



THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



2010 Annual Report



Lilly

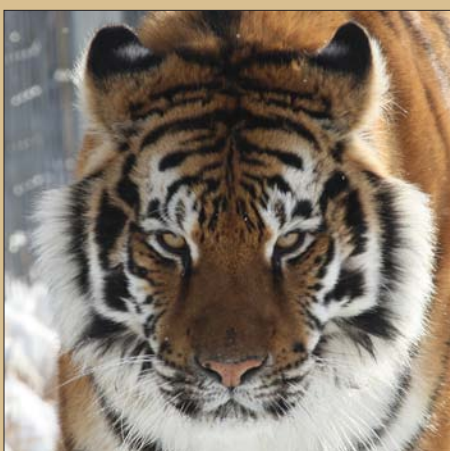
From the Director...

As 2010 came to a close, I looked around The Wildcat Sanctuary and counted my blessings. Because of your generosity, this 40 acre site has truly transformed into a second chance for so many animals in need. Your ongoing support is remarkable and I cannot thank you enough.

At the beginning of 2010, I never imagined that our small sanctuary would be home to 6 new tigers and a lioness. For years I have facilitated placement of big cats elsewhere due to our small budget and staff. But this year was different. This call for help was different.

It began with Sabrina the tiger. When the emergency plea spread throughout the sanctuary community, no one else came forward for Sabrina. Some sanctuaries were full, others couldn't accommodate an older tiger with temperament issues and some thought Texas was just too far away. Little did I know that this would be our first of many trips to Texas in 2010 to bring big cats home to TWS.

Your financial and emotional support allowed me to help them. Without it, I don't know if I could have taken that leap of faith. We have never taken in more animals than we can care for, nor have we spent more money than we have. The Sanctuary has always operated debt free and only rescues animals and completes construction projects as budgets permit. This is because I have a strong commitment to our animals, and to you our supporters, to be fiscally responsible. But with you behind us, I knew that saving Sabrina and the others just had to come first this time and that the support would follow.



When Sabrina arrived, she felt threatened and was more frightened than any animal I have ever seen. I knew progress would be slow and trust would only come with time. I would sit alone at night, several hundred feet from her enclosure, trying to build trust. I asked Meme, our first tiger who passed years ago, for support and strength. Not only for Sabrina but for all of us at TWS. Even though Meme has passed, I still depend on her a lot. It's amazing how they never really leave but remain with us, just in a different form. Sabrina's confidence has grown and she learns to trust a little more each day.

Then in August I received a call that the Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) in Texas was closing and 400 animals were losing their home. The situation seemed overwhelming. Many sanctuaries and organizations did not initially want to get involved but there was a reason I had to answer the call. Ten years ago, we were contacted by a farmer in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. A tiger breeder was going out of business and planned to shoot the remaining three tigers if homes were not found. At the time, TWS resided on 10 acres, only had 20 cats and were not equipped for tigers. Relatively new in the sanctuary industry, we began making calls. The only facility that came forward was WAO in Texas. They arrived at the breeder's home and agreed to take two tigers, but left the third behind. She was deemed too old to make the trip. That tiger was Meme. One of the two tigers that went to WAO was Meme's offspring.

I called WAO to tell them that we would be willing to take in Meme's offspring and mate. We were informed, sadly, that they had both passed away. We also agreed to help place a few other lions and tigers that we had referred there 10 years prior from a rescue in Iowa. We found wonderful homes for these four and thought our work was done. But after visiting WAO and seeing the dire situation, my mind changed. We had to do more, much more. We accepted a total of 9 cats and helped place dozens more. I believe that Meme brought them to us for a reason.

I also know that you are with us for a reason too. You share the same compassion for animals. Your support allows these miracles to happen...and for that I am eternally grateful.

Today, because of your thoughtfulness, the Sanctuary is full of tiger chuffs, cougar chirps and small cat meows. The magic you have helped create here is contagious.

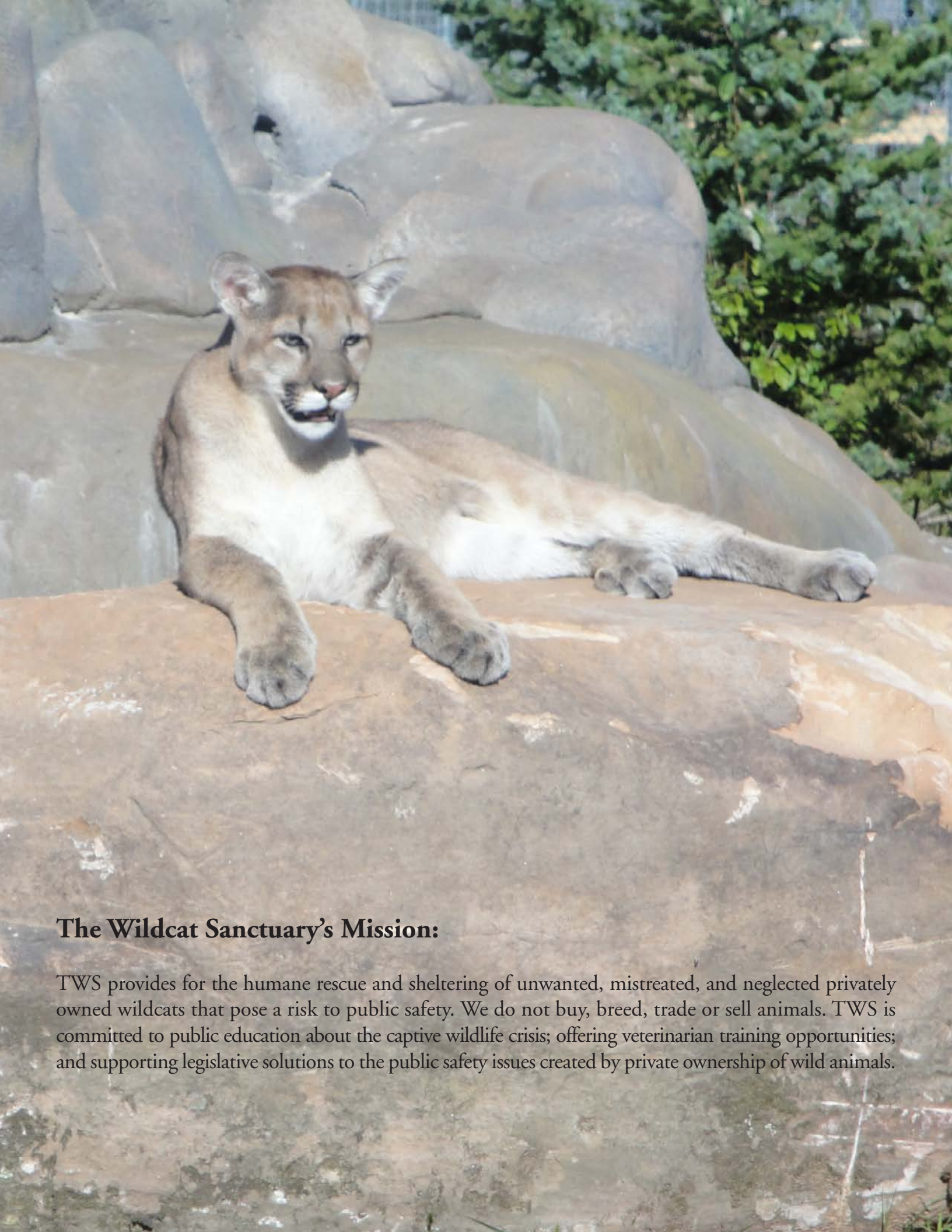
Forever grateful,

Tammy

Tammy Thies

Halifax





The Wildcat Sanctuary's Mission:

TWS provides for the humane rescue and sheltering of unwanted, mistreated, and neglected privately owned wildcats that pose a risk to public safety. We do not buy, breed, trade or sell animals. TWS is committed to public education about the captive wildlife crisis; offering veterinarian training opportunities; and supporting legislative solutions to the public safety issues created by private ownership of wild animals.

More Wild Spaces for Wildcats



Finally, after two years in the making, The Wildcat Sanctuary's Cougar Cove is complete. Eight free-roaming habitats provide natural enclosures for sixteen of our resident cougars. With space to stalk, play and lounge, all of our cougars think it is purrfect!

With a whole truckload of elbow grease, staff, volunteers and interns have made our dreams for our resident cougars a reality. It was so amazing to see the transformation first hand and participate in such a wonderful experience. It all started as just a stand of woods. After excavation and the building were complete, it was time to get our hands dirty. We built every enclosure from the ground up, setting hundreds of poles, attaching all of the fencing, building the perches, caves and all the special touches to make it a natural home.

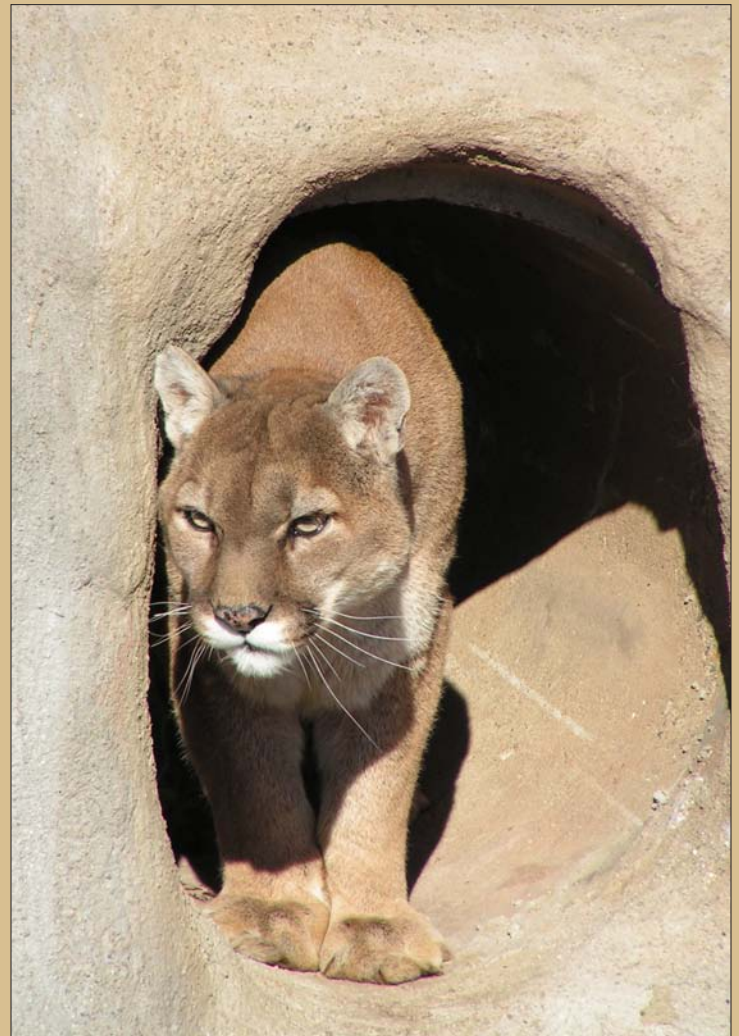
The most amazing part, of course, is seeing how our residents react to all of the space and freedom they now have. With our largest enclosure some 20,000 square feet for five cougars, it hardly seems they are in captivity at all. They are all free to be the cougars they were born to be; stalking their neighbors, chasing each other through the tall grass and taking long cat naps in their hammocks. Thank you so much from all of the cougars at The Wildcat Sanctuary for making our dreams come true.

A seventh Bengal bungalow and habitat were constructed to provide more room for our burgeoning hybrid population. The new bungalow is double the size of the others and provides ample space for running, climbing and lounging.

A heated, indoor quarantine space was constructed for sick and recovering cats. The indoor area has 3 pens and room for several temporary kennels. The three pens have access to a larger outdoor quarantine habitat so that cats can be closely watched during recovery.

Construction of the Memorial Garden is also underway. The pavilion is built and the reflection garden is being designed for planting in the spring of 2011. The area allows staff, volunteers and our generous donors to celebrate the lives of the animals that are no longer with us. Each time a resident passes, a memorial plaque can be purchased to honor their memory and to celebrate their freedom. Because of you, we're able to do so much for the animals while they are here with us, so it's fitting that we all have a place to reflect on what we've accomplished. The pavilion also includes imprints of Titan and Lilly's paw prints in the concrete flooring.

Our next project will be called 'Wild Woodlands' - a free roaming area for multiple species in need. This area will accommodate the smallest serval to the largest lion. It will consist of a 36' x 60' central building, divided into separate areas for large and small cats. Most enclosures will have hallways between them, eliminating any shared walls. This allows us the flexibility of housing cats that may be intimidated by others, or need more time to acclimate peacefully.





Winter Wonderland...



The Human Side



As our animal count expanded, so did the 2-legged staff. Jamie Butler, a former TWS intern, was hired as a part-time keeper. Long time volunteer and sponsor program lead, Christine Dietsche, was also hired as Programs & Volunteer coordinator.

The internship program provided training to students all year round. Seven interns spent three months and over 3500 hours each learning husbandry, safety protocol and habitat design.

With the hiring of our Programs Coordinator, Christine Dietsche, came improvements to the TWS Volunteer program. A program upgrade was launched in July, redefining what a TWS Volunteer is by implementing classifications: TWS Volunteer Trainee, Friend of TWS, Bobcat, Cougar, Tiger and our Lion Pride. These classifications are based upon level of commitment and hours of service per month.

New volunteers joined our mission and will hopefully be with us for many years to come. Nina Ritchie, Monica Crocker and Jeanna Hensler all received Volunteer Recognition for service in 2010 where they can allocate \$250 to the project of their choice. Lion Pride status was given to core volunteers who have dedicated years to TWS and include Myk Hamlin, Susan Quist, Susan Timmerman and Sonja Lien.

We increased our Domestic Animal Care volunteer program from 5 to 7 volunteers, which include Barb Rein, Nina Ritchie, Diane Palmersheim, Julie Heifort, Stephanie Anderson, Anja Drescher and Katherine Block. Keeper Alicia Ice is now leading the program and has implemented some great improvements and training.

Volunteers donated over 5,500 hours of their time in 2010. In addition, volunteer crew days were organized by Great Lakes Aquarium, Lake Superior Zoo, Audubon Center of the North Woods, Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet, Minnesota School of Business, Argosy, Leslie Senden, Tracy Plunkett, Sally Thornton as well as others.



Animal Care

We said good-bye to special cats who passed in 2010: lynx – Jasper and Kajeeka; bobcats – Lakota and Amos; cougar – Cheyenne; jungle cat – Milo; lioness – Tsavo; and Bengal cat – Jasmine.

And we welcomed new cats that desperately needed sanctuary: tigers Sabrina, Kita, Ekaterina, Sierra, Layla and Zeus; bobcats Libby, Makisha, Salem and Bella; Bengal Cats Jewel and Sebastian and Savannah Diego.

For many sanctuaries, 2010 was definitely a difficult year. Two large sanctuaries, The Wild Animal Orphanage and Montana Large Animal Sanctuary, shut their doors due to finances - leaving over 1500 animals without a home. The Wildcat Sanctuary stepped up to help manage placement of all the large carnivores at WAO. Sanctuaries from around the country absorbed as many animals as they could, putting strain on already tight budgets. In addition to the hours of time and several trips to Texas, The Wildcat Sanctuary took in 9 of WAO's cats.

Sabrina the tiger was also rescued from Texas earlier in the year. TWS staff joked that we needed a satellite office in Texas given how many trips we made in one summer.

Preventative care, including intake examinations, kept our vets busy. Several veterinary procedures were performed by Dr. Baillie, Dr. Blake, Dr. Plantz and Dr. Swanson. Annual exams took place on all scheduled cats. With an increasing population and many cats aging, it seemed our vets were attending to cats every week.



Growing Support

Even though so much time was spent on rescue and the build-out, it was still important to grow awareness for our work and our cause. Volunteers manned the booth at the Hands On Volunteer Expo, Twin Cities Women's Expo, Twin Cities Pet Expo, Twin Ports Pet Expo, Harriet Alexander Nature Center, TC Pride, Midwest Mountaineering Winter Expo and various art events. We have transformed our booth look with a new TWS banner, two vertical banner stands, more informational literature and new branded merchandise. TWS vets also hosted two vet seminars for students to learn about the Sanctuary's protocol.

Foundation gifts were still low given the economy, but we are grateful to have received grants from the Ahimsa Foundation, Friends of Flicka, On Shore Foundation, The Mahley Family Foundation, Mr. Karle G. Estes Foundation, The Crosswolfs, GAEA Foundation, The Binky Foundation, Edward L. Anderson Foundation, REAP Foundation and The Sheldon V. and Carroll C. Brooks Foundation.

The Wildcat Sanctuary participated in the 2nd Annual *Give to the Max Day* in November and you helped raise over \$30,000. We were ranked in the top ten for nonprofits in the Greater Minnesota area. Thank you!

Susan Timmerman designed our printed newsletter and general appeals while Christine Dietsche worked hard on our Sponsorship program to get all the residents sponsored. Pamela Lammerson of PCML Photography continues to take beautiful photographs of Sanctuary residents including those in the TWS 2011 Calendar. Social media has helped us provide supporters and an inside look into the Sanctuary. Our YouTube channel has over 60 videos created by Keeper Trista Campbell. TWS Facebook page provides daily update to almost 4,000 fans. And Keeper Alicia Ice's weekly blog shares all that is happening at TWS.

Donor events continue to be a hit. Jungle Boogie had over 130 attendees and grossed over \$50,000 for the Sanctuary. Our first annual Whiskers and Waves Wine tasting safari introduced TWS to the City of Duluth.

Our work was covered by many media outlets including Animal Planet's *Fatal Attractions: Big Cats*. This episode has been nominated for a Genesis Humane award by the Humane Society of the United States. Other stories were covered by Minnesota Public Radio, KARE 11, Fox 21, CNN iReport, Wildlife Binocular, Lavender Magazine and many others. Brian Czarnik created a *Safari Wildcat* series that featured many episodes of his time at TWS. Director Tammy Thies contributed a chapter on the History of US Sanctuaries in *Tigers of the World*.

A new sanctuary vehicle was purchased after Director, Tammy Thies, was in an accident on the way to a rescue. Shortly afterwards, TWS has partnered with Wrap City Graphics to put tigers Titan and/or Lilly and our logo on our vehicles, as well as several others, to help raise awareness for our cause.





Leisha



Cats By the Numbers...

TWS currently provides a home for life for 129 animals:

Bengal tigers	8
African lions	3
Black leopard	1
Black jaguar	1
Cougars	17
Lynx	9
Bobcats	18
Servals	16
Caracal	1
Caraval	1
Jungle cats	2
Geoffroy's cat	1
Hybrid & Domestic cats	46
	<u>...and 5 dogs!</u>
Total residents	129

Rescued in 2010:

Tigers	6
Lions	1
Bobcats	5
Hybrid & Domestic cats	3
Total rescued	15

In 2010, requests for over 50 big cats came in from as far away as Cancun, Panama, Bolivia and Spain.

Requests from individuals within the US:

Tigers	18
Lions	2
Cougars	6
Lynx	2
Bobcats	6
Servals	7
Hybrid & Domestic cats	47
Total requests	88



THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



Financial Statement

Income

Contributions	445,370
Fundraising (net)	47,161
Other	1,923
Interest	15

Total Income 494,469

In-kind 17,210

Expenses

Program Services: Animal Care	434,205 (90%)
Administrative	21,265 (5%)
Fundraising	25,626 (5%)

Total Expenses 481,096

Assets

Cash	23,348
Fixed Assets	778,031

Total Assets 801,379

Liability & Equity

Current Liabilities	33,160
Long-Term Liabilities	0
Equity	768,219

Total Liabilities & Equity 801,379

Board of Directors

Dr. John Baillie / Director of Animal Care

Dr. Courtney Blake / Director

Jeffry Hoogerhyde / Director

Gail Plewacki / Communications Director

Sarah Sederstrom / Treasurer & Secretary

Tammy Thies / Executive Director

Rachelle Wood / Director