

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Lakota

Species: Ti-liger

Sex: Male

DOB: 8/30/15

Arrival Date: 9/30/16



Happy New Year and welcome to our **2020 Vision: Your Focus. Their Future.** Our goal is for 2020 to be the pivotal year that will be the beginning to the end of the Big Cat Trade in our lifetimes. That means expanding our education and advocacy campaigns nationwide, taking our standards of animal care to the next level, and preparing to accommodate the increased need for sanctuary space as federal laws are implemented and enforced. From improving the lives of animals that have found peace and security at the Refuge to touching the lives of those who wait for rescue, we are going to **focus on the future of all big cats.**

In 2019 we made great strides forward in public education and advocacy and gave lifelong homes to several new animals, while improving the care we give to all our animal residents. We expanded our team, increased our number of grassy habitats, implemented a new membership program for youth, and took the first step towards our Visitor Education Center with the installation of a new water system that will see us decades into the future. **It has been a year of growth, but only with your help can we make a better future for our animal residents and all survivors of the Exotic Wildlife Trade.**

Our Animal Curator Emily McCormack put it so well: “Although the team works daily to care for the animals in heat, cold, rain, or snow, it’s knowing **YOU** are there, supporting us, that makes it possible for us to do what we do. We couldn’t have made so much progress without our amazing supporters! **From the dollar supporters to the hundred thousand-dollar supporters, every single person matters.**”

Now, as we enter the **“ROARing 20’s,”** I am asking you to help us take the next step in our own cultural evolution. Share our information, visit our Advocacy Page, and support our mission. With your help, we can lead the way in education and advocacy. Together, we can accomplish amazing things and see the **END** of the Big Cat Trade in the US **within our lifetime!**

Until then,

Tanya Smith

Tanya Smith, President/Founder
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

2020 VISION



YOUR FOCUS. THEIR FUTURE.



Mission Statement: To provide lifetime refuge for abused and neglected “Big Cats” with emphasis on tigers, lions, leopards, and cougars.

Vision Statement: Through public education we work to end the Big Cat Trade. Together, we can preserve and protect these magnificent predators in the wild for our children’s future.

To Fulfill this Mission and Vision our Goals are:

EDUCATION, PRESERVATION AND COMPASSION

Education:

TCWR is evolving how we educate today’s youth, in classroom visits, onsite programming, and around the world through our new partnership with Skype in the Classroom.

Our Certified Wildlife Interpreters introduce students to our animal residents and their stories along with the workings of a true sanctuary to teach why predators should never be made pets or exploited for entertainment. Through awareness we can foster advocacy and environmental stewardship to end the Big Cat Trade in our lifetime.

Preservation:

Turpentine Creek is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed facility for exotic and native wildlife, accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) and a member of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BSCA), and the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). We rescue Big Cats and Bear from exploitation, neglect and abuse, providing them a safe lifelong home with exceptional care, while working to preserve endangered species in the wild through public education and advocacy.

Compassion:

We believe Big Cats and Bear are predators, not pets or entertainment for the masses. They and other exotic and native wildlife deserve to live out their lives with dignity, allowed to be the wild animals they instinctively are. We will continue to be their voice, both for those forced to live in captivity and those struggling for survival in the wild.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

Tanya Smith:
Founder, President and Chairperson

Scott Smith
Vice President

Amanda Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:

Virginia Rankin, Secretary (Event Planning and Fundraising)

Patricia Quin (Corporate Administration)

Randy Risor (Restaurateur - Cici’s Pizza)

Dave Schoonover (U.S. Army Veteran & Patriot Guard)

Dr. Heather Kimberly Klatt (DO)

Tracy Garry (Retirement Administration)

J.R. Shaw (Veteran Tourism Professional)

Amanda Rials (Former Corporate Executive, Tyson Foods)

WITH YOUR HELP: 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ADVOCACY: Your focus on advocacy is paying off!

HR1380 has gained the required number of co-sponsors and as of November has passed through the House Subcommittee! In 2019 we saw:

- **1643 Advocacy Page Visits**
 - › 783 Returning Advocates
 - › 851 New Advocates
- **4115 emails sent to Congress**
- **33 Advocacy Tweets**

This critical bill should go to vote on the floor soon – which means emails from constituents are needed more than ever. Tell a friend to visit our advocacy page (tcwr.org/advocacy) and help ensure the future of big cats!



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:

In January of 2018 we established an Education Department. Since then, the program has reached its maximum capacity. In 2019 we:

- **Graduated 30 animal care and 2 education interns**
- **Expanded our education team to 3 staff members**
- **1 new education internship**
- **44 off-site presentations with 7,158 contacts**
- **71 school and specialty groups onsite with 3,234 contacts**
- **46,890 people (all ages) educated onsite**
- **\$24,030 brought in through our Education Department**

The TCWR Education Department continues to fully book out months in advance, reinforcing our need of a year-round climate-controlled facility in which to hold onsite classes and produce our virtual classes and tours, offered to over 3 million classrooms in 102 countries through our brand new Skype in the Classroom partnership.



NEW MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Our new Protect All Wildlife (P.A.W.) Club offers youth the ability to become young advocates in order to help save wildlife everywhere. The P.A.W. Club combines our Cub Club and W.A.Y. memberships, offering a variety of educational activities for the children each month.



RESCUES/ANIMAL CARE:

- 6 tigers, 2 bobcats and 1 serval rescued
- Performed 18 complete wellness exams, for individually tailored health plans
- Ran blood work using our in-house blood work machines over 35 times
- Took over 150 radiographs (x-rays) as part of our wellness exams
- Fed our residents 214,655 lbs. of meat including Nebraska specialty diet



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS:

- Installed a new well and water system to support future growth
- Opened a communications office at the Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's in Rogers
- Opened a new multi-introduction habitat now housing 5 servals and 1 Savannah cat
- Supplied heated dens to all our African and geriatric animals per GFAS regulations
- Rebuilt the animals' benches in all habitats
- Updated the concession stand
- Added electrical and water for our vendors in the event field
- Replaced roofs on 5 Zulu Safari Lodges and our office building due to wind damage
- Remodeled lodging units to improve your visitor experience
- Processed over 1,000 pounds of meat, fruits and veggies daily in our commissary
- Began Capital Campaign preparations for our planned Visitor Education Center



EVENT AND FUNDRAISING:

- \$540,365 Newsletter
- \$149,115 Adoptions/Sponsorships
- \$97,549 Donor Development
- \$58,743 Facebook (including Facebook Fundraisers)
- \$55,279 Events
- \$40,000 Giving Tuesday
- \$20,146 NWA Gives

MAJOR IN-KIND DONATIONS:

Animal Food

- 183,137 lbs. of poultry donated
- 9,383 lbs. of beef donated
- 2,776 lbs. of rabbit meat donated
- 3,415 lbs. of misc. meat donated

Animal Medication

- \$15,029 worth of supplements



VOLUNTEERING:

- 190 volunteers gave 1,749 hours to help the animals!
 - › Previous year, 2018: 145 volunteers.
 - › 2017: 123 volunteers.
- Hosted 3 youth groups during Winter & Spring Break, whose help was very much appreciated.



MAJOR EXPENSES:

\$150,000: New water system

\$78,735: Food purchased by TCWR for animals

\$29,210: Animal care, enrichment, veterinary expenses, medications

\$21,156: Habitat construction, repairs & maintenance



2019 FINANCIAL TOTALS:

• Revenue from Lodging, Entry & other Revenue Streams:	\$1,926,839
• Private Donations:	\$932,659
• Dedicated Funds Donated: \$233, 864	
› New Well: \$150,000	
› New Visitor Education Center: \$54,880	
› New Pavilion in Discovery Area: \$28,983	
• Foundation support:	\$137,800
<hr/>	
• TOTAL INCOME (ordinary):	\$2,997,298
• TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,622,976

RESCUES

2019



Robbie



Tigger



Frankie, Tommy, Robbie, Tigger and Floyd, survivors of the cub petting industry, lived in the backyard of a man who overfed them roadkill. A sixth tiger, Diesel, died from a blood borne illness. Rescued in January 2019, they have since become healthy and fit from running, playing, and a nutritious diet.

Bobcats Prince and Tony were rescued in the nick of time this spring from rapidly rising floodwaters. Now they spend their time lounging and cuddling in their grassy habitat.



Prince & Tony



Hunter

Lucky serval **Hunter** escaped and survived in the wild twice, despite being declawed. He now has a grassy habitat with a heated night house and plenty of places to climb and explore.

EVENTS

2019



In April we celebrated our 27th Anniversary at Cats at the Castle – pictured here Pat Riggs, upcoming artist & supporter and Tanya Smith, TCWR Founder & President. Thank you to everyone who joined us to bid, enjoyed amazing food, and gave us the opportunity to get to know you better!



May 1st marked 27 years of rescue, education and advocacy at Turpentine Creek. Founders Don and Hilda Jackson's love and dedication for animals is carried on by their daughter Tanya and her family. President Tanya Smith and husband, Vice President Scott Smith, today run Turpentine Creek along with children Victor Smith (Head of Maintenance), his wife Amanda Smith (Treasurer), and Miranda Smith (Hospitality Coordinator).



Kite Fest 2019 was a wonderful day of family activities, including fun activities, refreshments, and of course, kite flying! Once again you made this a record attendance day for the Refuge!

Our 2019 Annual Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular was a huge success, drawing families in full costume to experience the Refuge at night, when our large carnivores would normally be most active hunting prey. As always, it was a great opportunity for our Big Cats to exercise their natural predatory instincts as they keenly observed the costume contests, games, giveaways and hay rides. We thank all of you who came to enjoy this one chance a year to see our nocturnal animals on the prowl, after dark!



Education Director Beckie Moore utilizes a replica big cat skull, purchased with grant funding from Carroll County Community Foundation, while teaching a group of children and adults during a roving educational presentation at TCWR.



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is hard at work to change the lives of visitors along with our animals! Our Ethical Tourism icon, letting you know you have chosen a destination that works hard to have a positive influence on our ecosystem, environment, wildlife, local people, and local economy.



Education Coordinator Beckie Moore explains interpretive learning tools to educators before presenting to students. Students grasp the power of an apex predator by examining 'used' enrichment toys, learning why they should never be made 'pets.'



Beckie Moore speaking about white tigers.

Education Team Member and former intern, Abby Kauffman, helps students understand the materials presented.

Our Roving Educational Presentation highlights important issues facing big cats in the wild and in captivity and gives people knowledge of how they can make a difference by the choices they make and actions they take in their daily lives. As a Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) facility, we do not bring our animals to presentations. Rather, we use slides, video, replica animal parts, and printed materials to fully engage students. By stimulating student's senses of sight, sound, and touch we prompt them to ask more questions, ignite their creativity and help them come to a fuller understanding of the issues confronting Big Cats and Bear as well as the importance of ecosystems, creating a new generation of animal advocates and environmentalists.



VOLUNTEERING AT TCWR

Volunteers are an important part of the TCWR family. Left: Volunteers assist the Animal Care Team in preparing meals for each animal's specific needs. Right: Volunteers crafting enrichment structures to be stuffed with scents and edible treats. Our animals receive different enrichment items weekly.

ANIMAL HIGHLIGHTS:



KODA & XENA experience their first fall in their natural bear habitat, foraging to bulk up for winter napping. (supplemented with dinners provided by our animal care team in their heated night houses!)



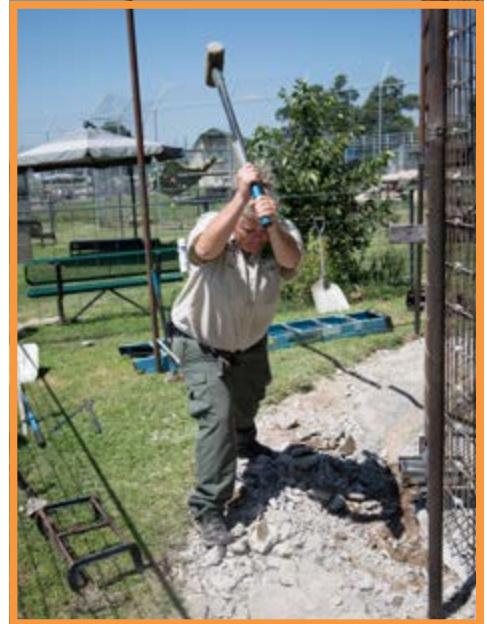
TSAVO, enjoying some special scent enrichment on World Lion Day!



Animal birthdays mean special enrichment! Here **THUNDER II** enjoys destroying his scent filled boxes before devouring his meat treats.

HABITAT RENOVATION & CONSTRUCTION

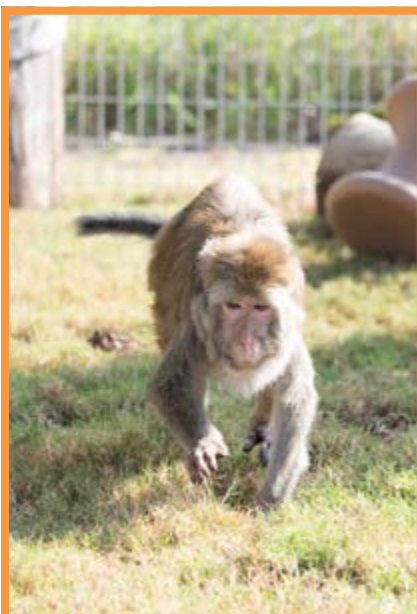
A New Landscape for our Dear Old Monkey



Assistant Curator Laurie Vanderwal oversees the conversion of our lone primate Goober's habitat from the concrete to grass.



Goober, a Rhesus Macaque, checked out a sod sample while overseeing the work being done on his outdoor habitat. Confining him to the walkway leading to his heated/air-conditioned night house (complete with T.V.) enabled the conversion this summer.



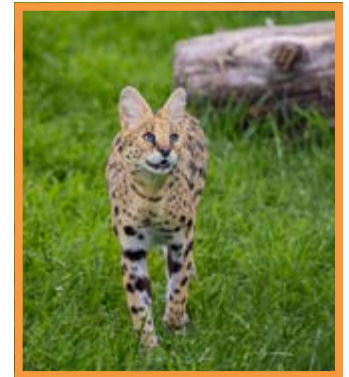
The old man (34 and counting!) delighted in exploring his new grassy world.

HABITAT RENOVATION & CONSTRUCTION

A Big Ozark Habitat for Small African Cats



TCWR team performed construction work for the new small cat multi-introduction habitat, completed in July. The night house is heated for inclement weather, with benches for napping, and enrichment toys.



Before transfer to their new home, all five African Servals and Savannah Cat received wellness exams.

After all were deemed healthy, these small but fierce hunters were delighted to explore their expansive, grassy habitat.



This new Serval habitat would not be possible without the generosity of the Roop family, who donated proceeds for its construction. We would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts, and from every small cat whose future becomes brighter by living here. What a wonderful way for a family of animal-lovers to create a lasting memorial in their name.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Our special thanks to Tyson Foods for donating \$241,740 worth of poultry in 2019. Their 27 years of support with in-kind donations of meat have been key in our ability to provide consistently high-quality diets to our animal residents.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to J.R. Carlson Laboratories for their generous donation of \$15,029 worth of vitamins and supplements for our animal residents, greatly contributing to their quality of life.

Animal care staff unpacking the supplements, many of which we use for Degenerative Joint Disease: salmon oil, glucosamine, chondroitin, and vitamins.

YOUR FOCUS GIVES FUTURE



Floyd was our face of NWA Gives 2019. Diagnosed with Metabolic Bone Disease and physical deformities in his limbs, Floyd has since blossomed with a proper diet, pain management and enrichment induced exercise. Your dollars make transitions from pain and fear to happy chuffs and trust possible.



You showed up Tuesday, December 3, to #GiveFocus and #GiveFuture during Giving Tuesday, donating over \$40,000 to get us through the end of the year while laying a solid foundation for 2020 Vision: Your Focus. Their Future, making it our BEST Giving Tuesday EVER!

*We would like to extend a special
Thank You to all our Membership Level Donors*

The members of the Hilda Jackson Society, the Kenny Fellowship, the Bam Bam Benefactors, and the Friends of India include Turpentine Creek's most committed members who support TCWR's rescue and education initiatives. By enrolling in a membership tier and pledging to give again, these dedicated stewards enable us to budget for bigger projects with further impact in the years to come. If you do not desire tier benefits but want your name added per level of giving, please contact sandy@tcwr.org.

Without your help, we could not do all that we have done and continue to do. Thank you.

The Hilda Jackson Society

Annual Donation of \$10,000+



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Heather Klatt*

Amy Patterson*

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Anya and Joel Walters

Cynthia Fudoli

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*Founding members of donor membership levels.



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