

BIG CAT CHRONICLES

WINTER 2024



Montana

Male Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Born 3/14/2011

Rescued 10/11/2016

An update from Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.



Turpentine Creek
FOUNDATION, INC.

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

As the holiday season arrives and we prepare to spend time with our friends and family, I want you to know how grateful I am to each of you who have become part of our Turpentine Creek family over the years. Many of you have been with us since we founded our Rescue to Refuge mission in 1992. TCWR's story began with my own family, and we have endured many growing pains as we've developed into the GFAS-accredited leader among the sanctuaries we are today.

Initially, a handful of us scrambled to care for the dozens of animals who desperately needed our rescue and lifelong care. Along the way, we assembled a team of passionate professionals who continually strive to improve the quality of life for the wild animals we rescue and care for.

For over thirty-two years, your philanthropy and belief in our mission have brought about several landmark victories for big cats. In 2022, your grassroots efforts helped secure the passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act, strengthening protections and ending the horrors of cub petting for big cats nationwide. TCWR has become a go-to resource for U.S. government officials and the courts when animals are seized from abuse and neglect. Private owners continue to contact us to place wild animals that could never make safe pets.

To continue helping TCWR lead in wildlife rescue, animal care, advocacy, and education, we hope you will bring friends and family to visit the Refuge. When people experience the workings of a true sanctuary, meet the animals, and hear their stories of transformation, they spread awareness. We invite you and your loved ones to stay in our lodging and experience the night sounds of big cats living as wild animals under a dark sky unpolluted by city lights.

Please book one of our specialty tours to see all 102 habitats, including Freedom Field, Rescue Ridge, and the inside of our incredible veterinary hospital. TCWR can now accommodate up to 14 guests for this immersive experience! We recommend you book early – our 10 lodging units, 6 RV sites, and one specialty tour daily fill up quickly!

This holiday season, I encourage you to shop at our online gift shop – every purchase helps ensure the success of our mission! All profits from our lodging, tours, and gift shop cover our overhead expenses, allowing 100% of your donations to fund the care and feeding of the animals.

When you become a Wild About Wildlife member, you will enjoy free entry year-round, along with discounts on lodging, specialty tours, and gift shop merchandise. TCWR memberships, specialty tours, and lodging certificates make wonderful gifts for your loved ones!

As we approach the end of 2024, we are excited to herald a **New ERA of Rescue to Refuge** in the New Year. By investing in TCWR's future, you will help Educate more people, Rescue new animals, and Advocate for innumerable wildlife. In this issue we'll also introduce our new Foundation logo, which embodies our vision to expand Turpentine Creek's respected and impactful work for captive wildlife.

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Tanya Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tanya Smith, President & Founder



Turpentine Creek
FOUNDATION, INC.

Check out our educational resources: Education.TurpentineCreek.org

Your Featured Animal: Montana

Montana began his life-changing Rescue to Refuge journey in October 2016, when TCWR brought him and 133 other animals to Eureka Springs during the Colorado Project. Montana was confined with 114 animals in 12 acres of deteriorating enclosures at the Colorado speed-breeding and cub-petting facility, forced to lie on compacted dirt and broken pallets littered with nails. For the first six years of his life, Montana lacked regular veterinary care, proper shelter and space to exercise.

Thanks to your support, everything changed for Montana. Although the young tiger appeared in good condition, TCWR's veterinarian performed a thorough exam and administered vaccinations. Once Montana's quarantine ended, he immediately began exploring his expansive natural habitat. Montana's wild and playful personality quickly emerged as he tore apart his toys!

Montana's curiosity and excitement for the life you've made possible continue, especially when his care team introduces new weekly enrichment. This inquisitive tiger thoroughly enjoys each new experience we provide to stimulate his natural instincts. In addition to toys, Montana loves various scents, pumpkins, and Christmas trees during fall and winter. In summer, he delights in splashing and "drowning" his toys in his pool, slurping on bloodsicles, and attacking watermelons.



For the first six years of his life, Montana lacked veterinary care, proper shelter and space to exercise. Thanks to your support, everything changed for Montana!

The native tall grasses we plant along his fence and habitat features like benches and natural rock placements encourage Montana's love of stalking his care team and neighbors. This natural behavior is crucial in the wild. Stalking enables a tiger, whose size and weight limit their ability to run long distances, to get close to their prey. This instinct is one of many reasons big cats are so dangerous in captivity, especially when an animal or person has their back turned.

TCWR Animal Care Staff adds nutritional supplements like glucosamine and cod liver oil to Montana's raw meat diet to help with mobility pain as he ages. Now residing on flat ground in the serenity of Rescue Ridge, Montana expresses his trust and joy by chuffing at his care team.

Rescuing animals like Montana is only the first step. Providing lifelong sanctuary requires the support of each one of you. We believe every animal suffering in the captive wildlife trade deserves a chance to live a life of freedom, where they are cared for and respected as wild animals.

If you already donate monthly, thank you for providing the stable, year-round support critical to giving wild animals the life they deserve. If you are not already a monthly donor, please consider becoming a monthly donor today. **Your support will help us transform their future.**

Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack



In recent years, the exotic pet trade has increasingly capitalized on selling African servals, with many selling for thousands of dollars. In August, a serval named Miz Zuri was rehomed to our care after the owners paid \$5,000 for her with the stipulation that she not be bred. If they intended to breed Zuri, the cost would have been \$10,000 to \$12,000. While breeders profit immensely, we must consider the toll on the animals, their owners, and the sanctuaries overwhelmed by rescue calls.

Breeders often market servals as domesticated versions of wild cats. Social media and celebrity endorsements further fuel this trend, as influencers showcase these exotic animals, creating the illusion that they can be trained like pets. Research into Miz Zuri's breeder reveals they own 13 servals and are licensed by the USDA. Their social media shows they sell two to three serval cubs every other month, translating to potential earnings between \$60,000 and \$180,000 annually. This raises questions: where are all these servals ending up?

Some common issues that serval owners face include aggression, marking territory, destructive behavior, specialized diet, and aggression with strangers. Here are quoted "tips" from a breeder's website: "Always discipline from biting, ALWAYS BE DOMINANT, a light smack on the nose is okay!"

African serval breeding for the pet trade and cub petting raises significant ethical concerns. As quoted from a breeder website: "Our African serval kittens are pulled from the mother as early as possible...under 24/7 supervision and cuddles so that they are very human imprinted." The Big Cat Public Safety Act protects big cat mothers from having their cubs ripped away and being used for speed breeding. How is this ethical for any species? The serval trade contributes to their exploitation, as some breeders prioritize profit over the animals' well-being.

Legally, the owning of servals is often ambiguous. It is legal to own a serval in 15 states; three require easily obtainable permits. Enforcement is lax, leading to cases like a recent call from someone needing to surrender a serval purchased and living in an illegal state. Thankfully, that serval was placed at a reputable facility. This patchwork of laws allows breeders to thrive even in areas where serval ownership is irresponsible, unethical, or illegal.

Rather than supporting the exotic pet trade, those passionate about servals and other wild animals should consider supporting reputable sanctuaries like TCWR. Wild animals belong in the wild, and we must resist the urge to attempt making them household pets.



Help us spread the word about the dangers of breeding wild animals for pets.

From Living Room to Refuge

In August, a Chattanooga, TN, family made the heart-breaking decision to rehome their two-year-old serval, Miz Zuri (also known as Zuri). Despite their dedication, Zuri's natural behaviors became too difficult to manage in their home.

"Our hearts are broken over this decision, but we know it's the best thing for Zuri," said the family. "We have loved and cared for her deeply, but we realize she needs a more suitable environment than we can provide."

The family bought Zuri to help navigate their grieving process after losing their 19-year-old cat earlier this year. They fed Zuri a strict raw meat diet consisting of ground chicken with additional probiotics and supplements to meet her nutritional needs. They also provided her with regular veterinary care, including vaccinations and deworming.

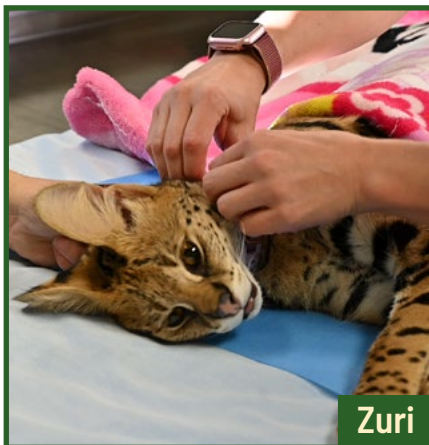
Although this family was committed to Zuri's well-being, they found that her territorial behaviors, specifically marking, made it increasingly difficult to maintain harmony in their home. These instinctive behaviors highlight many challenges private owners experience when keeping a wild animal in a domestic setting.



Zuri was purchased as a pet. Zuri's family loved and cared for her deeply but came to realize that she needed a more suitable environment than they could provide.



Zuri



Zuri

The family connected with the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) during their emotional search for a new home for Zuri. The BCSA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating private ownership and commercial exploitation of big cats. As a founding member of the BCSA, TCWR responded and offered Zuri a lifelong home where she could thrive.

"Unfortunately, there is currently a small exotic cat crisis. We are being bombarded with calls from people who have been misled by breeders into believing that African small cats make great pets when in reality, they do not," commented Tanya Smith, Founder and President of TCWR.

The family made the ten-plus hour drive with Zuri on August 31. To ease her transition, they brought many of Zuri's favorite items, including toys, blankets, and a tunnel she enjoys playing in. Unlike many TCWR rescues, it was a relief that Zuri arrived in great condition and was well cared for. However, like all new rescues, Zuri was taken to TCWR's onsite veterinary clinic for a ten-day quarantine to be monitored and undergo all necessary veterinary exams.

Zuri's story and new journey at TCWR serve as a powerful reminder of the complexities of private exotic animal ownership and the importance of placing captive wild animals in environments where they can truly thrive.



Miles

Rising to the Challenge: TCWR's Vision for Impact

As we embark on a **New ERA** of growth and transformation, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is undergoing significant changes. While we can't reveal all the details just yet, we are refining our mission and rebranding parts of the organization to align with our future goals. However, our steadfast commitment to the animals in our care and those in need remains unchanged.

By strategically planning and exploring new opportunities, TCWR is positioning itself to make a broader, more lasting impact on the animals and people we serve through education, rescue, action, with an emphasis on philanthropy and advocacy. This will significantly broaden TCWR's reach with new initiatives while deepening the impact of existing protections and policies to safeguard captive wild animals

Even though TCWR is evolving as an organization, the loyal support from our donors remains as important as ever. Your continued support allows us to sustain our core values and set new standards in the animal welfare sector. Together, with the efforts of our donors, we will secure and foster positive, long-term change.

Big News for You from TCWR!



Turpentine Creek

FOUNDATION, INC.

We are excited to announce the rebranding of the **Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.** After months of reflection, this change highlights our commitment to enhancing philanthropic support for our mission.

This rebranding is more than just a fresh look; it signifies our dedication to increasing engagement to support the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's mission.

What's New?

You'll notice our new logo, which clearly differentiates the Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. from the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge).

Our new logo embodies our vision to expand the reach of Turpentine Creek's respected and impactful work for captive wildlife.

What Stays the Same?

Our unwavering commitment to rescue and refuge remains unchanged. TCWR will continue to provide impactful rescues, educational programs, and lifetime care for captive wildlife. This rebrand is essential for securing the philanthropic resources needed to support our evolving strategy.

A Fresh Chapter, Same Purpose

This journey symbolizes growth and transformation while deepening our relationships with supporters like you. We are excited for you to explore our new identity and continue this incredible journey together.

Rescue to Refuge: Malcolm

In April 2024, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge received a call about Malcolm, a bobcat whose story highlights the importance of leaving wildlife rehabilitation to trained professionals. Malcolm and his two siblings were taken in by a private individual who mistakenly believed the litter was orphaned, not realizing that bobcat mothers would leave their young while hunting. Tragically, only Malcolm survived. Fortunately, he was brought to the Wildcare Foundation in Oklahoma, where experts tried to prepare him for release into the wild.



Malcolm's story highlights the importance of leaving wildlife rehabilitation to trained professionals.

The rehabilitators followed strict protocols, including minimizing human interaction and teaching Malcolm to hunt live prey. However, initial efforts to return him to the wild were unsuccessful. The team then introduced him to another bobcat, hoping he would learn more natural behaviors, but Malcolm continued to fail critical tests for release. This outcome resulted from early human interference, a common challenge for many wildlife rehabilitation efforts.

Realizing Malcolm could not be released, Wildcare Foundation sought out Turpentine Creek to give Malcolm a permanent home. This marked the second collaboration between the two organizations, following an earlier attempt to rescue a privately owned serval named Tigger, who, unfortunately, had to be euthanized due to his critical condition upon arrival.

At Turpentine Creek, Malcolm quickly became a favorite. He enjoys interacting with people, often approaching with a friendly "cooing" sound bobcats make when comfortable. However, his playful nature can be deceptive, as he tries to spray keepers during interactions. While Malcolm's reintroduction to the wild was unsuccessful, he found a new forever home at Turpentine Creek, where he has a second chance at life. Malcolm's story underscores the importance of entrusting wildlife care to trained professionals and licensed facilities.

New TCWR Partnership to Improve Animals' Lives



MaryAnn

FarmaKeio Arkansas, an Arkansas-based compounding pharmacy providing both human and veterinary medications, is partnering with Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) to explore improved medical solutions for our animal residents. Since its inception, TCWR's Pain Management Program has significantly elevated the quality of life for our animals.

Pain management is a cornerstone of TCWR's veterinary practice and it is essential for alleviating discomfort, improving outcomes, and enhancing the well-being of our recovering wild cats and bears. Effective management requires a continuum of care that includes early intervention, close monitoring, and patient-specific adjustments.



Max



MaryAnn & Max

Liquid formula medication that mixes easily with small portions of food has already helped our bobcat residents.

While medications, such as tramadol, are commonly used to manage pain for our aging animal residents, ensuring consistent compliance has been a challenge. Some animals are reluctant to take their prescribed doses, even when we hide the medications in treats or food. This can hinder the effectiveness of their individualized pain management plan, making it important to innovate more reliable methods of administration.

FarmaKeio Arkansas offers a solution to this challenge through flavored compounding designed to mask the bitter taste and smell of oral medications, a technique widely used for domestic animals. This new liquid formula, which mixes easily with small portions of ground meat or canned cat food, has already proven helpful for our bobcat residents, who were the first to try this approach. By masking the flavor, we've seen improved compliance, as the animals can no longer detect or avoid the medication as they did with the capsule form.

With the support of FarmaKeio Arkansas, TCWR is excited to explore new flavors and formulations to ensure all our animals receive the care they need. Together, we aim to improve the lives of our residents by making pain management both more effective and more accessible.



Giving Tuesday - What to Expect

This Giving Tuesday, December 3, we invite you to join a global movement of generosity. It's a day when our dedicated supporters and new friends come together to learn about the life-changing rescue-to-refuge work we do at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. This year marks the start of our **New Era**, and we have some exciting events planned to celebrate!

Throughout the day, we'll share our fight against Bobcat Fever through exclusive live streams and special video content, giving you a behind-the-scenes look at how we rescue and care for animals. In the evening, we'll premiere a moving short documentary, "Robbie's Legacy," followed by a live Q&A with our expert staff.

As we hit fundraising milestones throughout the day, you could win prizes like paw paintings, gift cards, free tours, lodging, and more! This year, we will raise money to help the Refuge provide Bravecto to all of our animals for the next 3 years of their lives. This will cost us \$50k annually, or \$150k in total. Due to the generosity of the Huck Family, we have already raised \$60k towards our cause, and they have challenged us to raise the rest together! As always, 100% of your donations will go directly to caring for the wild cats and bears we rescue. **Help us meet the Huck Family Challenge and secure Robbie's legacy.** Donate on **December 3rd** and make **twice the difference!**



Robbie



Robbie

Letter from the Veterinarian

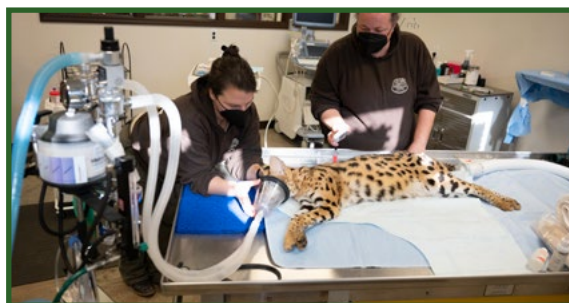
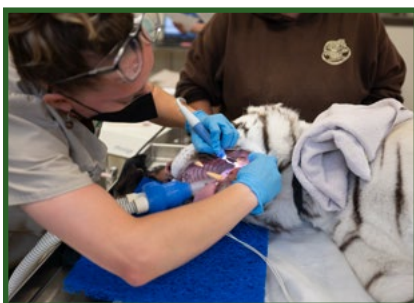
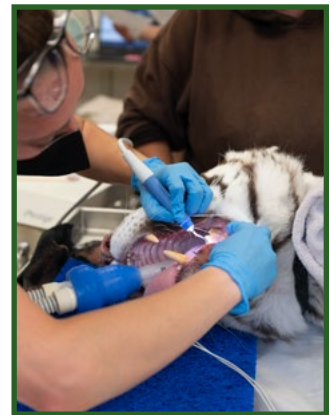
Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, DVM



Since its founding in 1992, Turpentine Creek has continually grown in all aspects of the sanctuary, including veterinary care. Early on, most veterinary care performed was reactionary. A diagnostic exam was performed when an animal presented with illness, trying to determine its cause and go from there. A basic preventive medicine plan focused on herd medicine instead of an individualized plan for each animal. The sanctuary had a rudimentary veterinary clinic, but its utilization was minimal; most animals were instead having immobilizations performed in their enclosures with limited resources, or they were being transported 40 minutes away to the local veterinary clinic owned by Dr. Ronald Eby. Unfortunately, this meant that if an animal would not load into the trailer for transportation, they would have to be sedated for transport and then commonly require more anesthetics upon arrival to the clinic to finally be examined.

The preventive medicine plan became more extensive as time passed, and a pain management plan was established. A dramatic change occurred in 2016 with the completion of the onsite Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital tailored for the specific care of TCWR animals. Another change occurred in 2018 when TCWR hired me as a part-time staff veterinarian. Dr. Eby became a mentor of mine, allowing me to contract at his mixed animal clinic and hone the skills I would need to become a good veterinarian. At the sanctuary, I was able to expand and perfect the veterinary program, establishing individualized plans for each animal. Wellness exams became routine. Unlike a diagnostic exam, the purpose of a wellness exam is preventative; it is performed on a healthy animal to obtain baseline diagnostic values for them for future exam comparisons, or in some cases, I find early abnormalities and can adjust their treatment plans accordingly to help treat, slow down, and monitor any newly found concerns.

After years of perfecting my doctoring skills, I was hired full-time by TCWR last year. Having started at the sanctuary as part of the animal care team in 2008, leaving for veterinary school in 2014 with the hopes of returning as TCWR's veterinarian, and then achieving that goal, I am honored and privileged to be a part of this team. None of this could have happened without our supporters' help, so I would like to sincerely thank all of you who have also played a part in the successful evolution of TCWR's veterinary program.



Behind-the-Scenes Tours of The Refuge

Looking for an unforgettable adventure? Book a **Behind-the-Scenes Tour** at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and explore our newly completed Freedom Field, featuring 44 expansive habitats where rescued big cats thrive in peace and safety.

During this exclusive tour, you'll also get a rare glimpse into our state-of-the-art Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital, Rescue Ridge, and our Commissary.



Book now and discover the inner workings of one of the nation's leading big cat sanctuaries.

Reserve your spot today and be part of the mission to give these animals the freedom and care they deserve!

2025 Calendars — Order Today!



Your 2025 TCWR calendar is now available for purchase!

Enjoy breath-taking images of your favorite rescued animals at the Refuge all year long and/or gift one of our calendars during this season of giving. Whenever you gift calendars, adoptions, or TCWR merchandise to a friend or family member, you exponentially spread awareness and our mission.

Purchase your 2025 TCWR calendar and enjoy stunning images of the animals we all love. You can purchase your calendar in our online gift shop or simply fill out the enclosed order form and mail it in.

Home Again: A Former Intern's Journey Back to TCWR

TCWR boasts one of the most comprehensive intern programs in the animal welfare community. With hands-on animal care and advocacy opportunities, many interns see TCWR as a second home. One such intern discovered her life's mission at TCWR, igniting a passion for ending private ownership of wild cats and bears.

Hannah Litke was introduced to TCWR in 2013 when she first arrived as an intern. "After my first trip to the Refuge, I knew this is where I was meant to be. Since I was little, I have always wanted to be a voice for the voiceless, and here I was, fresh out of college, living out my dreams," she said.

After completing a fourth internship, Hannah joined the Animal Care Staff in 2015 and quickly took charge of the commissary program at TCWR. After dedicating three years to the role, she decided to step away, though her heart remained at the Refuge. In 2023, after completing her master's degree, she returned to TCWR, working remotely as the Donor Appreciation Assistant. Despite her new role, Hannah doesn't hesitate to jump back into her former role as animal care when visiting, enjoying the opportunity to help out in her former position whenever needed.

In July 2024, Donner, a white tiger rescued during TCWR's Colorado Rescue, was relocated to a new habitat. Onsite veterinarian Dr. Kellyn Sweeley, alongside TCWR's Animal Care Team, took this opportunity to assess Donner's dental health, focusing on a potential issue with one of his teeth.

On the day of the move and exam, the Animal Care Team faced a staffing shortage. However, they were able to find assistance from Hannah, who was onsite for an organizational strategic planning. "I was so honored to step back into my former role and help the team. It was like riding a bike; all the things I had learned came back to me, and I am so grateful for that," she said.



Dr. Kellyn (C) and Hannah (R)



Meet Your 2025 Spring Interns

February 1 - August 15, 2025



FIRST INTERNSHIP

Emily Cossey

Arizona State U. - BS Biology - May '23

Lila Haller

U. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - BA Biology - May '24

Neila King

North Carolina State U. - BS Zoology - May '24

Kylee Mecate

Brigham Young U. - BS Wildlife & Wetlands Cons. - April '24

Leah Sparks

Washington State U. - BS Zoology - May '23

Haven Voorhees

U. of Arkansas - BS Animal Science - May '24

Trinity Wilson

Texas Tech U. - BS Animal Science - May '24

SECOND INTERNSHIP

Sophie Benson

Friends U. - BS Zoo Science - Dec. '23

Natalie Daniel

Southern Illinois U. - BS Zoology - May '22

Alejandra May

Purdue U. - BA Anthropology - May '21

Kaitlyn Stump

Oklahoma State U. - BS Zoology - Dec. '23

Grace Sutton

Southeast Missouri State U. - BA Animal Science - Aug. '23

THIRD INTERNSHIP

Madelyn Beehler

Brigham Young U. - BS Life Science/Zoology - April '23

FOURTH INTERNSHIP

Jo Brown

Oklahoma State U. - BS Zoology - Dec. '22

Noah Urbanek

PennWest U. - BS Environmental Studies - May '23

Are You a Member of Turpentine Creek?



Imagine being able to bring your friends and family to the Refuge to introduce them to your favorite animal. Is it Joey? Is it Shakira II? You can help your close circle learn about the cats' individual stories and connect with them too. With all the memberships on this page, you get free entry to TCWR for you and four guests all year long. **These memberships also include discounts for lodging, the gift shop, specialty tours, and more.** Become a member today and be the voice of the animals, bringing your friends and family into our world together.

TCWR.org/support/memberships/

Wild About Wildlife Membership Program

Help the animals that call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge home and make it easy to visit them often with friends and family by signing up for one of our membership options. Members help spread our mission by bringing friends and family to visit TCWR!

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

NEW in December 2024! All Wild About Wildlife members will have access to our live streaming quarterly Happy Hour with exclusive videos and Q&A with TCWR senior team members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hilda Jackson Society \$10,000+*

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

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

**Limitations on lodging dates may apply.

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

100% of my donation goes to help the animals!

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

I would like to make my loving donation recurring:

-----> Repeat Monthly



Go Paperless: You can opt to receive this newsletter by email. Enter your address here: _____@_____

Choose Your Membership

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

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

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

\$175 Pride Membership - You and 3 guests get a full year of visits to the Refuge. **BEST VALUE!**

\$300+ Friends of India

\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors

Total:
\$ _____

\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship

\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society

Opt Out of Membership Signup Gifts

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

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

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today!

Printed Animal Adoption:

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

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

- \$1,000/yr - Small Cat
 - \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard/Jaguar
 - \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear/Hyena
- Sponsorship includes Pride 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): _____

Email Address: _____

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!

Unique Ways You Can Help

Longtime supporters Debi and Louis C. in Claremore, Oklahoma are members of the TCWR Legacy Society. They recently purchased rock urns from our memorial page. The urns will be placed on Refuge property, allowing them to be part of TCWR's mission forever ([TCWR.org/memorials](https://www.tcwr.org/memorials)).

Debi read an article in the local news about a new gift shop featuring handmade items. Debi had sewn fabric items for TCWR to sell or auction for years and reached out to the store's owner, Stacy, stopping by with samples. Debi suggested displaying the for-sale items along with TCWR marketing materials and donating a percentage of the proceeds to TCWR. Stacy agreed!

They worked as partners on the display, adding a Lucci the Lion cardboard standup to attract attention and prompt questions. Stacy determines the pricing on Debi's TCWR items, including scrunchies, Fingertip Hot Pads, Pet Collar Bandanas, Bookmarks, Fabric Coasters, Fabric Ornaments, and Kitchen Towel Boas, along with the custom-built birdhouses and scroll saw art created by Debi's husband, Louis. Stacy's Freckled Finch store reflects her compassion, uniqueness, and generosity. She also takes orders on Facebook.



The sign underneath Lucci says, "Lucci the Lion and the Freckled Finch proudly present a Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge Fundraiser."



In addition, Debi delivers TCWR brochures and \$2 Off Admission cards to car dealerships and tire stores, leaving Stacy's business card and mentioning proceeds from her items go to TCWR. We want to express our gratitude to Debbie and Stacy for their innovative and generous work to support TCWR's mission!

If you would like to help TCWR, even if you aren't crafty, we are happy to supply marketing materials. Just email philanthropy@tcwr.org



Peyton

FREEWILL

Free and Easy Estate Planning

As the year's end approaches, there's no better time to reflect on the impact you can make. By including Turpentine Creek Foundation Inc. in your estate plans through FreeWill, you can help ensure a brighter future for the rescued big cats and other animals that call the Refuge their lifelong home. It's a simple, powerful, easy-to-use tool that helps you to leave a legacy of compassion and make a lasting difference.



Santana



Looking for a cozy winter getaway? Experience the serene beauty of the Ozark Mountains at **Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge!** Book your stay with us and enjoy winter's tranquility while just steps away from our rescued big cats. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with nature and support our mission.

Experience the crisp mountain air and stunning winter landscapes from the comfort of our lodges. Make your stay extra special with one of our exclusive lodging packages—**indulge in our Romance Package** or embrace the season with the **Winter Holiday Package**, complete with cozy hot chocolate.

Book your winter escape today and enjoy a magical, one-of-a-kind experience in the heart of the Ozarks!



Your TCWR Rescue Program Continues to Develop

Since 1992, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) has continuously adapted its rescue efforts to meet the growing and changing needs of wild cats exploited for profit in the U.S. When our mission first began, the big cat trade was in its early stages, dominated by backyard breeders and small roadside zoos. Many of the animals we rescued were declawed or defanged, bearing the scars of neglect and cruelty. However, as the trade grew, breeders began profiting from the sale of white tigers and other big cats to roadside zoos, magic shows, and private owners.



Athena



Chuff



Abigail



Chuff

TCWR rescued Chuff, Abigail, and Athena from a roadside zoo after they tragically mauled and paralyzed a young employee.

In 2008, TCWR rescued Chuff, Abigail, and Athena from a roadside zoo in Branson, MO, after they tragically mauled and paralyzed a young employee who was allowed into their cage for photos. While Chuff and Athena gradually adapted to sanctuary life, Abigail remained antagonistic. To ensure their well-being, we moved Abigail to Rescue Ridge, a private habitat designed for elderly and behaviorally challenged animals.



As white tigers became less of a novelty, breeders turned to creating hybrid big cats for photo-ops, despite significant health risks. Cubs were speed-bred in poor conditions and sold quickly before they grew too costly to maintain, leading to an increase in large-scale rescue operations for TCWR. This shift in our rescues included large-scale operations, such as Mountainburg, AR and Colorado - one of the largest in our history.

In 2016, TCWR staged the massive rescue of 115 animals from the speed-breeding and cub-petting facility linked to Joe Exotic on 12 cramped acres in Colorado. TCWR welcomed 34 animals and transported the rest to reputable sanctuaries, helping establish the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance.



Before



After

Left to Right: Peyton, Rocklyn, BlackFire



Rocklyn, Blackfire & Peyton



Rocklyn, Blackfire & Peyton



When TCWR rescued Blackfire, Rocklyn and Peyton at six months-old, all suffered from leg fractures caused by Metabolic Bone Disease.

Rocklyn, Blackfire & Peyton

Among those rescued were six-month-old triplets Blackfire, Rocklyn, and Peyton, who all suffered from leg fractures caused by Metabolic Bone Disease, with Blackfire's condition being the most severe. In 2018, Blackfire underwent emergency surgery for a hiatal hernia. Despite the hardships of his early life, Blackfire now thrives at TCWR, splashing in his pool and playing with his favorite toys.

As TCWR's leadership among U.S. sanctuaries grew, government officials and law enforcement began collaborating with us on confidential cases. In 2020, PETA asked us to rescue eight big cats from notorious big cat abuser Tim Stark after a federal judge ordered him to give up his 200+ animals. This operation led to the groundbreaking legal precedent that hybrids were protected under the Endangered Species Act. U.S. Marshals oversaw the hazardous rescue, which involved threats from Stark and missing animals.



Miles was among eight big cats that PETA asked us to rescue from notorious animal abuser Tim Stark in 2020.

Miles



Miles

Like the other seven Indiana cats, Miles arrived scared and traumatized. As her natural instincts emerged, Miles began stalking her caretakers and neighbors, chuffing her contentment.

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) enlisted TCWR in a covert operation to seize 68 big cats from Jeff and Lauren Lowe, who had taken over operations from an imprisoned Joe Exotic in the trade. TCWR took in 13 animals, including lioness Lyla, though gag orders prevented us from sharing details for over a year.

Lyla thrived with routine medical care, regular feeding, and weekly rotating enrichment; gradually, her sociable personality emerged. Lyla adores playing “stalk and play” with certain keepers and is known for her expressive caroling, impressively loud for her small size.

Thanks to your advocacy, the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA) passed in December 2022, banning cub petting and speed breeding. Now, due to the BCPSA, we are seeing more witness protection animals and an increase in small cat rescues, sparking a new crisis. Over the past three years, TCWR has rescued 35 small wild cats.



TCWR rescued 13 big cats, including Lyla, from Joe Exotic consorts Jeff and Lauren Lowe in 2021.



Serval Zuri will have the care and space she deserves because her family did the research and drove her to the Refuge from Tennessee. Sadly, hundreds, if not thousands, of big and small cats still await a chance at a better life.

This winter, TCWR is at a pivotal moment. We're tackling broader issues in the wildlife trade and looking ahead to a **New ERA of Rescue to Refuge** in 2025. Stay tuned for details—together, we can continue to be a voice for the voiceless as we save and protect more animals.

Naula



Habitat Transformations

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) has become a national resource for animal welfare organizations, sought out for its expertise in animal husbandry. This expertise evolved over three decades of learning, observing animal behaviors and refining techniques in caring for big cats and other animals, which has only been possible because of your support.

TCWR's journey began in 1991, a year before gaining our 501(c) 3 and USDA license. President Tanya Smith and her family faced an urgent crisis. Katherine Gordon Twiss, a notorious big cat breeder, abandoned 42 big cats crammed into three cattle trailers on their property. The Smiths relocated to Eureka Springs, Arkansas and built temporary enclosures for the animals on concrete later called "the Compound," as an emergency solution.



Angel
Born: 7/4/1997
Rescued: 7/3/2009
Passed: 2/10/2016



Zeus
Born: 2/26/1996
Rescued: 12/26/2008
Passed: 9/18/2015



Nala
Born: 11/28/2000
Rescued: 2/22/2001
Passed: 5/05/2020

When Nala and Zeus first arrived at the Refuge, they were housed in our Compound Area.



Our roofed and elongated cougar habitats allow the cats to sprint like they would in the wild. Zeus and Nala were among the first cougars to carry out the rest of their days in our cougar habitats.

Once the animals were safe, TCWR's team shifted their focus to building permanent habitats for each animal. TCWR faced numerous challenges, including limited resources and the rugged terrain of the Ozark Mountains. Without outside assistance, our team built each habitat by hand. The staff and interns dug trenches, drove habitat pipes, and hung wires. Vice President Scott Smith and Assistant Animal Curator Laurie Vanderwall welded every metal piece needed for the habitats, often working late into the night.

As TCWR expanded the habitats, the team designed each with two nighthouse areas, allowing animals alternating access to the outdoors. Though not ideal, this design ensured every animal could experience grass and open space while new habitats were built. These smaller spaces helped our team better monitor water intake, diet, and health. What began as an emergency solution became essential to optimizing veterinary care and welfare as our practices evolved.

As TCWR was completing the habitat loop and expanding to the lower areas of the Refuge, new USDA regulations required higher fencing for all big cat enclosures. This forced the team to retrofit older habitats while building new ones. In 2013, TCWR's rescue of 34 big cats from Arkansas added urgency. We began building habitats on what is now Rescue Ridge, incorporating nighthouses and small yard areas so animals could access grass while awaiting their permanent habitats. This practice developed into a system for managing older animals, providing them with flat ground and isolated yard areas to facilitate better health monitoring. Today, Rescue Ridge serves as a retirement community for geriatric animals or those who thrive away from public crowds.



Crashing the Compound to create grassy habitats in the Discovery Area



Mauri
Born: 11/7/2016
Rescued: 9/18/2020



The Discover Area, once the Compound, is now home to grassy habitats and our pavilion.



Rayn

Rayn started out in the Compound, but was soon released into her own grassy habitat. Once she was there, she got very picky. She did not like the public or the hill in her habitat. So we moved her down to Rescue Ridge on flat ground and away from the public.



Rayn

Born: 8/10/2006

Rescued: 5/12/2008

Over time, TCWR continued to innovate. The next evolution came with redesigned feeding systems that minimized the risk of injury to staff during feeding times when the animals are most aggressive. We also developed heated dens, doorway flaps, and adding mulch during the winter to provide warmth. These improvements allowed the demolition of the original Compound enclosures, replacing them with three modern, grassy habitats that currently house Aurora and Lakota, Fergy, and Bam Bam. We also began building more permanent, natural pools in 2020 to replace the old cattle troughs due to your generosity.

TCWR has continued to reduce the need for animals to rotate between habitats. With the 2023 expansion of 44 new Freedom Field habitats, we plan to give every animal daily access to their habitat and a nighthouse for close health monitoring.

Your support made this evolution possible.

Thank you!

Local Impact, Lasting Change: The Power of Community Foundations

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) thrives thanks to diverse revenue streams, with the invaluable support of community foundations playing a crucial role in sustaining our mission to rescue and provide lifelong care for captive wildlife. Community foundations act as a vital link between donors and urgent community needs, offering individuals a meaningful way to contribute to essential causes like ours.

One of the greatest strengths of community foundations is their ability to unite donors around common goals. By pooling resources, they amplify the impact of philanthropic giving, extend TCWR's reach, and attract additional funding, all while fostering a deeper sense of community. For TCWR, this support means we can answer more rescue calls, expand our programs, and advocate more effectively for the animals we all care about.

Encouraging others to support community foundations creates a ripple effect of positive change that benefits both present and future generations. By becoming an active monthly donor through a community foundation, you ensure that TCWR has the resources necessary to continue its lifesaving work and be a voice for the voiceless. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of compassion and protection for all captive wildlife.



Mack

Holiday Shopping

This holiday season, give gifts that make a difference. By shopping at **Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge**, you're not just buying for your loved ones—you're helping to support the care of rescued wild cats and bears.

Every purchase counts. From wildlife-inspired apparel and accessories to beautifully handcrafted items, your shopping directly supports food, shelter, and medical care for wild animals in need. Whether you're treating yourself or finding the perfect gift for a loved one, your purchase makes a lasting difference in the lives of the animals at the Refuge.

Give the gift of hope. Shop today and make this holiday season one of compassion, care, and kindness.

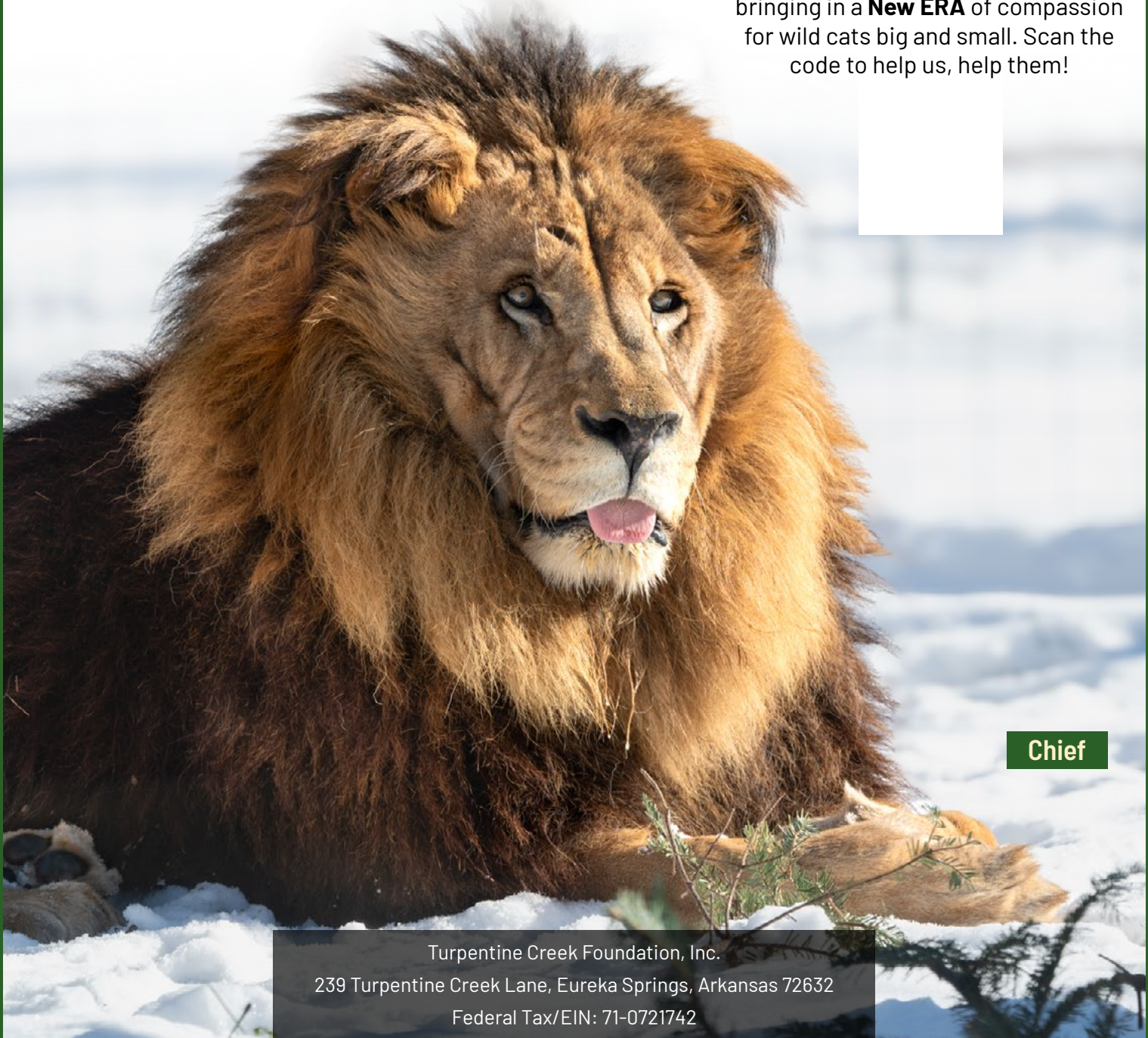


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