Shanti Deva, lion
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.
They are safe today, but what about tomorrow?

As I reflect back on our losses this past year, the new residents that have joined us, and all the new construction planned for the cats, I can’t help but stop and think about our future as well.

Our world can sometimes seem cruel and unfair, but it can also be joyous and resilient. I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished together. We show compassion for each other and come together for a common cause. We care about more than just ourselves.

The cats that we take in have you to thank for their second chance at life. Daisy runs and plays. What a far cry from when she was almost put down because she was unable to walk. Nikita will never be hit again by an exhibitor or chained down for photo ops. And new cats like Aria will get to settle in and know what being ‘wild at heart’ truly means.

You work so hard alongside us to make this happen for them - thank you. As I look to the future, my commitment is to make sure the future just continues to get brighter for those we rescue. That means we must be sustainable for decades to come.

As with our beloved cats, there’s a time that we’ll all leave this physical planet. I want to make sure I’ve truly made a positive impact before my time is up by leaving a legacy that you helped me create. I not only feel like I owe it to you, but to the cats currently here, and those that will call The Wildcat Sanctuary home in the future. I know you want that, too.

And imagine the feeling of knowing you’ve left a legacy for future generations. The compassion you give to us ongoing can continue far into the future. I’m asking you today to join the list of compassionate people who work so hard all their lives to ensure animals continue to receive compassion and respect far into the future—those who’ve joined our Legacy Pride by leaving a planned gift for The Wildcat Sanctuary.

Please learn more at http://wildcatsanctuary.planmylegacy.org/. Or give me a call and I’d be happy to discuss our future with you in person.

You can ensure they are safe - always! Thank you.

Tammy Thies
Founder & Executive Director
Zeke and Dimitri, tigers

Pandora, tiger

Phoenix, serval

Carlo, cougar

Ramsey, Canada Lynx

Sabrina, tiger
Shanti Deva, lion

Griffen, tiger

Tonka, tiger

Make a gift at WildcatSanctuary.org
Education to Help End the Abuse

Roadside zoos, pay-to-play cub exhibits, breeders selling on-line, exotic animal auctions...the list goes on. With so many big cats being bred and exploited, we know we cannot rescue ourselves out of the captive wildlife crisis.

Education is essential to ending the abuse. And that’s why inspiring advocates at every touchpoint to end the captive wildlife crisis is just as important as the sanctuary we provide for our rescued residents. Through social media, outreach events and public presentations, we help educate about these important issues.

The Truth about White Tigers

We understand the allure of white tigers. But, we also know the horrible reality. White tigers are simply inbred Bengal tigers. They’re not a subspecies. Breeding them does nothing toward conservation. Their white fur is the result of a mutated gene that can also result in severe health issues, impaired vision and deformities.

The litters of these inbred tigers can produce many orange tiger cubs, as well as relatively few white tigers. Breeders have been known to dispose of the unwanted orange cubs and the white tiger cubs that aren’t “perfect.” That’s why, when you see a white tiger on exhibit, remember how many lost their lives or suffered for that one you see on display.

Learn more and help educate others—www.bit.ly/WhiteTigers
Say No to Cub Petting

Sadly, the majority of tigers we’re called on to rescue started their lives in the cub petting industry. They were bred for one reason – to make a profit while they’re young.

Once they’re too big or too dangerous for photo ops, they’re gotten rid of in one way or another. Some end up sold to backyard breeders, private owners, or lost in the illegal black market trade. Others may be killed for their parts and bones for the Asian medicinal market or to exotic meat distributors.

If exhibitors follow USDA guidelines, they can only use a cub for public contact from the time they’re 8-12 weeks old. This just encourages rampant breeding and a glut of unwanted tigers.

It does nothing towards conservation, as exhibitors often claim. Instead, the general public gets the misguided notion that, if you can pet a tiger cub here, why protect them half a world away?

Learn more and help educate others—
www.bit.ly/NoCubPetting
Hybrids should not be pets

Though there are millions of perfectly wonderful domestic cats at shelters, people are willing to pay thousands for exotic hybrids. It’s become a very lucrative business for exotic cat breeders since they can speed breed to create “lap leopards” buyers will pay thousands for.

These hybrids mature and act the way they’re genetically programmed to – wild! When they won’t use a litter box, when they become aggressive to others, owners look for a place to surrender them. But these cats are caught between two worlds. Not totally domestic, not totally wild, so there are few options for them. And breeders rarely take them back.

That’s why The Wildcat Sanctuary has rescued over 60 hybrid cats. With all the genetic and health issues they suffer from due to cross breeding and having been declawed, it can cost as much to care for a small hybrid cat as it does a tiger or lion!

Read first hand stories and learn more about hybrids—www.bit.ly/HybridCats
Be an Advocate—The Big Cat Public Safety Act

One of the most important ways you can help end the suffering of big cats in the U.S. is to encourage your Congressional representative to vote FOR the Big Cat Public Safety Act. Incredibly, there’s no federal law regarding big cat ownership. Instead, it’s left up to a patchwork of state regulations. There are four states with absolutely no laws addressing private ownership of big cats. And there are 24 states with very minimal laws about it.

When states require dogs to be licensed, isn’t it time those who have dangerous exotic animals also be required to register their animals? Authorities have no idea how many big cats are privately owned in the U.S. There’s currently no way to track them. This is a bi-partisan bill we can all support to protect the general public, as well as end the suffering and abuse of countless big cats.

Sign a pre-written letter to your Congressional representative at: www.bit.ly/BigCatAct2018
I t’s hard to believe a small Midwest sanctuary that started out almost 20 years ago would be involved in so many national, and even international, big cat rescues.

Sadly, there isn’t a day that goes by when we don’t hear about a big cat somewhere in the world in need of rescue. Because of social media, we’re contacted about big cats suffering in places as far away as Gaza or Syria or Southeast Asia. It’s definitely a global issue.

Everyone wants to help, but few know the actual logistics involved.

**Bringing the cats to the U.S.**

We network with other organizations. We connect concerned supporters with rescue groups on the ground in those areas we can’t reach. And, when we can, we start the long process of trying to rescue these big cats overseas.

So many times, these cats are in poverty-stricken countries where there are no sanctuaries. Their only chance is to be relocated out of the country. It takes a large-scale effort and working with many different government agencies to arrange their export. This can cost tens of thousands of dollars and take months to years.

**It’s not easy**

We don’t usually share all the details of rescues we’re working on until the time of the cats’ arrival is imminent. Over the years, we’ve learned rescues can fall apart even at the last minute.

We go through the emotional ups and downs, but we try to spare our supporters from that anxiety until we know for sure the cats will be arriving safely at the gates of our sanctuary.

I’ve been working closely with the Argentina government since early 2017 as they make progressive strides to shift their focus from a government-funded zoo to a more eco-centered tourism model.

I was thrilled to hear of their desire to place the animals with reputable sanctuaries like ours.

Each time we fulfill the government agency’s requirements, it seems another contact at the agency takes over and we have to start all over again.

And even before the hurricanes hit Puerto Rico last year, we’d already been working for almost three years trying to rescue up to a dozen big cats there. Perfectly healthy lion cubs were being born and euthanized. The
animals there receive little to no veterinary care. The reports continue about ongoing neglect. And yet the wheels of government move at a snail’s pace.

We’ve also offered to take in big cats from Bolivia and Peru. And now the Guatemala circus cats in need of rescue are in the headlines. Yes, we’ve been contacted to help in this effort, too. Once the cats make it to U.S. soil, we’ll accommodate as many as we can.

**Sanctuary Coordination**

In international cases like these, sometimes several groups and sanctuaries are involved. Other times, one group takes the lead in coordination while several sanctuaries prepare for taking in the animals once the details are complete.

Importing animals that need rescue continues to be more of a challenge with increasing restrictions on permits. We’re thankful for our partner sanctuaries who’ve led the way to make sure every animal, no matter their location, has a chance at rescue.

We also don’t fundraise on a rescue until we know it’s a sure thing. Even when everything’s in place, import approval from U.S. Fish and Wildlife can take as much as six months.

As these cases get closer to becoming a reality, we’ll share as much as we can while still protecting the cats and not impeding rescue efforts.

Thank you for understanding how emotional this is for us, too. We don’t ever want to see a big cat suffering, especially knowing we’ve offered our sanctuary to them for so long. Your continuing support helps us work diligently behind the scenes for so many.

Thank you for being an important part of this effort.

Become part of the Monthly Pride at WildcatSanctuary.org
Welcome Home

Welcome to our new residents who’ve already made paw prints on our hearts! You can be part of their new life by becoming a sponsor parent for them at WildcatSanctuary.org

Illegally owned Cheetohs—Milo and Nala

Not too long ago, I got a call from an out-of-state rescue group. They’d been contacted by their Fish & Game Department about two illegal hybrids there. In that state, any type of Bengal cat hybrids are illegal to own.

The owner of these two Cheetohs was told she had to find them a new home. And, since they were deemed to be hybrids, that meant they couldn’t go to an in-state rescue group either since it would be illegal to adopt them out.

With millions of cats being euthanized in shelters each year, I encourage everyone to adopt. If you want a Bengal or Hybrid, find one at a rescue. Save a life, please don’t encourage more exploitative breeding.

Female Nala and male Milo are about 3 and 4 years old. They came from the same breeder. Not only do they look different though, but their personalities are very different, too.

Milo has definitely got the personality of a Bengal cat. He’s active, energetic, playful, demanding, and very vocal! Nala is timid and loves quiet time on her own with her caregivers.
Unadoptable Hybrid—Savannah Safiya

At 7 years old, this poor little girl has been through so many owners already. Transferred to Minnesota from Alabama, we have no idea how many homes she had before that transfer. And in Minnesota, she was already quickly surrendered back to the shelter by one adopter.

With a history of indiscriminate urination, excessive vocalizing, being unsocial and untouchable, crying through the night, what chance did she have of being adopted? Quite honestly, none!

So we interceded on her behalf and she’s safely here now at The Wildcat Sanctuary.

Former Pet—Eurasian Lynx Aria

Two-year-old Aria was owned as a pet and doing what most do—becoming quite aggressive as she hit maturity. They’d declawed her hoping that would make her “safer,” but it didn’t.

Sadly, the story’s so often the same. Her owners loved her dearly. They had no idea this would happen. They believed what the seller told them, that she could be a pet.

As her owner shared with me, “She was never meant to be a pet and it breaks my heart that it has come to this. But I just know that having her at The Wildcat Sanctuary is her best chance at a happy life!”
Scarlet, serval

Luna, bobcat

Benson, bobcat

Shadow, leopard

Scarlet, serval

Simon and Jeremy, tigers
If We Build It, They Will Come

The New Big Cat Habitat

It’s the hustle and bustle of summer and even though we love the warmer weather, it’s never enough time to get all we want done for the cats.

Wildcat Pines renovation is well underway. The old enclosures have been torn down, contractors are starting on the central animal building and the new habitats will be erected by late summer. Because of your support, 23 bobcats and one lynx will move into their huge new areas before fall. We’re so excited—and so are they!

And if that wasn’t enough, we’re now under the gun to complete the new lion and big cat area.

With the loss of Shanti Deva’s lion pride, we extended an offer to provide a home for lions in need. And we know if we build it—they will come!

Over the last several years, we’ve been working on national and international cases involving big cats. The cats in need include lions, tigers, leopards, and other small cats. Many will be here before fall.

For the last 8 months, I keep walking by the new lion habitat area here at the sanctuary. It’s an area we’ve cleared to begin building habitats and buildings for two prides of lions.

It’s been different around the sanctuary since Asha
and Aslan passed away. Shanti Deva still roars, but the echoing of the pride is missed daily.

The current cases we’re working on have so many ups and downs. From government processes to import permits to time table changes. But I know in my heart, if we build this area, they will come.

Whether it be a new pride of lions to call the sanctuary home, or other big cats in need. Every life is important, and they depend on us to provide them a home.

It’s important now more than
ever to build this area—the largest habitat area of our sanctuary. It’s designed for communal living of large groups of cats that can live together.

With so many lives hanging in the balance, we must begin construction sooner than later.

Often, we build our habitats ourselves to save on costs and to stretch your dollar further. But we know that, with the Wildcat Pines renovation and timing being of the essence, we’ll have to outsource more of this big project for the cats who need it so desperately.

I’m asking for your help now to build a home, so they will come. I don’t know why this area feels so close to my heart, but I get a lump in my throat thinking about it. I can’t explain why, but I know it’ll make a positive change for the sanctuary’s future as well as the special cats that will call it home.

Somehow, I feel Aslan has been holding this space, along with the others in our pride on the other side. The new habitat area lies behind the Memorial Pavilion and will have a strong presence at the sanctuary.

Please join us in building this new area and welcome those feline family members that need us most. I look forward to introducing you to them in the near future.
Join in Building Their Future!

We invite you to be a part of this amazing opportunity by helping complete the new big cat habitat through a purchase of 10, 20 or 30 linear feet of habitat. You can also become a ground-breaking member and know you are creating a forever home for a rescued big cat!

$260 buys 10 ft of habitat wall

- 10 linear feet of habitat = $260
- 50 linear feet of habitat = $1,300
- 100 linear feet of habitat = $2,600 and you will receive your name on the central animal building
- 200 linear feet of habitat = $5,200 and you will receive your name on a habitat plaque
- 400 linear feet of habitat = $10,400 and you will receive your name on a habitat plaque and be the first to meet the new residents in person
- Naming and sponsorships are also available for $10,500 and above. Contact Tammy at cat@wildcatsanctuary.org

Choose however many feet you want to buy and either donate to our Wild Spaces campaign at WildcatSanctuary.org or use the enclosed envelope.

We thank you for helping us provide a wild at heart life for those big cat families that need it most.
Thank you to The Marta Heflin Foundation for their generous support to begin the lion habitat project.
## In Honor

**In honor of Tractor**  
Anne McKay

**In honor of all wildlife that have been rescued and in memory my 5 boys, Meitu, Simon, Jazzer and Kahlua**  
Carol Ferraiuolo

**In honor of Shanti Deva**  
Cathy Silva

**In honor of my special cats, Lucy & Betsy**  
Cheryl Orttel

**In honor of Mao Mao and Ollie**  
Elizabeth Wong

**In honor of Stephanie Soucier’s birthday**  
Heather Maynard

**In honor of Constance Perenyi**  
Jakobus Kendall

**In honor of Kathleen Grasha Muster’s birthday**  
Jo Sicz

**In honor of Tiki**  
Jocelyn Raquepau

**In honor of Veterinarian Dr. Mark Goodell**  
Karen Avaloz

**In honor of all the cougars**  
Kathleen Jackson

**In honor of Mondovi**  
Kay Silver

**In honor of Max 2**  
Leona Krieg

**In honor of Ted Sitz**  
Linda and Michael Kriel

**In honor of Tammy and all the volunteers and interns who keep The Wildcat Sanctuary going strong**  
Linda Meyer

**In honor of my beautiful cats Luna and Sidney, and their twins Moon and Númi**  
Marie Meriwni

**In honor of Cookie, Indie and Mondovi**  
Nancy Nelton and Roger Frank

**In honor of Calico kitty**  
Philip Grundlehner

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## In Memory

**In memory of Icky**  
Rozlina Tan Abdullah

**In honor of big cats and my little cat, Ariel**  
Tara McCurdy

**In honor of Tess, Beauty and Lila**  
Wanda Strom

**In memory of Tweed**  
Annette DiBiase and Ellen Richardson

**In memory of Napoleon**  
Ann-Marke Krahel

**In memory of Latka, Sheba, Charlie, Brandy and Frosty**  
Barbara Stillman

**In memory of my cat, Abby**  
Bethany Ring

**In memory of Ted Sodergren**  
Betsy Sodergren, The Dodd Family, The Kitzmiller Family, The School Family, Robert and Susan Brooks, Susan and Stuart Krawll

**In memory of Tractor**  
Burma Wilkins, Carol Ann Smith, Cathleen and Jacob Nipp, Janet and Dan Davis, Joan Oprian, Mary Ellen Staley

**In memory of Dick Flaugh**  
Cheryl Williams

**In memory of all Sanctuary cats everywhere**  
Christine Stricker

**In memory of Kashmir**  
Corinne Patera

**In memory of Tracy Kozah**  
Dan and Eve Drory, Laura Freeland, Valerie and Eric Corticchiato

**In memory of Taiga**  
Diana Lamer

**In memory of Mike Rolfson, cat sitter extraordinaire**  
Doris Olson

**In memory of my feline friends that have passed on, Claudius, Tiberious, and Vesta**  
Eirik Rasmusson

**In memory of a puppy dog named “Bear”**  
Glen Yakel

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**In memory of Sugar, Hugo, Gypsy, The Pood, & Sadie**  
Holly Winscott

**In memory of Robert Bealka**  
Janet Schaapveld, The Wildcat Sanctuary Staff

**In memory of Coal the Black Lab**  
Janice O’Leary

**In memory of our kitties, Leesha and Salty**  
Jill and Eric Swenson

**In memory of Salem**  
Jo Nichols, Joan Oprian, Kim and Joel Meline, Paul and Michele CreCCA

**In memory of Sarafina**  
Joan Eichelberg

**In memory of my beautiful Maine coon cat, Gabby**  
Judy Royal and Helen Deignan

**In memory of Kandy Seaton Smith & Cleo**  
Kathy Higgins

**In memory of and in honor of all the cats I’ve loved**  
Kim and Joel Meline

**In memory of Ciega, Matty, Abby, Lindsey and Tractor. You will be forever in our hearts**  
Kim and Joel Meline

**In memory of our daughter, Annika Stenglein**  
Kim and Ray Stenglein

**In memory of Preston**  
Kristen Olsen

**In memory of Lefty**  
Lizbeth Dobbins and Jon Leonard

**In memory of Ciega**  
Lynn Mahony and Hooman Shahidi

**In memory of Napoleon and Dante**  
Mary Simon

**In memory of Miranda**  
Melissa and Dustan Cross

**In memory of Ronald Phillips**  
Nancy and David Pinzka

**In memory of Copper and River**  
Nancy Bolin

**In memory of Cooper**  
Peggy Smith
In memory of and in honor 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 my sweet Saber
Ruth Conley

In memory of Valerie Huey
Sally Thornton

In memory of Guapo
Steven Ingerson

In memory of Luella Kurowski
Susan Hobmann

In memory of Tashia who crossed the rainbow bridge at the age of 19. I really miss you baby
Susan Kuhfuss

In memory of Paul Henry
The Wildcat Sanctuary Staff

In memory of Don Thornton
From his friends at The Wildcat Sanctuary

Bobcat Salem left us at 24 years old, but not before living all nine of her lives to the fullest. We honored you Salem by helping you pass on to a place where you have limitless lives. We love and miss you!

Willow, you now get to join your family on the other side. You were small only in stature. Your sweetness and personality filled the sanctuary.

Make a memorial or honorarium gift at WildcatSanctuary.org.
Save the Date
MANE ATTRACTION
2018 Jungle Boogie • October 14th
Online registration begins July 15th at WildcatSanctuary.org