

Lucy, tiger



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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.

With a gift of \$100 or more annually, you'll receive complimentary issues of UPROAR! Magazine (delivered in the Continental United States only).



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Lucy's Long Journey Home

had almost given up. After years of planning and permits. After Violeta passed away. After commitment dates came and went. After flight details kept changing. I thought Lucy would spend the rest of her days in Argentina in the cage she had lived in most of her life. She was the last remaining tiger at the Mendoza Zoo.

I have never been so happy to be wrong!

With winter approaching, Lucy aging and health declining, I had to set an ultimatum date. It was October 10th. And you guessed it, that's the day she landed in New York City.

I anticipated meeting Lucy for the first time so much. I was excited, but also anxious. It was a long trip and based on new airline guidelines, her transport crate was very long and skinny. Not nearly as spacious as the Argentina lions arrived in.

I knew it would be hard on her arthritis. I was also worried that her kidneys might fail during the trip. We were given blood work results, but it was from a year prior. We requested it upon loading, but the zoo worked on coaxing Lucy in her crate awake, so they weren't able to draw blood.

We did find out some good news. Her origination paperwork confirmed she was younger than previously thought—only 16. Yet her body and her arthritis depict a different story, possibly from living life in a small area and on hard substrate.

Meeting Lucy

Seeing her was a sight for sore eyes. She was calm and regal. But she also had a dry coat, looked dehydrated and

was a little distant. We knew getting her back to the sanctuary was best for her.





Lucy Loading in Argentina



Transporting Lucy to the plane at JFK

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As we drove through the city, in traffic on the final leg of her trip to sanctuary, I looked out the van window and thought, "Wow, I bet no one has any idea we have a tiger in our vehicle." But then I started to wonder, "If we had a tiger, what might be in all the other vehicles?" I giggled to myself.

Lucy was wonderful during the road trip. As each hour passed, Lucy engaged more and more. She drank water at each stop and, midway through the trip, began to eat. But the last few stops, she was up waiting for

us when we opened her panel to give her water.

Safe at Sanctuary

I was so relieved to see her brighter and alert as we reached the sanctuary grounds.

Then, it was time to unload her after her 7,200-mile trip. What would she think touching grass for the first time? Lucy left her transport crate right away and began to explore. She walked through the tall grass once, shook her paws, and then stayed on the mowed paths and concrete that outlined the perimeter of her habitat.

She walked right up to the shared wall and saw tiger Pandora and gave out her first chuff. I was in tears. She was calm and confident at first but, as the day went on, she became a little more reserved as she saw lions Alana and Aurora across the way.

Within a few days, she'd settled in. She feels safety amongst humans and approaches her habitat wall with a lot of moans and vocalization as she rubs along the fence and drops to the ground waiting for the audience to fawn over her. Which of course we do.

She's much smaller in stature than our other tigers and a much darker color orange. She is beautifully Lucy.



Unloading Lucy at JFK airport



Rescuing Lucy wasn't about just giving her a second chance at life, but about giving her the best life.







Lucy's Future

As happy as I am that she gets to live the remainder of her days at sanctuary, I'm concerned with how many days that may be. Lucy's age, GI concerns and arthritis in her elbow all contribute to my concern.

We've already begun her pain management plan, as well as a monthly injection of solensia —a new medication for feline arthritis. It costs about \$80 a month for a domestic cat and Lucy's starter dose is \$200 a month. But it will go up to \$600 a month if she continues to accept the injection and we administer a full dose.

Lucy has already had her intake exam, CT scan and endoscopy to help us create a medical plan to give her as much support as possible.

Lucy's rescue and medical care is costly. But for her to get to experience being a tiger in a natural area for the first time in 16 years is priceless.

She was wrongly sentenced to life in a zoo. So, no matter how much time she has left, we felt she deserved to know freedom. Thank you for feeling the same way and supporting us in cases like this. An international case years in the making for a single senior tiger. Every life matters. Lucy and I both thank you!

P.S. You can watch Lucy's arrival video at: *bit.ly/LucyArrival*

Catio Town – A True Fantasy Land



What a surreal day when the first rescued hybrid cats moved into their Catio Town suites. Catio Town is truly a fantasy land for small cats. You feel pure joy as you walk through the doors into the bright central hall and look around at all the beautiful lives we've saved.

What started as a dream over a year ago is now a reality, thanks to so many generous supporters!

Our goal was to provide a better life for the cats we rescue. But we also wanted a unique way to bring awareness to the Small Cat Crisis on social media. Who wouldn't want to tune in to see rescued cats, who were once in threat of euthanasia, now living their best lives here in Catio Town?

I'm so excited to share photos of this special space and those who enjoy it! And Catio Town is much more than a fun place for the cats to live.

- It provides year-round dynamic space for the cats both in their temperature-controlled suites and covered outdoor catios.
- Streamlines and decreases caretaker time for cleaning and maintenance which increases

the amount of love and attention for the cats who want it.

- This cool new space will be a marketing catalyst to further small cat crisis education.
- Catio Town features 10 heated, indoor suites with outdoor access for the cats, too. Attached outdoor areas are furnished with skywalks, water fountains and cat grass beds.
- There's a central playroom to conduct playdates and give the cats even more socialization.
- The building is mirrored after our big cat buildings with angled floors to central drains, epoxy walls for easy cleaning, an air exchanger for fresh and clean air indoors.

 Solatubes were installed in the atrium to bring as much natural sunlight inside for the cats to enjoy. Each indoor room has its very own individualized theme with adorable, customized amenities. For instance, the Under The Sea room features walls full of fish and turtle shelves for the cats to perch on. The Log Cabin room, decked out with cute plaid accessories, has its very own faux fireplace. The PAWSH room showcases a totally modern décor, and there's even a tribute to Barbie with a pink Dream House.

We were the first sanctuary specializing in rescuing the smaller wildcats—including hybrids. This is truly the first of its kind for wild/domestic hybrid cats. Catio Town will provide a forever home to current and future small and hybrid cats who can't otherwise be rehomed due to legalities and unwanted behaviors.

Thank you to our Founding Members who gave us a capital gift towards Catio Town!

Thank you to each square-foot sponsor, Amazon wish list angels and so many who helped create this truly inspirational place for the hybrid cats.

Brad Aden and Susann Sullivan-Aden Ahimsa Foundation Leslie L. Alexander Foundation Anonymous The Barstad Family Eric G. Bertagnoli Devi Book and Wilson Book III Muriel Bourra-Svarte Mary S. Bowman Patricia and Paul Bragg Foundation Claudia Brockhaus Barbara Cain Ellen J. Carlson Christine Cox Bill Dalton and Lisa Gwin Patricia Davenport Carolyn J. Davis Yvette & Jeff Davis Ron & Lois Dixon Peggy Fisher & Larry Stelter Gary Green Head and Heart Foundation Randi J. Helgeson Tammy and Michael Hilliard **April Hoskins** Kurt and Jennifer Indermaur Dawn Isackson Paula M. Johnson Mary L. Kenzie Foundation Paula Landregan-Zeman and Mike Zeman Dr. Kimberly Lannon & John Derouen

In Memory of Donald Ludewig GayLing M. Matthews Judy McCalla and Jack Kleven Julie Morgan Kim and William Moulton Sara & Randy Perry Jerry & Linda Rhyne Sheila E. Roberts Susanna G. Russo D.V.M. Sue and Dan Schmitt William and Marcelyn Smale Karen A. Taylor Everit B. Terhune III Sally L. Thornton Lisa Vontish **Ruth Vork** Megan West

And thank you to our square-foot sponsors, Amazon wish list angels and so many that helped create this truly inspirational place for the hybrid cats.







Maximillion and Thor, Savannah cats

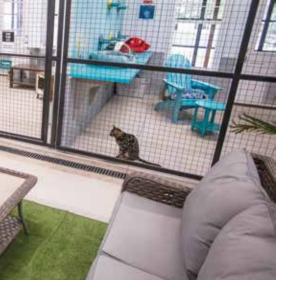








Topper, Bengal cat















New Residents



SQUIRRELS & WOBBLES

Squirrels and her friend Wobbles were rescued from a hoarding situation where over a dozen cats were found living in a fish house in rural Minnesota. It was filled with feces and trash everywhere.

What a horrible existence it had been for them. We were happy to offer them a home with lots of love with our other office cats here at the sanctuary.



11 Highlander Hybrids

We were contacted after a breeder passed away. 11 Highlander Hybrid kittens needed a forever home. Within 24 hours, we were on the road bringing these curled ears, bobbed tails and polydactyl paws home for the holidays.



BEK

Like so many other hybrids, Bek had become too much for his owners to handle. A Chausie/ Savannah mix, he's already settled in, enjoying his new life in Catio Town with new friends Gwen, Rachel, Ledger, Jewel, and Merlin.





ONYX & OZARK

These two Asian leopard cats had originally been seized from the same Texas breeder that all our other Asian leopard cats came from. When the breeder died, the cats were found living in horrendous conditions there.

We're happy to provide them with a forever home, just like all the others we've welcomed from that seizure.





RIO & PINGA

This is the first time TWS has been home to ocelots! These two had been retired from the AZA's Species Survival Plan and previously placed at a Texas facility. After that facility closed, they arrived at their forever home here at the sanctuary.

At 25 years old, Rio may be the oldest living ocelot in captivity! They both love scent enrichment, particularly pine boughs. We look forward to making their golden years the best

2024 Impact Report

in overwhelmed with gratitude as I look at all we accomplished together this past year! Because of YOU, the sanctuary is never status quo. We continue to expand, enhance habitat features, educate more people about the captive wildlife crisis, and ensure every day is the best day for the cats we care for.





Our Sanctuary

- We acquired 120 adjacent acres! This provides a natural safety buffer, provides a home to wild bobcat, bear, fisher and other wildlife. And it gives us room to dream big!
- We built **new habitats** to accommodate **more rescues**.
- The perimeter fence was moved back several hundred feet to build the new **Cattail Creek** area that includes 7 habitats.
- Four habitats were constructed. Two for bobcats and one with a waterfall for our Fishing Cat, Sushi. All included caves, skywalks, boulders and temperature-controlled buildings.
- Completion of **5,400 sq. ft. Catio Town** building for Bengals and hybrids, including emergency generator.
- Prior to construction, **temporary areas were built** for 40 hybrids and 6 bungalow sheds and yards were demolished.
- Installed, furnished and ran heat/electric to 4 **new bungalows** in hybrid and small cat areas.
- Welcomed **23 new residents** and said goodbye to 11 special wild ones.
- Added **2 Pavilions** for our staff, volunteers and donors.
- **Rebuilt the roof** of the 7,000 square foot habitat for cougars Rainier, Tacoma and Quincy.
- Removed and donated the **old bunkhouse** that was no longer needed.
- Installed a **new roof** on one of the intern houses in downtown Sandstone.



Our Industry

- National recognition for our **Small Cat Crisis Campaign**. We have not only educated lawmakers and the general public, but our animal rescue partners, too. Now, sanctuaries and animal welfare organizations have all begun to educate and help save the smaller cats and hybirds.
- Our Executive Director serves on the Board of the **Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance** and is the Rescue Committee Chair. Our Donor Services Manager served on the conference committee.
- We were one of the first sanctuaries to join the **Wildlife Confiscation Network**. The purpose of the WCN is to create a coalition of reputable and trusted animal care facilities who can provide immediate medical care and housing for wildlife that are trafficked through U.S. ports of entry, allowing wildlife law enforcement to concentrate on their core functions: the investigation and prosecution of criminals.
- Our team participated in several **industry conferences** to share the work of our sanctuary, educate about the Small Cat Crisis, discuss solutions to zoo surplus, and network about best practices for the species in our care. These included PAWS International Captive Wildlife Conference, Felid Taxonomic Advisory Group, Cheetah Husbandry Conference and Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance conference.

Our Volunteers

We're honored to have talented and compassionate people supporting our staff and the animals. The hours our volunteers contribute is remarkable and so very appreciated!

- AmeriCorps put in eight weeks of project work here on-site that amounted to 2,240 hours! Seven people for 2 months working 40 hours/week.
- Crew Days were up in both amount and participation, accounting for 1,758 volunteer hours or 43 Crew Days with 293 participants (compared to 31 Crew Days in 2023 with 236 participants).
- Our volunteer team hours were just under **2,400 hours**, up almost 200 hours from 2023! Our volunteers help with events, outreach, gardening/grounds work, chores and cleaning, construction and even vet techs volunteering their time in the hospital.
- Our **5 development volunteers** donate the time of **2.5 full-time staff**!





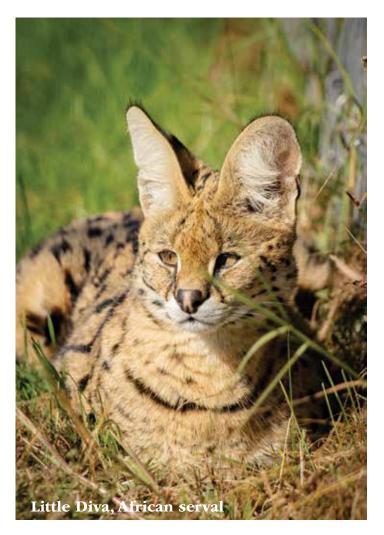
Plans for 2025

We are always improving our facilities for our staff and cats in order to provide the best care and meet our mission goals.

The Sanctuary

- Build a roofed **habitat to accommodate leopards/cougars/jaguars** with heated building in Cattail Creek.
- Install a **new well** near Cattail Creek to service this area and Wild Woodlands.
- **Rebuild 1-2 habitats** in Roar Ridge to provide more habitat space, as well as accommodate the new septic tank.
- Install **large rock caves** in up to 4 large cat habitats.
- Install **shift yards** in up to 4 large cat habitats to increase options for cleaning/maintenance.

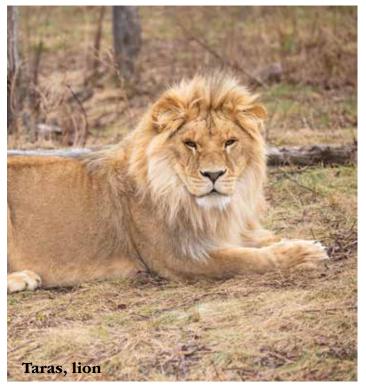
- Add a **road and culvert** between the top and lower Cattail Creek to connect the two areas.
- Upgrade all internal roads to ensure easy and emergency access to all cat areas.
- Tear down old hybrid quarantine that is no longer needed.
- Install a **new barrier fence** around Small Cat Track.
- **Replace roofs** on aging buildings, such as quarantine pole shed, Serval Building and Roar Ridge.
- **Replace 2 boilers** in animal care buildings to decrease breakdowns and increase efficiency.
- Purchase 1 UTV, 1 golf cart, 2 zero turn lawnmowers, skid steer attachment to support daily operations.
- Repair **2 big cat pools** in time for summer use.



Sustainability

- Invest in a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) **database** to better customize the donor's experience.
- Develop plan and estimates for **workshop**, **utilities**, **and fencing** to be built in 2026.
- Create a **short- and long-term plan** for the newly acquired 120 acres.
- Review and update 5-year strategic plan.
- Expand our leadership and onsite management to ensure successful long-term succession.
- **Invest in our staff** by adding additional benefits such as short/long term disability and life insurance.
- Fund and host an **onsite working group of sanctuary veterinarians** to inspire collaboration on sanctuary medicine.





In Honor & In Memory Gifts of \$100+ received 7/31/2024 – 12/4/2024

In Honor

In honor of Adele Burrows Jacqueline Francis

In honor of all the wild creatures and the ones so lovingly cared for at the sanctuary Joellen Domenico

In honor of Amanda Drake **Donald Speicher**

In honor of beautiful and fun loving Daisy, my favorite resident **Diane McKay**

In honor of Bonzai and how much he is enjoying his new space in **Catio Town** Janet and Dan Davis

In honor of Cathy J Matthews, in honor of her love for TWS Jan Paul Matthews

In honor of Cindy Stickley's **Birthday** Kristen Kask-Robinson

In honor of Connie Rakosky's birthday Frances Town

In honor of Frances Mackiewicz Stephen and Della Mackiewicz

In honor of Heather McLeod Pamela Hisey

In honor of Jane Speller Jennifer Martinuzzi

In honor of Kiara **Danielle Mattessich**

In honor of Linda Hall Faith Susan Warner

In honor of Lisette Hitt's Birthday Kristen Kask-Robinson

In honor of Lucy, Jax, and all the lovely residents that you take such amazing care of every day. I am honored to support you! Amy Nelson

In honor of Marcy Sanborn's 50th birthday and 25th work anniversary at DHMC Love, your volunteers and friends at DHMC In honor of Marley Pete and Jodi Roth

In honor of Mrs. Lois Dixon Thomas Clarke

In honor of my dear volunteer, friend, and mentor Nancy Bassett Marcy Sanborn

In honor of my heart cat, Willy Janet McKean

In honor of my niece Tayler's birthday Kande Larson

In honor of my wife Micheal LeAnn Lockhart James Lockhart

In honor of Rob's birthday, and in memory of your "buddy," George Susan Winter

In honor of Tygger Jodie Copeland

In honor of TWS volunteer Becky Wilkens Sandra Wilkens

In honor of all my kitties who always live inside my heart Dore and her kitties

In Memory

In memory of the 4th anniversary of losing our child Rocket and in honor of cougar Anastasia. Both led to us becoming donors of TWS. Julie and Gary Hockin

In memory of Aspen Daria Dzura, Nancy Johnson, Paula Johnson, Leanne Edberg, Michael Kott, Felicia Merkson, Susan Nelson, David and Christine Paul, Roger VanDerlip, Ruth Vork

In memory of Blossom and Buffy Donna Windhorst

In memory of Bobbin Susan Sheridan

In memory of Charlie, beloved kitty Barbara Bradley

In memory of Dan Larson who loved all cats Jan Johnston

In memory of Debbie Brown. The Kitties and I miss you so much! Steve Brown

In memory of Delmar, Ruth & **Eugene Himes** Judith Martell

In memory of Diane Kerly Donna Herrmann

In memory of Eli the Cat James Spencer

In memory of Elsa, a beloved **Great Dane** Carol Johnson

In memory of Ezra, Kahuna and Tewaz **Kirsten Ringham**

In memory of Frances Ferraro (nee Lechich), age 102, passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord on June 1, 2024 **Gloria** Price

In memory of Frank & Vittoria Cellofiglio Lucille Beland

In memory of Gracie, the most gentle cat ever Kerri and Sam Maxwell

In memory of Hilo Robert and Bridget Boellner, Elizabeth Eide, Thad Ludwiczak, Bonnie Reiland, Kathleen Sprank

In memory of Jennifer Langfield Max Spaeth

In memory of my grandcat, Gatsby Lynn Krapf

In memory of Jasper, Mike, Pat, Snickers and Spanky. Loved you all Susan Johnson

In memory of my cat Spazzy Kathy Thompson

Please note as of 10/1/2024, donations of \$100 or more will now be acknowledged in our magazine.

In honor of Jax

Britni Thornburg, Dawn Beavis, Janet Bishop, Connie Cunningham, Leanne Edberg, Erin and Kevin Iverson, Nancy Lowman, Sara and Randy Perry, Bonnie Reiland, Jean Schlemmer, Everit Terhune, Ruth Vork, Linda Young, Kathy Thompson

In memory of Jennifer Langfield Christy Speck and Sarah Anderson

In memory of Kenny James Virginia Pansch

In memory of Joyce Hillegas who had appliqued kitties next to her heart

Patricia Cooper

In memory of Lavani

Erin and Kevin Iverson, Everit Terhune, Faith Susan Warner, Leanne Edberg, Thad Ludwiczak, Douglas Potter, Pat Saphier

In memory of Max

Faith Susan Warner, Leanne Edberg, Thad Ludwiczak, Douglas Potter, Pat Saphier, Erin and Kevin Iverson, Wendy Merrell, Tawnya Russell, Linda Sterner

In memory of Malcolm, my beautiful black cat who died two years ago Richard Benz

In memory of Mama Cat, Purrey, Ninja, Pinky & Rocky Thomas and Kathleen Pnewski

In memory of Marcella Hagen Richard Scarrow

In memory of Mary Beth Brewster who loved all of God's creations. Deborah Sandford

In memory of Mary Stegemiller Pendleton. A fellow cat lover and my BFF, Mary rescued cats all of her life. Susan Klemesrud

In memory of Mary VanDerlip Roger VanDerlip

In memory of Michael Kriel Linda Kriel

In memory of Miss Vicki, a generous soul who loved animals Pat Saphier

In memory of my adorable husband Jerry Vandelac Mary Vandelac

In memory of my angel, Kirby Kari Davidson

In memory of my beautiful husband Kent and my cat Cleo Elitza Brown

In memory of my beloved Phoenix and miss seeing his pictures. He had a great life with TWS Gwenn Chriss

In memory of my cherished kitty companions KC, Kia, Miss Kityy and Karli, and in honor of my current kitty companion, Pixie Leona Van De Voort

In memory of my Dad "Feets" Jody Heitritter

In memory of my husband Thomas M. Rodney Jr. who went to be with the Lord on Aug. 31, '24. I miss him so much. Linda Peterson-Hines

In memory of my husband, Fred Donna Boller

In memory of my late mom who loved and supported animals until the day she passed away Lisa Rooksby

In memory of my little Finnegan, my best friend for 16 years Kate and Joan Hibben

In memory of my mother Lucy, who passed the end of June Robert and Bridget Boellner

In memory of my sister Jana who just passed on 8/5/2024. Jana loved cats and followed TWS. Kay Molencamp

In memory of Nancy Morgan Carrah Abele

In memory of my Dad Laurie Kaufmann

In memory of our Chetta, Chubby and Splash Joe Butkus In memory of our pride Catarina, Phyllis, Mystique, and Romeo Carl Wenning

In memory of Peanut, Samantha and Tigger Wendy and Richard Smith

In memory of Rosemary Mayper Lynn Dipierro

In memory of Sam Elizabeth Charbonneau

In memory of Sebastian Leanne Edberg, Bonnie Reiland, Wendy Stuck

In memory of Shadow Carol Hendricks, Paula Johnson

In memory of Sharon Moore who loved Dash and supported him whenever she could From her family

In memory of sweet little Colby Diana Pettman

In memory of Sweetie Joan Eichelberg

In memory of The Oreo Cat. Oreo was a special kitty who was loved by many people. Pat Saphier

In memory of Tonka, my first sponsor baby Janet and Dan Davis

In memory of Yvonne Kelly, a true feline friend Marie Wilkinson

In memory of Ziggy, 19 year old, Shih-tzu Georgia Gilbertson

In our Hearts Forever

will be more tears to shed.

We measure their life by the quality of days, not quantity – yet because of the remarkable care you help us give – many have both!!



Jax arrived at 4 months old with very serious medical issues. He was born wild and meant to be free. And he found his way back to the wild. We love you so much Jax! Know we tried our best, each and every moment.



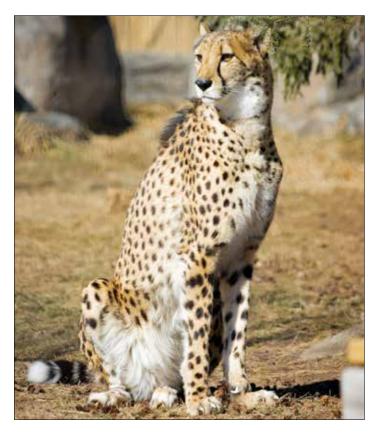
Sebastian, at 20-years-old, you still had the will to survive and fight. We promise you we will continue to fight and advocate for others like you that have fallen victim to the Small Cat Crisis.



Max was able to live out his best life here at the sanctuary for 18 years, surrounded by his cat friends, loving staff, adoring interns, volunteers and donors.



Ramsey, at almost 21 years of age, every day with you was a gift. Thankfully, you gave us many years to love you!





Lavani, at 14, you were so resilient and defied odds. Now you can be free to cuddle your brother and chirp together forever. Benson, the last 19 years have just sped by. Seeing you a young kitten, grow into an adult and then progress into your senior years has been a blessing.



Shadow was the happiest and kindest leopard in the world. She never let anything get her down. I am so thankful she held on for 23 years...for us. She knew how special she was. And she knew how special she was to all of us.



You can ensure your love of animals continues beyond your lifetime by including The Wildcat Sanctuary in your estate plans.

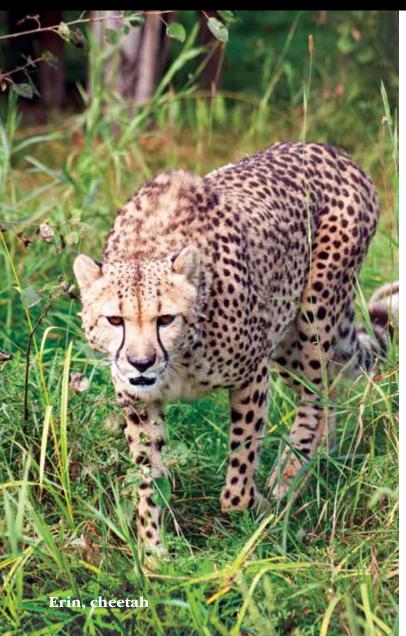
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5 Meaningful Ways to Help



MONTHLY PRIDE

A monthly recurring donation the cats can count on helps in their time of need.

SPONSOR A WILD ONE

Develop a special bond with the cat of your choice.

WISH LIST

Shop Amazon or Chewy for much-needed items for the cats.

LEAVE A LEGACY

A gift in your will is an important way to ensure cats are being helped, even after you're gone.

OTHER GIFTS

Make a tax smart donation of appreciated stock, required IRA distributions, or Donor Advised Funds.

Visit our website at WildcatSanctuary.org and click the HOW TO HELP button at the top of the page to learn more about these options.

Or email Tammy at cat@wildcatsanctuary.org