

The Wildcat Sanctuary UPROAR!

JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE 33



Taras, lion

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Prada, lion

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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.



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From the Founder

Rescuing Ukraine Lion Cubs



The last few months seems like a dream. But for those in Ukraine, it's still a nightmare. Many are surrounded by constant shelling and have no electricity. Some have lost family members and friends. Yet so many were still trying to help the victims of the war, both human and animal.

Rescuing lion cubs from war-stricken Ukraine was no easy task, not for anyone involved. It took collaboration of many animal rescue organizations, committed individuals, donors and even governments to move the mountains to make this rescue happen.

I started this journey to rescue the animals, but I fell in love with the people and made dear friends and colleagues along the way. I am forever grateful for their dedication and commitment to the animals.

How it Began

In late September, IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) asked if we could provide a sanctuary to several big cats in war-stricken Ukraine. They knew we had experience with international rescues in the past.

We agreed not only to provide a forever sanctuary to three lions cubs (Taras, Lesya and Stefania), but also other wild cats, if the logistics could be orchestrated to get them to the United States. We also agreed to mentor on the current care of the cubs, diets, and formulas, as well as the import process to the United States.

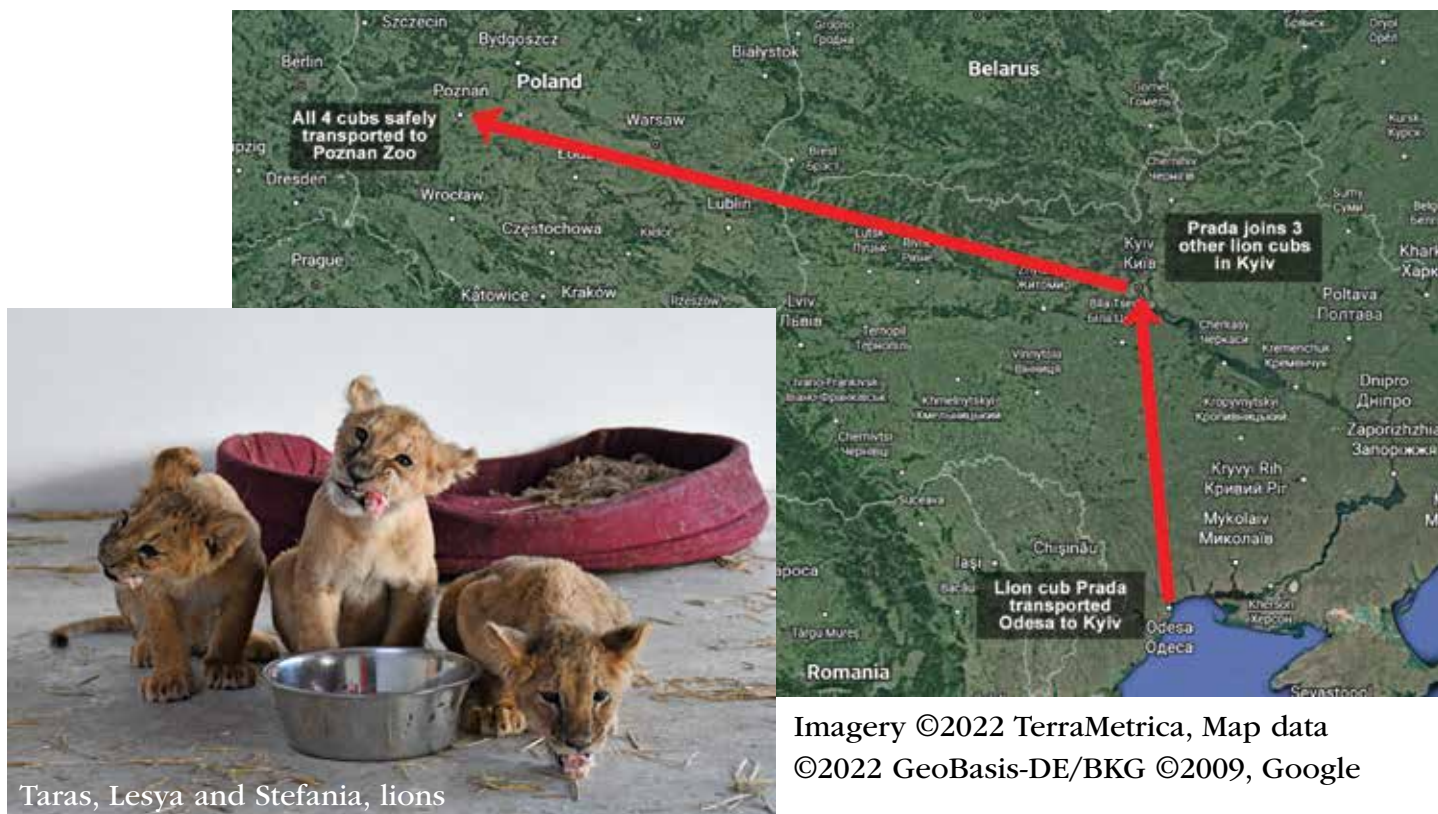
We've done several international rescues in the past, but none during such conflict. We know with every step forward, there are three steps back. But seeing the committed individuals on the ground providing rescue and animal care during heavy shelling, sometimes with no electricity or

running water and in the cold, we were determined to help.

Our job was easy compared to what they were going through. It was hours of logistics, phone conversations and paperwork with officials in Ukraine, Poland and here in the U.S.



Taras, Lesya and Stefania, lions



Lion's Journey Home

It was a roller coaster of emotions as we met online with the frontline workers in Ukraine. It meant corresponding around 5:30 a.m. every day, putting out fires (literally) for these rescues to happen. We were there to support them, whatever they needed. Sometimes, it was to help with medical advice, cub formula ingredients, or to console them when an animal or human was not doing well.

Logistically, it was decided to move the cubs first from Odesa to Kyiv since they were the smallest. Sadly, these cubs were victims of the trafficking and pet trade. They were surrendered in a duffle bag, only a few weeks old.

They needed round-the-clock care and there were some touch and go times. Remembering the first moments caring for Dash, I can imagine how scared the caretakers were for their survival.

Once the cubs were stable, they moved to Kyiv to another waystation. There, another cub (Prada)

was surrendered after being a victim of the pet trade, too. We agreed to take her in as well. Dr. Kushnir, a veterinarian doing mission work in Ukraine, was a constant in the cubs' life and planned to make the trip with them.

From Kyiv, all four cubs (along with other rescued adult animals) were transported across the border to Poznań Zoo in Poland for export to sanctuaries in the U.S. and Europe. This trip was a 14-hour drive plus over 8 hours waiting at the border-crossing check point.

I'm so thankful for Vet Crew, Wild Animal Rescue, Dr. Andrew Kushnir, Poznań Zoo, and our partner IFAW for their collaboration, helping lead this rescue effort in Ukraine and Poland.

Safe in Poland

After safely arriving at the Poznań Zoo, the cubs had to undergo a month of quarantine. During that time, we worked with IFAW to secure expedited US Fish and Wildlife permits for import and flights to make their way through customs here in the U.S.



Dr. Andrew Kushnir

We knew so many details had to line up perfectly to still make this rescue happen.

All three countries' import and export permits had to be expedited and done in a chronological order. Flight options had to be firmed up to ensure we didn't get backed up against a temperature embargo, since the cubs couldn't fly commercially if temperatures dropped too low.

If we used a charter or private plane, that meant the four transport crate sizes and guidelines would change. And we had growing cubs, so their weights and crate sizes kept changing. On top of this, we needed certified health certificates from the state vet within 10 days of travel. Not to mention the World Cup was taking place, which is a BIG DEAL in Europe.

But the cubs were safe. They were taken care of by Dr. Kushnir, who vowed not to leave their side until they were sanctuary safe. He had met them in Odessa and stayed steadfast alongside them through their entire 60 day journey to the United States.

The Poznan Zoo is a beautiful zoo that opened their hearts to rescue animals from Ukraine. They spend hours driving to the border, providing quarantine spaces, and holding areas until animals can be moved to permanent sanctuaries. They have rescued 200 animals so far and will continue to rescue more, especially large carnivores and other exotic animals that need expertise.

My Journey

It was 4 p.m. the day before Thanksgiving when I received the call from IFAW that we needed to go to Poland the following day. I scrambled to book a flight, hotel and handed off holiday meal prep and hosting to my husband.

Sally, a TWS volunteer drove me to the airport Thanksgiving morning. After 17 hours and a 7-hour time difference, Meredith from IFAW and I landed in Poznan, Poland and drove straight to the Poznan Zoo.

We began reviewing the permit paperwork, final crate requirements for commercial and non-commercial flights. The Poznan Zoo team built and customized the crates. As they brought them to us for inspection, IFAW received good news about a possible private plane, but that meant a crate needed to be modified. Poznan Zoo didn't hesitate at all to make the adjustments.

Poznan Zoo Director Ewa, Meredith and I all sat in a room (of course with two adorable office cats) and began our master list of how we could make transport happen.

We divided up duties, but there were still not enough hours in the days. As soon as we thought we had a flight confirmed, the timing or crate requirements didn't match up and we had to start over. Then we had a permit issue. Originally, we were approved to export from Poland to the United States without the Ukraine Export permit due to the war. Now, that information changed.

Poland would only allow animals to be imported to Poland, without the Ukraine export permit, but

wouldn't approve the export from Poland until they received the export permit from Ukraine retroactively. That could be weeks or months since power was out and the shelling had intensified in recent days.

We were up against the weekend, and we had to get all the government officials in three countries on board. And we don't speak Polish or Ukrainian!

One moment we had approval from one entity, and we could exhale, but the next issue would arise—from key staff out due to Covid, to government offices closed on weekends, to the state vet not aware of the needed health certificate. Anything that could go wrong logistically did.

On our behalf, very kind and important people contacted officials at home during their private time. And we are so thankful they did. Everyone, even the governments, wanted these lions to be rescued. But the CITES laws are in place for a reason—to try and prevent illegal trafficking of wildlife. And their processes for import can take months to even a year.

We didn't have that kind of time. The cubs were growing and there wasn't appropriate housing at the zoo for more adult big cats. There were also animals still in need of desperate rescue and could not be brought in until our cats moved out.

There were too many conference calls, private calls, media interviews, emails, online chats to count. IFAW and Poznan Zoo left no stone unturned. Again, I'm so grateful to them!

We finally had verbal approvals from all parties, but now the formal documents were needed before we could even think about booking a flight.

The only option now was to charter a flight. Thankfully, IFAW was able to do that. But that meant looking at crate specifications again. We had to drive four hours each way to the plane in Warsaw to ensure the crates fit. We loaded and unloaded just as if it was the day of transport so we knew for sure everything would be okay.

We met with customs and cargo to ensure we knew where and when we had to be at different check points. And then again, we were told more modifications needed to be made to the crates. It was a 4-hour drive back so the Poznan Zoo's team could put a hinged door in the crate, as well as adding poles for lifting to make it easier to load, and new locks.

Then, the health certificates were finalized just in time. Another win! But we still didn't have the permits in hand. We had to delay the flight another day which meant the U.S. flight crew also had to stay.

It was decided that the Poznan Zoo attorney would drive all the way to Warsaw to get the permits from the government and then meet us at the airport. Of course, the media was there, too. We were thrilled, but so exhausted. And we still had to get up at 2:15 a.m., get to the Poznan Zoo to load the cubs in crates, drive four hours to the airport in Warsaw, get

Media onsite at the Poznan Zoo



Zoo workers signing the transport crates



through customs, vet inspections and more.

But we did it!

Freedom Flight

The 7-hour flight from Poland to Chicago was the first time we could all breathe a sigh of relief. And guess what? Dr. Kushnir was there, along with me and IFAW, to escort the cubs home.

We checked on the cubs frequently during the trip. And much like us, they used the flight to get some much-needed sleep. The flight team was excited to have such special cargo and were good sports about how quickly lion smells took over the small plane.

As we landed, the TWS team met us to drive the final 7 hours to the sanctuary. We had to be inspected by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as customs. Thankfully, they were so responsive and did this in record time. It can take hours and even a day in other cases, like it did when we brought the lions from Buenos Aires.

At last, we were on the final leg home. It was rainy, windy, and snowy – but of course why would it not be? This journey was never going to be easy. We'd left Poland in the middle of the night and we arrived at the Sanctuary in the middle of the night, around midnight.

Forever Home

It's because of the compassionate people throughout

the lions' journey who endured war, shelling, tireless nights, exhausting coordination and more, that these lion cubs never had any idea what was happening in the world. They only knew they were loved.

Their happiness is infectious, their fearlessness heartwarming. They walked right out of their transport crates happy to see each other and actively explored their new space.

We immediately let Prada, the fourth cub in with them and the introduction went wonderfully. Within 12 hours of their meeting, they were a fully merged pride romping and playing.

Their first steps out to their free-roaming habitat were just as rewarding. They explored the entire area, went over to see their big cat neighbors, climbed the caves, played chase under the perches, and came right back inside for a well-deserved nap.

We feel honored to have been entrusted with their care for the next 20 plus years. War is horrible, people are suffering, but lives are also being saved—both human and animal.

All of us along the journey are committed to continuing to work together to save more big cats and other animals in the future.



Tammy Thies

Founder & Executive Director

Unloading lions in Chicago



Safe at The Wildcat Sanctuary



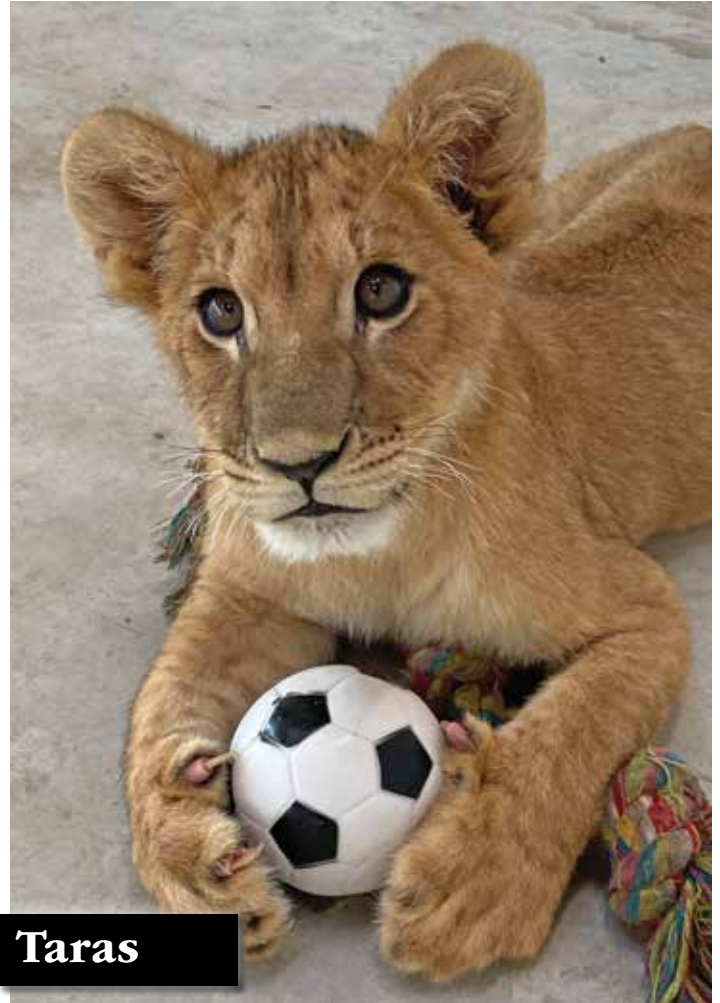
Prada, Taras, Lesya and Stefania, lions

Meet the Lion Pride



Prada

The newest member to the pride, Prada's approximately 2 months older than the other 3 cubs. She's bigger than the others, has redder markings than they have, and is also slightly cross-eyed.



Taras

Taras, the only male, exudes a very calm confidence. At mealtime, he makes sure he's the first to eat. He is often exploring new things on his own. He'll run to the farthest spot in their large outdoor habitat to greet the big cats across the way.

Become a sponsor parent at:
WildcatSanctuary.org



Lesya

Lesya may be the smallest, but don't let that fool you! Though tiny, she can be fierce. Lesya's always the one vocalizing to the other cubs and really likes to complain if she doesn't get her way. She'll sure let you know it.



Stefania

Stefania isn't as little as her sister Lesya, but certainly isn't as big as her new "sister" Prada. Stefania's become the peacekeeper of the blended pride. It's so cute to see her checking in with big "sister" Prada quite a bit.

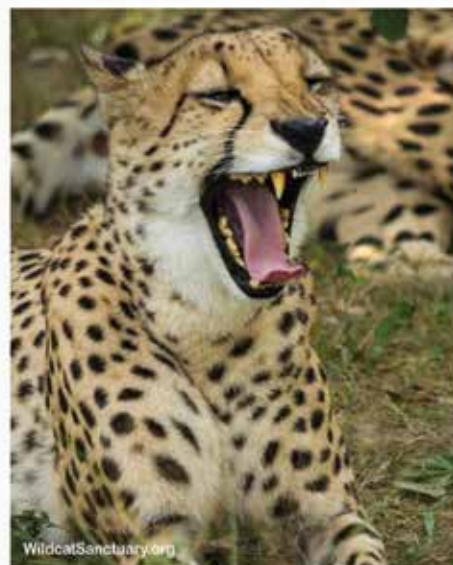
Stay Informed

I know there are many who may not be able to follow us on our social media accounts like Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, and YouTube.

So what's the best way to be in the know with breaking news?

I send out a personal enewsletter every week to our supporters and I'd love for you to be part of that group! It's the best way to know important things happening here at the sanctuary each week.

Why not sign up for it today at bit.ly/TWSenewsletter and, that way, we'll be able to chat soon!



Don't miss out!

Get important rescue & cat news
first by signing up for our
enewsletter today!

Sign Up

New Residents



Nova, tiger

NOVA

Last September, in the middle of our annual Tigerthon festivities, we got a call about a young tiger cub in need. We immediately headed out, driving cross-country to bring this little one home.

Nova came to us as part of our Tiger Amnesty Program. This program is designed to allow owners or authorities to surrender a wild cat without their background or circumstances made public.

In this way, it encourages those who've made a mistake acquiring a wild cat, or authorities who

have possession of one, to place with us so the wild cat can enjoy sanctuary life.

It's been a couple of years since we've had a young tiger cub at the sanctuary, and we almost forgot just how rambunctious they can be!

Nova had a ball – literally – playing in her travel crate with a red ball we brought for the ride. She has tons of energy and may just beat tiger Dash in that department!

Before Nova's arrival, we'd also rescued another young tiger cub through our Witness Protection Program. This program allows wild cats involved in ongoing legal cases to enjoy sanctuary life while their court cases are being decided.

We travel hundreds or thousands of miles, signing very restrictive contracts with the government and/or authorities to provide the best we can for a cat or many cats who have been seized. They may be with us months or years before their court case is determined. And their care, whether it's months or years, is at our expense.

We loved seeing this tiger cub show interest in Nova, so we decided to try playdates for them. Though she's younger and smaller, you'd never know that by the confidence she shows. There are few limits or boundaries when it comes to Nova and playtime!

When we take in a wild cat this young, we know it's a very expensive 20+ year commitment we're making. That's why our sponsorship program is vital, helping in many ways. It means Nova can grow up to be the strong, confident apex predator she's meant to be.

Would you consider becoming a sponsor parent for Nova or any of our cats now? We're happy to send along photos, videos, and updates whenever you'd like. Thank you for committing to them, too!



Nova, tiger



Nova, tiger



Sebastian Stan, bengal



Sebastian Stan, bengal

SEBASTIAN STAN

Sebastian Stan (TWS' 2nd Bengal named Sebastian) is a marbled Bengal cat we rescued last October. He was about 14 years old at the time. Since we already had Sebastian the serval and Sebastian the bengal living at the sanctuary, we nicknamed him Sebastian Stan and it stuck.

To us, a small cat in need is just as important as a big cat in need. That's why we drove all the way to Ohio for him. He was in need of a home due to the closure of Tri-State Zoological Park in Maryland. This notorious roadside zoo had a long list of animal welfare violations, chronic neglect dating all the way back to 2005.

Sebastian Stan arrived with an upper respiratory infection we began treating right away. After his quarantine period, he moved into our intern housing and loves being showered with so much love and attention...something he always deserved.



Sebastian Stan, bengal

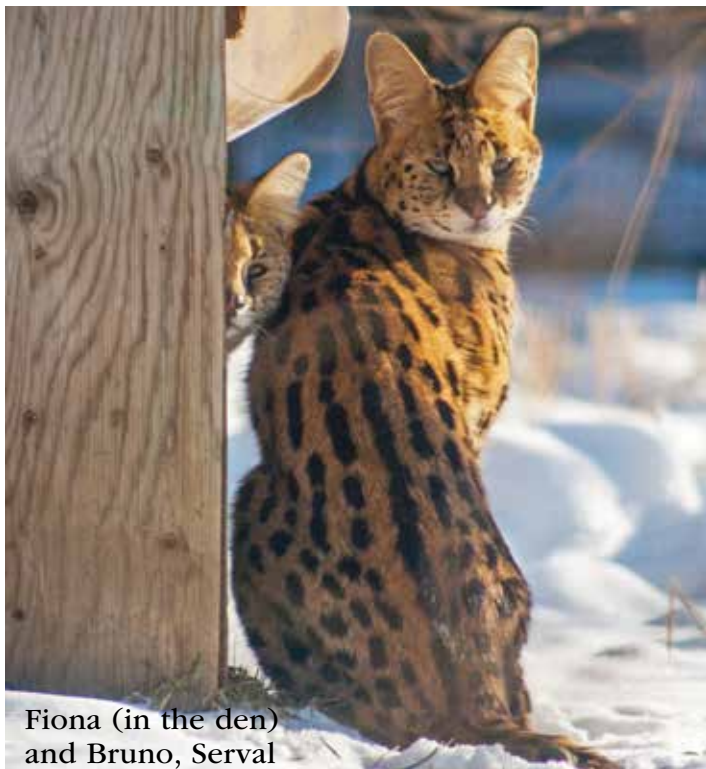
Tigerthon

This summer, amazing sponsors offered a TRIPLE match which inspired so many to step up and support the cats!

We're incredibly thankful to our Tigerthon sponsors featured below, as well as all of you who joined in to make Tigerthon such a fun and successful day for the cats!



Cats Living Wild at Heart



Fiona (in the den)
and Bruno, Serval



Kitu, cheetah



Logan, tiger



Ramsey, Canada Lynx



Shrek, bobcat

Rescuing the Rescuers



All of us are part of our sanctuary family because of the amazing rescue work we do for animals. But after the exciting news of a rescue fades, the cats still need to be cared for day after day, year after year.

And that's where our amazing team really shines. Each day is treated as importantly as the cat's original day of rescue. It's hard and emotional work. It includes 24-hour-a-day care, back-breaking chores, working holidays, heartbreaking losses,

and much more. It's a heavy commitment and one that overflows the boundaries of a regular workday.

Our staff supports each other in so many ways. When hospital manager Joy must stay late to ensure a cat remains stable after surgery, caretaker Jackie helps by driving almost an hour each way to let her dog out. When caretaker Rio stays onsite for an overnight shift on a cold night, checking the buildings three times during her medication rounds to ensure they're adequately heated, an intern goes to Rio's house to pet sit for her.

When staff members go on rescues, other staff fill in and work overtime, plus cover more overnight shifts. When the snow falls, Jesse in facilities comes in hours early to clear the roads. When we have a fundraiser, the office staff and volunteers forward calls to their cell phones so no call goes unanswered. When Dr. Campbell recommends it's time to help a cat pass on, all staff drop their personal commitments and come to the sanctuary to say good-bye.

As much as we try, there are no days off when running a sanctuary.

I have so much gratitude for the commitment and compassion of our staff. Each cat receives customized care because of them. Each supporter knows the sanctuary and cats through them. The animals are happy because of their hard work. And our safety



record is impeccable because of their due diligence.

Yet caretakers, vet techs and other similar positions are far less compensated than they are in the for-profit world. For some reason, socially we expect that those in charitable work need to sacrifice both emotionally and financially. On top of that, caregivers and veterinarians tend to have the highest suicide rates because the emotional toll becomes too much. Many leave the industry due to compassion fatigue. They have very little savings or assets, especially if they've been living on the grounds of a sanctuary—usually in a single-wide trailer.

In many cases, caretakers have participated in 1-3 unpaid internships, after they've received their 4-year college degree. Then, they're often hired at minimum wage in a zoo, sanctuary, or shelter setting.

When did personal and financial sacrifice become the requirement for those working in the non-profit side of animal welfare?

I remember the beginning days of starting the sanctuary. For years, I received no pay or health insurance. My savings and retirement accounts were emptied just to keep the sanctuary afloat. After 21 years of running the sanctuary, I finally was making the same wage I was when I left the corporate world when I was 27.

I'm by no means complaining. It's just how the animal welfare world was and often still is. It was viewed as a labor of love, so I never expected anything in return. Until I grew older and wiser, realizing that wasn't sustainable for me, let alone any other staff member, I knew things had to change for the wellbeing of the humans, but also the organization.

That's why I strongly believe we, and the animal welfare industry, need to invest more in our staff. That means building both a short and long-term plan to ensure our staff receives appropriate wages and benefits, just as they would in a for-profit career.

Caregivers in general sacrifice so much already. They shouldn't have to sacrifice everything. And I know you agree. We want to ensure our staff members can pay their bills, take care of their human and animal families, seek health services, and save for their future.

Our staff are at the heart of our mission. They're the reason we achieve all we've promised the cats and all of you. Simply put, their pay should reflect this value.

We're continuing to improve our compensation and employee development structure to keep up with the market. We're developing soft benefits, such as vet services at cost for the staff, pet bereavement leave and more. And we have added dental and vision coverage along with our current medical and retirement benefits. We've also increased intern stipends to help cover food and fuel costs, until we can afford to have a paid internship program.

This also gives our staff a reason to stay long term. It also helps us recruit more qualified staff as we expand. That's difficult to do in a very isolated rural setting, with cold Minnesota winters and in such a competitive job market. It's more important now than ever to begin building a better world for those doing animal welfare work. When you give a gift toward our general operating expenses, know you're giving a gift to help with staff wages and reassuring them, not only their work, but they have value.



Big Cat Public Safety Act Passes



Sabrina, tiger

What an emotional night it was for us, hearing the news that the Big Cat Public Safety Act has become law.

For so long, we've been supporting the passage of this bill, as have Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance member sanctuaries and other animal advocates throughout the country. And you!

Many of you called your Congressional representatives. Many of you shared posts and educated others about how dangerous it is to allow private ownership of big cats, particularly for first responders.

I'm so grateful for your help.

After passing the House of Representatives in July by a more than 2/3 bipartisan vote, we are thrilled to announce that the Big Cat Public Safety Act passed the Senate unanimously and was signed by the president.

This legislation has two key provisions:

Once the Big Cat Public Safety Act is signed by the President, exhibitors will be prohibited from using cubs as photo props for cub petting and private ownership of big cats will be illegal. Current unlicensed pet owners can keep their cats if they register with the US Fish and Wildlife, but they cannot replace the cat once it passes, increase the number of cats they have or breed the cats in their current possession.

This will help put an end to the surplus and cruelty of big cats that I've seen most of my career. Cubs taken from their mothers at birth, used for just months as profit centers, and then they disappear. As well as breeders dumping and selling cubs to private individuals once they are no longer used for their cub petting.

I can't help but think about big cats like Sabrina,



Marcus, tiger

Before rescue in Indiana

Winona, Marcus, and so many others we’ve rescued over the years.

Living in horrific conditions, used as breeders to supply cubs or with owners who didn’t even provide the basic care they needed.

They didn’t deserve those lives. Today, we celebrate that others won’t have to suffer as they did.

Their memory inspired so many of you to rally to this cause. This day was a long time coming.

But there’s more to do. We see the same issues happening for the smaller wild cats, too.

Bobcats, lynx, servals, hybrids...they’re all suffering similar fates.

So, let’s take this win not only as a win for big cats, but as a rally call to help even more wild cats in need.

Together, I know we can do this for them.



Above and below: Colorado breeding facility



Looking Back, Looking Forward

2022 was a more challenging year than we expected. With fuel, utilities and food costs rising, it put a strain on our supporters as well as us here at the sanctuary. Yet together, we still accomplished so much for the cats!

We welcomed 15 new residents, but we also said a tearful goodbye to 7 beloved residents. Plus, we also rescued big cats within our Witness Protection and Tiger Amnesty programs. And we capped off the year partnering with IFAW to rescue 4 lion cubs from war-stricken Ukraine.

We always continue expanding and providing more for those we rescue.





Site and Habitat Improvements

- Completed and moved into our new Animal Care Center/Hospital with upgraded equipment and closed-circuit TV/security
- Remodeled the Food & Wellness Center and added an outdoor refrigerator
- Demolished and constructed a new habitat in Hybrid Haven to provide a more dynamic space
- Added several zig zag shade structures to habitats, with support from Trees for Tigers
- Enhanced several habitats and rooms with new inground skirting, pools and brighter colors painted in the cats' indoor bedrooms
- Designed and installed 45 food chutes to big cats' indoor rooms for more natural feeding experiences
- Purchased skid steer, dump trailer and new 10 ft rescue trailer
- Ensured backup systems with a new property generator as well as several portable generators
- Added a winter yard in Pride Prairie to accommodate lion Kimba's needs
- Divided Pride Prairie habitats in preparation for new cubs' arrival
- Installed road at front of property to our equipment and supply yard
- Continued repairs and maintenance of habitats
- Added double doors and access doors to all lockouts as part of our safety protocol



Leadership, Staffing and Donor Relations

- Continued to build a sustainable governance board. Welcomed 3 new board members as well as new officers.
- Developed an Animal Wellness Manager position to work in tandem with the Animal Care Manager ensuring the psychological and physical wellbeing of our residents
- Added Dr. Clark Campbell, DVM as the sanctuary's full-time veterinarian to ensure we provide 7 days a week vet coverage, along with our full-time Hospital Manager, volunteer veterinarian and veterinary techs
- Promoted two long-term caretakers to Senior Caretakers.
- Added a Caretaker/Construction position to assist in animal care and volunteer crew days
- Worked on developing our future Strategic Plan with a focus on long term succession
- Hosted first ever public VIP event giving bidders the chance to experience the sanctuary.



Volunteers/Interns

- 6-8 interns each session learning husbandry and advocacy work
- 32 volunteer Crew Days, averaging 8 people per crew, donated their time to the sanctuary
- Ongoing volunteers supported cleaning, chores, mowing, gardens and much, much more.



Industry

- Received our GFAS renewal and clean USDA inspection
- Founder serves on the BCSA steering committee
- Donor Services Manager serves on the BCSA events committee
- Founder and Operations Director both presented at BCSA annual conference
- Partnered with HSUS and successfully defended Minnesota's Regulated Animal Bill

Looking Forward to 2023

- Continue Board of Directors recruitment and succession planning for leadership team
- Taking the lead at professionalizing the industry through adequate staffing levels, compensation and benefits, pipeline for succession and strategic planning
- Support increased operational expenses to sustain the organization and maintenance of the sanctuary and properties
- Continue to elevate The Wildcat Sanctuary Animal Care with new approaches to medical needs and animals' psychological wellbeing
- Design development of a new Hybrid Haven with central building
- Find new ways to bring the sanctuary to donors through a second Content Creator, new drone, cameras, etc.
- Invest in additional vet equipment and implement a vet tech internship by year end
- Replace aging van for rescues and meat pick-ups
- Purchase 2 additional UTVs for Wellness Manager and Vet team
- Invest in emergency and crisis response equipment for our safety plan, also being a responder to other facilities during disasters
- Upgrade platforms and indoor rooms for several residents



*Gifts of \$50+ received
8/4-11/29/2022*

In Honor & In Memory

In Honor

In honor of Abby Chiles and Andrew Poarch

David and Rhonda Chiles

In honor of all the cats at The Wildcat Sanctuary and all the cats who find their way to sanctuary in 2023

Erika Thorne

In honor of Barbara Thies

Melissa Thomas

In honor of Bob & Donna Anderson for being so giving to others.

Karen Roehl and Joan Abbott

In honor of Bruno

Barbara Bradley

In honor of Constance Perenyi, Love on your birthday and always.

Roberta Theodoran

In honor of Dave Soler's birthday

Mary Pogoalski

In honor of Doug Taggart, a longtime supporter of big cats and endangered animals of many kinds.

Christopher and Elizabeth Taggart

In honor of Edward Brown

Mike Tharp

In honor of Elizabeth Eide's birthday

Kande Larson

In honor of Girls on the Run, Field Elementary

Alison Moore

In honor of given in the name of Debi Welch and Samantha Kraby

Robyn Schmidt

In honor of Grace Burghardt

Beth Telander

In honor of Heather McLeod

Pamela Hisey

In honor of my granddaughter, Samantha Kraby for her birthday and Christmas. I'm so glad she introduced me to you!

Debra Welch

In honor of Riku

Kathleen Jackson

In honor of our precious pup Marley (Buddy) and in memory of our sweet girls Pixie and Lucy

Pete and Jodi Roth

In honor of all our dogs over 45 years!

Robert and Bridget Boellner

In honor of the arrival of Nova, and of all the beautiful Sanctuary cats.

Gena and John Connelly

In honor of Janis Berman's Birthday

Georgia Gilbertson

In honor of Kande Larsen for her kindness and generosity.

Elizabeth Eide

In honor of Lucy, beloved feline of Mary Johnson and Lynn Hartman

Anne Hunt

In honor of Marie Kramer's birthday

Jeffrey Larson

In honor of my dog Ziegy

Georgia Gilbertson

In honor of my mother, Elsie Comstock, who loves all the cats at the sanctuary

Laura Arleth

In honor of my new little girl, Valentina, a 2-year-old rescue from Houston, TX

Nancy Gronseth

In honor of my sister, Suzie Vedders, a cancer survivor on her birthday

Julie Hockin

In honor of my ten grandchildren

Pamela Rodriguez

In honor of Nova and her WP friend

Cynthia Boatright

In honor of Nova and the four cubs coming from Ukraine!

Gena and John Connelly

In honor of Oscar Meyer & Kitty

Donna Kennedy

In honor of Randi Helgesen

Vickie Lachelt

In honor of Randi Helgeson

Denise Maxwell

In honor of Rio Rondeau's birthday

Marilyn Norris

In honor of the birth of my granddaughter, Olivia Lynn

Lynn Krapf

In honor of the three new lion cubs!

Kathleen Jackson

In honor of the The Wildcat Sanctuary staff & interns who work so hard every day

Kendra Ditto

In honor of my parents 55th wedding anniversary

Sara Rogers

In honor of Vickie Van Guilder birthday

Mary Pogoalski

In honor of Volunteer Becky Wilkens

Sandra Wilkens

In honor of the Milinovich Family

Allison Brucato

In Memory

In memory of Tonka and Marcus

Janet and Dan Davis

In memory of all of my husbands. I have been widowed a few times

Diane Thomas

In memory of Bart, Claude, Fenway

Julie Baker

In memory of Brenda Mary Farrell

Anita Short and Irene Kwidzinski, Carl Carter, Stephanie Ripley, Tracey Nicolosi

In memory of Callie who I really connected with on a visit to the Sanctuary. She was a very special lady.

Susan and Denny Stoll

In memory of Cathy J Matthews, in honor of her love for TWS.

Jan Paul Matthews

In memory of Chyna

Ann and Steve Nelson

In memory of Dan Larson

Jan Johnston

In memory of Donna Hibben

Donna Czupta Grabowski

**In memory of my little grand-cat,
Chyna**

Mary Thornton

**In memory of Copper, River,
Panda and Suzie**

Nancy Bolin

**In memory of my grandmother,
Lily Wagner**

Deborah Sandford

**In memory of Gary Clark Fink, a
true Renaissance Man**

Allison Brucato, Lisa Bommer, Patrick Shadick, Mike and Sandy Swirnoff, the Alphabets family, the HVG team, Adam and Debra Cohen, Nancy Minion, Marc Grossfield, Chuck and Yvonne Selcer and all his friends at The Wildcat Sanctuary

**In memory of Gloria Misfeldt
Chesbrough**

Erica Lewerenz, Connie Rosene

In memory of Holly Goad

Michelle Morgan

**In memory of my wife Kim, who
was a longtime supporter of The
Wildcat Sanctuary.**

Joel Meline

**In memory of a wonderful friend
Robert Thomas Volbrecht who
loved everything cats.**

Deborah Sandford

In memory of Joan LaHaye

Kande Larson

**In memory of Kamala, a wild
spirit. Gone too soon, but she will
live on in our hearts forever.**

Sally Thornton

**In memory of Kamala, our beloved
VP of Fun**

Ann and Steve Nelson

In memory of Kisa Marie

Eric Bertagnoli, Christine Cox, Daria Dzura, Paula Johnson, Cheryl Joyner, Dale and Lauren Kramer, Jo Ellyn O'Donnell, Sharon Osgood, Bonnie Reiland, Everit Terhune

**In memory of Kristin (Eklund)
Johnson 07/30/68 - 09/06/22**

Patricia Cooper

In memory of Mary Jane Fuller

Daniel Smith

**In memory of my animal loving
dad, Wilson Book, Jr.**

Devi Book

**In memory of my beautiful Auntie
Carol.**

Kristen Rudquist

In memory of my dad, John E. Deimel

Peter Deimel

**In memory of my beloved cat,
Cimarron**

Joanna Lowinger

**In memory of our cat of almost 19
years, Reina**

Kathy Haack

**In memory of my daughter Holly
Goad. She loved TWS and all the cats.**

Penny Maki

**In memory of my father, Charles L.
Champ**

Lisa Champ-Paluck

**In memory of my little feline loves
- ting, misha muad'dib, oliver,
pocca and iris**

Valerie Sjovail

In memory of my mom Joan Lattaye

Elizabeth Eide

**In memory of my mother,
Catherine Tuohy, a cat lover**

Dolores Tuohy and William Sheehan

**In memory of my mother, who
loved all the cats**

Sara Stueve

**In memory of my mother-in-law
Karen Spencer**

Dawn Spencer

In memory of my Newman

Sue Rogers

In memory of my sister, Yvonne Kelly

Marie Wilkinson

In memory of my son, Ken Czupta

Donna Czupta Grabowski

**In memory of my spouse Catherine
Crossan-Vork who loved all cats**

Ruth Vork

**In memory of Myles, my 16½-year-
old good friend and loving cat. He
got me through some very rough
times. I miss you, buddy.**

Carol Ferraiuolo

In memory of Nancy Morgan

Carrah Abele

In memory of our gentle Gracie

Kerri Maxwell

**In memory of our handsome cat
Jackson who always gave to the max**

Jennifer Drake

**In memory of our Rocket, gone 2
years is why we give to the wild
cats at the sanctuary.**

Julie Hockin

In memory of Pamela Peterson

Wells Fargo Community Support Program

**In memory of Peggy Lee of East
Grand Forks, MN**

LaRae Miller

**In memory of Mohan with love and
welcoming Nova with joy!**

Bernadette Meier

**In memory of River, Copper, Panda
and Suzie**

Nancy Bolin

**In memory of Robert Halstead
DeFord, Jr of Va Beach, VA**

Jo Swords

**In memory of Scarlett, one of my
grandkitties**

Karen Stalter

**In memory of Stoli, my friend
Jennifer's cat**

Dawn Isackson

In memory of Tiger and Tabby

Brenda Spearman

In memory of Toonce

Terry & Annette Vetsch

In memory of Uncle Joe Ingber

Peggy Ingber

**In memory of Wilson M. Book, Jr.
& Jane Paul Book**

Devi Book

In memory of Yvonne Kelly

Marie Wilkinson

In memory of Zochi and Ditto

Phyllis Hicks



Sebastian – May you be running circles around our pride on the other side. Play in Peace our friend.



Kisa Marie – You were only with us a short time, but you are in our hearts forever.



THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



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Details at
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Lavani and Kitu, cheetahs