The Wildcat Sanctuary PROPERTY SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 32

Aurora and Alana, lions



Tammy Thies Founder & Executive Director

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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.









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From the Founder



Tiger King Industry Updates

hat a whirlwind the last few months have been, and it doesn't look like there will be a change anytime soon. Turning 50, I thought I'd get a chance to slow down. But that hasn't been the case with so much going on in the industry. Luckily, I have the amazing support of so many staff, supporters and industry colleagues.

By now, you probably heard that the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Big Cat Public Safety Act, H.R. 263, by a vote of 278 to 134. The President has already issued his statement of support.

Now, it's up to the Senate. Please ask your Senators to also support the Big Cat Public Safety Act \$1210 since it's now in their hands.

Just as we heard this good news, we were also informed that the Tiger King case should be concluding in the near future. In the meantime, we received approval to share more about the four amazing cats we took in from this case.

We look forward to you getting to know white lion sisters Aurora and Alana, white tiger Thor and liliger Alyssa just like we do. We'll be sharing more about them on our website and social media channels.

Just as this case is hopefully ending, we were asked to assist in another Witness Protection case that was just beginning. I think our new normal will always include providing sanctuary to Witness Protection Cats, especially as we see more action taken against those who exploit big cats.

Doc Antle (owner of Myrtle Beach Safari who does cub petting and photos with tourists) was indicted, along with others, for federal wildlife trafficking and money laundering crimes.

Authorities have also reportedly seized 200 big cats and several other animals from Mexico City's Black Jaguar–White Tiger Foundation.



3

UPROAR! September 2022



Cages at Tiger King Park

This was a very popular destination where film and social media stars were allowed to visit and take photos with cubs.

Tiger Creek, a facility, in Texas, received critical USDA violations for the death of 11 big cats and was outed for purchasing cats from Doc Antle.

So many of these cases seem to be intertwined, selling and trafficking for profit as well as falsifying paperwork. It's a nasty web that does nothing but exploit animals.

We've been following some exploiters for years, so we're prepared for the condition/ situations their cats are coming from. Others though, like our most recent case, happen unexpectedly due to the cat(s) being in dire need of medical attention due to the circumstances they were discovered in.

On those days, my heart shatters. Helping on a moment's notice doesn't even feel fast enough when an animal is suffering. That's why I'm so thankful for our network of sanctuaries, veterinarians and rehab facilities who are always

willing to step in and give critical care in the interim. It takes teamwork, even to save one life.

YOU are an important part of that team as well! You ensure cats that are rescued never have an unhappy day here at the sanctuary. And your ongoing support ensures we can accept cats in need into our Witness Protection program.

We know right now your gifts mean more than ever—to us and you. Gas and grocery prices are on the rise, vet care is hard to come by and expensive—every dollar counts.

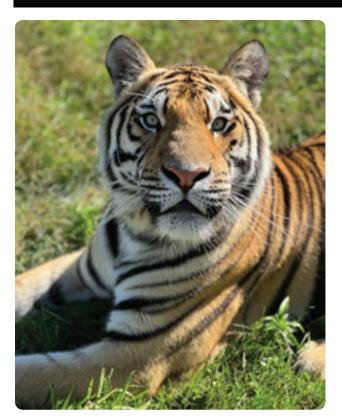
That's why we do everything to make sure your dollars go further for the cats. We never take for granted the support you provide.

Tammy Thies

Founder & Executive Director

This

Dash All Grown Up









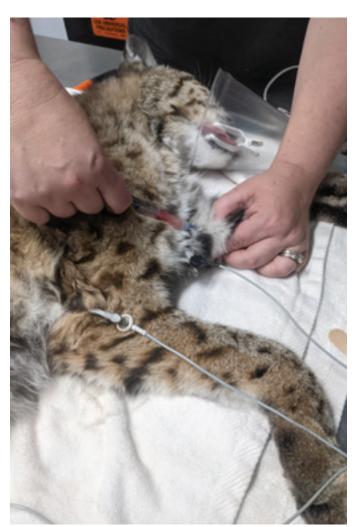




Bobcat Baby Jenga Receives Groundbreaking Stem Cell Therapy

Bobcat Baby Jenga is 19 years old which means he's a senior cat here at the sanctuary. Like other elderly animals — and people — he's developed arthritis in his old age, especially in his front limbs. Baby recently received stem cell treatment for his arthritis at our onsite veterinary hospital, thanks to Dr. Valerie Johnson.

As our sanctuary residents age, arthritis and



19 year old bobcat, Nikko, will also receive stem cell therapy in the near future.

kidney disease are the two most common issues we see. Currently, arthritis is managed through non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, laser therapy and pain medications.

But these practices are not always enough. This is especially the case with older cats, cats who were sadly declawed by previous owners, or those who have lived in small spaces and on hard substrate.

"Regenerative medicine is a promising new avenue for treatment of age or injury related osteoarthritis," Dr. Johnson said.

Stem cells are grown in a lab using fatty tissue from a healthy bobcat at the sanctuary. The fat tissue was collected during a routine wellness exam, so no additional procedure was needed.

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

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 we're very optimistic this will provide crucial relief.

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.

How We've Grown

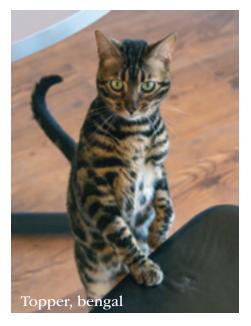
he Wildcat Sanctuary was founded 23 years ago in 1999 with an ambitious vision - to provide residents the opportunity to live wild at heart in natural, spacious habitats, free from a life of exhibition.

With your support, the sanctuary has grown into a premiere facility, home to over 125 wild cats. With 40 acres of habitats and 45 acres of land we're conserving, we continue to evolve.

We now have a new Animal Care Center and our new Food and Wellness Center is almost complete. Thank you for making the sanctuary a wonderful home for so many!



New Residents







Topper

Our July 4th holiday was spent with three of our rescue teams traveling to different parts of the country to pick up cats in need.

Topper is a 2-year-old Bengal cat found as a stray in another state. Sadly, so few sanctuaries offer homes for hybrid cats like Topper. When we were contacted, we said "yes" since we knew he would thrive living wild at heart at the sanctuary.



Buddy and Kisa Marie

We received a call about two senior cats whose owner had declining health. She loved them very much and making this decision was heartbreaking.

18-year-old Buddy the bobcat and 21-year-old Kisa Marie, a Eurasian Lynx, made the 1700 mile roundtrip journey to spend the last chapter of their lives here with us.

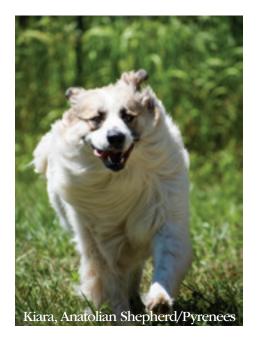
They both settled in well and are living next to each other as they always have. It's never just about saving a life; it's about ensuring the life they have left is well-lived. And that's just what we'll do for these two special new geriatric residents.











Edgar

At 16 years old, it was obvious Edgar's had a tough life. He was found as a stray and turned into Animal Control. During kitten season, shelters are overwhelmed. Since Edgar had kidney disease and congestion, we knew the reality was he had few options due to his advanced age.

We were happy to dedicate an office space for Edgar so he could have a home the last few years of his life and people to love him. This also opened up his space at the shelter so another life could be saved.

Merlin

Bengal cat Merlin had been found as a stray under the hood of a car. An Animal Control staff member adopted him and tried to embrace all his Bengal behaviors, territorial urination, shredding walls, etc.

Though he was very loved, they knew he needed a place to stretch his wild side. Merlin is very sweet but not the type of cat to live in a home environment. Now, he's happily living with other hybrids, free to be as wild as he'd like to be!

Kiara

Kiara is a two-year-old Anatolian Shepherd/Pyrenees mix dog. She had found herself unwanted and in a shelter in West Texas. Thankfully, she was transported along with other dogs, to Minnesota and approved us as a foster for her.

After weeks of getting to know Kiara, the sanctuary adopted her. She's a sensitive soul and very submissive, especially to the office cats.

She quickly learned that life is good at the sanctuary, with loads of space to run and lots of love coming her way from all the staff members.







Summer Fun

10



September 2022 WildcatSanctuary.org





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What is Individualized Care?

Can you turn the life of a rescued resident around with just a little TLC? In the best case scenario, that may happen.

But more often than not, cats coming to our sanctuary have extreme medical conditions, an unknown history and understandably, behavioral issues or fear of humans.

Our job is to make sure we treat the entire animal, both physically and emotionally. Each cat deserves the chance to thrive and overcome the issues they arrive with or develop as they age.

That's why the individualized care we offer them, thanks to your support, can work wonders!



MENTAL HEALTH







Enrichment - Our goal is to ensure each cat enjoys every day here, living wild at heart. That's why we create enrichment that allows them to engage mentally and physically as they would in the wild.

Whether it's an oversized jolly ball for a lion, a puzzle feeder for a tiger, or bobbing in a pool for a serval, these activities mimic their natural instincts to chase or search for prey in the wild.

Our larger, free roaming habitats feature natural landscape so our cats can climb, run, explore scents, sounds, and landscape they might encounter in the wild, too.

Operant Conditioning - Our program encourages cooperation from the cats to complete a specific behavior.

Whether it's transporting cats for medical treatment or having them come inside during inclement weather, positive reinforcement techniques aid our daily husbandry.

For cats with active minds or those who've suffered trauma in the past, we design operant conditioning tailored to meet their needs.

This is a key part of our caretaker's daily routine. Their patience in working with the cats certainly pays off!





Many of the cats we rescue come with special medical needs. The majority have been declawed, hadn't been fed a proper diet, and received little to no veterinary care in their previous lives.

Our sanctuary has a full time veterinarian, along with a vet tech serving as our hospital manager. With over 120 residents, each day can bring a new medical challenge.

Proactive & Preventative Care - The cats receive regular wellness exams so we can catch issues early for better results. During these exams, we run bloodwork, take radiographs, administer vaccines, trim claws, and perform a full body and dental exam.

Thanks to our supporters, we've been able to build a stateof-the-art Animal Care Center where many tests can be done onsite.

We also have a close relationship with the University of
Minnesota and local specialized care centers should the need arise for more in-depth testing.





Our comfort care program is about ensuring quality of life, not length of life. That's why our veterinarians develop a treatment plan to meet each cat's individual needs.

Those with early renal disease receive supplements and pedialyte in their water. Arthritic cats receive pain medication every 12 hours, as well as glucosamine. Some also have laser treatments. Each cat receives the exact care they need to enjoy whatever time they have left with us.

Customized Adaptive Habitats - Individualized care includes creating species-specific habitats. For example, our tigers have room to run, pools to swim in. Our bobcats have skywalks and trees to climb. Every cat has a choice of roaming their outside habitats or curling up in their indoor bedroom areas.

Timid cats have caves, mounds and places to hide or retreat for comfort. Geriatric or arthritic cats have lower platforms with steps for easy access. Whatever the individual cat needs for comfort, that's what they're given.









Every meal, every day, is designed for each cat's unique age, species, medical and nutritional needs. As carnivores, it's vital they receive diets that mimic what they would eat in the wild.

Our caretakers spend hours each day preparing a varied diet for the cats- beef, chicken, venison, quail, organ meat or whole prey. Many require boneless diets, some require small cuts, some large cuts of meat with bone. We cater to their needs - literally!

We also feed in different ways so that no two days are the same. On some days, we'll place food around their habitat so they have to forage for it. Other days, we'll place their meal in feeder puzzles as a mental challenge. We also feed using tongs so caretakers have time to assess their body condition more closely as they eat.









HEALING HEARTS

When cats arrives at the sanctuary, they come from such varied backgrounds. It's our job to assess what each individual cat needs to be happy here, to heal their hearts.

Sometimes, it's the companionship of their own kind. Sometimes, it's even friendships with another species. But, when a friendship forms, they tend to develop confidence and their personalities shine.

But for shy and timid cats, they may need more time to adjust. They like their private time so we provide that by putting up trail cams to monitor their progress. It's not important they like us. It's important they like their lives here.



Food and Wellness Center Update

Thank you to our founding members!

Brad Aden and Susann Sullivan-Aden

Sharon and John Alvarez

Wade Beauchaine

Ellen J. Carlson

Ellie Crosby

Janet and Dan Davis

Yvette Davis

Jacqueline and Sandro Diani

Robert Doty

Peggy Fisher and Larry Stelter

Susan and Thomas Handley

Randi J. Helgeson

Kurt and Jennifer Indermaur

Paula M. Johnson

Kim and David Meek

Julie Morgan

NAV Consulting Inc

Gerald and Linda Rhyne

John and Jennifer Simons

Everit B. Terhune III

Sally L. Thornton

And thank you to each of you who have also donated to make this important project happen. We're hoping to have it completed by late fall.

ach cat who arrives at the sanctuary gets detailed, individualized care. That includes so much, especially their diets. Every meal, every day, is designed for their unique age, species, medical and nutritional needs.

Progress of our new Food & Wellness Center is underway and plans include:

- Commercial kitchen with 2 wash areas and multiple food prep stations for efficiency
- Electronic boards for updating diet, supplements and medications as well as for recording daily observations
- Enrichment Program inventory to keep the cats physically and mentally stimulated
- High-efficiency washer and dryer to keep all the hybrid beds and linens clean
- Custom food chutes added to indoor habitat walls to serve larger chunks of meat for more natural feeding and enrichment
- Ice machine for water buckets to encourage elderly cats to drink more on hot summer days
- 10 x 14 outdoor walk-in cooler to thaw a week's worth of food safely and efficiently









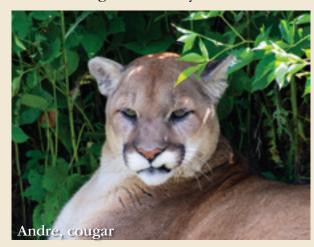
Gone But Not Forgotten



Callie – you were a strong-willed tigress, but very kind and trusting of her animal caregivers. She enjoyed her life to the fullest and we enjoyed caring for her.



Caesar – you found your inner tiger and forever friend here at the Sanctuary! We promise to watch over Logan as well as you did.



Andre – you reminded us that even cougars living in captivity are just as brave, bold and beautiful as those who get to spend their lives in the wild.

Gifts of \$50+received 2/28-8/3/2022

In Honor & In Memory

In Honor

In honor of Gail Plewacki's 2 decades with The Wildcat Sanctuary as well as the amazing work you all do.

Lesley Gottlinger, Elizabeth Haugen

In honor of Gail Plewacki's dedication of service to The Wildcat Sanctuary as board chair. Congratulations in your well-deserved retirement. You will always be a special part of TWS. Tammy, Staff and Board of Directors

In honor of Ada Kirby's birthday Victoria Hutson

In honor of Alice and Jim Palmer Randi Helgeson

In honor of Andre

Chuck and Jane Mathewson

In honor of Dawn Isackson's and Heather MacLeod's service to the board of directors.

Tammy, Staff and Board of Directors

In honor of Annette Snyder lcertis

In honor of Beverley J MillerBev Whitten

In honor of Dash and my own little tiger Coco. Love them both. Karen Stalter

In honor of David, Debbie and Marybeth Kliffe

Dore Dokos-Loewenthal

In honor of Dr. Jerry Ericksen and wonderful wife Carol.

Randi Helgeson

In honor of Enrique Palma Randi Helgeson

In honor of Julie Morgan. Happy birthday!

Karen O'Neil

In honor of Logan & Ava Leslie. Happy birthday!

Ron and Lois Dixon

In honor of Scott. Happy Birthday Scott!

Ray and Rita Quist

In honor of Jacqueline and Sandro Diani

Dr. Eric W. Stein

In honor of my sister, Danielle Angelucci. Happy Birthday, Danielle!

Love, Nini Jessica Saba Ramírez

In honor of Kimberly Phelps Birthday

Rebecca Planer

In honor of Maria Fouche
Clarence Fouche

In honor of my cat Max Revel Miller

In honor of my granddaughter, Abby Bellezza's, 11th birthday; per her request.

Letty Bradley

In honor of my rescued cats: Amanda, Porky, Little Moo, Weasel, Miss America, Callie, Max, Julio, Ruggles, Root Beer, Ketsel & Fertsel

Carrie Adicoff

In honor of my son Benjamin Glocke's 40th birthday Karen Glocke

In honor of Ninianne, Cupcake, Ursa and Annabelle, without whom Jeff and I would not be the people we are today. Elizabeth Stupak

In honor of all the animals that left the Ukraine safely

Audrey Beckstrom

In honor of Enid's life Morgon Schultz

In honor of John Collopy's 70th Birthday.

Brenda Tushaus

In honor of our 16-year-old Tabby, Murphy

Joan Beard

In honor of Randi Helgeson's birthday Vickie Lachelt

In honor of Susan Pierce Stephanie Speer, Rachel Ward In honor of Judy E. Birthday Rebecca Planer

Nobocca i ianoi

In honor of Teri Kuzoff
Dore Dokos-Loewenthal

In honor of volunteer Becky Wilkens Sandra Wilkens

In honor of Wendy Rainey
Catherine Shores

In Memory

In memory of a special friend, Janine Scherer Carol Johnson

Caroi Jonnson

In memory of all the cats that have ever owned me.

Hollida Wakefield Underwager

In memory of an awesome grandfather to my daughter and the ultimate cat-lover: Nelson Berigtold Amy & Jamie Berigtold

In memory of Andre

Sharon Bovie, Critter Care Wildlife Society, Daria Dzura, Pamela Knoche, Dale and Lauren Kramer, Rita Reinecker, Priscilla Savage, Douglas Taggart, Everit Terhune, Roger VanDerlip, Carol June Wallen, Stephanie Wittenberg, and Nancy Bolin

In memory of Aslan's pride, now together again

Cynthia Carter

In memory of Aunt Nancy, a lover of big cats and all animals

Kande Larson

In memory of Barbara A. Carrigan, who loved all cats.

Tracey Majoros and Thomas Smith

In memory of Boo, Anna, Bella, Oliver & George, all big cats at heart Jade Logistics

In memory of C. Nelson Berigtold Homan and Patricia Kinsley

In memory of Cammie Belinda Kenyon

In memory of Dobson Peni Smith

In memory of Dr Eb Ballinger Carol Foss

In memory of Caesar

Hollye Cross, Candace Cunningham, Ingrid Feng, AnnMarie Fischer, Mr. Hilary Hallam, Paula Johnson, Diana Lamer, Marjorie Lulay, Chuck and Jane Mathewson, Sharon Osgood, Cindy Peterson, Bonnie Reiland, Beth Schlitter, Dale Spartz, Everit Terhune, Roger VanDerlip, and Nancy Bolin

In memory of Callie

Lynne Alfieri, Linda Berge, Eric Bertagnoli, Gretchen Cherry, Eileen Dulin, Kacy Egan, AnnMarie Fischer, Kenneth and LouAnna Fulton, Dee Gieser, Brian Hoyt, Donna Johnson, Paula Johnson, Dale and Lauren Kramer, Rebecca Lott, Chuck and Jane Mathewson, Diane Mckay, Sharon Osgood, Constance Perenyi, Gloria Price, Sue Rogers, Barbara Saunders, Constance Schey, Shirley Sinclaire, LG Smith, Dale Spartz, Everit Terhune, Susan Winter, Mavis Zacrep, and Nancy Bolin

In memory of Charles Nelson Berigtold Rosanna Ringer

In memory of Christine Jo (Urke) Anderson

Glenn and Sue Lindgren

In memory of Chupino and my Munchie man

Sue Terry

In memory of Copper, River, Panda and Suzie

Nancy Bolin

In memory of Denali

Paula Johnson, Gayling Matthews, Nancy Gronseth

In memory of Etta, with the heart of a lion, you gave me companionship for 23 years Anne and Joel Anderson

In memory of Fuzzball Bill Elovitz

In memory of Gary Mactavish Courtney Mactavish

In memory of Gloria Misfeldt Connie Rosene

In memory of Gracie Wolfert Faith Stern

In memory of Gary Arnold Sharon Bartels and Anne Frost

In memory of Haylee Patricia Willis

In memory of Honey, Clothilde, Blanche, William, Isabeau, Kitty, Marilyn, Mat and Saber Ruth Conley

In memory of Juan Falcon who loved all animals!

Marie Kramer

In memory of Joyce Bonteaux Julie Van Arends

In memory of Karen E. Coleman-Scott Roger and Elaine Gillette amd Vicki Coleman-Scott

In memory of Kashmir

Terri Guillamas, Karen Rasmussen, Keith Schroder, Gayling Matthews, Micheal Lockhart, Nancy Gronseth

In memory of Kathy Muench Barbara Muench, Joseph Muench, Michael Vankeuren

In memory of Latka, Sheba, Charlie, Brandy, Frosty, Corky, Tony, and Pete Barbara Stillman

In memory of Mary Anne Fiala Baker Hughes

In memory of Molly Alice and Herbert Cederberg

In memory of Mr. Donald Hebeisen Glen Yakel and Deb Hoffmann

In memory of my beautiful sister, Colleen Goehring Sheri and Chris Vitullo

In memory of my cat Molly Rosalind Annen

In memory of my Dad Chris Johnston

In memory of my Dad Glenn Martin Carol Hendricks

In memory of my Manx girls lost in 2021- Bleu Faerie, Emmy Lou, and Miss Bug. Love you forever and always

Cathy Silva

In memory of my mom. Faye Pickering loved watching all the big cats, she really enjoyed watching Dash grow up.

Mandy Thompson

In memory of my mother, **Margaret Champ** Lisa Champ-Paluck

In memory of my parents Charles & Ann Champ for their anniversary 06/21/1948 Lisa Champ-Paluck

In memory of my precious Annie & sweet mama kitty forever loved! Nancy Bailey

In memory of my very dear friend, **Patsy Gerde**

Lynn Krapf

In memory of my very sweet cat Max!

Revel Miller

In memory of Nelson Berigtold Diane Biddinger, Donald and Lucille Lotz

In memory of my Dad who instilled my love of animals in me. Devi Book

In memory of the many beloved cats and dogs which have shared my Life. Phyllis Abshier

In memory of our 3 clinic cats who worked so hard to make Century Animal Clinic a welcome place: Blossom, Simon, and Josie. Tim and Dawn Perault-Amstutz

In memory of our beautiful ISE Renee Olsten

In memory of our beautiful, 23-year-old, calico. Anne and Joel Anderson

In memory of our Manx cat Rocket Hockin as we miss him so much Julie Hockin

In memory of our roommate Jammer who passed away on June 12 Linda Meyer

In memory of our tuxedo cat **Mittens** Roger Morris

In memory of Puma Gronseth who passed in April 2022 Nancy Gronseth

In memory of Shanti and Mohan Kendra Ditto

In memory of Tigger Laurie Kaufmann

In memory of Toonce Terry & Annette Vetsch

In memory of Virginia Stallard Anonymous

In memory of William (Bill) on behalf of LYB-CPET at San Jacinto College



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Save the Date





GIVE TO THE MAX DAY is our biggest 24 hours of giving!

It's also the purr-fect time to give since your GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!

We've got an amazing day planned for you November 17th. Taking you behind the scenes, we'll be giving you a glimpse of what it's like to be part of our rescue team.

From early morning food prep and medication rounds to overnight care, you'll get to see it all as you tune into our Facebook page for live coverage that day.

You'll be able to start scheduling your donation for GIVE TO THE MAX DAY on November 1st so mark your calendars now. As a special incentive, every donor will be entered for a chance to win our highly coveted CARETAKER FOR A DAY EXPERIENCE!

There's more! For every gift of \$100 or more, you'll receive a paw print and a special thank you from one of our big cats!

Remember, when you **GIVE TO THE MAX**, you help save wild cats in need. Thank you for helping change their world for the better.