



THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



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Rescued Bobcat Receives Stem Cell Therapy for Chronic Arthritis At The Wildcat Sanctuary

YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/6FqfTxhUgho>

B-roll video: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fe6jd9jbrcf21xy/AADadTrtgFXbj2GvfoGOr5gka?dl=0>

Sandstone, MN – A 19-year-old bobcat named Baby Jenga Blue recently received stem cell treatment for his chronic arthritis at The Wildcat Sanctuary’s veterinary hospital. This was thanks to Dr. Valerie Johnson, a veterinarian at Michigan State University. He’s the first bobcat in the world to receive this type of medical treatment, according to zoo veterinarians. Johnson grew the stem cells in a lab at MSU.

Stem cell therapy has resulted in dramatic clinical improvement in some cases of arthritis in horses, giraffes, coyotes, cougars and many more species. It takes six weeks or longer to know the full effect, but the sanctuary’s very optimistic this will provide crucial relief.

Currently, arthritis is managed through non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, laser therapy and pain medications. But these practices are not always enough. “Regenerative medicine is a promising new avenue for treatment of age or injury related osteoarthritis,” Dr. Valerie Johnson said.

Stem cells were grown in a lab using fatty tissue from a healthy bobcat at the sanctuary. During this bobcat’s routine wellness exam, a small amount of fat tissue was also collected.

Once the cells were ready for transplant, they were shipped to the sanctuary’s veterinary team. Then they were injected into Baby Jenga’s wrist joint and through IV infusion, which will help all joints through his blood stream.

“This collaboration is so important to provide the best possible care for older residents and has the potential to help many more bobcats and other wild cats in the future.” said Executive Director, Tammy Thies.

“This procedure can’t turn back time, but it can make animals much more comfortable and active in their elder years. Baby Jenga is proof of that,” said Tammy Thies.

The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS) is the only accredited, non-profit sanctuary in the Midwest. TWS provides a natural sanctuary to wild cats in need and inspires change to end the captive wildlife crisis. Combining natural and spacious habitats with a life free of exhibition, TWS allows all residents to live wild at heart. As a true sanctuary, we do not buy, breed, sell or exhibit animals. The Wildcat Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. More information can be found at WildcatSanctuary.org

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