. Captive animals that cannot return to the wild deserve a life of refuge, free from being forced to perform unnatural acts.

Through this opportunity, we want to reach out to TCWR supporters and big cat lovers to understand what is seen on television is not the entire story, and that we will continue together to be the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves. By not supporting the big cat entertainment industry, your choices make a major difference in the lives of captive big cats. We appreciate the opportunity to shed light on the inbreeding of white tigers, and will never stop our mission to do what is best for the animals that need us.

With your help, we can continue educating the public about these majestic animals. Your donations give us the opportunity to provide forever homes for survivors of exotic animal exploitation. Donate today at [TCWR.org/donate](https://www.tcwr.org/donate).

Willy and Zeus Make the Move to Rescue Ridge

While visiting TCWR you may have seen Willy, one of our sleepy lions, taking his nap at the bottom of his habitat, or Zeus, the tiger, enjoying the sunshine at the top of his hill. These two boys have lived along our tour loop for several years. Now that they are beginning to age, our animal care staff has made the decision to move them to the much flatter area of Rescue Ridge, preferred for our elderly animal residents. This area provides the comforts of level ground when the hillsides of the tour road habitats get more difficult for them to navigate. Willy and Zeus each came to TCWR at different times and from different locations, and now they have become neighbors enjoying the sights and sounds of their new habitats.

Willy arrived at TCWR in July of 2008 from Arkansas, where he had been previously owned as a pet. He is the oldest male lion to call the Refuge home, and thoroughly enjoys his naps in the corner of his habitat. When he lived along our tour road he was often seen lying at the bottom left corner of his habitat or on his wooden bench, enjoying the wind blowing on his stomach. Now, he has claimed a favorite spot in his new home at Rescue Ridge and likes watching the interns and staff go by. He can still be heard joining in the caroling of our lions and making his voice known.



Willy, enjoying the sights and sounds of Rescue Ridge from his bench.

Zeus came to TCWR in January of 2010, when a roadside zoo in Branson was facing closure and had to rehome the animals or update their habitats, they chose to rehome them. Zeus was suspicious of his caretakers at first, but overtime, he has become a little more trustful and is currently a part of our Behavioral Management Training. Zeus was often found at the top of his hillside taking in the sunshine and, as he began to age, we noticed him remaining at the top more and venturing to the bottom of the hill less. He seems to love his new home at Rescue Ridge and still relaxes in the sun and watches his neighbors.

It is very important that we have a retirement area for our aging animal residents and provide them the comforts of even ground as they age. All of the animals at Rescue Ridge might be off the "beaten path," but they still need your support. Your donation to help one of our older animal residents allows us to provide the extra medicine, special enrichment items, and additional care that these senior residents need. Adopt, sponsor, or donate in honor of one of our Rescue Ridge animals today and help us, help them.



Zeus is still a little cautious around his new environment, but animal care team members are amazed at how different he is already acting in his quiet new habitat.

Keeping Instincts Sharp

Enrichment is a word you see and hear frequently at Turpentine Creek. We want our animals to have as many opportunities as possible to express typical instinctive behaviors. Even though they are in captivity, the desire to be a true wild animal is still dominant.

Looking around the habitats, a variety of objects ranging from boomer balls to fire hose can be seen. Sometimes you can even see remnants of painted cardboard boxes. Each item plays an important role in keeping the animals mentally and physically stimulated to help relieve boredom and give our animals something to encourage them to use their senses.

Every five days, new items are added and old toys are moved around, creating a “new” environment for them. They explore their environment, smelling and playing with new things. The opportunity to exhibit natural behaviors can lower stereotypical behaviors that animals typically exhibit in captivity. Enrichment not only lowers unwanted behaviors, it also encourages exercise. Robbie, Tommie, and Frankie were brought to Turpentine in January suffering from extreme obesity. To counter this and encourage activity, extra toys were added to their habitat. More active cats, bears, or other animals have additional toys placed in their habitat to offer them a variety of choices for play.

Cats are predators that love to stalk their prey and protect their territory. Bears are foragers that look for food throughout the day. How do we mimic these activities in captivity?

- River cane is planted on the perimeter of the habitats providing a cover for the cats to “sneak” up on visitors and workers.
- Spice bags are used to stimulate their sense of smell. Just as it sounds, brown paper sacks are filled with kitchen spices. These new smells give the animal a sense of change and a new environment. They will roll in it, or even do a quick lick, to see what it is.
- Benches and rock formations allow the animal to seek elevation, leaping from platform to platform for a high place to sleep.
- Scatter feeding allows us to stimulate foraging behaviors. Some animals, like our bears and Flip (TCWR’s only White-Nose Goatimundi), are omnivores eating both meat and plants. So, they receive some of their produce scattered throughout their habitat. These natural foragers will venture around their environment finding treats such as sweet potatoes, acorns, blueberries, and avocado, etc.
- Boomer balls, spools, “ice cubes,” and barrels are a great way to mimic the “prey” of big cats, even allowing them to ‘drag’ their prey or ‘drown’ it to simulate wild behaviors. These toys are super duty plastic made to withstand the animal’s strength. They can range in weight from 5 to 60 pounds. The larger animals, like tigers, are able to drag and carry around the 60 pound Boomer balls with their canine teeth. Those are strong teeth!

Offering our animals a variety of enrichment helps to keep them healthy and happy. Holiday season is around the corner and our animal residents are in need of presents under the tree. Donate today to provide a new toy for an animal or two!



In fall, donate your pumpkins and provide sensory stimulation for our animal residents – see how Blackfire and Rocklyn are fascinated with theirs!



Fergy pauses while investigating her special birthday enrichment, which includes scent and treat filled boxes and a special frozen meat ‘cake.’



Harley, enjoys plenty of enrichment treats. For bears, pumpkins aren’t just fun to play with, they are also part of their diet!

One Intriguing Woman Makes a Difference

TCWR Animal Curator Emily McCormack was honored as one of AY Magazine’s 2019 Intriguing Women of the Year.

According to AY Magazine, their Intriguing Women list always features “strong, wise, intelligent women who are leaders in their fields” and “deserve to be recognized for their service to their careers, their community and their society.”

AY described Emily as having a “heart of gold and an optimistic spirit to find the best in each day put in front of her.”

Emily always wanted to work with tigers. She arrived at the Refuge 1999 from her hometown in Oswego, NY, pursuing the final 3 credits of her Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Zoology. Her six-month internship turned into two decades of working at TCWR. She was hired immediately after her internship and earned a promotion to Volunteer Coordinator/Intern Supervisor in 2002. In 2011 she was promoted to Animal Curator, though she continues to spearhead the intern program.

Beyond the duties of her title, Emily also speaks publicly at major events nationwide to spread TCWR’s mission. She has been a forefront designer of innovative habitat fabrication, including our new bear enclosures and the “sick bays” at our Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital.

You can read the full feature on Emily at <http://bit.ly/2nll9dQ>. We appreciate all that Emily has done for Turpentine Creek and are very lucky to have her as a vital member of our team.



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



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

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Learn more about our
newest rescue on page 8.

#PredatorsNotPets



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