

A close-up photograph of a tiger walking through a snowy landscape. The tiger is looking directly at the camera, its orange fur with black stripes contrasting with the white snow. The background is a soft-focus view of a snowy forest.

The Wildcat Sanctuary UPROAR!

APRIL 2023 | ISSUE 34

2023 Yearbook

Terek, tiger

The Wildcat Sanctuary UPROAR!

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Contributor

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Graphic Designer

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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

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Brianna, bobcat



From the Founder



The Thousand-Yard Stare

No matter how many years I've been saving animals, or how many animals have come to live at the sanctuary, there are still a few who revisit me often.

Years ago, I'll never forget when I first walked through an animal facility that had closed. It left over 60 big cats in need of homes. This would be one of the first coordinated efforts to place all the cats in reputable sanctuaries. As one of the first sanctuaries to respond, my job was to inventory each big cat, who they lived with, their personalities, and visible health issues or ailments.

I walked past tiger after tiger. Some chuffing, rubbing. Some rough housing. Others sleeping in the sun. And then there was Layla.

Layla lay on top of her concrete den in a round small pen. She had no perches or platforms. She had no grass. And she made no movement.

She just stared. Stared with barely a blink. Stared with her head resting on her paws. No matter what I did, she wouldn't acknowledge my presence.

The rest of the day, as I documented more tigers, I could not get Layla out of my mind. I went to see her again and received the same response, which was none. I brought food and she waited for me to leave to approach, then went back to the same position.

I had already committed our sanctuary to other cats. But I knew I had to add one more...her.

Coping with Trauma

This isn't the first time I've seen this stare. I've seen it with lynx Aria, li-liger Alyssa and lynx Shay, to name a few. It's often been referred to as the "thousand-yard stare."

It's a phrase used to describe the blank, unfocused gaze of combatants who have become emotionally detached from the



Layla, tiger



Alyssa, liliger



Alyssa, liliger

horrors around them. It's sometimes used more generally to describe the look of dissociation among victims of other types of trauma.

I can only imagine the trauma and suffering combat soldiers experience. I understand why they would need to detach themselves in some way. Rescued animals often react the same way to trauma.

Sometimes that trauma is small to us but big to them—a new environment and new caregivers. In other cases, we've seen it's how they survive much larger traumas—severe confinement, starvation, or even physical abuse.

Seeing this stare in an animal breaks our hearts more than seeing fear or aggression. This stare means the animal is shutting down emotionally. That he or she has had too much.

No matter how uncomfortable their former life may have been, it was still familiar and cats like familiarity and routine.

Loving them back to life

But helping these types of animals is what we do best. It's about bringing that emotional connection back through several small steps. From

quiet moments to auditory stimulation. From small food rewards, to giving them large bonus meals to eat on their own. Even being around other rescued cats can bring them back to life.

When we see their eyes soften and their personality shine through, we know we've helped them heal.

And that is just what Layla did...she healed here at our sanctuary. Her blank, unfocused, and vacant gaze was replaced with trust and happiness.

Layla lived to be a wonderful 25-year-old tigress here at our sanctuary. She'll always remind me that animals have feelings and souls. And with compassion, you can reach them and change their lives forever.

Tammy Thies

Tammy Thies

Founder & Executive Director



Alyssa, liliger

New Resident Lloyd



Lloyd, savannah



Lloyd, savannah

We received an email from a Minnesota owner of two F2 Savannah cats named Harry and Lloyd.

They'd been purchased as pets from an Oklahoma breeder in 2021 and things weren't working out (a story we hear weekly about hybrids).

Harry had gotten out and ran away several months earlier. Lloyd wasn't using the litter box and was very unsocialized to people.

During Lloyd's intake exam, we were shocked to find numerous large masses on his tongue, cheeks and down his throat.

Biopsies showed Lloyd has Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex. Thankfully, this isn't transmissible or contagious and the masses are benign. The steroid treatment he received did resolve the masses and he was then neutered.

Lloyd is definitely a cat lover, not really a people lover, so we know he's going to enjoy a whole new life with our other hybrids.

Leaving a Legacy

By becoming a member of our Legacy Pride, leaving a bequest in your will or trust for The Wildcat Sanctuary, you ensure the cats will be supported for years to come.

There are other ways to help, too. You can list The Wildcat Sanctuary as a primary or secondary beneficiary of all or a portion of your life insurance policy, or of an IRA, 401(k), 403(b). Or you can donate stock anytime.

If you'd like more information about our Legacy Pride planned giving, please email me at cat@wildcatsanctuary.org or call me at 320-245-6871. I'm happy to talk with you about it.

"For over twenty years, I have been passionate about not only what TWS does, but the way they do it. Throughout the years, I've watched as TWS has demonstrated its commitment to ensure every cat is uniquely cared for. The cats always come first.

Many people are not comfortable with their own mortality – I am fortunate that I am. Several years ago, when I created a Will, rather than it being sad, I found it empowering. Rarely in this life do we get exactly what we want. My Legacy for TWS, ensures that after I am gone, exactly what I want in terms of gifts will be guaranteed.

Sometimes I think about what my gift will mean to TWS. I know it will be put to the best use it can because every cat who calls TWS home, will be honored all the days of their lives and beyond. It gives me peace of mind, knowing my life will have such a positive impact."

- Legacy Pride Member



Prada,lion

Cats in Snow



Copper, bobcat



Belvedere, bobcat



Bosco, African serval



Jeremy, tiger



Anastasia, cougar



Ramsey, Canada Lynx



Baby Jenga, bobcat



Nova, tiger



Beauty, Eurasian lynx



Shazam, leopard



Bogart, bobcat



Sarge, bobcat



Prada and Taras, lions



Rio, serval

Yearbook 2023

Bengals



Ashes

Wild at Heart Date:
12/9/2019



Axel F1

Wild at Heart Date:
12/6/2021



Bengie

Wild at Heart Date:
6/7/2018



Benny

Wild at Heart Date:
12/17/2008



Besty

Wild at Heart Date:
6/26/2021



Bonzai – F1

Wild at Heart Date:
6/26/2019



Dahlia

Wild at Heart Date:
6/26/2021

We don't know every cat's exact birthday, so we celebrate their Wild at Heart Dates - their first day at The Wildcat Sanctuary.



DJ

Wild at Heart Date:
2/28/2022



Dream

Wild at Heart Date:
5/31/2006



Eddy

Wild at Heart Date:
10/7/2017



Felix

Wild at Heart Date:
6/14/2019



Harley

Wild at Heart Date:
5/6/2017



Jewel – F1

Wild at Heart Date:
6/7/2010



Keesa – F1

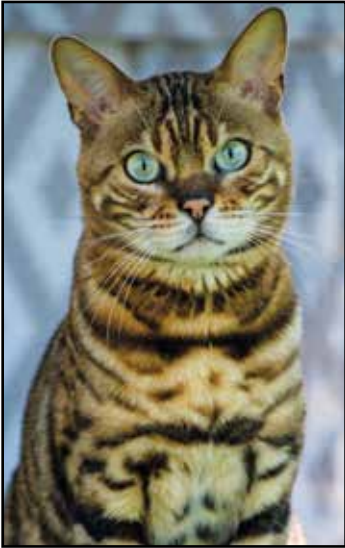
Wild at Heart Date:
7/28/2011



Max

Wild at Heart Date:
6/22/2006

Yearbook 2023



Merlin

Wild at Heart Date:
4/1/2022



Nala

Wild at Heart Date:
8/3/2020



Puma

Wild at Heart Date:
8/24/2021



Riku

Wild at Heart Date:
6/26/2021



Sebastian Stan

Wild at Heart Date:
10/15/2022



Tiger

Wild at Heart Date:
7/21/2006



Topper

Wild at Heart Date:
7/4/2022



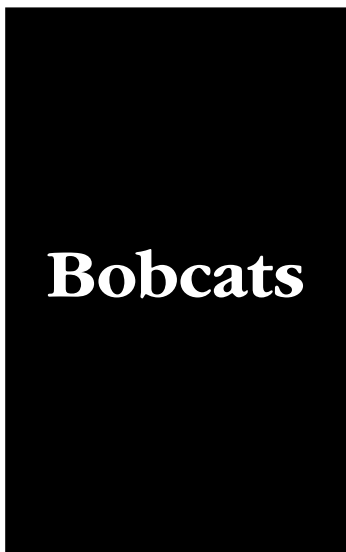
Tygger

Wild at Heart Date:
3/26/2020



Xena

Wild at Heart Date:
6/26/2021



Bobcats



Archer

Wild at Heart Date:
3/6/2017



Athena

Wild at Heart Date:
7/12/2007



Autumn

Wild at Heart Date:
9/15/2016



Baby Jenga

Wild at Heart Date:
5/23/2003



Bella

Wild at Heart Date:
9/16/2010



Belvedere

Wild at Heart Date:
10/6/2016

Yearbook 2023



Benson

Wild at Heart Date:
7/6/2006



Bogart

Wild at Heart Date:
7/11/2021



Brianna

Wild at Heart Date:
8/2/2012



Buddy

Wild at Heart Date:
7/8/2022



Claud

Wild at Heart Date:
7/5/2006



Copper

Wild at Heart Date:
3/12/2017



Enzo

Wild at Heart Date:
12/14/2019



Essey

Wild at Heart Date:
4/29/2020



Francis
Wild at Heart Date:
10/6/2016



Glenn
Wild at Heart Date:
10/10/2020



Haley
Wild at Heart Date:
7/13/2008



Henry
Wild at Heart Date:
7/13/2008



Luna
Wild at Heart Date:
8/24/2017



Mondovi
Wild at Heart Date:
3/23/2018



Morgan
Wild at Heart Date:
4/21/2007



Nikko
Wild at Heart Date:
12/4/2004

Yearbook 2023



Sarge

Wild at Heart Date:
10/10/2020



Selene

Wild at Heart Date:
2/5/2020



Shrek

Wild at Heart Date:
2/28/2022



Sky

Wild at Heart Date:
2/5/2020



Tao

Wild at Heart Date:
12/19/2019



Caracal



Aurora

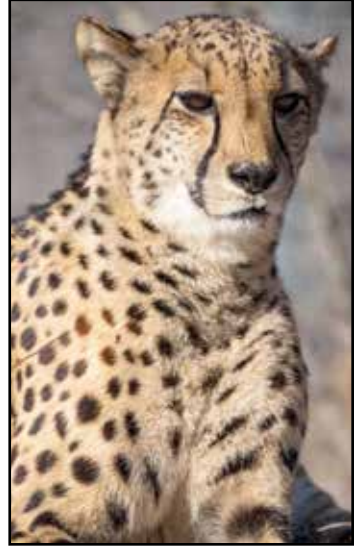
Wild at Heart Date:
7/9/2015

Chausie



Ty
Wild at Heart Date:
1/5/2009

Cheetahs



Kitu
Wild at Heart Date:
4/17/2021



Lavani
Wild at Heart Date:
4/17/2021

Cougars



Anastasia
Wild at Heart Date:
3/30/2021



Aspen
Wild at Heart Date:
1/21/2016

Yearbook 2023



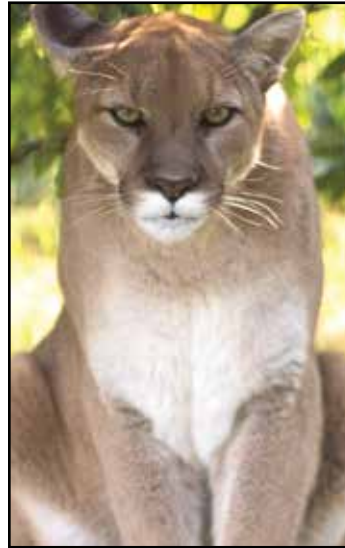
Blaze

Wild at Heart Date:
1/21/2016



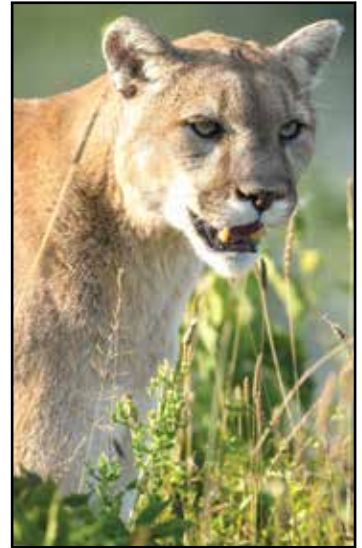
Donoma

Wild at Heart Date:
5/22/2008



Langley

Wild at Heart Date:
10/17/2009



Noah

Wild at Heart Date:
10/17/2009



Quincy

Wild at Heart Date:
1/29/2020



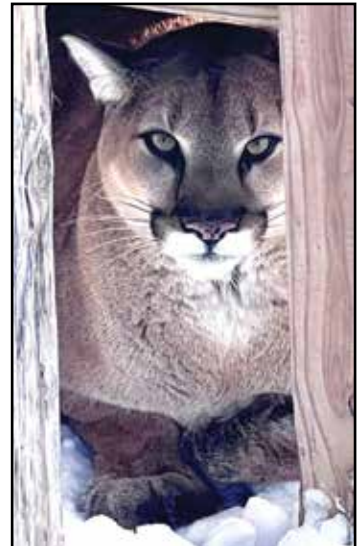
Rainier

Wild at Heart Date:
1/29/2020



Snow

Wild at Heart Date:
12/5/2015



Storm

Wild at Heart Date:
12/5/2015



Domestic Cat



Tacoma
Wild at Heart Date:
1/29/2020

Edgar
Wild at Heart Date:
4/6/2021

Josie
Wild at Heart Date:
8/29/2022



Domestic Dog



Mr. Oreoh
Wild at Heart Date:
8/8/2021

Kiara
Wild at Heart Date:
6/9/2022

Yearbook 2023

Leopards



Shadow
Wild at Heart Date:
9/2/2015



Shazam
Wild at Heart Date:
12/21/2006

Lions



Alana
Wild at Heart Date:
5/22/2021



Alyssa – Liliger
Wild at Heart Date:
5/22/2021



Aurora
Wild at Heart Date:
5/22/2021



Gino

Wild at Heart Date:
9/22/2018



Leo

Wild at Heart Date:
12/11/2018



Lesya

Wild at Heart Date:
11/30/2022



Mansa

Wild at Heart Date:
12/11/2018



Prada

Wild at Heart Date:
11/30/2022



Sofia

Wild at Heart Date:
9/22/2018



Stefania

Wild at Heart Date:
11/30/2022



Taras

Wild at Heart Date:
11/30/2022

Yearbook 2023

Lynx



Aria –Eurasian lynx
Wild at Heart Date:
4/29/2018



Beauty –Eurasian lynx
Wild at Heart Date:
6/14/2020



Ramsey –Canada lynx
Wild at Heart Date:
2/22/2007

Savannahs



Andre
Wild at Heart Date:
7/2/2016



Hilo
Wild at Heart Date:
6/6/2008



Lady
Wild at Heart Date:
2/6/2022



Ledger
Wild at Heart Date:
3/4/2009



Leo
Wild at Heart Date:
6/18/2016



Lloyd
Wild at Heart Date:
1/10/2023



Love
Wild at Heart Date:
10/16/2020



Lupita
Wild at Heart Date:
11/1/2020



Maximillion
Wild at Heart Date:
2/11/2017



Monica
Wild at Heart Date:
8/25/2020



Phoebe
Wild at Heart Date:
8/25/2020

Yearbook 2023



Rachel

Wild at Heart Date:
8/25/2020



Safiya

Wild at Heart Date:
4/26/2018



Thor

Wild at Heart Date:
7/17/2019

Servals



Ava

Wild at Heart Date:
11/19/2019



Bell

Wild at Heart Date:
11/19/2019



Bosco

Wild at Heart Date:
11/17/2001



Bruno

Wild at Heart Date:
1/17/2022



Chili

Wild at Heart Date:
11/19/2019



Fiona

Wild at Heart Date:
2/27/2022



Jalapeño (Hal)

Wild at Heart Date:
11/19/2019



Little Diva

Wild at Heart Date:
6/11/2019



Lizzy

Wild at Heart Date:
4/25/2005



Nunda

Wild at Heart Date:
3/24/2005



Phoenix

Wild at Heart Date:
3/24/2005

Yearbook 2023



Rio

Wild at Heart Date:
1/4/2005



Scarlet

Wild at Heart Date:
1/25/2018



Sebastian

Wild at Heart Date:
7/21/2006



Zambuca

Wild at Heart Date:
9/27/2018

Tigers



Daisy

Wild at Heart Date:
5/19/2017



Dash

Wild at Heart Date:
11/24/2020



Dimitri

Wild at Heart Date:
10/19/2016



Griffen

Wild at Heart Date:
10/19/2016



Jeremy

Wild at Heart Date:
11/13/2014



Nova

Wild at Heart Date:
9/15/2022



Pandora

Wild at Heart Date:
11/1/2016



Polina

Wild at Heart Date:
8/21/2020



Simon

Wild at Heart Date:
11/13/2014



Terek

Wild at Heart Date:
8/21/2020



Thor Jr.

Wild at Heart Date:
5/18/2021

Yearbook 2023



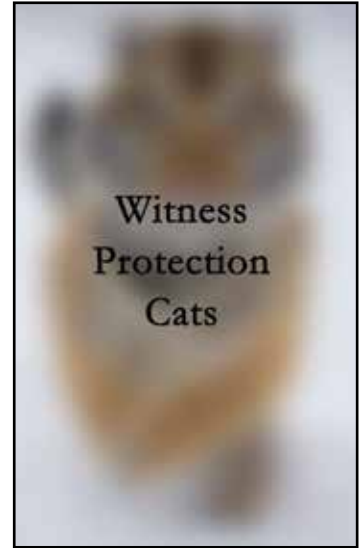
Winona

Wild at Heart Date:
11/24/2020



Zeke

Wild at Heart Date:
10/19/2016



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Cats still in active
legal cases.

Our SPONSOR-A-WILD-ONE program
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wildcat along with photos.

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In Honor & In Memory

Gifts of \$50+ received
11/30/2022 - 3/7/2023

In Honor

In honor of Carrie Miller

Melodie Starkey

In honor of Kevin Spencer

Rosemarie Ryan

In honor of Alex, Clara, and Norma...my wild things.

Paige M Brase

In honor of Ali Klingsberg, animal lover extraordinaire.

Robin Torgerson

In honor of Belva Vukovich

Tim and Karen Schmidt

In honor of Bruno

Leila Hooper

In honor of C. M. Brown on his birthday

Tamzin Brown & all the furry friends

In honor of Carlos and Olivia Humud

Lynn Krapf

In honor of Carol's Birthday

George Vassallo

In honor of Carrie Miller for Xmas from Ratty

Sylvia Gandolfo

In honor of my wife Lesya who is Ukrainian

George Kercheval

In honor of Sandy Williams and Emma Midgley-Revett

Patricia Gustafson

In honor of Dana K Melching

Steven Melching

In honor of Dr. Lori Ballinger

Randal Giesecke

In honor of Elizabeth Bogner

Annette Eliasberg

In honor of Greg Shinn's birthday

Anderson Studio Architects II, Inc

In honor of Sweetie and memory of Sarafina

Joan Eichelberg

In honor of JoEllyn Martinson - great cat lover

Dorothy Martinson

In honor of John & Kim Johnson of Elko Minnesota

Michell & Arlie Johnson

In honor of Juana Iroz

Mary Iroz

In honor of Judy & Dennis Tull

Denise Holcom

In honor of Karen Eckert

Anne Eckert

In honor of Kevin Spencer

Dawn Spencer

In honor of Lois Dixon

Thomas Clarke

In honor of Maggie Stuart

Ann Miller

In honor of Marcie and Joe Thaler

Bev Whitten

In honor of Mark and Gloria

Mariel Blomstrand

In honor of Mary Ellen Godfrey

Susan Godfrey and Robert Young

In honor of Mary S Bowman

Robert Bowman

In honor of Chris & Anna Corrigan

Lisa Corrigan

In honor of my grandchildren

Kylie and Rory

Alice O'Connor

In honor of my nephew, Robinson

Lisa Funk

In honor of my 3 furbies, Aurora, Ava and Hilo

Lynne Alfieri

In honor of my daughter, Liz

Mary Niedenfuer

In honor of my friendship with a lion lover - Britt

Raquel Prado

In honor of Megan Gourley

Julie Hockin

In honor of my senior cat, Tegan Jane

Havoc "Hinata" and Colton Chisholm

In honor of Barbara Sharpe

Rosalind Annen

In honor of Paula Nelson

Rosalind Annen

In honor of our daughter-in-law Pilar Seacord

John and Cynthia Seacord

In honor of Randy Giesecke

Rebecca Underhill

In honor of Riannon Rondeau

Marilyn Norris

In honor of Roz Annen and Paula Nelson

Barbara Sharpe

In honor of Sally Thornton

Danielle Mattessich

In honor of Susan Soler

Mary Pogozalski

In honor of Terry Wagner

Bonnie Masi

In honor of Thea Sorenson's birthday

Christina Moyle

In honor of Tom and Cathi Landowski

Ron & Ruth Loper

In honor of Ursa and Maya cats

Constance Goodman-Milone

In honor of Valentina, my tuxedo cat with the personality of a tiger!

Nancy Gronseth

As of January 2022, donations of \$50 or more will be acknowledged in our magazine.

In Memory

In memory of Cinders

Cynthia Barstad, Paula Blair, Julie Jurkovich, Bonnie Reiland, Patti and Mark Soucie, Lee-Anne Thomson

In memory of Katniss

Cynthia Barstad, Sharon Bovie, Dianna Crandall, Paula Johnson, Sharon and Andy Olson, Bonnie Reiland

In memory of Cinders and Katniss

Janet and Dan Davis, Eileen Dulin, AnnMarie Fischer, William Goell, Albert and Gunn Honican, Rachael Keggin, Rebecca Tp Marasigan, Dorothy Martinson, Gayling Matthews, Eleasah Montgomery, Nancy Bolin, Nancy Gronseth, Karen Jedrey

In memory of Logan

Cynthia Barstad, Dawn Beavis, Nancy Bolin, Christine Cox, Claudia Eggan, James Howard, Paula Johnson, Tara Larsen, Chuck and Jane Mathewson, Monica Michaelis, Sharon Osgood, Bonnie Reiland, Everit Terhune, Sheri and Chris Vitullo, Beth Schlitter

In memory of Caesar and Logan

Cynthia Carter, Carol June Wallen

In memory of Logan and Simone

AnnMarie Fischer, Gayling Matthews

In memory of Logan, Katniss and Sweet Cinder

Paula Gavin

In memory of Sebastian

Cynthia Barstad, Eric Bertagnoli, Albert and Gunn Honican, Elaine Slocum, Jeffrey Edington and Judy Lillis, Paula Johnson, Tawnya Russell

In memory of Simone

Cynthia Barstad, Daria Dzura, Laurie Heath Richards, Sarah Hope, Paula Johnson, Lisa Kennemore, Kerry Kresse, Leanne Lawton, Bonnie Reiland, Rochelle Williams

In memory of Chuck Paoletti

Katie and Sarah Harwick

In memory of Chyna, Sally's companion & Gary's big sister

Mary and Jerome Vandelac

In memory of Copper, River, Panda and Suzie

Nancy Bolin

In memory of Diane Kerly

Donna Herrmann

In memory of Dimitri Gidaspow

Diane Burica

In memory of my nephew, Declan Enzo

Havoc "Hinata" and Colton Chisholm

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 my wife, a faithful supporter of The Wildcat Sanctuary, on her birthday

Joel Meline

In memory of Joanne M Haug

Pamela Schuler

In memory of Kimba

Paula Johnson

In memory of our cat, Gino (Gigi) Fisher

Jim and Pam Fisher

In memory of Margie Booth

Glen Yakel and Deb Hoffmann

In memory of Mary Lu Morgan Ruiz

Barb Panneton

In memory of my Beloved Cat Jazzmyn

Belinda Kenyon

In memory of my Grandkitty Scarlett

Karen Stalter

In memory of my husband Denny passed away on Christmas morning

Susan Stoll

In memory of my late husband William E. Wolf

Maria Wolf

In memory of my own cat, Sprocket, a beloved companion for 23.5 years

Karen Heere

In memory of my parents, Evelyne and Adrian Helgeson, who introduced me to the love of animals

Randi Helgeson

In memory of my parents, Charles and Margaret Champ

Lisa Champ Paluck

In memory of Pokey, a beautiful, sweet girl kitty

Daniel and Myndal Silver

In memory of "Panther"

Beth and Steve Boatright

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/
or call us at 320-245-6871

Gone But Not Forgotten



Cinders, we are so grateful you graced our lives and remind us that the next rescue will be just as unique and special as you were.



Katniss, may you be unleashed forever and know you were loved beyond all borders. You touched the hearts of many wide and far.



Logan, your big, beautiful spirit will be deeply missed. Thank you for trusting in us like you had with Caesar.



Kimba your spirit is finally free. Enjoy being the wild lion you were always meant to be.

Simone, thank you for reminding us of the power of love! We often need the reminder of just how impactful and uniting it is.



THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



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— Ways You Can Help —

MIRACLE MATCH



TRIPLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION

\$50	Becomes	\$150
\$100	Becomes	\$300
\$150	Becomes	\$450

YOU HELP MAKE MIRACLES HAPPEN!

**Time's running out to have your
DONATION TRIPLED!**

April 30th will be here before you know it. So, 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 TRIPLE any gift up to \$70,000. But it has to be given before the April 30th deadline to qualify.

There's no greater feeling than seeing a wild cat happy, especially when they've survived so much in their past. Your gift gives them this second chance to finally live 'wild at heart.'

Thank you for making rescues possible.

WildcatSanctuary.org • info@wildcatsanctuary.org • 320-245-6871