

A close-up, low-angle shot of a male lion walking directly towards the camera on a snowy, icy surface. The lion's face is the central focus, with its eyes looking straight ahead. Its thick, golden-brown mane is prominent, framing its face. The background is a bright, out-of-focus snowy landscape. The overall tone is majestic and serene.

# The Wildcat Sanctuary UPROAR!

APRIL 2019 | ISSUE 20

Chupino, lion



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MARCH 2019 | ISSUE 20

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THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



**Mission:** Provide natural sanctuary to wild cats  
in need and inspire change to end the captive  
wildlife crisis.

**Vision:** Help create a world where wild animal  
sanctuaries are no longer needed.

The Wildcat Sanctuary is a tax-exempt charity  
under the IRS code section 501c3, our federal tax  
ID number is 22-3857401.



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Baby Jenga, bobcat



# *From the Founder*



## Sacrifices and choices

**E**ach and every day, we make choices that affect our lives. Some of the choices we make are the right ones, and some aren't. But even when we make the wrong choice and have to live with the consequences, we had the freedom to make that choice in the first place.

Some choices lead to sacrifices. You chose a big career, so perhaps you've had to put having a family on hold. You chose to take in your elderly parent, so you can't renovate the spare room for your gym. Some are good sacrifices. You don't eat out for a year so you can afford that dream vacation you've always looked forward to.

For me personally, I gave up a job when I was 27 years old to become the Founder and Executive Director of The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS). Twenty years later, I still make less as the Executive Director than I did at my job when I was 27 years old. I had to put off having a traditional family and building a retirement. It was a sacrifice I chose—to make TWS happen. And loving the work I do is priceless.

I'm so blessed many of you make a choice to volunteer your time, make a donation, or share an educational post. I know you have so many choices you could make that don't include the animals. I know each time you support us and them, you're making a sacrifice of something else you could be doing, or another organization you could be giving to—and I'm so grateful!

But imagine being a wild animal, born in a cage. You had no choice. On a daily basis, you have little to no choices. Yet you've sacrificed everything. You've sacrificed living in the wild, living with your own kind, foraging for food, hunting, etc. You've sacrificed who you were meant to be.

That's why YOU and TWS are so important. Yes, we save lives. But we also give choices back to the animals - as much as we can in a captive environment. They get to choose to run through a habitat, or nap in a cave. To go indoors or stay out in the sun. To choose which toy they want to play with. To choose to live with their own kind or live alone. And best of all, they get to choose to do nothing at all – which is pretty awesome some days!

You did that! I'm so thankful for the choices you've made. The animals wouldn't have the lives they have....without YOU!

Tammy Thies  
Founder & Executive Director



Nonprofit Incorporation, located in Atlanta, Georgia, received American Sanctuary Association Accreditation, 10 cats



**1999**

Began move to Minnesota, transported 10 cats on a cargo airplane, the Kittyhawk

**2000**

Abby the first Bengal cat and Meme the first tiger joined The Wildcat Sanctuary located in Isanti, Minnesota. This was the start of our program to rescue small hybrid cats.

**2001**

# The Wildcat Sanctuary 20 Year Timeline

**2002**

Tiger Cub Hanna found in home living with a little boy—The Wildcat Sanctuary led the placement to an accredited sanctuary, launched official volunteer program

**2003**

The Wildcat Sanctuary featured on the front page of Star Tribune, The Wildcat Sanctuary began assisting shelters with hybrid and wild cat seizures and surrenders

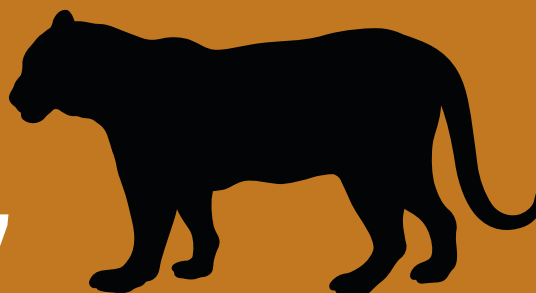
The Wildcat Sanctuary assisted authorities on a large cruelty case in Iowa. Several cougars found dead and Hope, the emaciated cougar, was rescued

**2004**

Moved to Sandstone, MN to build on 40 acres, rescued 40 additional cats – largest in one year at The Wildcat Sanctuary, tigers Titan and Lilly arrived after the tragic death of their owner by tiger Tango

**2006**

Moved from all volunteer organization to adding two paid staff members



**2007**

**2005**

Passage of Minnesota Regulated Animal Law banning ownership of wildcats in Minnesota, assisted in placement of 33 tigers and lions, zoning dispute over Meme the geriatric tiger began

**2008**

Three employees, 113 cats, 4 interns, quarantine built, paid off mortgage with generous gift, 1st international rescue—Rascal the Geoffroy's cat from Canada, first wild born cougar accepted—Donoma





Cougar Cove construction began, Give to Max Day launched, 2nd group of wild cougars came, and more continued to come



**2009**

Led placement of over 50 cats after Wild Animal Orphanage closure, reached \$500,000 mark in donations, housed 129 cats, 3 employees

**2010**

Restructured for professionalized skill sets, outsourced finance and other business needs, built specialized habitat for leopard Scarlet, recognized by Tigers in America, *UPROAR* Magazine launched

**2013**

**2011**

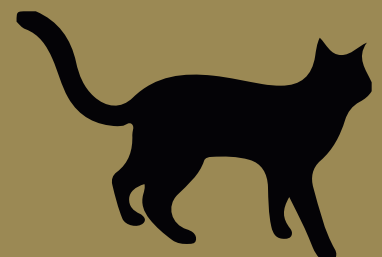
Zanesville Massacre took place in Ohio, developed 5 and 10 year plan, revised mission/vision for our impact, Wild Woodlands construction, intern bunkhouse purchased, Peter Emily Dental Foundation first visit, launch of Facebook page

**2012**

Memorial Garden, launched No More Wild Pets Campaign, Global Federation of Animals Sanctuaries accreditation, Wild Woodlands continued, featured by Best Friends magazine

**2014**

Small Cat Track rebuild due to water damage issue, 3rd in state for Give to Max Day, developed key positions at The Wildcat Sanctuary



Wild Woodlands completion, inground tiger pools and multi-level habitats construction, 4 wild cougars joined The Wildcat Sanctuary

**2015**

Hosted Big Cat Sanctuary Conference, joined Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance, Cookie the dog joined The Wildcat Sanctuary, purchased offsite intern house

**2017**

Argentina Lions arrived, Pride Prairie and Wildcat Pines construction, 4-star Charity Navigator rating, hit \$1.9 million revenue

**2018**



**2016**

Meme Welcome and Rescue Center added, Feline Meadows completed, hosted Big Cat Crisis Symposium, top sanctuary on Facebook ~3 million followers

**2019**

Complete habitat build out of our 40-acre property and begin the new Animal Care Center

**Cheers to  
20 more  
years with  
YOU!**





Raja, cougar



Nikita, tiger



Callie, tiger



# Wildcat Wo



Scarlet, serval



Sabrina, tiger







Daisy, tiger



Kitty, Canada lynx

# onderland



5 Wild, cougars



Tonka, tiger



Liberty, cougar



Shalico, Canada lynx



# The Future of Change— The New Animal Care Center

Meeting a cat for the first time during a rescue, looking into their eyes, you learn a lot about who they are. They provide so much information without speaking the English language. That's when the healing process begins.

We knew bobcat Luna had been kept as a pet and rehomed several times. Looking into her wide eyes as she sat in a wire crate in the back seat, you could see the fear of the unknown and the distrust. Emotionally, she'd been broken.

But that's only half her story. Once we performed her medical intake exam, we saw even more trauma she endured – this time physically. She'd been declawed on all four paws to try and make her a safe pet. Her canines had been brutally cut off at the gum line, exposing all the nerves. What extreme pain she must have endured.





All of this was done to try and make her a household pet. Yet in the end, she was still a bobcat, who'd been mutilated and passed around from home to home because she didn't trust humans. Who could blame her?

With privately-owned wild cats, we've seen so much in our hospital. From serval Scarlet, whose metabolic bone disease caused a fracture to her leg and her rib cage due to the poor diet she was fed. To tiger Mohan's crippling arthritis from torn ACL's that went untreated. To tiger Titan's rotting teeth that took four root canals to help, to lynx George's inoperable leg that needed amputation. I've seen you can truly love an animal to death, or almost death.

I've seen the damage first hand. Participating in intake exams, scheduling diagnostics and surgeries with specialists, watching dentists perform root canals on rotten teeth, providing comfort care to so many suffering with arthritis from debilitating declaws.

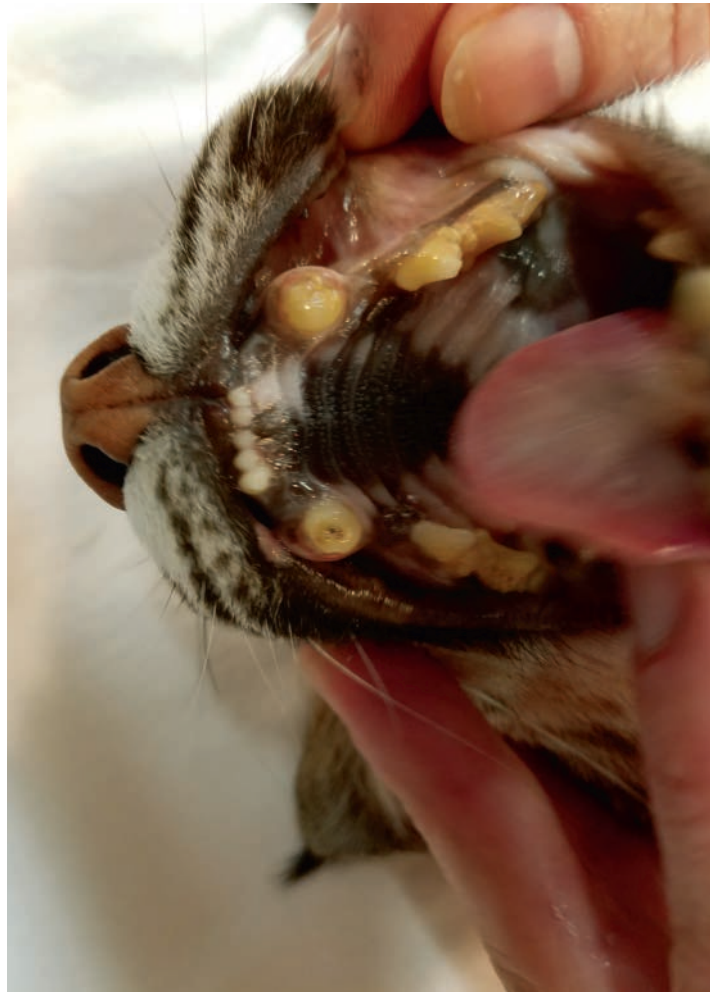
And it's why I'm so passionate about ending the captive wildlife crisis.

## **We are Stronger Together**

My vision now is to share this future with vet students, legislators, our followers and whoever else can help stop the suffering of animals. At the same time, it's important we share our knowledge and experiences with other facilities to make lives better for all wild cats living in captivity today.

The best way we can do that is through a new Animal Care and Education Center.

We're just in the beginning stages of this multi-year project.



## Goals of the New Center:

- Continue to provide state of the art medical care to all of our residents, including intake exams, preventative care, wellness checks and geriatric comfort care
- Demonstrate the damage done by private ownership and life in captivity through closed circuit TV's, videos and live social media posts
- Educate future veterinarians and interns through growing our vet team, creating a pre-vet externship program and including a viewing room above the surgery suite for observation and teaching
- Increase technical equipment so additional procedures can be performed onsite, specialists can come to TWS vs. transporting the animal
- Share our additional programs that ensure physical and emotional health from our operant conditioning/enrichment programs, laser therapy, Healing Touch and energy work, to our use of CBD oil for pain management

## The Plan

This is a big and very important project. It will take time to do it right and will be activated in several phases.

**Phase I**—Upgrade of quarantine habitats. Secure additional rescue vehicles and equipment. Meet with an architect to develop needs assessment and create preliminary plans.

**Phase II**—Final plan approval. Site preparation and excavation, including all proper permits and infrastructure. This includes roads, electric, septic, etc.

**Phase III**—Build out of Animal Care Center, moving hospital equipment, procuring additional equipment.

## The Role of our Supporters

Every single cat deserves the chance to thrive and overcome the issues they arrive with or develop as they age. And it's important to us that we provide as many tools as possible to help them heal. We know how important it is to you, too!

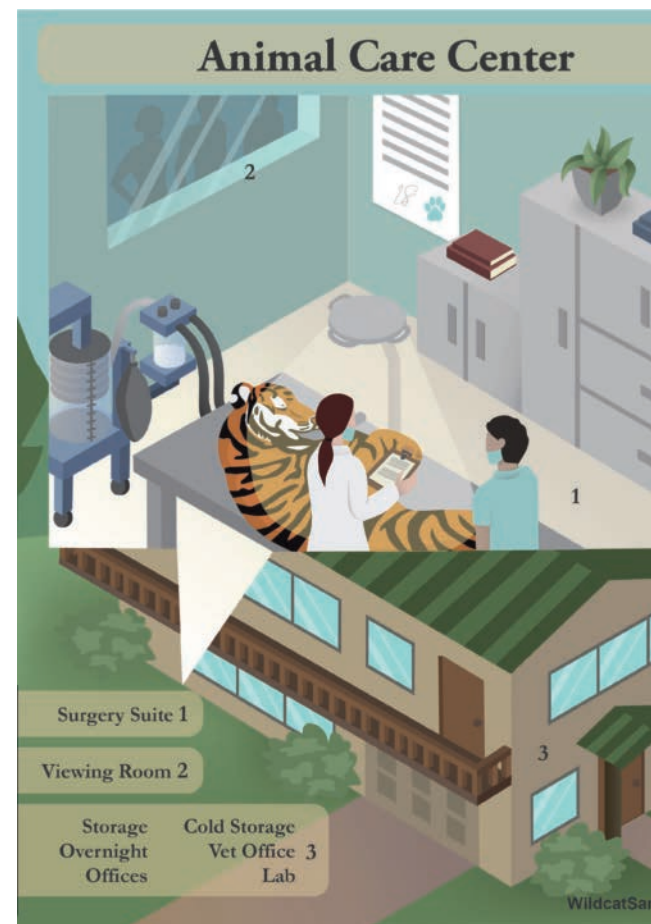
But we also need to end future cats from enduring these issues. Education and exposing the truth is key to making change.

You can help make this project a reality, help prevent more cats from suffering, and help current cats in captivity live a better life.

We're currently looking for gifts of \$10,000 or more (above current gifts) to be founding members of this important project. The completed project will be close to a million dollars.

As we progress in each phase, there will be many opportunities for all supporters to get involved at any level! We can only create this future with YOU!

**Please feel free to contact me directly at [cat@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:cat@wildcatsanctuary.org) or 320-245-6871 if you would like to commit to being a founding member or have any questions regarding this amazing project!** And I will continue to keep everyone updated on the progress of this project.





# How Are The Lions?

**I**t's a little wilder here at the Sanctuary with the arrival of the lions.

We can only imagine what the Argentina lions thought when the first snow fell...and then it didn't stop all winter long! In the beginning, they didn't venture too far out. They didn't appear to mind the cold, but they didn't like how the snow felt under their feet. And they really didn't like how they fell through the snow when they walked.

The caretakers had a solve for that—shovel walking paths through their entire habitat. And that was a success! The lions used the walking paths exploring different areas of their habitats. If they veered off, they made a quick adjustment back onto their groomed trail.

Just like Shanti Deva and her pride, it only takes one season before they get accustomed to their new surroundings. By this time next year, they'll probably be making snow angels – just like the tigers!

## Kimba and Sofi

These two are living in Wild Woodlands and everything shared with us by their Argentina caretakers rang true. They were hesitant of indoor spaces and Kimba never let Sofi out of his sight.

While Kimba and Sofi sleep in their indoor rooms, they do exit at the first sight of a human entering the building. The caretakers have been patient and diligent, positively rewarding them to eat inside while caretakers are present. So much progress was made that we were able to lock Sofi inside for her veterinarian exam. That was huge!

Even though Kimba has had a vasectomy, he still has testosterone. That's why he's very possessive over Sofi, so much so that she rarely gets alone time. We decided to give her a birth control implant that would stop her cycling and calm Kimba down. This also gave us an opportunity for a wellness exam and bloodwork. And hopefully, ensures their relationship can get back in balance.



Kimba and Sofi, lions



Gino, lion



Salteña, lion



Chupino, lion

## Gino

He arrived with hypothyroidism and some neurological symptoms. But as the cold weather dropped, Gino's symptoms began to increase. An exam was performed onsite revealing high levels of ammonia in his blood. This is caused by a shunt in his liver, most likely a genetic condition.

He's been successfully treated with medication until the weather's better. Once weather conditions improve, he'll undergo a CT exam for his liver and an MRI for his brain. Most likely, he'll have a procedure that can hopefully correct the problem.

In the meantime, he was moved to quarantine for close observation. We're so proud of how well he's doing, being trained to shift from bedroom to bedroom. He amazed us all mastering crate training within the first 48 hours of training! This means he won't need to be sedated for his visit to the University of Minnesota for diagnostics.

It's not all training though – Gino loves to play with his zoo balls and large plastic tires. He carries them around his bedroom and right into his straw-filled bed box.

## Salteña and Chupino

With the move to Pride Prairie, Chupino now has 24-hour shared-wall access to Salteña, and he just LOVES it. Salteña has opened up to Chupino and often greets him at the wall. As an older lioness, she sure isn't frail and lets Chupino know she's in charge with a bark and tail snap when she's had enough.

The biggest change for Chupino has been when Leo moved across the hallway. Chupino was very concerned that another male lion was in his space, especially so close to Salteña.

Chupino had been slow to use his yard since the space caused distance between him and Salteña. But the good news is, as Leo ventured outside to the free-roaming habitat, Chupino did the same to keep an eye on him.





Leo, lion



Mansa, lion



Shanti Deva, lion

## Leo and Mansa

When Leo first arrived, he had the personality of a toddler. A sweet and silly disposition. But when Mansa went into heat for the first time, that all changed. Leo proved to be a fully mature male lion and had one focus – Mansa.

Mansa positively responded to her brother. But before an introduction could even be considered, we had to make sure they could not reproduce since they're brother and sister.

Leo did not come vasectomized. And being in the middle of winter, along with Mansa being overweight, spaying was just too invasive of a procedure for her. It would mean she couldn't have access to the outdoors until her fur grew back. So we opted for a birth control implant with her, too.

We're hoping to begin introductions in about a month, when the weather's nicer. In the meantime, Mansa has gotten used to the feel of snow under her feet and loves to lay out on her platform in the sun.

## And we can't forget Shanti Deva!

Last but not least, the queen of them all – Miss Shanti. Shanti welcomed the new lions this fall and winter. She was rambunctious on the shared wall with Gino right after he arrived. She caroled as the new pride introduced themselves. Since that time, we've seen her slow down pretty quickly. At 24, she's now spending a lot of time sleeping and her senses have dulled.

It was almost like the passing of the guard. As if she said her work as the leader should be passed on to the new pride. It was her time to rest.

We've honored her by giving her fluffy straw to curl up in, making sure her favorite areas are shoveled on the sunny days, giving her the loving attention she craves and deserves.

We're honored every day our Queen is with us. We know there will be a day when she needs to join her pride on the other side – Aslan and Asha. We'll honor that day as well, no matter how difficult it will be for us.

Until then, we'll continue to spoil her and let her take as many cat naps in the sun as she decides.

# In Honor & In Memory

*Gifts through March 11, 2019*



## In Honor

**In honor of Anne Ward**  
Sarah Groves

**In honor of Beth, Volunteer Sponsorship Coordinator**  
Jennifer Howard

**In honor of Ellie Sterken**  
Gary Lehman

**In honor of Heather Macleod's birthday!**  
Amelia Payson Macleod and Heidi Stensby

**In honor of Jessie Robus (recent intern) and family**  
Jennifer Tryba

**In honor of Paula Nelson**  
Barbara Sharpe

**In honor of Rosalind Annen**  
Barbara Sharpe

**In honor of Ruth Vork**  
Diane and William Noon

**In honor of Sassie Cat (Carol Watson)**  
Maurice Coffey

**In honor of Stephen Weeks**  
Rita Allen

**In honor of Terry L Christensen, DVM**  
Thank you for your years of caring for my pets. Happy Retirement!  
Audrey Beckstrom

## In Memory

**In memory of Bandit Simon**  
Ann-Marie Krahl

**In memory of Berdell A. Schmidt**  
Tim and Karen Schmidt

**In memory of Boris, Martina, and Olly**  
Fulvia Bowerman

**In memory of Colette**  
Madeleine Dani

**In memory of dear, sweet Tasha II**  
Kim and Joel Meline

**In memory of Harley**  
Paul and Michele Crecca, Janet and Dan Davis, Willie Mae deGraffenried, Monica Hitt, Kim and Joel Meline, Joan Oprian, Peri Urvek, and Pamela Lammersen

**In memory of Larry Lachant, loving and devoted husband to Rowena, father to Michael, and father-in-law to Cheryl. "Where there is love there is no death."**  
Rowena Lachant

**In memory of Jane Cotnoir, a courageous co-worker and friend who was passionately in love with big cats.**  
Verity Weston-Truby and Cory Fleming

**In memory of Kashmir, Tangerine, Tiger Lilly and Spot**  
Rita Allen

### **In memory of Leslie Dodd**

As our master gardener volunteer, she turned our beautiful Memorial Garden into the peaceful, reflective spot it is today, bringing the color and beauty of nature to us all.

Now, she's tending the gardens at the Rainbow Bridge, lovingly surrounded by our 'pride on the other side.'

### **In memory of Leslie Dodd**

From all her friends and fellow volunteers at The Wildcat Sanctuary, Raptor Center, and Feline Rescue, as well as Sue Dosal, Kay and Mike Erickson and Madigan and Kay Studebaker

**In memory of Munchie, Midnight, and Lokai**  
Peggy Smith

**In memory of my Sabrina**  
Wendy Mell

**In memory of our beautiful Breagan the Dog. We miss you!**  
Stephanie Manupelli

**In memory of our beloved boy Gerard. He is outside forever now but will always live in our hearts.**  
Jason Hooks

**In memory of Rosie, beloved beagle**  
Michael Finken

**In memory of Scooter**  
Pamela Allie-Thomas, Georgene Bradford, Paul and Michele Crecca, Janet and Dan Davis, Lizbeth Dobbins and Jon Leonard, Lisa Henderson, Judy and Joe Hickey, Jennifer Howard, Marjorie Lulay, Joan Oprian, Jocelyn Raquepau, Lora Lee Washburn

**In memory of Tony the Bengal**  
Jennifer and Kurt Indermaur



# Gone but not Forgotten

*Read their full memorials, make a memorial or  
honorarium gift at [WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org).*



Harley—Sadly you couldn't live wild, but we were able to give you the next best thing – living wild at heart.



Scooter—Scooter Booter, thank you for making us all feel special. We sure hope we did the same for you.



Bronx—Your beauty was both inside and out. You will be deeply missed.



Spartacus—Your strong spirit will always remind us that we can do anything we put our mind to.





Zeke, Dimitri and Griffen, tigers



Ty, Chausie and Ledger, F1 Savannah

# MIRACLE



Morgan, bobcat and Shalico, Canada Lynx



Mondovi, bobcat and Aria, Eurasian lynx



Stelter and Brianna, bobcats



Carlo, Noah, Langley, and Donoma, cougars





Storm, Aspen, Blaze, and Snow, cougars



Simon and Jeremy, tigers

# MATCHES



Rio, serval and Nikko, bobcat



Copper and Archer, bobcats



Lizzy, Bosco, and Phoenix, servals



Raja and Liberty, cougars





THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



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PERMIT 30308

# Last Chance—Triple Match!

## Time's running out to have your donation tripled!

April 30th will be here before you know it. If you've ever considered giving a little something extra to support our rescue work, now's the best time! Thanks to generous supporters who want to inspire you to give, they'll now **triple any gift up to an additional \$60,000...**but it has to be given before the April 30th deadline to qualify.

If you just got a tax refund, why not give a little to the cats? And, your gift will be tax deductible for next year, too. Talk about tripling your return! There's no greater feeling than seeing a wild cat happy after sometimes years of abuse or exploitation - especially knowing you play a part in their 'wild at heart' fun.

Thank you for knowing how important it is to give back. You make rescues possible!

***WildcatSanctuary.org***

***email: info@wildcatsanctuary.org***

***phone: 320-245-6871***

*It's Miracle Match Month!*



**Your donation tripled before April 30**

## TRIPLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION

**\$50**  **Becomes** **\$150**

**\$100**  **Becomes** **\$300**

**\$150**  **Becomes** **\$450**