

# U

The Wildcat Sanctuary

# PROAR!

APRIL 2020 | ISSUE 24



Kimba, lion



# The Wildcat Sanctuary UPROAR!

APRIL 2020 | ISSUE 24

Tammy Thies  
Founder & Executive Director

Julie Hanan  
Contributor

Carissa L. Winter  
Graphic Designer

Photography by Judson Tharin, staff,  
interns and volunteers.



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.



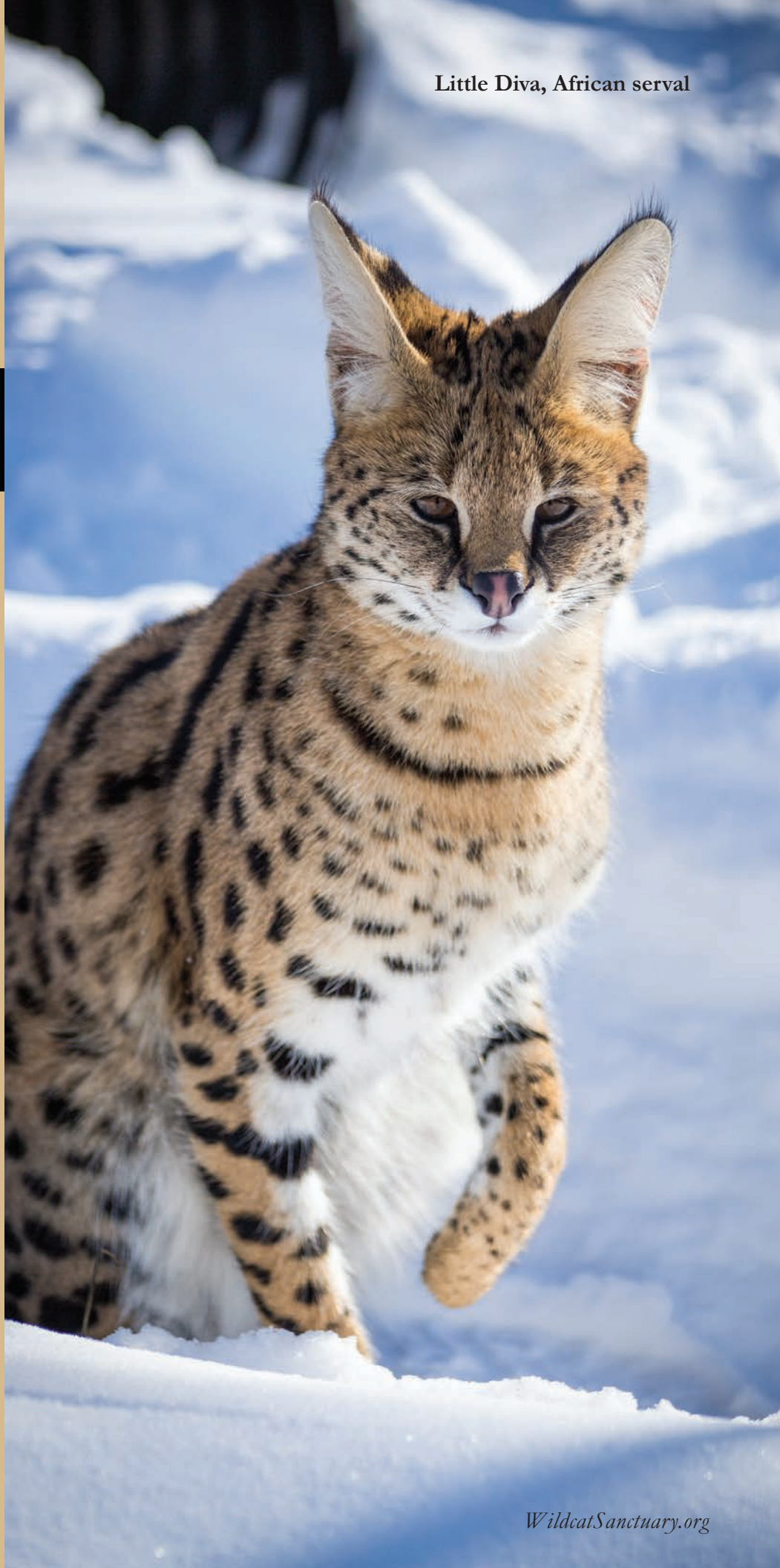
The Wildcat Sanctuary  
PO Box 314 • Sandstone, MN 55072  
320-245-6871

Follow us on:



Copyright © The Wildcat Sanctuary. All Rights Reserved.

Little Diva, African serval



# From the Founder



## Times are changing

I reflect on how the years have gone by. Both the sanctuary and the industry have changed so much. Some days, it feels like I started the sanctuary just yesterday. But then I go through all the cats in my head, the struggles and obstacles we've faced and the successes we've had together, and I realize decades have gone by.

In the early years, most of our cats came from private owner surrenders, one or two at a time. These days, rescues come in the dozens when we finally get the breeders and dealers shut down.

We also take in non-releasable wildlife and small hybrid cats who are caught between two worlds.

Last year, we celebrated our 20th anniversary and all you helped us accomplish over that time. This year, we celebrate the future generation of rescues joining our feline family.

Our hearts hurt as we sadly say good-bye to our older cats. We know they're never far away as they join our pride on the other side.

But we also find joy in the new energy the kittens bring. I can't remember the last time we had this many young faces to warm our hearts. And we invite you to be part of their new life in this ever changing world. They will need us.

Times are changing. Along with the next generation of residents, there's also an evolution of rescue, education, and even treatment of animals. In this issue, I want to share what the new landscape looks like and how the sanctuary is evolving to be as effective as possible for years to come. We must plan for the future during these uncertain times.

The tides are turning. Even with setbacks in the animal welfare industry, there's so much hope and potential for a better outcome for animals we rescue, and those still waiting.

In the last few months alone, many pending legal cases have ruled in favor of the animals. Many big cats are now on their way to accredited sanctuaries. And more will follow.

That means more big cats will need medical care and habitat space. As we see more people wanting to save animals, more sanctuaries and rescues are starting up.

They need education to be the best they can be for the animals. This is where we can make a difference.

Even in this uncertain time, with your support, we're making an impact for future generations, both human and animal.

I'm grateful you care about their future, too.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T Thies".

Tammy Thies  
Founder & Executive Director



Bell and Jalapeño, African servals



# Future Generations Join TWS



Rainier, Quincy, Tacoma, cougars

**I**t was that time of year when people were packing into airports, leaving Minnesota for warm, sunny destinations.

The first trip was for three orphaned cougar kittens from Washington. Picking them up might seem like an easy task. But if you remember the on-and-offs of the Argentina lions, this rescue though smaller, was no different.

When you're adding logistics of crating, driving and an airport transfer of any wild animal, so much can go wrong and so much changes upon each transport.

## The First Call for 3 Kittens

When the call came in to accept three orphaned cougar kittens, found under a deck with no mother in sight, we immediately said yes.

We know the alternative to placement at a facility like ours is not rehabilitation and release, but instead euthanasia. That wasn't an option any of the team wanted. So, that's

when the coordination began to save them.

Agents had to trap all three kittens, which wasn't easy! Then, they had to be sedated for vet exams and health certificates.

After that, our team coordinated the flight and rearranged cats so we had an open area for them in the Quarantine section of our sanctuary. Everything had to be perfectly aligned for their arrival.

## The Rescue's Derailed

The agent who rescues several cougar kittens a season, only had one large crate left. We received a verbal exception to fly them all together in that crate, in order to save their lives and get them to the sanctuary.

After he drove them several hours, the airline declined the crate and the kittens. These poor stressed kittens, and agent, had to drive several hours back to their holding location. A new plan had to be devised.





Rainier, cougar



Quincy, cougar



## You can donate for their care at [WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org)

The kittens were let back out to their holding cage for their safety. But that meant they'd need to be captured and sedated again to get them in the crate.

Our staff offered to drive the 27-hour drive to go get them, but the agents thought that might be too stressful.

With no additional airline approved crate, we had calls into private planes, sanctuaries in the area, accredited zoos—all of us trying to find the best way to get the kittens safely to the sanctuary.

A staff member from the Oregon Zoo volunteered to drive five hours to deliver an additional crate for the third kitten, and then drive five hours back. She also called the airlines confirming and reconfirming the reservation and guidelines.

Remember, we've done this several times, even just a few months earlier with serval Ava and her kittens. Yet the guidelines and interpretation of the guidelines changed again.

## Home at Last

The agents loaded the kittens, this time in two crates, and drove several hours again for the second attempt at getting them on a flight. He said the kitten who was separated in the second crate was chirping to his siblings the entire drive.

We headed down to the airport a second time, this time praying they weren't grounded for any reason. As stressed as we were, we knew it was harder on the kittens.

## This time it was a success!

Our sanctuary covered the flight costs to get them to our sanctuary, as well as the costs to ship the crates back to the agency and the zoo to ensure they were available for future rescues. The costs were several thousand dollars, but the time the agent and zoo volunteer donated, was priceless.



Selene and Sky, bobcats

## 2 More Kittens

As the cougar kittens, now named Rainier, Tacoma and Quincy, settled into their new wild life here at the sanctuary, a second call came in.

This time for two bobcat kittens who'd been picked up during a hike. Since they were now so imprinted on people, they were not candidates for release.

Back to the airport we went, within the same week. But this relocation went much smoother.

Now, all 5 kittens join Ava and her kittens Bell, Jalapeno and Chili at their forever home here at the sanctuary. We know we can't replace the wild. But, thanks to your support, we can provide them a life living wild at heart.

We're excited to have you alongside us, watching them grow. Second chances like these are only possible because you care.



Sky and Selene, bobcats

## When to Rescue Wildlife

When a wild animal is disoriented, injured or suffering, then it's time to intervene.

Getting the animal to a certified wildlife rehabilitator or licensed veterinarian can save its life and provide them the best chance of release back into the wild. Trying to nurse the back to health yourself, without allowing them to imprint on humans, is almost impossible.

## When to Leave Wildlife Alone

Spring brings with it the temptation to pet, touch, or "help" furred or feathered babies. In most instances, however, it's best to leave baby fawns, birds, or other wildlife alone.

First, try to determine whether the animal is hurt or sick. Is the animal shivering, vomiting, or bleeding?

Does the animal have an apparent broken limb or wing? Has it been attacked by a dog or cat? If the answer to any of these is yes, then the animal needs assistance.

The best thing to do is to contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately. These experts care for injured, ill, and orphaned wild animals with the goal of releasing them back into their natural habitat.

If the answer to the above questions is no, then try to figure out if the animal really is orphaned.

Spring is a busy time for wildlife parents, who typically leave their young alone, sometimes for long periods of time, throughout the day. This does not mean that the parent is not nearby and very conscious of its young.

Contrary to popular belief, human scent will not prevent the parents from returning to care for their young. These tips can help you decide whether to act.

### Signs a wild animal needs your help:

- Presented by a cat or dog
- Evidence of bleeding
- An apparent or obvious broken limb
- Featherless or nearly featherless and on the ground
- Shivering
- A dead parent nearby
- Crying and wandering ALL day long



# Abuse Comes in Many Forms



## Cub Petting

So many breeders and exhibitors allow pay-to-play interactions with tigers and other cubs. They promote this as a once-in-a-lifetime experience that helps conserve wildlife. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Legally, the public can only interact with tiger cubs during a 4-week window, when they're 8-12 weeks old. This is why exhibitors breed and breed more cubs.

It's inhumane for these young cubs to be pulled from their mothers, passed around constantly from human to human for photo opportunities. But it's also causing a surplus of cubs.

These cubs are often traded illegally, kept in small cages to breed as they grow up, sold to the public as pets, and worse, killed to make more space. Cub petting, selfies and pay-to-play exhibits are the largest contributor to the captive wildlife crisis today.

We're thankful so many of these types of exhibits are being investigated. A pivotal high-profile case involving Joe Exotic, a breeder and dealer in Oklahoma, has set a new precedent.

In addition to being convicted of several federal wildlife charges, he was also convicted of a murder-for-hire plot against a sanctuary director. From that case, evidence and testimony are leading to others being charged in Indiana, Florida and hopefully, more states soon.

**W**hen people hear the term 'abuse,' they picture a starving animal, maybe chained outdoors in the cold. Or an animal who's been beaten and has open sores.

This physical abuse is easier for the public to see and authorities to act on. But abuse and exploitation of wildlife has become far more complicated and harder to detect.

That's why we spend so much of our time educating the public, reporting to authorities, and supporting legislation that ends the suffering of wild cats in captivity.





## What We Can Do

Right now, there's no federal regulation of big cat ownership in the United States. Instead, we have to rely on individual state regulations. That means a patchwork of 50 different types of regulations, state by state, concerning big cats. And four states have no regulations at all!

That's why a federal bill called the **Big Cat Public Safety Act** has been introduced in Congress. It would finally help end ownership of big cats as 'pets' and stop the breeding of cubs for petting and photo opportunities.

Passage of this bill would help end thousands of big cats and cubs suffering in backyards, in cages, in basements, in roadside attractions. Will you help?

Go to <https://whoismyrepresentative.com/> to find your Senator and House of Representative's contact info. Email or call their office, asking them to vote YES on Senate Bill 2561 or House Bill 1380.

This truly is the most important thing you can do to end so much exploitation.

Cats before rescue





## The Hybrid Loophole

We've seen a huge increase in people purchasing bobcats, lynx and servals as pets, claiming they're wild/domestic hybrids. Authorities get so confused and don't have the time or resources for a DNA test. So, they often return the wild animal to the person.

In the past six months, we've been involved in four cases where we identified the cats as 100% wildcat vs. the domestic hybrid claim. We even proved one case with a DNA test we paid for.

The DNA tests are important to us because we need to use these case studies to close this loophole. In most of these cases, the cats had escaped the owner's home or had bitten an individual, causing a public safety risk.

The last incident, the owner was bitten, the cat was seized, and the owner claimed it was a pixie-bob—a domestic cat with no wild lineage whatsoever. We couldn't believe when a vet testified that the cat was indeed a domestic cat vs. the 100% bobcat it actually was. After the bite hold, they returned the bobcat to her.

We will continue to educate, identify and document these cases to share with future authorities. It's vital we educate and encourage them to do the right thing for these wild animals who should never have been sold and kept as pets.

**Pixie bobs**



**Bobcat claimed to be a Pixie bob**





# Future of Animal Rescue & Education

**A**s the industry landscape changes, we are finding more ways to address the issues and help the cats for years to come.



Logan, tiger



Gino, lion

## Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance

The Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BSCA), made up of sanctuary leaders, advocates and experts, formed in 2019 to eliminate private ownership and the commercial exploitation of wild cats in the United States.

Tammy Thies, our Founder and Executive Director, serves on the steering committee and is chair of the Rescue and Placement Committee.

With so many large cases pending and rescue calls coming from all around the country, this is a centralized way to respond quickly to a cat(s) in need. Our network provides immediate transportation, immobilization and veterinary resources, as well as permanent sanctuary.

We know which sanctuaries have current open habitats, so cats don't need to wait in temporary spaces while habitats are constructed. Tammy has been doing this same type of networking and placement for years through The Wildcat Sanctuary's No Cat Turned Away program.

Now, she's translating these skills for the BSCA. The system has already helped save bobcats, servals and tigers from around the country who're now living a compassionate life in reputable sanctuaries.

We're so proud to be part of this sanctuary alliance.





Sofi, lion



Shadow, leopard



Scarlet, African serval



Burton, bengal



Chili, African serval



Sky & Selene, bobcats

## Open Spaces

The Wildcat Sanctuary also has several open habitats. We will continue to rescue and provide a permanent home to wild and big cats in need. With several cases pending, we know these habitats will be filled in the near future.

As part of the ‘witness protection program’ for ongoing legal cases, we also provide humane housing for those still in limbo in the legal process. We traveled hundreds of miles and signed very restrictive contracts with the government to provide the best we can for a special cat.

Though he was seized due to his owner’s wrongdoing, he was the one sitting in a tiny concrete and metal front jail cell.

The contract we signed says we could house him for

several years before the court case is determined. During that time, he must remain in the “witness protection program.” That means we can’t share his story or raise funds during the case. We’re literally asked to make sure he doesn’t exist to our volunteers, donors or the public.

That breaks my heart! The cats we have in the witness protection program are AMAZING! Just as you love Shanti Deva, Mohan and so many others, I know how much you would love these ‘faceless cats,’ too.

And to those of us here caring for them every day, they aren’t faceless. We know how unique they are. We know what they’re going through is difficult and we know we can make it better for them, even if has to be done in silence.



## Animal Care & Education

As more animals are placed into sanctuaries, and many living longer lives, the need for advanced medical care continues to grow. We've also seen and treated rare cases that benefit animals at other facilities, too.

This is why we're so excited for our new multi-purpose Animal Care & Education Center. It will also include a Teaching Hospital and Distance Learning Lab. These important tools will allow us to bring our mission to more people and in a more effective way, all while better serving the cats' needs.

I think of what this hospital would have meant for Gabby and the caretakers. Instead of rushing hours away in the middle of the night to an emergency clinic, our new 24/7 medical program would've been able to handle her case right here onsite.

I think of how our work in the hospital will have a positive outcome for other sanctuaries and animal facilities through data sharing and videos of procedures.

A sanctuary in Florida, whose serval is having similar symptoms to a case we had years ago, would now have access to our case studies and even a video of treatment given in the hospital. Their vet can replicate that care and save a life, just like we did here at The Wildcat Sanctuary.

We've already raised 40% of our goal and are set to break ground in early July on this vital project. We'll be inviting you to participate in the build-out this summer. In the meantime, we're still in need of founding members.

**Giving levels begin at \$3,000 for Patrons and naming opportunities begin at \$15,000. Multi-year payments and pledges are also accepted.**

**Please contact me at [cat@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:cat@wildcatsanctuary.org) if you're interested in helping.**

The full case statement and plans can be found at: <https://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/future-change-new-animal-care-center>







Langley, cougar



Zeke, tiger

## The Best Gift of All



You can ensure your love of animals continues beyond your lifetime by including The Wildcat Sanctuary in your estate plans.

Learn more at  
[WildcatSanctuary.planmylegacy.org/](https://WildcatSanctuary.planmylegacy.org/)  
 or call us at 320-245-6871



Tao, bobcat



# In Honor & In Memory

*Gifts through Month 11, 2020*

## In Honor

**In honor of Alyssa LaMay Christiansen**  
Gail Christiansen

**In honor of Amanda and Michelle Blichfeldt birthday's**  
Mark and Penny Destache

**In honor of Ava & the babies**  
Linda Green

**In honor of Bambie Hermes' birthday!**  
Kande Larson

**In honor of Barbara Sharpe's birthday**  
Paula Nelson

**In honor of Belva Vukovich**  
Tim and Karen Schmidt

**In honor of Bill Idzorek, Kris Westberg, and Millie**  
Faith Christine

**In honor of Cheri Worthen**  
Torri Jeske

**In honor of Rachel S. Merry Christmas!**  
Valerie Dynda

**In honor of Gloria**  
Carla Januska

**In honor of Gwenn Chriss**  
Mary Gaffney

**In honor of Gwenn Chriss**  
Gail Wescott

**In honor of David. Happy birthday!**  
Caitlin Anderson

**In honor of my wonderful wife Jan. Happy birthday!**  
Richard Yazinka

**In honor of Barbara Sharpe. Merry Christmas!**  
Paula Nelson

**In honor of Rosalind Annen. Merry Christmas!**  
Paula Nelson

**In honor of Jane Dewing on her birthday**  
Nancy Goblisch

**In honor of John Collopy, RE/MAX Results**  
Mimi Schoneman

**In honor of John Rowe**  
Michell & Arlie Johnson

**In honor of Julie Morgan**  
Brenda Carter

**In honor of Kimberley Stroncek**  
Brenda Browne

**In honor of my mother-in-law Renee Silverman**  
Jenzi Silverman

**In honor of Rosalind Annen's birthday**  
Paula Nelson

**In honor of Rusty**  
Bethany Ring

**In honor of Vi. Happy birthday!**  
Sarah Kastan

**In honor of Wanda and Rick**  
Megan Strom

**In honor of Ziggy, Georgia and Bob**  
Georgia Gilbertson

## In Memory

**In memory of Whiskers and Digit**  
Kimberly and Robert Coffey

**In memory of Barbara Lundsgaard**  
Cindy Koch, Julia and Brian Palmer, William and Joanne Patterson

**In memory of beloved cat Jack**  
Barbara Seebart

**In memory of Carol Braly**  
Barbie and Art Speck

**In memory of Claudia Brockhous' Dad**  
Vickie Lachelt

**In memory of Eleanor Bourdon**  
Janet Bourdon

**In memory of Ella, Cookie, Tahiti, Raja, Liberty, Diego, Ekaterina, Shalico**  
Kim and Joel Meline

**In memory of Gabby**  
Adrian Brumar, Barbara Shackleton, Bonni Kautz, Bonnie Reilund, Daria Dzura, Joan Oprian, Laurie Stull, Mary Dimond, Maureen Ykema, Sharon Bowie

**In memory of our Thomas O'Malley spoiled cat that passed away**  
Stacie Stone

**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 all the cats that have owned me**  
Hollida Underwager

**In memory of my husband Theodore**  
Patricia Panitz

**In memory of our beloved Siberian Forest cat, Max. He is forever in our hearts. Thank you so much for everything you do for the cats!**  
Sheri Helgeson

**In memory of Jan Eaton**  
Celeste Orieux-Cross

**In memory of Kitty**  
Bonnie Reilund, Caeley Lorincz, Carol Boshears, Constance Perenyi, Craig Smith, Dale Spartz, Daria Dzura, Gail Wescott, Joan Oprian, John and Yvonne Baranick, Johnny Hallman, Karen and Craig Spencer, Kim and Joel Meline, Kristin Rhoden, Kurt and Jennifer Indermauer, Lissa Knott, Marilee Kaufman, Peggy Burke, Phillip Perri, Terri Guillasas, Thomas Shefflette

**In memory of Luli Jolie and Tellina the first 3 cats of my life.**  
Fulvia Bowerman

**In memory of Mary Ellen Godfrey**  
Susan Godfrey and Robert Young

**In memory of Nikita**  
Adrian Brumar, Bonni Kautz, Candace Roter, Carol Ann Smith, Cathy Matthews, Claudine Renaud, Constance Schey, Daria Dzura, Jacques Cooperman, James Degner, Janet and Dan Davis, Joan Oprian, John Hoffert, Karen Hill, Kathy Higgins and Terry Verigan, Laurel and Gregory Franchini, Laurel and Jeb Bishop, Laurie Stull, Linda Kiener, Liz Cottingham, Mary Dimond, Maureen Ykema, Peri Urvek, Robert Fellner, Sandra Johnson, Sharon Dawson, Susan Roberts, Verena Rose, Yvette Davis

**In memory of River, Copper, Suzi and Panda**  
Nancy Bolin

**In memory of Tigger & Tabby**  
Brenda Spearman



#### **In memory of Saltena**

Bonnie Reilund, Brian Hoyt, Carol Johnson, Cindy Schaefer, Connie Rawa, Cynthia Carter, Dale Spartz, Daria Dzura, Debra Rogers, Dinah Wonderly, Estelle M Schaefer, Everit Terhune, Fulvia Bowerman, Georgia and Wayne Gillespie, Georgia and Wayne Gillespie, Jacquelyn Rizzardo, Janet and Dan Davis, Janice O'Leary, Janice Reed, Jeannette Moeller, Jennifer Howard, Jennifer Robinson, Joan Oprian, Joanne Manning, Joanne Wells, Judith Brauch, Kate Miles, Kathryn Navarro, Kathy Higgins and Terry Verigan, Kathy Smith, Ken and Teena Shields, Kim and Joel Meline, Kristin Leppert, Kristin Rhoden, Laurel and Jeb Bishop, Lee-Anne Thomson, Linda Carlson, Linda Huhn, Lisa Champ-Paluck, Liz Green, Marjorie Lulay, Mary Dimond, Michael Hoefnagel, Muriel Bourra, Nancy and Richard Hobaugh, Nancy Bolin, Nancy Pooley, Natalie Lilja, Nicole Boar, Patricia Bueling, Patricia Saphier, Patti Petrich, Paula Landregan-Zeman and Mike Zeman, Paula Rabkin, Philip Stock, Roberta Palen, Rochelle Williams, Rosemary Hodges and Tony Johnston, Ruth Vork, Scott and Mary Rollins, Sharon Osgood, Sheilah Lundin, Sheri Helgeson, Steve and Vicki Mitchell, Susan Dragieff, Susan Klemesrud, Susan Nancarrow, Susan Roberts, Sylvia Crawford, Terri Guillamas, William and Becky Westerlage

#### **In memory of Tara**

Carol Ann Smith, Mary Dimond, Deborah McFarland, Gerrit J Diepering, Jhane Marelo, Joan Oprian, Laurel and Jeb Bishop, Paula Landregan-Zeman and Mike Zeman, Willie Mae deGraffenried

#### **In memory of Turia Jane**

Sherry Lee

#### **In memory of Zoosie and Gray**

Elizabeth Quinn

#### **In memory of our dog Maggie May**

Lisa Champ-Paluck

#### **In memory of our Siamese cat Yippee**

Nicole Boar

## **A THOUGHTFUL WAY TO GIVE**

### *Honoring Loved Ones*



Honor a beloved pet or celebrate a friend or family member with a special In Honor or In Memory gift.

### **Recognition Opportunities include:**

- Your gift listed in UPROAR magazine
- An inscribed brick or bench in our Memorial Garden

**For information, call 320-245-6871  
or visit [bit.ly/DonateTWS](https://bit.ly/DonateTWS)**



# Gone But Not Forgotten

Even though we're thankful for the lives they've lived at the sanctuary, when they're loved like they were, we still wish for more days. All full memorials can be read at:

[https://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/residents\\_category/in-memory/](https://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/residents_category/in-memory/)



**Gabby** might have been small, but her voice and personality filled our hearts.



**Tara** our 'bundle of joy,' may you have many soft places now for your daily naps.



**Nikita**, your name speaks of strength, intelligence and a powerful grace.

She was all those things and more, but to list them would not do her justice. Having to say goodbye to her so soon at 15 is heartbreaking, made even more so by seeing how far she'd come.

Anyone who follows TWS knows Nikita and her painful history of abuse and neglect. She was born at a facility well known for breeding and selling animals for profit. A notorious animal abuser named Sam Mazzola bought and raised her, using her as a photo prop for anyone willing to pay him.

His abusive ways were not just to animals, but people as well. A Google search brings up dozens of articles documenting his exploitation and convictions.

Meeting Nikita, I really wanted to show her we knew she deserved respect. She deserved to be allowed freedoms and joys. I saw her change. She seemed to enjoy the company of other cats around her, chuffing at them or engaging them through the fence, especially Shazam.

Seeing her calm and willing to sit there with me for the time she did, just to say, "Okay, I suppose you're an okay human, I'll trust you enough to share a moment,"

are reasons to keep going....even when the sorrow feels so heavy it's almost crushing.

Thank you Nikita for giving us the time to show you that not all of us are like those in your past. Thank you for that gift, and showing us that no one is ever truly broken, you just need the right compassion and understanding to grow.



**Salteña**, enjoy your new wild life, one free of bars, free of concrete and free of confinement.

Salteña's life was far from a fairy tale. In fact, it was quite the opposite.

She experienced a life no wild animal should ever endure. She'd been used for years as entertainment by a traveling circus in Argentina. She spent her life in a tiny, rusty crate on wheels, barely able to stretch her legs.

She suffered malnutrition, hunger and metabolic bone disease. Her teeth were broken and rotten from a poor diet and chewing on the bars. Eventually, she was rescued by a zoo. Though better, she still didn't have grass under her feet. This zoo had limited resources and had been closed.

I remember being asked if it was the right thing to try and move an old geriatric lioness literally across the world. In many cases, I would've said humane euthanasia was the better option. But that wasn't even an

option for her.

The zoo had been closed for several years. Sadly, that might mean she would pass away in her cage, as others had already done. I refused to let that be her fate. We knew it would be risky, but we had to try. We had to show her what life could be like.

Her move wasn't the only risk we took with Salteña. As soon as she and Chupino arrived, we knew how smitten he was with her. Living together on shared walls in Pride Prairie, you could see their relationship grow. But you could also see Salteña was alpha.

We talked about the pros and cons of allowing them to be together. We knew if one bad move took place, that could end Salteña's life. Even if Chupino was just playing.

Late this past summer, we began noticing Salteña's decline. Before she was compromised any further, we made another risky decision. We allowed her to be with Chupino for the afternoon, together in their large habitat.

Salteña lived in a barbaric circus, then a closed-down zoo, and wasn't rescued until she was 26 years old. This shouldn't have to happen to any other lion, tiger or wild cat ever.







Bosco, Phoenix and Lizzy, African servals



Tiger and Max, bengals



Caesar and Logan, tigers



Autumn and Francis, bobcats



Autumn and Belvedere, bobcats





Thank you for the Miracle Matches  
you've helped create.



Simon and Jeremy, tigers





THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



PO Box 314 • Sandstone, MN • 55072

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT 30308

## — Ways You Can Help —

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

**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 match any gift up to \$94,500...**but it has to be given before the April 30th deadline to qualify.

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 the support you give in good times and rough times like we're experiencing now. You make rescue and care possible.

***Donate: [WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org)***

***Email: [info@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:info@wildcatsanctuary.org)***

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

*It's Miracle Match Month!*



**Your donation doubled before April 30**

### **DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION**

**\$50**  **Becomes** **\$100**

**\$100**  **Becomes** **\$200**

**\$150**  **Becomes** **\$300**