

A close-up photograph of two bobcats resting together. The bobcat in the foreground is lying down with its eyes closed, showing its distinctive orange nose and striped fur. The second bobcat is positioned behind it, partially visible. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

# The Wildcat Sanctuary UPROAR!

AUGUST 2019 | ISSUE 21

Autumn and Belvedere, bobcats



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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.



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

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2 August 2019

Tonka, tiger



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



# *From the Founder*

## The Secrets of Saving Lives



Over the past 20 years, it's been a pleasure sharing our work and the stories of the animals we've rescued together. My goal has always been to intimately share the daily work and miracles you help us perform.

Through enews, live Facebook posts and UPROAR! magazine, we like to keep you in tune with the progress at the sanctuary, the new lives we've saved, and the losses we experience together.

But there's another side to saving lives I haven't been able to share. It's a side just as critical as the work you know about. It's the secret work we do saving even more lives.

You know and love cats like Daisy, Shanti Deva and Callie. You were right along with us through live Facebook posts as we welcomed the Argentina lions. But do you know there are cats just as special as these....the ones we haven't been able to tell you about?

Rescue work takes many forms. From owner surrenders, to closing zoos, to police seizures. Some rescues happen overnight, while others take years. Whether it's a pending lawsuit that's defining the future of a cat in peril, or it's a jury trial, these animals are in limbo.

Sometimes, animals remain in the poor conditions we're trying to rescue them from until a final ruling by a judge or settlement by the owner is made. To watch the cats suffer while the wheels of justice turn so slowly is extremely difficult.

In these cases, while we wait for the court system, we're still helping. We can provide expert testimony, commitment of a permanent home, and even visits to limit the amount of their suffering. When those cases finally rule in favor of the cats, there's often an agreement of an "owner surrender." That limits the history we can share with you.

But in the end, the animals are saved.

Other times, until the case can be resolved, the court temporarily seizes the animals to end their suffering. In those circumstances, we house and hopefully get to provide a lifetime home for them. We've provided a home for several like these over the years.

These are cats who've been temporarily seized and we're asked to remove them from the substandard conditions they've endured. We pick them up, get to know and love them, and they become a part of our family.

But to protect them and ensure the legal case is handled appropriately, we can't share that they're in our care with you. It can be for weeks or years. And we often absorb the costs of rescue and care while



these court cases drag on.

It breaks my heart to look into their sweet faces and not be able to share each of them with you. They're so resilient, after all they've been through. I know how much you'd love them, too. But essentially, they're in the witness protection program and need to remain that way for their safety.

On rare occasions, there've been heartbreaking outcomes when we've legally had to return the animals. If their case isn't settled or a technical issue occurred with the seizure, this can happen. I'll be honest, these moments almost broke me over the years.

Others legally become ours after the judge rules or the owner settles. And that's when we get to share with you the amazing lives you helped save, without your even knowing.

When you donate in general to our operating costs or as a Monthly Pride donor, not just to an emergency rescue or a habitat, know you're helping save these lives who live here secretly....but they're also worth saving.

We hope over the years, we're able to share the stories of some of these amazing cats with you. In the meantime, we'll continue to fight for those who need us.

During any given time, we have one to two of these types of cases going on. Most legal battles range from two to four years. Sadly, some never rule in favor of the animals. But, for those who do, we're here for them!

And always will be.

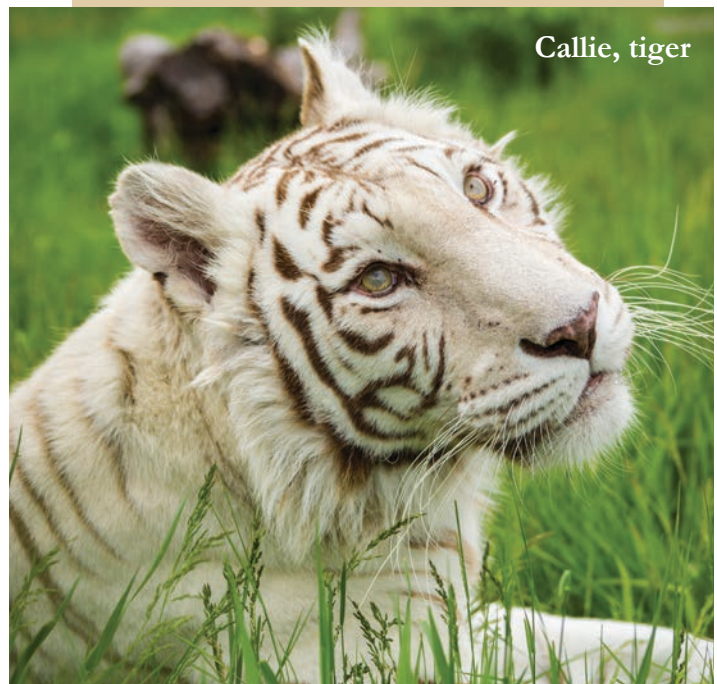


Tammy Thies  
Founder & Executive Director

You can donate at  
[WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org)



Shanti Deva, lion



Callie, tiger





Daisy, tiger



# Pride Prairie—And So Much More!



Sofi and Kimba, lions

**Y**ou are just amazing! Last year, we made the plea to bring seven lions to their forever home at our sanctuary—and you answered the call! YOU stepped up to build their new living areas, and so much more.

## Here's how your generosity helped:

- **Emergency travel expenses** for Tammy and Elyse to travel to Florida, not once, but twice to help with the import and transport of Mansa and Leo.
- **Excavation and infrastructure** for the new temperature-controlled building, equipped with septic, water and electric for the lions.
- Construction of roads and ditches for **good drainage** in their new area.
- Construction of a **40' x 60' temperature-controlled building** with heated floors, 4 large indoor rooms, customized walls for introducing
- cats, storage for big cat transport crates, and a utility and safe room.
- **Double-door entry systems** and several **steel guillotine doors** for safe daily care.
- **4 holding yards** allowing the lions to acclimate, as well as get to know each other outdoors.
- **2 outdoor habitats**, the largest at the sanctuary, giving the lions the chance to roam as free as they'll ever be. This also gives us the opportunity to split the yards if lions prefer to live alone.
- Comfy **bed boxes and hammocks** for lounging, and toys for playing.



- **Landscaping**, including trimming trees, laying grass seed and grading for drainage. This includes inventory of dirt, rock and wood chips for ongoing maintenance.
- Habitat enhancements including boulders, **rock caves**, **shade cabanas** and **platform systems**.
- 2 new, **large transport crates** for big cats for offsite vet visits and emergencies.
- Installation of a **barrier fence** around the new habitat area for human safety.

## But wait, there's more! Your gifts will also provide:

- A customized yard, outdoor building and **indoor room renovation for Gino**, the special needs lion. This ensures first rate care, even if Gino has more neurological episodes.
- **Holding yard** installation for Kimba and Sofi so they become more comfortable with shifting for cleaning and maintenance in their habitat.



Chupino, lion



- **UTV** for caretakers working in Pride Prairie. It's the furthest area of the sanctuary and very much needed for transporting food, enrichment and cleaning supplies.
- **A customized SUV** for hauling and transporting the big cat crates, as well as an aid in hauling construction supplies. This is also very much needed for pulling the trailer for Gino's University of Minnesota vet visits.
- **New security system** with high-speed internet to be installed before winter. This is so important for the safety of the lions, and all cats on the

property. Our hope is also to set-up a webcam on Pride Prairie so YOU can see the wonderful life you created for these lions as often as you'd like. Stay tuned.

- **New walk-in freezer** to help accommodate a larger inventory of food for 7 new big mouths to feed!
- **Equipment**, such as snow blowers and weed whip, to maintain the new area.

It's amazing the new life YOU helped create for Gino, Kimba, Sofi, Salteña, Chupino, Mansa and Leo! Thank you for helping us say YES to them and building infrastructure for their lifelong care.



Leo, lion



Mansa, lion



Chupino, lion



Salteña, lion





Kimba, lion



Gino, lion



# The New Animal Care Center... Progress



Daisy, tiger



Shadow, leopard

**I**n our last issue, we shared with you the exciting news for our New Animal Care Center. 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 first phase is underway this summer. With the volunteer help of AmeriCorps, the old quarantine habitats are being torn down. Contractors will excavate for better drainage and build the new quarantine habitats. These will include sterile concrete holding yards with access to softer substrate in the extended yards. This, along with indoor rooms, gives us greater flexibility for new intakes, as well as caring for cats in their geriatric years.

We have initial drawings of the Animal Care Center which includes the surgery suite, viewing room, lab, offices and overnight areas as needed.

Thank you for considering a transformational gift for our much-needed, new Animal Care & Education Center.

Founding member levels begin at \$10,000. Patron supporters range from \$3,000 - \$9,999. We ask this gift be above and beyond your current giving, since General Operating donations are still needed for meeting daily sanctuary expenses and rescues.

Supporters giving \$3,000 or more will be invited to celebrate the ground-breaking and enjoy a sanctuary tour. It will be your chance to meet the cats your generosity will help so much.

**Please contact Tammy directly at [cat@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:cat@wildcatsanctuary.org) or 320-245-6871 if you would like to be a founding member of this special project.**



# Future Animal Care Center

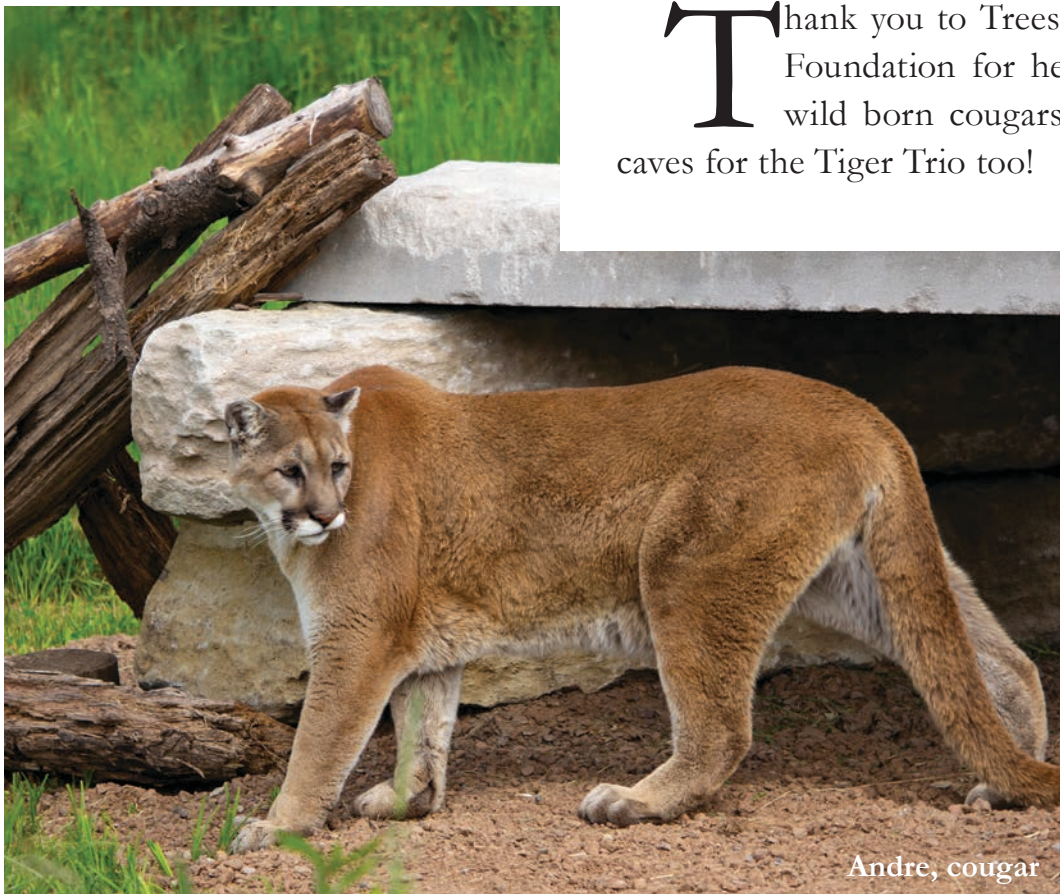


LEVEL	RECOGNITION
\$150,000 +	Founding member, naming rights to building/signage, attend viewing room examination for 4, mention in UPROAR
\$75,000 +	Founding member, naming rights to the surgery suite/signage, attend viewing room examination for 2, mention in UPROAR
\$50,000 +	Founding member, naming rights to viewing suite, attend viewing room examination for 2, mention in UPROAR
\$25,000 +	Founding member, naming rights to education rooms, mention in UPROAR
\$15,000 +	Founding member, naming rights to the veterinary lab, mention in UPROAR
\$10,000 +	Founding member, name on founding member sign and mention in UPROAR
\$3,000 - \$10,000	Patron Supporter, mention in UPROAR



# Wild Spaces For The Wild Ones

Thank you to Trees for Tigers and the Marta Heflin Foundation for helping us create spaces for our 9 wild born cougars and to all of you for providing caves for the Tiger Trio too!



Andre, cougar



Snow, Storm, Aspen, Blaze, cougars



Harley, age 20





Dimitri, tiger



Griffen, tiger



Blaze, cougar



Carlo, cougar



# Meet Our Newest Residents

**L**ittle Diva is a 2-year-old, female African serval who was purchased from an out of state breeder to be kept as a pet. The family decided they needed to rehome her due to a young child in the home. We look forward to introducing her to friends of her own kind.

**Felix is an 8-year-old, domestic Bengal cat** who was scheduled for euthanasia if a rescue group could not accommodate him. He'd been surrendered to Animal Control here in Minnesota.

His owner reported he was becoming more and more aggressive. Having moved many times, and now introducing a dog to the home, was apparently causing Felix stress.

As his aggression increased and he lashed out, the owner felt more and more threatened by him and locked him out of his room, spending less time with him.

At Animal Control, Felix shut down. He wouldn't eat, drink, or urinate. We knew we had to step in to save Felix.

He still is very shy but has already made strides settling into his new home.

**Bonzai, a 5-year-old, F1 Bengal** was surrendered when his family had unexpected life changes. They could have sold him. But instead, they wanted him to go to a sanctuary where he'd be cared for the remainder of his life.

"This is extremely difficult to process. He is so loved and we are completely heartbroken. We have taken very good care of Bonzai, but know this is the best life for him.

Thank you so much for providing what he needs. We are forever grateful to you and your volunteers who help make it happen."

Bonzai will live with other bengals in our Hybrid Haven area.



Little Diva, African serval



Felix, bengal



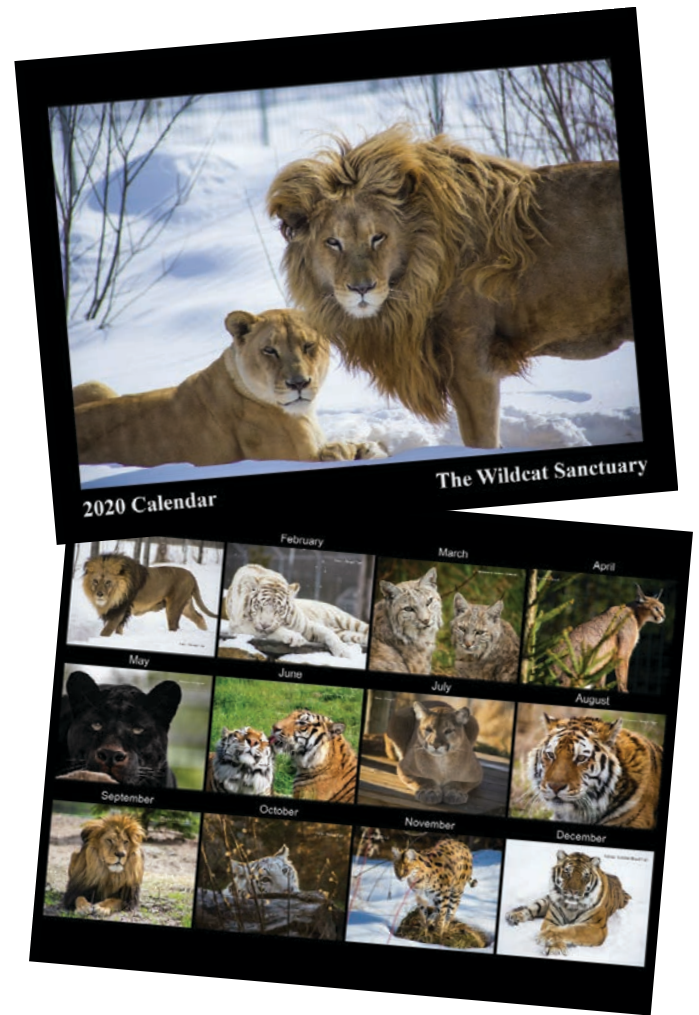
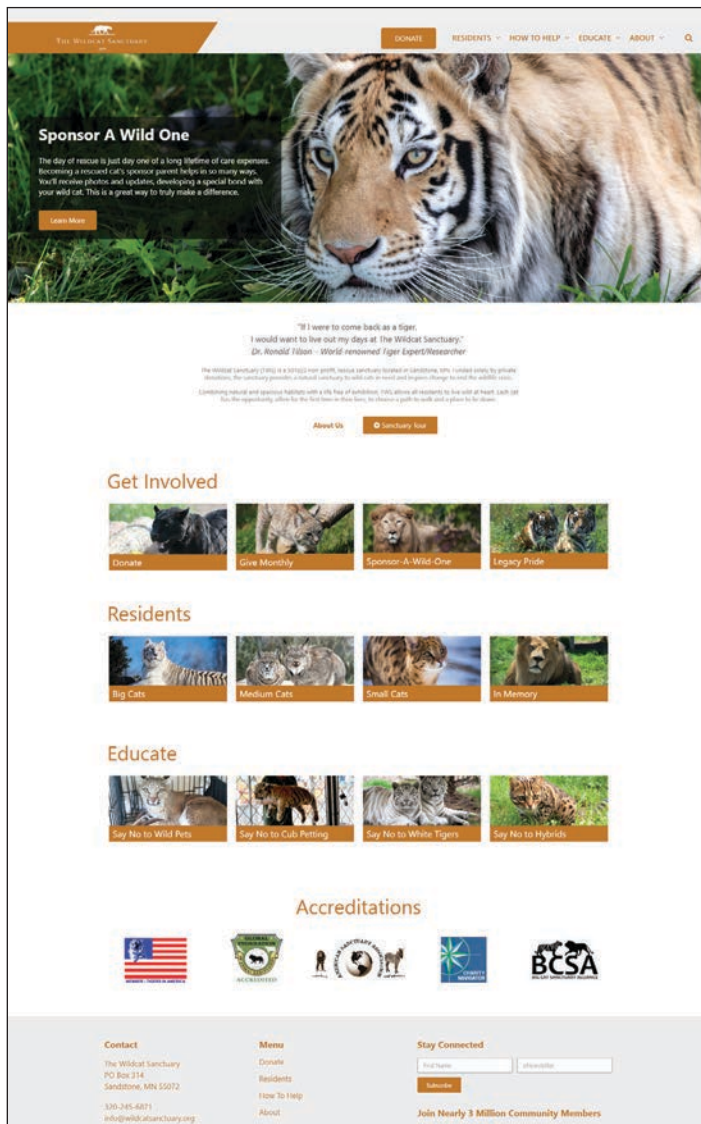
Bonzai, F1 bengal



# Look What's New!

## A New Look For Our 20th Anniversary

In honor of our 20th Anniversary, we just launched a new website! It includes more photos and videos of your favorite residents! Make sure you check it out and let us know what you think. [WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org)



## Order your 2020 Calendar TODAY!

Our calendar is filled with some of our best photos of all your favorites, thanks to the talents of our staff, interns and volunteers

It's a popular calendar, as you can imagine, since you'll be receiving over 12 full page color photos of the cats you've come to know and love over the years.

Orders are taken online only at

<http://bit.ly/TWS2020calendar>



# In Honor & In Memory

*Gifts through July 7, 2019*

## In Honor

**In honor of all the all the senior cats  
and all the Bobcats!**  
Stephanie Wittenberg

**In honor of and in memory of all the  
precious kitties in my life.**  
Kim and Joel Meline

**In honor of Anne Woods birthday!**  
Bev and Jim Whitten

**In honor of Cadbury Alex, Jules, Bip,  
Merry, Jerry, and Julie**  
John Bailor

**In honor of Copper and Scout Reineccius**  
John and Shaaron Freeburg

**In honor of Craig Miller's birthday!**  
Paul Moss

**In honor of Cyanne and Hannah**  
Megan Gingery

**In honor of Danny**  
Rosalina Gilbertson

**In honor of Dr. Nancy Johnson**  
Fran Fassman

**In honor of Ellen Richardson's  
birthday, on March 30th.**  
Liz Freeland

**In honor of Kathy Polhamus who  
introduced me to The Wildcat Sanctuary**  
Bonnie Ackley

**In honor of my Kitty**  
Peggy Smith

**In honor of Marnie Fearon's birthday!**  
Kathy Polhamus

**In honor of my Lexi cat that passed  
away last year.**  
Mirza Alfaro

**In honor of my mom Pat Rose for  
Mother's Day.**  
Julien Rose

**In honor of our clients and their  
wonderful pets.**  
Pets Remembered Cremation Service

**In honor of Robert Fellner's birthday!**  
Michael Fellner

**In honor of "Sasha Blue"**  
Rowena Lachant

**In honor of Sari, Tiger, Draidel, and  
Cecilia with love from Dore's Kittycat  
Ohana**  
Dore Dokos-Loewenthal

**In honor of Nenita and Teri with love  
from Dore and The Meows**  
Dore Dokos-Loewenthal

**In honor of Nenita and Teri  
With love from Maribeth and The  
Tuxedo Duet**  
Dore Dokos-Loewenthal

**In honor of Scratchy Cake**  
Marcus Huang and Nia Wynn

**In honor of Stephen Weeks**  
Anonymous donor

**In honor of Suzanne for Mother's Day**  
Suzanne and Paul Gorte

**In honor of Suzanne for our 46th  
anniversary**  
Paul Gorte

**In honor of your new hire, Judson Tharin!**  
Judson McNeil

## In Memory

**In memory of all those who have  
crossed the Rainbow Bridge.**  
Rochelle Williams

**In memory of Barbara Barber Brown**  
Timothae Harvey, Patricia and William Hicks,  
Shirley Hogan, Cara and David Holmberg, Nell  
and Matt Marsh, and Barbara Schilling

**In memory of Bentley**  
Heather MacLeod

**In memory of Bronx**  
Kim and Joel Meline, Janet and Dan Davis,  
Janet Medlock, Daniele Grasser, Jocelyn  
Raquepau

**In memory of canine Maxine and feline  
Marble, who epitomized inter-species  
affection**  
Suzanne Sorensen

**In memory of Charles and Kay  
Clausing**  
Miriam Bisbing

**In memory of Charles Champ for  
Father's Day**  
Lisa Champ-Paluck

**In memory of dear LeMew**  
Bonnie and Steven Goldsmith

**In memory of Cookie**  
Nancy Bolin, Rhonda Erickson, Jennifer  
Robinson, Verena Rose, Lind Berge, Judith  
Brauch, Sue Breska, Cynthia Carter, Gena and  
John Connelly, Emmi Davis, Janet and Dan  
Davis, Willie Mae deGraffenried, Cindy Diaz,  
Diane Dufault, Liz Green, Nadia Hage, Allison  
Hedgecoth, Linda Hewish, Kathy Higgins,  
Nancy Johnson, Wendy Kincaid, Leona Krieg,  
Charles and MaryEllen Lukavsky, John and  
Bess Manesis, Linda Miller, Valerie Mills, Kay  
Molencamp, Janice O'Leary, Joan Oprian,  
Bonnie Reiluand, Laurie Richards, Charlene  
Riordan, Bradley Robideau, Candy Singer,  
Justin Singleton, Craig Smith, Sally Smith, Larry  
Stoller, Bonnie Studler, Sheri and Chris Vitullo,  
Claudia Wondra, Joseph and Shirley Wolf,  
Heather MacLeod, Emmi, Richard, William and  
George Davis, Margaret Gilmer

**In memory of Copper, River, Suzie, Panda**  
Nancy Bolin

**In memory of darling Sonny a/k/a Mr.  
Kitten or the Baby Guy.**  
Annette DiBiase and Ellen Richardson

**In memory of Dee Blount**  
Peggy Smith

**In memory of Gracie and Abigail**  
Kathy Higgins

**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,  
Pamela Lammersen, Joan Oprian

**In memory of Jean Quale**  
Kathy Polhamus & family, Gerald and Mary  
Jacobson, Jerome and Debra Kragness, Janet  
Prueher, Darla Sorensen, Richard and Mary  
Willi, Bonnie Ackley

**In memory of Jerry Logan Pope**  
Friends at The Wildcat Sanctuary

**In memory of Judy Anderson**  
Elwood Anderson

**In memory of Kitty Cheese**  
Holly Winscott & Bradley Cook

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



## *Make a memorial or honorarium gift at [WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org).*

**In memory of Leslie Dodd**  
Dana and Christopher Andresen

**In memory of Lilly**  
Nina Tally

**In memory of Michael C. Hodgkins**  
T. Wiley Carr

**In memory of my Aunt Margaret Larson who truly understood my love of cats.**  
Doris Olson

**In memory of my husband, Donald W. Quinn, who passed away in January**  
Elizabeth Quinn

**In memory of my husband, Neil Ferraiuolo**  
Carol Ferraiuolo

**In memory of my sister. She left her wheelchair here: where she is, she doesn't need it anymore.**  
Cynthia Carter

**In memory of my sweet girl, Elskede**  
Devi Book

**In memory of Oreo**  
Wendy Mell

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

**In memory of our family cat, Jack.**  
Barbara Seebart

**In memory of our mama kitty & Columbo who went to the Rainbow Bridge**  
Linda Meyer

**In memory of Raja and Liberty**  
John and Yvonne Baranick, Pam Allie Thomas, Tracey Archer, Laura Baughman, Carole Bengson, Christine Bowling, Peggy Burke, Janet and Dan Davis, Sharon Dawson, Barbara and Robert Festa, John Higgins, Kathy Higgins, Jennifer Howard, Sally Jaster, Debra Meacham, Joan Oprian, Joseph Orlando, Sharon Osgood, Margaret Owen Thorpe, Constance Perenyi, Bonnie Reilund, Kristin Rhoden, Jennifer Robinson, Verena Rose, Sherry Sigmond, Stephanie Wittenberg, Edith and Todd Young, Steve and Vicki Mitchell

**In memory of Rita Dahlman**  
Patricia Dahlman, Stephanie Daily and James Hughes, Mary and William Greene, Cheryl and Terry Johnson, Helen Mathison, St. Cloud School of Nursing Alumni Association

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

**In memory of Rocko: March 1, 2000 - March 29, 2019**  
Scott Hendershot

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

**In memory of Scooter**  
Pam 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, Kim and Joel Meline

**In memory of Sophie, Bear and Sammy**  
Neena Petersen

**In memory of Spartacus**  
Kim and Joel Meline, Joan Oprian, Daniele Grasser, Jocelyn Raquepau, Lynn Mahony and Hooman Shahidi, Jerrie Rimas, Kathleen Jackson

**In memory of Straylee**  
Rebecca Skaggs

**In memory of Tahiti**  
Anita Biers, Marilee Kaufman, Jo Nichols, Joan Oprian, Paula Blair, Margaret Owen Thorpe on behalf of "Julio & Maybelline"

**In memory of Tasha II**  
Margaret Gilmer

**In memory of Zero. A friend's family member who was deeply loved and loved her family in return.**  
Jim and Debbie Matthees

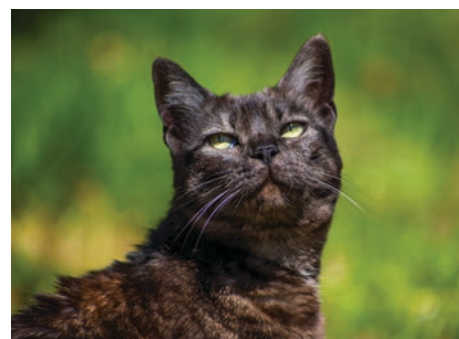
*Read their full memorials, make a memorial or honorarium gift at [WildcatSanctuary.org](http://WildcatSanctuary.org).*



Raja and Liberty, we cannot believe you are both gone, but at peace knowing you are together – forever.



Tahiti, you get to join your family once again. As we shed our tears, I know they are happy to see you.



Ella, our hearts are filled with sadness now at your sudden loss, but we can't help but smile when we remember all the joy you brought to us and the sanctuary.



# Good-Bye Dear Cookie

**D**o you believe in Miracles? I do, because I met one. And her name was Cookie.

We're heartbroken to share that Cookie lost her final battle with cancer. It just doesn't seem real. Even though she rallied for a few days, she quickly became very tired.

Even her routine tasks became more difficult as her breathing became more pronounced. She began leaving food, which wasn't like our girl at all. And even though she still loved seeing all her friends and family, we could all see her time was drawing near.

Cookie had done so much for all of us – including all of you. We promised her we'd be there for her, too – when she needed us most, no matter how difficult it would be.

Good-bye is only for now. The impact Cookie has had on us all will live forever. That's just how special she was.

She arrived diabetic, emaciated, blind and tumor-ridden, barely able to survive another day on her own. But even that didn't break her spirit. Several surgeries later to remove the tumors and give her back her sight, she wasn't recognizable as the same dog. But that wasn't why she was a miracle.

Cookie was a dog living in a cat's world – literally. Just like a cat, she had 9 lives and used every one of those lives to the fullest. She adapted so quickly to sanctuary life among the tigers, lions and other big cats. She enjoyed long walks past each habitat and never even gave a second thought to the big cat just a few feet away. But that still wasn't why she was a miracle.

While this sweet, quiet and calm girl was healing

herself, she was also connecting and healing the world. That's what made her a miracle! She wasn't just our special dog, she was yours, too.

People from around the world rallied to support Cookie and embrace her and her story. She embodied hope, forgiveness, resilience and happiness. And did so until her last breath.

She inspired cat fanatics to love dogs, she helped an autistic boy share his first words, she taught us how working together can provide a second chance to live and love.

Amazing! This lost, blind dog could've found her way into the woods, curled up and passed away. But Cookie had more love to give and work to do. She made our lives better and I know she did the same for you.

We'll shed our tears of sadness and grieve together for the loss of our special friend. But we must also honor Cookie. She'd remind us to be resilient, move forward and love again. We still have important work to do. And we'll always remember

Cookie's walking beside us each and every day, helping us.

Cookie, you were truly a gift. We were honored you found your way to us, so we could share you with the world. Everyone deserved to know you. And our lives are better for having you in it.

Sleep peacefully now so you can enjoy your walks with all your family of fans around the world. I know they will welcome you with open arms.







UPROAR!



August 2019 19





THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



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