



## THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



*They will never know freedom. Can they at least know compassion?*

### 2008 Annual Report

The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS) is more than just a safe haven for big cats. It is an agent of change for the captive wildlife crisis with a combined effort of more than 3500 supporters. If you're one of them, the following annual report recaps the amazing work YOU did in 2008! If you haven't joined us yet, consider supporting the cause by contributing to one of TWS' many programs.



#### 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 veterinary training opportunities; and supporting legislative solutions to the public safety issues created by private ownership of wild animals.

Currently, TWS provides a home for life to 113 animals: 2 Bengal tigers, 3 African lions, 1 black leopard, 1 black jaguar, 16 cougars, 11 lynx, 13 bobcats, 16 servals, 1 caracal, 1 caraval, 2 jungle cats, 1 Geoffroy's cat, 4 dogs and 41 hybrid and domestic cats.

#### THE BUILD OUT CONTINUES

In 2008, the build-out of the new site continued. Bengal tiger, Lilly, and Aslan's lion pride finally received their free-roaming habitats with hammocks, perches and access to the big cat building. Lilly was so excited to be next to the male tiger Titan. She also enjoyed her new concrete pool and waterfall. The lions received a huge concrete cave where all of them could lounge and escape the sun. With the move of the big cats, cougars Josie, Hope, Tasha and Spring all moved into 5,000-6,000 square foot natural habitats with their own caves and pools.

Construction began on Cougar Cove with clearing of the trees, excavation of the grounds, road construction and the installation of septic tank and water lines. In late summer, we also poured the heated concrete slab for the new cougar building. Then Cougar Cove had to be put on hold due to the economy and decreased donations.

A new, separate quarantine area was built which includes four large habitats. Currently, the space houses bobcats Murray, Haley and Henry plus an FIV positive cougar named Cheyenne. This provides new arrivals with a space to adjust to sanctuary life. It also provides habitats for sick, aging and recovering cats where they can be closely monitored. Huskies, Sophie and Sierra also received a new 80' x 100' foot run equipped with perches, caves and a temperature controlled building. A sixth bungalow was completed for the jungle cat group. Several additional cats received concrete caves and fire hose hammocks.

The best holiday gift came when Gary and JoAnn Fink, long time supporters of TWS, donated the payoff of our mortgage. This amazing gift secures the future of TWS and allows us to focus more funding on the care of our residents.



## THE HUMAN SIDE

Gas prices rose and weekly volunteer support dropped due to the long commute to TWS. But we are so thankful for those who found their way up by carpooling, staying overnight, or, those like long time volunteer Myk Hamlin, who continued to volunteer despite the economy.

Our staff increased to three with the addition of Alicia Ice as Lesser Cat Keeper. A bookkeeper and additional donor software was also secured to ensure our business runs smoothly. Volunteer and Staff handbooks were updated to include recently adopted policies. The facility manual was also revised to include every detail of the day-to-day operations of TWS including husbandry and feeding protocol, risk management, natural disaster plan, animal care and acquisition.



Below shows staff's gross wages before taxes.

Tammy Quist, Director	\$35,000
Trista Campbell, Senior Keeper	\$25,000
Alicia Ice, Keeper	\$18,720
Board of Directors	(no positions compensated)

In 2008, TWS had 61 volunteers who clocked 19,850 hours, roughly the equivalent of 10 additional full-time staff. TWS quarterly volunteer recognition program continued where recipients are allowed to direct \$250 to the sanctuary project of their choice. Recipients included Susan Timmerman, Christine Dietsche and Pamela Lammersen. Volunteer coordinator, Karen Pederson coordinated efforts for new volunteer orientation and group volunteer days.

A Domestic Animal Care volunteer position was created to help care for the ever growing Bengal Domestic cat population at TWS. This enables the domestic animals to get more human attention and enrichment. Four TWS volunteers went through the day-long training course to help provide animal care to this group.

## ANIMAL CARE

As we said good-bye to the special cats who had passed this year: Topaz, Yuma, Cooter, Kyra and Maugy, we welcomed new cats that desperately needed sanctuary: hybrids Safari, Spartacus, Hilo, Jasmine, Benny, Issy & Max; cougars Liberty, Donoma & Cody; bobcats Haley, Henry & Murray; Geoffrey's Rascal & a serval, Dragon.

Cats made new friends through careful introduction. Cougars Liberty and Raja became roommates. New bobcat kittens Haley and Henry became the best of friends. New arrivals Max and Issy bunked with Mark and the F1 Bengals group. Halifax, the serval, was introduced to Dragon, Princess Savannah and Mesa.

Our enrichment program gained even more momentum this year with the help of the keepers and interns. Residents received several new items such as PVC puzzles with meat treats, toys on covered garage springs and lines for additional mobility and interaction. Turkeys were provided on Thanksgiving and wrapped goodies were given at the holidays. All animals at the Sanctuary receive enrichment several times a week to keep them stimulated and happy.

With more cats came additional veterinary procedures performed by Dr. Baillie, Dr. Blake and Dr. Swanson. Three cougars, two bobcats, one serval and one Bengal were spayed and neutered. Hope, the 20-year-old cougar, was treated for hypertension. Eye surgery was completed on Kajeeka, the lynx and Abby, the Bengal. Several cats received physicals, vaccines and blood work.

Sophie, the husky, received corrective knee surgery and George the lynx had a leg amputated. The Veterinary Surgical Specialists donated both procedures. Dr. Ralph provided radiation treatment on Zac the Bengal for a thyroid issue.



## GROWING SUPPORT

TWS continues to bring our message to more individuals. Grants were received from Ahimsa Foundation, ClearChannel, Friends of Flicka, On Shore Foundation, Inc, The Mahley Family Foundation, Mr. Karle G. Estes Foundation and The Sheldon V. & Carroll C. Brooks Foundation. Our most successful fundraiser continues to be the Match Program, made possible in 2008 by TWS supporters Gary and JoAnn Fink.

Susan Timmerman designed our printed newsletter and general appeals while Christine Dietsche worked hard on our Sponsorship program to get all 113 residents sponsored.

TWS' website was kept current by Sonja Lien which included adding our YouTube channel with several videos of our cats and the day-to-day life at the Sanctuary. Keepers Trista Campbell and Alicia Ice did an amazing job bringing TWS to its supporters through these videos. HDMG created a new high definition DVD of the progress at the new site that debuted at this year's Jungle Boogie and is now available for sale.

Unfortunately, due to the economy TWS saw donations decrease through midyear. Construction was put on hold to ensure our operating budget and daily animal care was not jeopardized. TWS continues to expand its events to encourage supporters to get more involved. Some 2008 events included the 2nd Annual Dog Walk, Jungle Boogie, Lion Release Party, Wildcat Wonderland, Pumpkin Pawfest and a Sponsor Parent Celebration.

Public relations efforts were implemented by Brun, Winter, Reese and included coverage of Jungle Boogie on local TV stations KARE11 and KMSP Fox 9. The Star Tribune and Duluth Tribune published several stories that highlighted TWS. A few of those stories brought attention to issues of traveling wildcat exhibits as well as the new domestic hybrid cat problem. Director, Tammy Quist appeared on Monster Quest's elusive black cat series that aired on the History Channel. An article by Alicia Ice on the vicious cycle of cats in captivity was featured in the Wildlife Binocular.

## EDUCATION

Our college internship program expanded and included four, full-time summer interns for three months. Along with daily chores of feeding and building, the interns took courses and tests performed by the keepers. They also went on field trips to the Wildlife Science Center, The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Audubon Center of the North Woods and the Great Lakes Aquarium to learn how other organizations are working with animals. TWS Staff visited national zoos, sanctuaries and big cat facilities around the U.S. to learn husbandry practices and enclosure styles from these other organizations. Director, Tammy Quist performed inspections for The American Sanctuary Association at three facilities.

TWS participated in a food study with Nature's Variety animal food supplier. The study was conducted on several

Bengal cats with Irritable Bowel Disease (which is unfortunately common in hybrid cats) to determine if a raw diet could help this condition.

Volunteers gave educational presentations to Rotary clubs, boy's and girl's scouts as well as schools. Group volunteer days were a success with the Audubon Center of the North Woods, Great Lakes Aquarium and Minnesota's Globe School of Business Veterinary Program. TWS hosted its first Veterinary open house for clinics around MN to come and learn about the common problems of keeping wild animals as pets and the procedures commonly performed.

In 2008, TWS turned away more than 241 unwanted cats. The largest calls we received were for tigers and domestic hybrids (Bengals, chausies and savannahs).

<b>Tigers</b>	76
<b>Lions</b>	27
<b>Liger</b>	1
<b>Leopards</b>	11
<b>Cougars</b>	48
<b>Lynx</b>	3
<b>Servals</b>	4
<b>Bobcats</b>	9
<b>Hybrids</b>	62



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<b>Fundraising Income</b>	<b>2008</b>
Contributions in Kind	56,016
Match Program	71,204
Grants	21,750
Public Donations	214,897
Annual Sponsorships	56,709
Jungle Boogie	37,285
On-Site Events	11,624
Other	515
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>470,000</b>

<b>Operating Income</b>	
Education	1,270
Other	165
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>1,435</b>

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>471,435</b>
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<b>Fundraising Expense</b>	<b>2008</b>
On-Site Events	4,623
Jungle Boogie	7,228
Auction Items Rec'd Expense	14,000
Mailings	24,818
Marketing/Web	4,686
DVD Production In-Kind Cont.	15,979
<b>Total Fundraising Expense</b>	<b>71,334</b>

<b>Operation Expense</b>	
Food Expense	15,987
Daily Supplies	14,800
Volunteers	1,566
Vehicles	12,590
Utilities	13,959
Vet	3,079
Donation In-Kind Services	18,000
Building/Habitats/Repairs/Equip.	167,200
Dues, Memberships	1,979
Insurance	10,340
Rescue Transport	1,698
<b>Total Operation Expense</b>	<b>261,198</b>

<b>Facility</b>	<b>2008</b>
Building Repairs/Grounds	9,854
Mortgage	10,800
Mortgage Interest	6,654
Internet	1,207
Property Tax	1,166
Phone/Utilities	2,557
<b>Total Facility</b>	<b>32,238</b>

<b>Personnel</b>	
Salaries & Wages	76,433
Payroll Tax	5,100
Worker's Comp Insurance	4,332
Health Benefits	2,942
Continuing Education	971
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>89,778</b>

<b>General &amp; Admin</b>	
Accounting	3,550
Bank/Credit Card Fees	4,799
Interest Expense	4,779
Office Supplies	3,458
Taxes and Misc.	30
<b>Total General &amp; Admin</b>	<b>16,616</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>471,164</b>
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