

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

*from our founder : PAT CRAIG*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Toni Scalera**  
*Board Chair*

**George Ellis**  
*Director*



**Dr. Ashley Malmlov, DVM**  
*Secretary/Director*

**Scott Edwards**  
*Director*

**Maria McCann-Glover**  
*Director*

## KEY STAFF MEMBERS

**Pat Craig**  
*Executive Director*

**Casey Craig**  
*Chief Operations Officer*

**Becca Miceli**  
*Animal Care*

**Monica Craig**  
*Communications*

**Kent Drotar**  
*Public Relations*

**Aimee Petersen**  
*Adoption & Pledge Program*

**Jess Melton**  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

**Nelly Morgan**  
*Accounting*



**Wow, 2018** has been a whirlwind of a year! And that's not just a clever reference to the ever blowing breezes at our new 9,004 acre location in Southern Colorado, The Wild Animal Refuge. While 2017 brought in a slew of infrastructure improvements, most notably the implementation of a host of Blackbaud software systems focused on better donor data management, the focus of 2018 has undeniably been developing and raising funds for the Refuge.

This nearly 15 square-mile stretch of natural grasslands, rock outcroppings, and forested areas resplendent with juniper trees is perfect for future generations of our rescued animals to call home. Imagine their relief when they finally find themselves freed of the confines of whatever dark, cramped, steel and concrete cage they were forced to live in before being rescued, and then imagine the feeling of freedom when they first set foot in their new forever home at the Refuge. Real grass underfoot, the smell of pine and juniper in the air, tall trees to scratch on and hide amongst – a true heaven on Earth for these magnificent Animals who are the unfortunate victims of the man-made Captive Wildlife Crisis.

Of course, such a spectacular piece of property does not

come without a price. In this case, the amount was \$7 million dollars, of which \$2 million was paid up-front using the funds from our Wild Open Spaces Campaign. Perhaps in some divine show of faith from the Universe, the total cost works out to \$777 an acre. This inspired the creation of our new Founder Member program which has been raising funds to pay for the Refuge lands since its inception.

Developing such a massive, raw and untouched expanse of land provides many challenges of its own. Throughout 2018, roughly 30 miles of access roads were graded into the property to make it possible for our vehicles and equipment to move around, solar and electrical power were installed, an operations base was set-up, and most impressively, a brand-new Carnivore Nutrition Center was constructed using giant rocks harvested straight from the Refuge's own grounds! We also relocated the Sanctuary's resident Alpaca herd to the Refuge, where they quickly settled in and made themselves at home.

So with all this talk about the Refuge you may find yourself wondering, "What is new at the Sanctuary?" In 2018 the Sanctuary was home to over 500 large exotic animals, including 33 new rescues, making us the largest carnivore

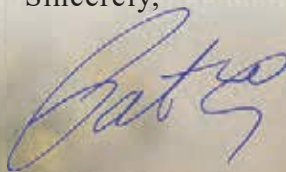
sanctuary in the world! We built 15 new habitats ranging in size from 5 to 25 acres, planted over 9,000 trees and seeds, and added 52 new underground dens to ensure our rescued animals are always comfortable and have their own respite in times of inclement weather – or just to take a cozy, mid-day nap! With our mission planted firmly in our minds, our amazing staff and volunteers greeted over 160,000 visitors and 34 school groups at our Welcome Center, allowing us to educate our widest audience yet in the history of The Wild Animal Sanctuary.

We relish the opportunity to bring the Captive Wildlife Crisis into the national spotlight through these educational opportunities and are beyond fortunate to have The Wild Animal Refuge as the promise of the future for our rescue program for decades to come. Of course, we couldn't achieve any of this without you.

As you read the pages that follow, we invite you to join us in our mission of public education, animal rescue, and rehabilitation of captive large carnivores. Thank you for your incredible support and capacity for caring that positively impacts the lives so many of these extraordinary animals.

And so I leave you with this, *“Saving one animal may not change the world...But surely, for that one animal...The world will change forever!”*.

Sincerely,



Pat Craig,  
Executive Director



---

## IN THIS REPORT

### OUR PROGRAMS:

ANIMAL RESCUE

ANIMAL CARE

EDUCATION

THE WILD ANIMAL REFUGE  
FINANCIALS



# MASSIVE TIGER (AND BEAR) RESCUE



As often as we rescue Lions, Tigers and Bears, you would think we have seen it all. Yet, if there is anything we have learned over the last 3.8 decades, is that will never be the case.

Each rescue involves numerous variables that dictate the overall outcome and what exactly was involved in securing the safety and wellbeing of each animal involved. Many seem easy on the surface, but by the time the entire rescue operation is complete, what was once simple usually turns into a complex effort to save lives.

Many aspects of our rescues seem very similar, and rightly so, as they almost always involve animals being held

in terrible situations and require us to send teams of rescuers to all points across the United States and abroad. However, the devil is in the details as they say, and we usually find ourselves surprised by one or more crazy things we come across while carrying out each rescue.

As many readers may have discerned, we work with numerous national and international animal welfare agencies, such as the USDA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, ALDF, IFAW, PETA, ADI, Born Free and many more. The goal is to safely rescue and securely transport the animals back to our facility.

Then, we rehabilitate them, which includes addressing all medical needs and helping them adjust to their new home. Once acclimated, they progress further with confidence and relationship building exercises so they will be able to live happy, healthy and well-adjusted social lives until the day they depart this earth.

Yet, this well-designed system always includes minor twists and turns when other odd factors come into play. A couple such oddities include court or legal intervention, as well as

politically-charged situations.

Throughout November and December, our Sanctuary worked in conjunction with PETA concerning nearly 40 Tigers and 3 Bears that were caught up in a serious mess of legal and political wrangling. This complex situation began with a court battle in Florida over Tigers that were being used by a facility for “pay-to-play” encounters... and also included previously unheard of “pay-to-swim” encounters as well.

Yes, pay-to-swim! In this instance, the owners of the facility were offering paying customers the ability to get in a swimming pool with tiny baby Tigers and make them swim to them and within in their proximity. Needless to say, the Babies had no say in the matter and were forced to do this on a regular basis until they grew too large – and thus – were replaced by another set of babies.

At one point, the court ordered the facility to not move any of their Tigers until the legal proceedings were over, but the owners of the facility purposefully moved all of the Tigers to two other facilities. In what seemed an effort to thwart court proceedings, 19 of the Tigers were relocated to a roadside zoo in Oklahoma.

During the transport, at least one female Tiger gave birth to three cubs, all of which died due to the mother being sedated for the move. Her inability to clean and care for her newborn babies was a terrible tragedy; one that would have never taken place had the Tigers not been moved.

With the move to Oklahoma completed, the 19 Tigers remained at the roadside zoo for a couple of months before the Florida case had a chance to catch up to them. We all know how slow the wheels of justice turn, and this case was no exception.

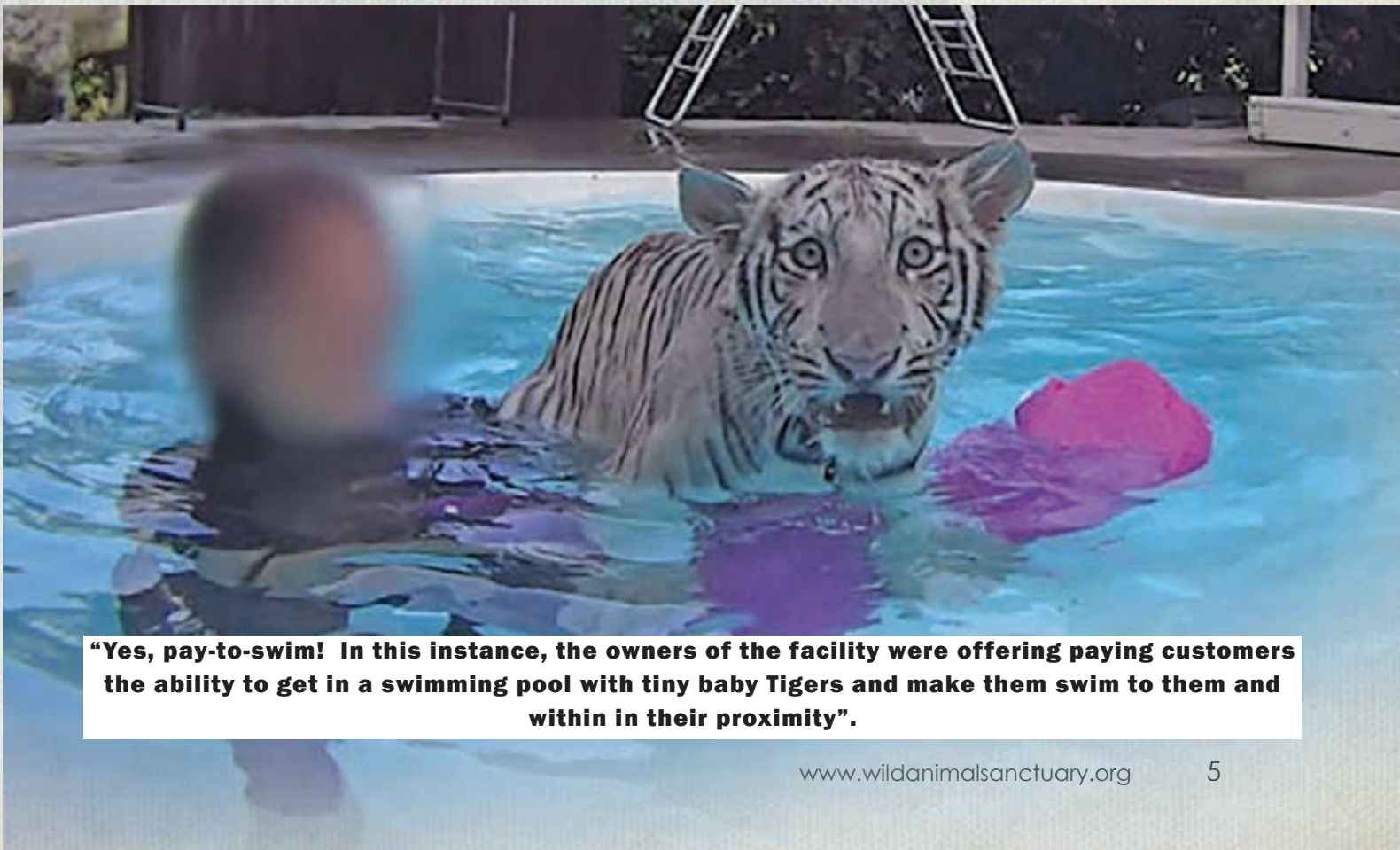
Finally, at one point, with court proceedings now involving

the Oklahoma facility, the owner agreed to release the Florida Tigers to us. We, of course, were thrilled to go to Oklahoma to transport them to our facility. However, the court case is far from over, so their final disposition may still be in question.

Technically, the Florida cub operation gave the Tigers to the Oklahoma zoo, so when the zoo gave them to our Sanctuary, they were no longer anyone's possession. We always consider the animals we rescue to be true individuals who might rely on us for food, care and protection, but we never consider them to be an object we or anyone else should ever possess.

In a somewhat odd twist, while in Oklahoma rescuing the first 19 Tigers, the owner of the roadside zoo entered into talks with PETA concerning closing his own operation down. Sadly, he had been involved in another legal wrangling with a different facility in Florida, and had numerous family-related pressures that were taking a personal toll, so he apparently felt it might be the best for all involved to work toward closing his operation over the coming year.

As such, he agreed to surrender another 20 Tigers from his zoo property, as well as give up 3 closely-related Black Bears. So within weeks of making our



**“Yes, pay-to-swim! In this instance, the owners of the facility were offering paying customers the ability to get in a swimming pool with tiny baby Tigers and make them swim to them and within in their proximity”.**

## MASSIVE TIGER... CONT'D...

first trip to Oklahoma, a mini fleet of four rescue trucks and trailers were once again headed for the zoo located just south of Oklahoma City.

In the first rescue trip, the zoo had mandated we arrive early in the morning to get all 19 Tigers loaded before their normally scheduled public opening time of 9:00 AM. That was a tall order, but our focused team of twelve staff members and one volunteer went to work at 7:00 AM and had all 19 Tigers safely loaded by 9:15 AM.

We made sure the Tigers located in the front portion of the zoo were loaded first so by the time the last couple in the very back were safely inside our trailer, the general public was not aware we had even been there. It took intense coordination on our part, and the help of zoo staff as well, but for all intents and purposes, we did succeed in not hindering public access.

Thus, on the second trip, we knew ahead of time we would be facing a similar deadline. Arriving again at 7:00 AM on a cold winter day, we had the second batch of 20 Tigers loaded by 9:00 AM... but the 3 Black Bears suddenly decided they had no intention of adhering to any sort of schedule we had in mind.

Instead, we had to take our

time and ask each Bear to consider loading into one of the transport crates we had connected to their cage. A few jars of honey, blueberry syrup and Gummy Bears later, all three Bears were still plastered to the far side of their cage and no closer to loading than when we first began.

All three had decided they were not the least bit interested in going into our crates, so we had to sedate each one just enough to load them ourselves. Giving them the opportunity to try without pushing them too hard was nice, but given we had gone far beyond the zoo's deadline of 9:00 AM, we also needed to keep the rescue moving.

Once all three black beauties were safely inside our transport trailer, we were able to head back to Colorado for the massive unloading. Luckily, many months earlier, when we had heard of the first group of Tigers being illegally moved from Florida to Oklahoma, we had taken the opportunity to begin building over 50 temporary introduction enclosures, as well as 40 acres of natural habitats.

We did so knowing there was a high likelihood those Tigers would end up being seized by the court system for leaving their original facility against a

standing court order. Having rescued animals caught in the Captive Wildlife Crisis for many decades, it's actually fairly easy to foresee these kind of needs before they fully develop.

Instead of just building 20 enclosures, we knew there are always far more animals in need than what we can take, so we decided it would be good to plan for 50 instead. As luck would have it, when the owner decided he was ready to give up the 20 additional Tigers and 3 Black Bears, we had space ready and waiting.

Receiving 39 Tigers in total, and three Black Bears, all within a couple months was a major undertaking, but well worth the sacrifice and investment. All came from traditional small enclosures with no open habitats to roam, so it was great to know we would be able to provide them with so much more!

Their lives going forward will now be filled with incredible food, lots of open spaces to roam, and plenty of social relationships to keep them happy and harmonious for the rest of their lives!

Of course the court battle in Florida rages on, as the owners of the pay-to-play facility are now facing additional legal problems related to their Tiger

disappearing act.... and, at last reporting, one of the owners was just arrested on totally unrelated human sex offense charges, so things seem to be getting worse for them instead of better.

***So where does this gigantic Tiger & Bear rescue leave us?***

Well, since the 40 acres we consumed for their habitats was the last open ground remaining at our current Sanctuary, we needed to acquire

additional land to continue carrying out our all-important work. Otherwise, the next phone call involving Lions, Tigers or Bears facing death would have to go unanswered!

It truly takes all of us to make these kinds of rescues possible, so we ask that you rejoice in our ability to help these 42 beautiful creatures – but also ask you to realize they could have just as easily died had we not had any available land to

save them. So please help us secure the land mentioned in this newsletter, as it is the only way we can continue to save lives.

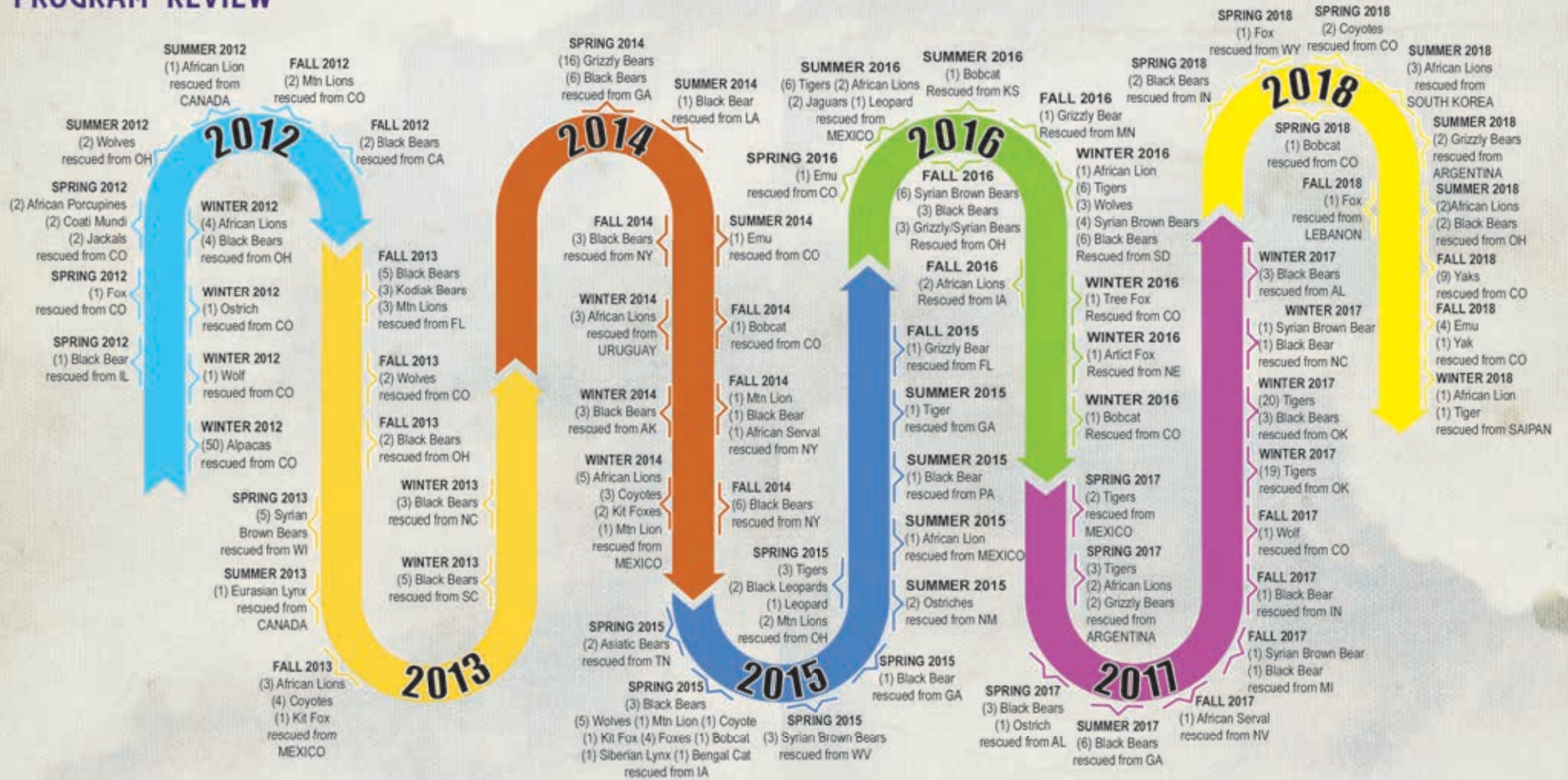
Your generous support in the past has helped us be there for so many animals that were suffering and in terrible pain. Please do what you can to help us leap forward into the future with enough space to guarantee there will always be a home waiting for innocent animals in need. ***Thank you!*** 🐾

Bo





# 7 Year Synopsis ROAD TO RECOVERY



Rescuing these animals is the first step in their journey at The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Some live up to 30 years of their lives in our care.

They come to us from all different stages of life and often with medical complications from their previous life before they were rescued that require long term care.



# ANIMAL RESCUE



## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2018 the Sanctuary was home to over 500 large exotic animals – making us the largest carnivore sanctuary in the world – and that number is constantly growing due to our dedicated efforts to save the lives of what seems like a never ending stream of animals needing to be rescued.

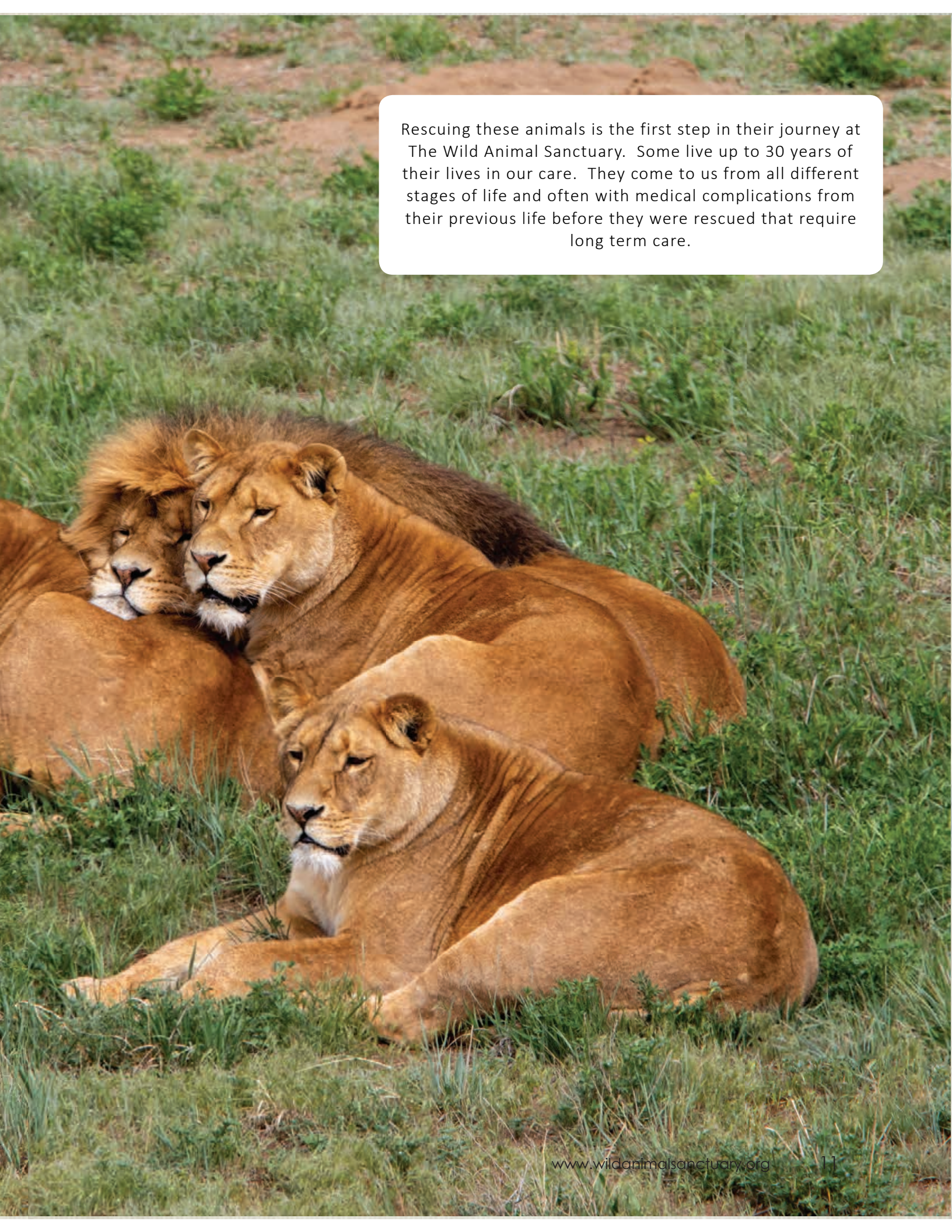


In 2018, we were able to rescue 33 animals from across the United States and internationally representing over 9 species and sub-species from all over the world.



Animal rescues take an extraordinary amount of time, resources, and dedication. In 2018, our team drove over 13,000 miles on rescue operations within the United States, using over 2,000 gallons of fuel. Leading up to their release, we do everything in our power to ensure that each obstacle faced by these animals is overcome so that they can have the best life possible.



A photograph of three lions resting in a grassy field. One male lion with a large mane is on the left, and two lionesses are on the right. They are all looking towards the left. The background is a mix of green grass and brown soil.

Rescuing these animals is the first step in their journey at The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Some live up to 30 years of their lives in our care. They come to us from all different stages of life and often with medical complications from their previous life before they were rescued that require long term care.

# FREEDOM AT LAST...

Many readers may remember “Kiko” the female Hybrid Wolf that came to us from a home in Denver not long ago. Like so many other private surrenders, Kiko started off life quickly being separated from her mother and siblings just so she could be sold to a human family as their pet.

After spending many months living inside their house, she eventually succeeded at educating the family just how destructive and nervous wild animals

living in domestic situations can be. It wasn’t long before she was large enough to get over the backyard fence and begin educating the neighborhood as well!

Finally, the family came to their senses and brought Kiko to live at our Sanctuary where she could be free of her inner-city trappings. Here, Kiko would be free to explore her inner Wolf and learn there are others living in the world that are just like her.

Over the last few months, Kiko spent time getting used to the sights, sounds and feeding schedules here, as well as eventually meeting a very handsome male Wolf named Aztec. They spent a couple months getting to know each other and building a natural bond, which is very important to the success of the Wolf pack.

Kiko warmed up quickly to Aztec, who also came from a human pet situation many years ago. He had successfully gone through the same process and had eventually joined another existing pack.

With Kiko being a rather young Wolf, it was important to select a male that would be less dominant than a stronger pack leader. Aztec was the perfect boy for the job, since he had not yet risen to the status of leader.





The two were a perfect match and enjoyed each other's company in the safety of their own enclosure. This is a common practice for us, which involves bringing a Wolf from one of the packs to become friends with a new arrival in a neutral space.

This way Kiko would not be encroaching on the pack's territory and could feel safe meeting another Wolf. Aztec was more than happy to help, since he could still see and hear the pack he came from, while also enjoying the company of such a cute female Wolf!

Once the two were well bonded, and Kiko felt completely safe, it was time to move the pair to their permanent home. Both were loaded into transport cages and moved to the large five-acre habitat up north.

Aztec was let out first, so he could go to the other Wolves and reaffirm his position within the pack. After submitting to the alpha male, and sucking up to the other members, Aztec was ready to fetch his new bride and introduce her to his family.

Kiko was released and immediately went to Aztec's side. The two circled in corkscrew fashion toward the other Wolves, which allowed them to judge the pack's reaction. Each time the alpha male would come their way, they would gracefully alter their trajectory just enough to avoid a premature encounter.

Eventually, the newly married couple came face-to-face with their pack mates and everyone followed Wolf protocol

by standing their ground and/or submitting as needed. It wasn't long before this important family ritual was complete and Kiko was accepted into the pack.

She is such a beautiful female Wolf, and deserves to have a wonderful life. She now enjoys a far-more natural existence than she had in her former life, and we hope her story reminds people just how inappropriate owning a Wolf can be.

Kiko will be able to roam freely with her new family for many years to come, and we thank all of our supporters for helping us provide a proper environment. Your support is crucial to each and every rescue we do, so thank you for caring enough to help! 🐾

# ANIMAL CARE



## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2018, we had over 15 full-time Animal Keepers on staff to care for over 500 rescued animals.



The Sanctuary operates on 789 acres of land in Weld County, Colorado. Operations include:

- 🐾 1 Operations Office
- 🐾 1 Business Office
- 🐾 1 Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 1 Lion House
- 🐾 Tiger Compound
- 🐾 1 Rest Area/Snack Bar
- 🐾 1 Nutrition Center
- 🐾 1 Education Center
- 🐾 1 Welcome Center

In 2018 The Wild Animal Sanctuary delivered over 1.4 million gallons of water and 2.4 million pounds of food to our rescued animals. Utilizing multiple refrigerated trucks with three full-time drivers, the Sanctuary picks up food from over 40 food sources across Colorado's front range.

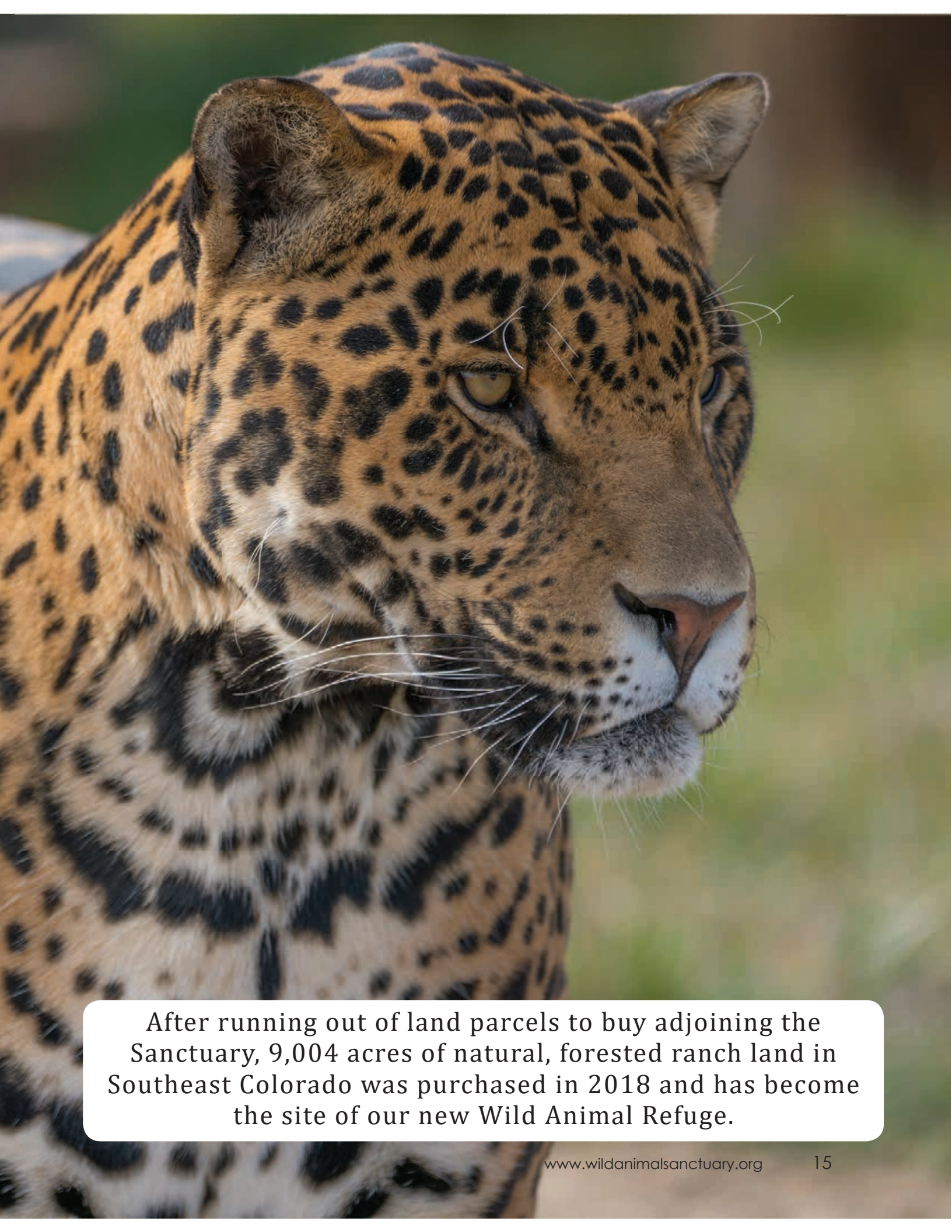
Our natural large acreage habitats are a critical component in addressing the overall physical and psychological needs of our rescued animals.

In 2018, our Operations Team built 15 new habitats for our growing population of rescued animals!

- 🐾 12 Tiger Habitats (5-25 acres each)
- 🐾 2 Lion Habitats (18-22 acres each)
- 🐾 1 Black Bear Habitat (20 acres)

We added 52 underground dens for the animals to enjoy and retreat to in times of extreme temperatures. Over 2 semi loads of boulders were added to habitats to enrich the environment for the animals.

Our Operations Team planted over 9,000 trees and seeds in 2018. That's over 1,000 new plantings each month!



After running out of land parcels to buy adjoining the Sanctuary, 9,004 acres of natural, forested ranch land in Southeast Colorado was purchased in 2018 and has become the site of our new Wild Animal Refuge.

# KOREAN LION CRISIS



Somehow the word Missiles and Korea have become synonymous with each other in recent years. Of course, we never deal with the military politics within any of the countries where we rescue animals, but sometimes the cultures found in these remote places can connect to many unique issues.

In the case of three African Lions living in Seoul, South Korea, the country's centuries-old culture had a direct connection to their being allowed to live - or sentenced to die. Hidden away from the visiting public as the result of a terrible accident, this small family of Lions paced daily within tiny

concrete cells as their fate hung by a tiny silk thread for over three years.

*"Dark" (doc)* a powerful and handsome male, along with his beautiful mate *"Haeri" (hay-ree)*, once lived out in the zoo's main exhibit space where thousands of young children on a daily basis looked on with amazement and awe. They were the main attraction at the Children's Grand Park Zoo, and rightly so, since this incredible duo were stunning examples of African apex predators.

Yet, one day, while their keeper of many years was going about his daily routine cleaning the exhibit space, something

terrible happened. Sadly, he had failed to latch the door locking the Lions inside the back area, and soon found himself in close company with the pair.

No one witnessed exactly what transpired, but it wasn't long before a visitor noticed the Lions circling a lifeless body. Thankfully, the Lions withdrew from the space and his body was recovered.

Yet, rather than chalking the incident up as an extremely unfortunate human mistake, controversy soon ensued. Keeping with tradition, the family of the deceased keeper was provided great attention

and subsequently given a significant role in deciding the fate of the two Lions.

As in many ancient cultures, the head of the household is highly revered and given substantial status. Out of respect for the family and their considerable loss, most people remained quiet when the family demanded the Lions be put to death.

Of course, there were those that did not agree, but again, the

culture in Korea is much different than what many of us are used to. Luckily, there was an animal welfare organization in South Korea that was willing to take a stand on their behalf.

The Korean Animal Welfare Association (*KAWA*) immediately began efforts to keep the Lions safe while searching for an alternate solution. Luckily, there was an official investigation into the accident, which helped stall execution

proceedings, and also provided *KAWA* with more time to search for others who may be able to help.

With both Lions placed in full lock down, they were forced to exist inside small concrete cells located behind the main exhibit. Unfortunately, as time went by, the Lions experienced another major turn of events.

Since Dark was a fully intact male, it wasn't long before Haeri give birth to a tiny female cub. It was obvious their



Lion Exhibit at the South Korea Zoo



## KOREAN RESCUE CONT'D...

cells were unsuitable to live in (*for years on end*) - but were far worse when considered as a place for Haeri to give birth and raise her young!

As such, the zoo realized once Haeri gave birth they would have to pull the newborn cub and raise it in a much different environment. They knew the cub would be safer away from the parents and did everything they could to make her comfortable in a human setting.

However, as often happens with human raised Lion cubs, Haeryong (*hair-wrong*) soon found herself suffering from a deadly medical condition. Unable to walk or stand and displaying significant signs of neurologic disorder, she was quickly diagnosed with a condition caused by swelling of the brain.

Young African Lions possess a unique vulnerability toward Vitamin A deficiencies, so it is common practice to ensure their formula and subsequent diet growing up contains ample quantities of this essential vitamin. Without it, their skull growth plates begin to fuse long before their bodies (*and brain*) have finished growing.

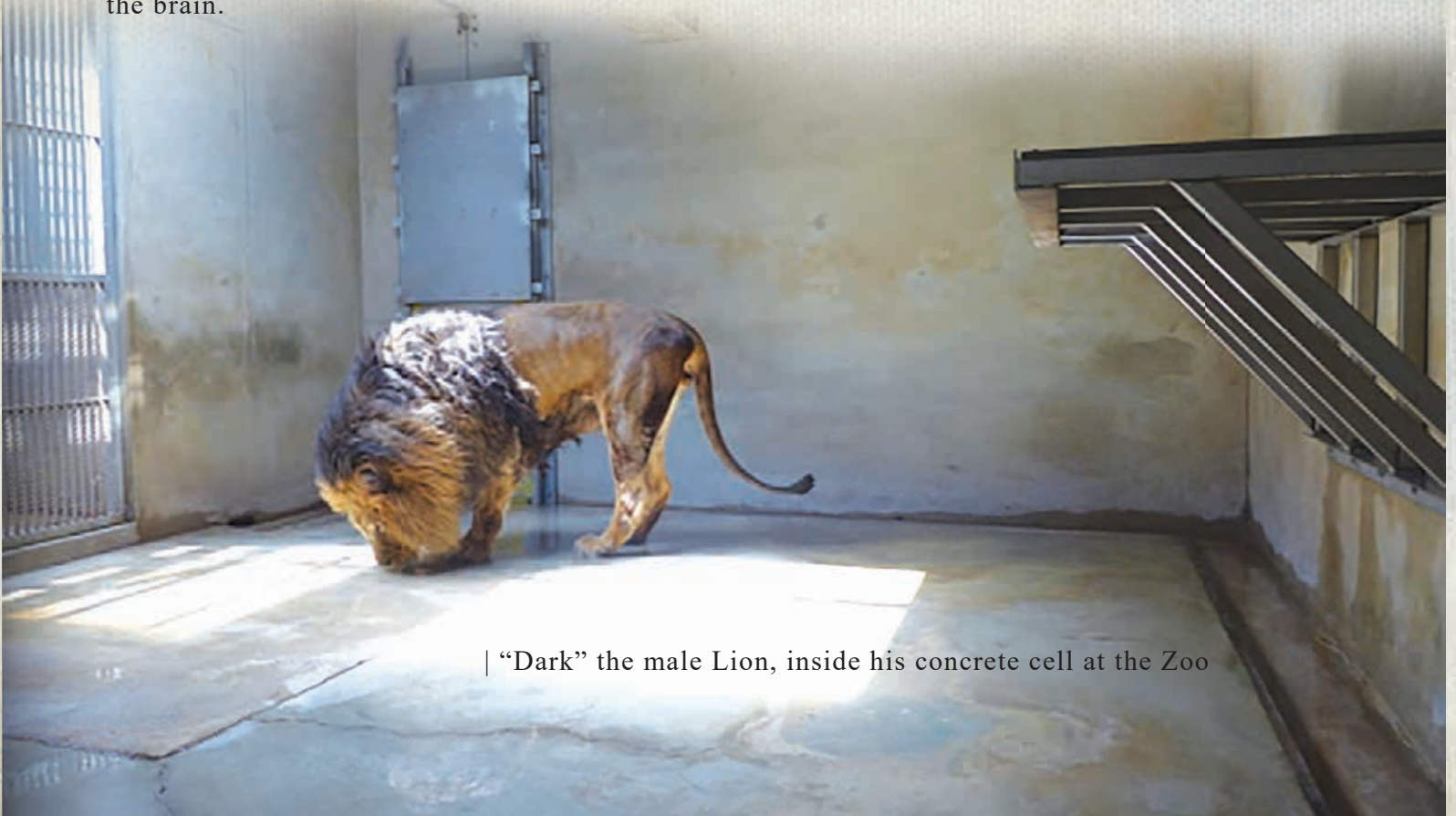
When this happens, the brain continues to get larger, but finds there is no room for expansion. Consequently, dangerous pressure begins to build and brain tissue starts to die. In most cases, by the time the symptoms present, it is usually too late to save the cub. Luckily for Haeryong, the attending Veterinarians identified the issue early enough to intervene.

Subsequent surgery and increased levels of Vitamin A were able to relieve the pressure. Yet, even though her life had been spared, Haeryong was left with a significant disability.

Displaying ataxic symptoms, this young and innocent Lion cub would now struggle to walk for the rest of her life. Her nerves had been damaged, and though she was still young and growing, her body would be unable to rebuild many of the connections that had been lost.

Though her motor skills would more than likely remain weak... her will to live would remain strong!

Eventually, as Haeryong grew larger, she had to be sent back to live in a concrete cell next



| “Dark” the male Lion, inside his concrete cell at the Zoo



“Haeri” and “Haeryong” inside their concrete cell

to her parents. There, all three Lions remained as KAWA continued to search for a solution.

Finally, as time seemed to be running out, KAWA Founder and CEO, Hee-kyung Jo, contacted our Sanctuary. She explained the Lions’ situation and pleaded on their behalf.

This set off a whole chain of events beginning with Hee-kyung and a number of her colleagues flying to Denver. Their mission was to see our Sanctuary first-hand, as well as to discuss important logistics and many other items related to a possible rescue.

Having the help of a highly decorated Korean General who spoke perfect English helped the negotiation process immensely. In-bum Chun had

spent 40 years in the South Korean Military before retiring as a highly decorated General. His love for animals had led him to seek a position within KAWA, and his vast knowledge and top-level connections enabled him to become a highly valued member of their team.

With General Chun’s help, we were able to have clear and precise discussions that resulted in our two organizations committing to do everything in our power to save this precious family of Lions. The delegation then headed back to Korea in order to begin expediting paperwork and other items needed to obtain the Lions’ release.

For our part, we immediately shipped three of our special Lion crates to Seoul. There was no time to have crates built

in Korea... nor did we want there to be anything that might shine a light on the impending rescue.

Although three years had passed, the family of the zoo-keeper continued to mourn, and was still in favor of killing the Lions. Allowing news of any kind to get out (*before the Lions did*) could result in additional tragedy.

In a very short amount of time, we were in direct communication with Korean zoo officials. Details concerning the Lions’ current health and medical backgrounds were important information to obtain... as was any insight into the Zoo’s own stance on saving their lives.

Even though KAWA had pressured both the government

## KOREAN RESCUE CONT'D...

and the zoo into agreeing the Lions could leave, that did not guarantee we would have their cooperation once our team arrived in Seoul. Thankfully, our apprehension turned out to be misplaced, as the Zoo's staff made it clear they were more than glad to help!

In fact, their head Veterinarian, Dr. Kyung Uk, was extremely helpful from the very beginning and continually demonstrated her love for the cats the entire time we dealt with the Zoo. We knew both she and many other zoo staff would play key roles in the Lions' survival, so we were grateful for their willingness to provide a second chance.

Working with our friends at DSV Air & Sea, we were able to expedite shipping three of our empty Lion crates to Seoul, as well as determine a good date and time for the return flight back to the United States. DSV is an international logistics company that handles moving freight all over the world, and have been extremely helpful with many of our previous foreign rescues.

Finding air cargo jets that can accommodate our large steel crates is always a challenge, as is finding routes that are safe and will minimize the time our rescued animals remain in transit. Luckily, DSV has a strong presence in South Korea, so they were able to assist with these and many other logistics pertaining to the overall export process.

From the time of the unfortunate accident, until many years later when our rescue team

first stepped foot onto Korean soil, Dark and Haeri had spent 24 hours a day in their small concrete holding cells. Once Haeryong had rejoined them, she too suffered from the harshness of their environment during an extended wait.

When we finally set eyes on the trio, it was hard to resist a deep and burning desire to stop and take a moment to express our sympathy. The Zoo staff and Veterinarians were already scurrying about in an effort to get the three Lions sedated and quickly loaded into their crates.

This was a result of our best-laid plans being completely disrupted by a last-minute change with the cargo flight. The airline suddenly decided to move the flight two days ahead of what was agreed, so our original plan of having two full



Meeting with Zoo and KAWA officials



## KOREAN RESCUE CONT'D...

days for reconnaissance went down the tubes just as we were heading for the airport.

Instead of our team arriving Tuesday and flying out Friday... they arrived Tuesday evening and were expected to fly out the next morning. Driving to the Zoo that morning it was obvious everyone would need to be working in complete unison if we were going to have any chance at getting the Lions loaded and at the airport in time.

Luckily, between the Zoo, DSV, KAWA and our team's work, everything panned-out and the process went smoothly. By late morning, the Lions were loaded and on their way to catch their freedom flight to America!

Within a short amount of time, the crates were loaded and the rescue team joined the Lions aboard the cargo jet. They would be flying in jump seats sometimes used for extra crewmembers, but in this case, reallocated for the caretakers of Lions.

With no break in custody, the Lions would remain safely monitored during their 13 hour flight to Los Angeles, California. There, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, as well as U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, would clear their importation and release the crates to us.

Already waiting at the Korean Air cargo terminal, a second transport team was staged and ready to load the Lions into an air-conditioned trailer. Within hours, the four Sanctuary team members were heading east out of L.A. and bound for Colorado.

A new batch of food and water had been given to Dark, Haeri and Haeryong before departing, as the trio had been traveling extremely well. By the time the rescue rig pulled through the Sanctuary's main gate, everyone was glad to be back home. Well, almost everyone...

For the three Korean Lions, this new facility was vastly different from where they had previously lived. The elevation was much higher and



the air contained far less humidity. Their cages were no longer made of concrete, so all four walls could be seen through.

They were now placed inside temporary introduction cages, which happened to be located inside of a brand new 10-acre habitat. Wood chips created a soft layer placed on top of the dirt and grass floor.

The difference in their environment was distinctly obvious, but even more so, was the difference in attitude. From the minute they stepped foot inside their introduction cages, all three Lions seemed incredibly calm.

That's not to say Dark, who is an incredibly handsome and virile male, wasn't cautiously defensive. But unless provoked, his previously stern attitude had completely vanished. After checking all four walls of the cage she and Dark now shared, Haeri went inside the den to take measure of the new accommodations.

She too had decided the new facility was an improvement, and sat calmly while Haeryong was unloaded into a similar cage next door. Here, the family would spend the next few days getting used to the sights and sounds of the Sanctuary.

Hourly visits by caretakers brought fresh tasty treats and cool water to ensure our overall attention was fit for such a royal family. It was obvious they were all tired, but the trip had definitely sapped Haeryong's limited energy reserves.

Our Veterinary staff spent a lot of time observing Haeryong in order to gain a better understanding of her current condition. Fortunately, over the next couple of days she was able to rest and regain her normal energy.

Soon, she was rubbing against the fence in an attempt to befriend her new caretakers, and started playing in her own unique way. Although she

continued to wobble a little when walking and turning, she was operating at full function given her affliction.

It was about this time we noticed Dark's claws were completely overgrown and nearly penetrating back into his own paws. This was the result of him not sharpening his claws as much as he might in the wild, and is something we see often with larger carnivores that were kept in small cages.

Given Haeri would need a contraceptive implant in the very near future to prevent any more accidental "*Haeryongs*" being born... and Dark needing his claws trimmed... it was decided they both required medical attention prior to being permanently released into their large acreage habitat. In addition, we would also sedate Haeryong so that our Veterinary team could perform radiographs, blood draws and cover many of the other items that all three cats needed - such as microchips, dental evaluations, general inoculations and body scores.

Dark's massive claws were nearly double the size they should be, but fortunately, when his trimming procedure was complete, each claw's



| "Dark's overgrown claws

## KOREAN RESCUE CONT'D...

length and girth had returned to normal. With a little work, it's always amazing to see how the dense layers of unnatural growth splinter away, leaving a normal-sized claw behind!

Thankfully, Haeri turned out to be in fine shape and was soon sporting a small contraceptive implant under the skin between her shoulders. Haeryong also received an implant with the hopes that she too would someday be able to live with Dark and Haeri.

However, the complications she endured early in her life left her overall frame weaker and more diminutive than normal. This was a concern for all, as we want to ensure no further injury comes to this sweet girl.

The plan is to allow Dark and Haeri full access to their large 10-acre habitat, while Haeryong remains in her introduction cage – which is also located within the same space. This way, they remain close and connected, but with a physical buffer for now.

After a couple of weeks exploring and taking ownership of their new home, we will place

Dark back into his introduction cage so Haeri and Haeryong have a chance to be together. In Korea, the Zoo had allowed them the same, in order to let mother and daughter bond.

Haeri was always gentle with her daughter, and Dark never showed signs of aggression while they were together next door. Yet, that transpired while they were kept in severely confined spaces, so the parameters would be different now.

Once Haeryong and Haeri have had time in the habitat as well, we plan to switch father and daughter again in order to continue creating stability and familiarity. Over time, we will see how Dark and Haeryong interact through the fencing and eventually decide how we think they will do with the barrier removed.

Fortunately, Lions absolutely pine to be together in family settings, so it is highly likely they will be able to complete their family unit. Male Lions are usually very respectful with the females and Dark has a wonderful demeanor – especially for a Lion that spent nearly three years in harsh confinement.



Haeri

Each day Haeryong grows stronger, but unfortunately, her radiographs unearthed a new problem. Some deformities exist in her spine as well, so potential damage to her spinal cord may also be contributing to her overall instability.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Valerie Johnson on our staff, as her work with stem cell therapy has proven invaluable in many similar cases. Take “Cucho” the Tiger for example (*also covered in this issue of our newsletter*), as he has miraculously gone from being a complete paraplegic to walking and even running of late – all due to stem cell therapies performed by Dr. Johnson!

With luck, no tangible damage actually exists, but we will most likely allow Haeryong to take advantage of this unique cutting-edge therapy in case it helps her become stronger and more stable. Additional hope lies with other medical procedures that could possibly relieve any remaining pressure within her skull.

Regardless, whatever we do on Haeryong’s behalf, we will definitely pursue the best possible outcome. If we are blessed with effective medical advances that help her regain the size, stamina and power she would have possessed as a perfectly normal and healthy Lioness... that would be wonderful!

If we find there is no way she will achieve, or we should not pursue, that kind of life for her... we pledge to fill her life with as much love, companionship and dignity as humanly possible!

All three Lions are remarkable beings on this earth, and each deserves a life free from degradation, pain and suffering. We have chosen to intervene on their behalf, so now begins our watch. With your help, Dark, Haeri and Haeryong will live long, healthy and happy lives here at our Sanctuary, and will wake each day knowing their lives no longer hang in the balance.

Any loss of human life is tragic, and we all hope the keeper’s family will go forward knowing that we intervened because lives should never be taken in spite or retribution. These Lions have never had a choice at anything in their lives, and have always had to rely on humans to do the right thing.

All of the animals we rescue have faced the same sort of injustice one way or another and were pressed into compliance with whatever their human captors desired. We wish we were able to restore all their lives back to the wild so they could be free to choose their own path in life.

Yet, without that option being available, we have chosen the next best thing. We provide everything within our means that will help them live as happy, healthy and free as possible - and greatly appreciate your support in doing so.

Life here at our Sanctuary is special on many levels, but the amount of time, energy, love and resources we invest toward the wellbeing of our residents stands above all others. We are extremely grateful for your support, and now Dark, Haeri and Haeryong will be grateful as well.

Each day in their lives from this day forward will be filled with the love and compassion we all share for them... and the comfort, tranquility and joy they will feel will in turn fuel our own happiness. If Dark, Haeri and Haeryong could speak, they might thank you by saying something like:

내일부터 시작되는 새해에도  
사장님과 가족 모두 늘 행복하고  
건강하시기를 기원합니다!

(Korean for “I hope that you and your family will be healthy and happy in the new year that starts tomorrow.”) 🐾





Dark



Haeri

# EDUCATION



## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2018, the Sanctuary had over 160,000 visitors, including 34 School groups.



Our Animal Ambassadors presented over 33 speaking engagements in 2018 to promote the Sanctuary and educate the public about the Captive Wildlife Crisis.



### **🐾VOLUNTEER PROGRAM🐾**

We had over 250 (259 exactly) dedicated volunteers in 2018 that provided much needed support to our staff in caring for our rescued animals.





Our volunteers gave over 28,000 hours of work valued over \$730,000 helping the animals in 2018.



Our volunteers split their time equally between Animal Care and Education. Volunteer work includes but is not limited to Cleaning- Bathrooms, bear tubs, compound, pens, education center, grounds. In our Carnivore Nutrition Center, volunteers help with preparing animal diets. On the walkway, volunteers talk with visitors and help guide people along the habitats to learn about the animals and the work that we do to rehabilitate them.

# WILD ANIMAL REFUGE



How does one even begin to put into words on a few printed pages the future of The Wild Animal Sanctuary—especially when it is almost 15 square miles in size and represents the hope and promise of the future for decades to come?!

Yet, over the past six or so months the future has been taking shape at the new Wild Animal Refuge near Springfield, Colorado in the far southeastern part of the state.

It is immense. It is gorgeous. It is still not even completely explored. Its geologic and geographic structure is certainly an anomaly in the Eastern Plains of Colorado. It will provide habitats and a way of life for the Sanctuary's rescued animals that will be almost unimaginable to both human and animal alike.

Yet the Refuge is not like many of today's electronic devices that promise "*plug and play*" compatibility, or come with "*no assembly required*". To get the property ready for its first large carnivore inhabitants has, and is, requiring a great amount of work, dedication and financial resources—just like any major remodeling would.

## *So let's begin.*

This beautiful piece of property consisting of 9,004 deeded acres came available in early 2018. The rancher family that owned it—at first unfamiliar with The Wild Animal Sanctuary, did their homework and fell in love with the Sanctuary and its mission. They have since become some of our most avid supporters and great personal friends.

In a gift almost beyond imagining, the family agreed to carry the note for a six year term. The Sanctuary, through its ongoing Wild Open Spaces campaign was able to make an initial payment of \$2 million dollars—leaving an outstanding balance of \$5 million.

In a sign some may see as being the Universe looking favorably on this incredible expansion, the cost of the land works out to \$777/acre—much, much less expensive than the current rate of about \$3,700/acre for land adjoining the Sanctuary at its location near Keenesburg; land not even available to purchase which prompted the search elsewhere in the state.

Next was begun the Founder Member program. Founders are those who donate \$777 or

more towards the new land which will allow them to be able to visit the Refuge in the future as well as receive regular updates on all that is taking place there. Additionally, they receive a unique Founder's Certificate suitable for framing—and a testament to their commitment to the future and rescuing animals in need.

The first hurdle was simply making it possible to access and traverse the Refuge at faster than an old farm truck's single-digit pace. Why only single digits? Simple. Speeds higher than that on a two-track road over rough terrain cause kidneys to be shaken out of one's body, but also that is the pace a rancher needs to go to effectively look for and check on livestock.

With habitats that eventually may require four or five miles of traveling to get to, it was necessary to grade smooth access roads so that both operations and animal care personnel could do so in a timely and efficient manner.

Just as important, though, was the need to be able to access all areas of the Refuge with fire-fighting equipment. Of course, we hope that is never needed, but having that ability is essential.



## WILD ANIMAL REFUGE... CONT'D...

To this end, about 30 miles of access roads have already been graded—most of which lie in a north-south direction since the property and its untold number of canyons are likewise oriented.

Concurrent to improving the on-site access was setting up an initial base of operations where staff members could stay for days at a time and equipment and supplies could be stored and safeguarded.

Towards the south end of the property on high, flat and level ground a spot was carefully chosen that met all the necessary requirements including running commercial power lines to the site from the nearest neighbor's home—almost two miles away!

The local electrical co-op also ran a spur line over three miles to the west where the eventual Carnivore Nutrition Center would be located, but more on that in a moment.

Just installing commercial power proved to take a bit longer than one would normally expect since all of the power poles had to be installed and in order for that to happen, a road had to be graded. So as one can see, a lot had to take place more or less at once.

*Until the power lines were ran and energized, the base of operations and RVs were powered by the Sanctuary's huge, portable solar array previously used to power water pumps at the Keenesburg location.*

For most people nowadays, having reliable cellular and data access either on one's phone or via Wi-Fi is taken as a given. But that is not necessarily the case when almost 35 miles from the nearest town!











## WILD ANIMAL REFUGE... CONT'D...

This was another reason the operations camp was situated where it is—to allow for a strong enough cellular signal to keep the Refuge well connected to the outside world and Sanctuary staff members.

On a side note, just like at the Sanctuary in Keenesburg, a dedicated weather station was installed, though it does not yet have a webcam associated with it. For those who might want to check the Refuge's weather, the identifier is KCOLASAN3 at wunderground.com

Building one thing on another, once there was sufficient access to some extant corrals on the property, the Sanctuary's herd of Alpacas were moved down and they could not have been happier!

Even though they are all most likely Colorado-born natives, somewhere in their psyche the Alpacas must have thought they had returned to their "*homeland*" of Peru—so similar do pictures of that land look to the Refuge.

Similar to introducing our large carnivores to a new habitat, we kept the Alpacas for a few days in some corrals with plenty of hay and water, which helped them establish this area as a "*home base.*" Once they appeared to be comfortable with their new surroundings they were set free and quickly explored hundreds, if not thousands, of acres of their new territory. They were not shy at all.

As animals are wont to do, they surprised Sanctuary workers who marveled at how quickly and easily the herd would move around the property—seemingly showing up out of nowhere miles from where they were just seen!

With the basics now in place, it was time to locate and construct the most important building at any large carnivore sanctuary—the Carnivore Nutrition Center (*CNC*) where food and diets are prepared and stored.

Visitors to the Sanctuary over the years have seen its CNC being continually expanded as the number of rescued animals has grown, so that most



recently it is able to process 60,000-70,000 pounds of food per week. An astronomical number to be sure!

To avoid that kind of add-on approach like at the current CNC, it was decided that the Refuge's CNC would be big (*if not huge*) from the beginning with at least, if not more, potential capacity than the Sanctuary's Center.

To save on the cost of building materials and keeping the structure cold, as well as having a building that could withstand most anything Mother Nature could throw at it, the decision was made to build it out of the massive rocks and boulders available on the property itself.

Here again, the locals proved to be of great benefit. Mark

Yocam, from a multi-generation family in the area (*also mentioned in this issue's Yak story*), had previously worked on this very same property and was quite familiar with "*harvesting*" the giant rocks that would be used for the CNC's walls.

Mark, too, is quite adept at operating heavy equipment, so he soon went about gathering the boulders and properly sizing them for the walls—a multi-week process in itself.

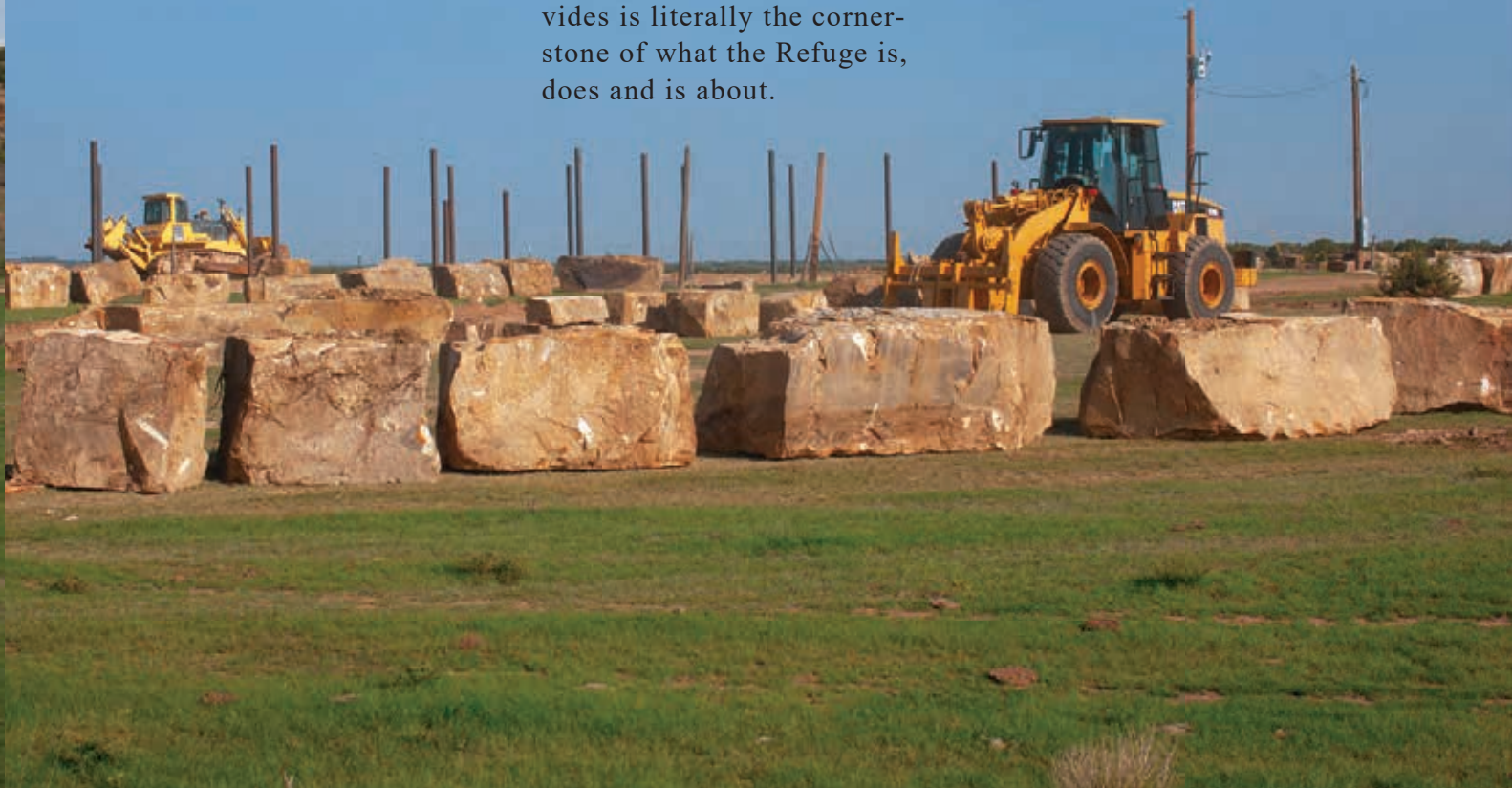
Then, working with other Sanctuary employees, the walls were raised and the cracks were filled and sealed with a heavy-duty spray-on concrete prior to being insulated with inches and inches of insulating spray-on foam.

A lot of work? You betcha! But worth every bit of it since this building and what it provides is literally the cornerstone of what the Refuge is, does and is about.

Now that the Nutrition Center is nearly complete, work is turning towards building the first couple of habitats.

The manner in which they will be built and fenced-in is identical to what has so successfully been done at the Sanctuary for nearly 39 years. The difference, of course, is their size. And as is required by both regulations and good sense, there is still the need for two fences per habitat.

A lot of work? You betcha! But setting telephone pole-sized posts, stretching high-tensile game wire and running eight strands of electrical wiring on the inside of each habitat is what needs to be done.





Once the basic fencing is complete, then the back-up, propane-powered generators will be installed as well as ensuring each habitat has the necessary water delivery systems, water holes for swimming and any dens that might need to be placed, though this will be much less than at Keenesburg due to the natural terrain and topography at the Refuge.

*Phew!*

The hope is to have one or two habitats complete by the end of the year, though working conditions and weather will dictate whether or not that is possible. Also, all of the work and maintenance needed at the Sanctuary still goes on unabated.

Then, once a habitat or two is ready, we will be able to begin taking newly-rescued animals to their new, forever home, which is why the Sanctuary, and now Refuge, exist.

At this point a few questions generally arise and though they have been answered in previous newsletters and on social media, it is helpful to cover them here once again.

The Sanctuary in Keenesburg is going to remain open to the public like it currently is—both to continue its purpose of educating guests about the Captive Wildlife Crisis and to continue housing its resident animals and any new animals that may not be a good fit for the new Refuge and its very large habitats.

The Refuge is not anticipated to be open to the public in any general sense due to its

remoteness and because of the infrastructure needed and costs associated with a facility open to the public.

However, Founder Members will be allowed to visit on designated days when staff and/or volunteers are available to properly host them and show them around.

Unfortunately, too, there remains a bit of stubborn opposition to the Refuge by a small group of locals. Though it will have no bearing on developing and using the Refuge, the sad thing about this is that those who remain opposed are choosing to remain willfully ignorant about how the Sanctuary operates—or are just very dense.

As was addressed in the last Newsletter's Letter from the Director, initially there was a local livestock association opposed to the Refuge. However, after staff members from the Sanctuary met with them in July and explained how the Sanctuary operates and addressed their questions and concerns, the opposition mostly fell away.

In a similar manner, the Sanctuary hosted two Public Information Meetings on October 12th and 13th in the town of Springfield to address any questions or concerns people may still have.

A number of townspeople who showed up were or have recently become supporters of the Sanctuary and many more went away satisfied that we know what we are doing and that local rumors and misinformation are patently false.

One such tidbit was that the Sanctuary was simply going to turn loose a bunch of large carnivores/predators on the 9,000 acres!

Local state representative, Kimmi Lewis, and a few of her followers remain opposed to the Refuge. However, with each meeting they attend and present the same tired arguments, they look more and more isolated.

One such argument is that their livestock is in mortal danger of being killed by the Sanctuary's animals. These people refuse to listen to, or acknowledge, the explanation that captive-born animals have a totally different view of the world and territory than wild-born animals.

Visitors to the Sanctuary constantly marvel at how the

carnivores don't even pay attention to, or go after, the multitudes of cottontail rabbits that freely go in and out of the habitats! Or that livestock have safely coexisted with the large carnivores in neighboring habitats ever since the Sanctuary began in 1980.

Not to mention that the rancher from whom the Sanctuary is purchasing the Refuge is going to continue running his head of 700 cattle on the property for the foreseeable future.

The Sanctuary's Director of Public Relations states that it is also ironic that some of the local people and a state representative who pride themselves on property rights are so opposed to what the Sanctuary is going to do with its land.

Curiously, many of the people in opposition are the same ones who used "property rights" to fend off the federal government when it tried to annex much of southeast Colorado for an expanded Army Training Range a few years ago.

It is almost unfortunate that this bit of opposition even needs to be discussed in light of so much great news about the progress of the Refuge. Yet in the interest of transparency it is necessary.

Hopefully readers of this now, and supporters in general,

realize that some opposition is just a part of doing business—especially when something is new and unknown, and that in the big scheme of things it is but a small inconvenience and will no doubt fade away as nothing "bad" happens in the ensuing months and years.

Right now, though, there is just so much progress and good that has taken place and is going on that everyone involved with the Refuge can only look forward to the next great milestone being accomplished!

If you are feeling left out, not to worry. Consider becoming a Founder. Yes, \$777 may be a lot of money for many of our supporters, but a good number of Founders have found creative ways to raise the money to become a part of something historic and life-changing.

Roads, electricity, housing, Alpacas, CNC, Yaks, habitats and soon Lions, Tigers and Bears. Oh my!

*Maybe we really have ended up somewhere over a rainbow after all. 🐾*







# Year To Date Funding

The Refuge's campaign to purchase land is going very well with nearly half of the acres already purchased by thousands of new Founders.



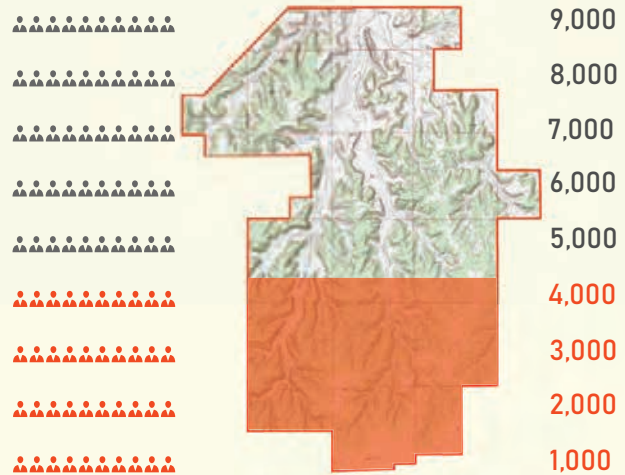
Graph not to proportion

The Refuge has other expenses related to development, so funding for habitats, buildings and other important items is also low.



Graph not to proportion

## REFUGE



The Sanctuary's yearly operational budget has fallen behind with many supporters focusing on purchasing land at the new Refuge.

## REFUGE







---

# RESCUE EQUIPMENT

---

As all of our longtime readers know, the Sanctuary covers tens of thousands of miles on a monthly basis driving all over the country to rescue animals. It's no secret that we end up having to replace rescue equipment all the time due to constant and rough-duty use.

Not that long ago, in December 2017, we had to utilize four of our larger truck/trailer combinations to rescue more than 39 Tigers and three Bears.

Making two trips to Oklahoma and many more to Indiana and numerous other states definitely took its toll on many pieces of equipment, which added to our ever-growing need for new rescue trailers.

Thanks to innovative trailer companies like Cimarron and Featherlite, our rescue trips are now quicker, lighter and more comfortable than ever. Adding essential air conditioning equipment, as well as abundant ventilation and extra carrying

capacity, these custom-built trailers are definitely critical pieces of equipment for use in rescue operations.

Built mostly out of aluminum, these lighter trailers save fuel when climbing steep grades and further decrease overall fuel costs through their lower profiles and reduced drag. Most sport numerous add-ons such as heavier axles, maximum load-rated tires, video monitoring equipment and extended floor plans to help us safely



and comfortably transport large carnivores.

Since our transport cages are much larger and more open than what most others use in the industry, we need much larger trailers than operations that utilize smaller cages. Most of our larger trailers have 40' of usable floor space inside, so we can carry seven to nine of our large transport crates inside.

When empty, their cavernous spaces can also be used for moving larger animals such as our rescued Horses, Alpacas or even the more unique Emus and Ostriches. Unfortunately, even our tallest fifth-wheel trailers can't carry taller animals like "Mo-Mo" the Camel. In the past, Mo-Mo (*Morrison*) has had to travel either inside one of our special semi-trailers...

or one of the open top stock trailers.

Regardless of who or what we are rescuing, our constant need for new or replacement rescue equipment is a never-ending issue that our fundraising department constantly works on. Whether it takes a special grant application, or just one or two generous donors that help us meet these needs, we continue to strive toward always having high quality equipment here and readily-staged for when our phone rings or another urgent email pops into our Inbox.

We want to thank the Foundations and generous donors that have made numerous equipment purchases possible in the past, and hope to have others approach us after seeing

just how important this ongoing need is. Until the day comes when we can magically transport animals from one place to another via some sort of molecular transport beam... these trucks and trailers, as well as all of our other rescue equipment will need to be purchased the old-fashioned way.

*Thank you again for supporting our mission and helping us break the chain of suffering that exists around the world today. Your support enables us to be there when we are needed and also have the right equipment to get the job done - which ultimately saves lives! 🐾*



# COSMOPOLITAN BEARS



## FINALLY GET TO HIBERNATE...

**A**tze (*ot-say*) and Barolina (*bear-o-leena*) could be considered cosmopolitan Bears with their jet setting lifestyle and cool attitude while traveling in a foreign country. Yet, this beautiful pair of native Argentinians still had a few things left to learn when it came to living life north of the Equator.

Being 22 and 24 years old respectively, this boy/girl couple had spent their entire adult lives living where the average nighttime temperature rarely dropped below 50 degrees Fahrenheit ( $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

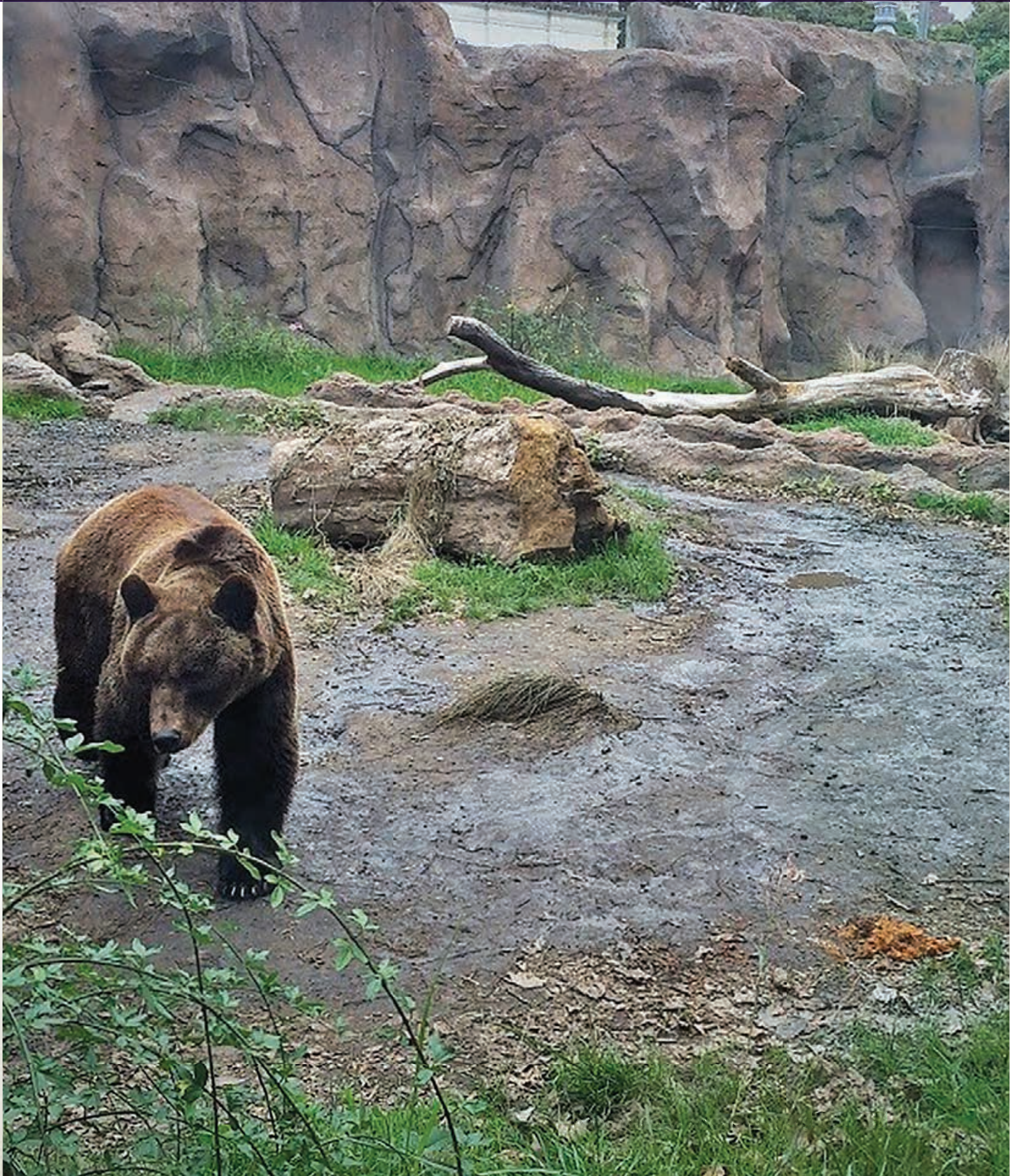
Unfortunately, that kind of balmy temperature is not very conducive when it comes to convincing a couple of 900+ pound Bruins to go into hibernation.

Coming from the Buenos Aires Zoo, these two Bears, along with hundreds of other animals, were destined to be shipped out of the country after the government made a decision to close the zoo. Being highly antiquated, after operating for more than 140 years, the zoo was slated to be torn down and rebuilt as an “*Eco Park*”.

Officials announced they would “*transform the unique space into an ecological center devoted to preserve, research and promote the care of nature and life*” – but also made it clear their new concept would also preclude having any nonnative wildlife. This meant all the Tigers, Lions, Leopards and other nonnative wildlife had to go.

Unfortunately, many other zoos in Argentina have also been closing their doors, so no in-country options for placement existed. As a result, most were found new homes

WINTER 2018



## COSMOPOLITAN BEARS... CONT'D...

in Sanctuaries in other parts of the world, with some of the large carnivores being sent to the United States.

Our sanctuary was contacted by zoo officials a couple years ago when they began looking for homes, at which point, we agreed to help. Yet, the zoo soon discovered the logistics involved with transporting endangered species and other large carnivores across international borders and for great distances required extensive planning and complex documentation.

It took a great while longer than they expected, but eventually some of the animals began to travel to their new homes. For our part, the zoo asked if we could provide a life-long home for Atze and Barolina.

They had researched all of the sanctuaries in North America

and realized when it came to Bears, our large acreage habitats would provide Atze and Barolina with abundant opportunities to live more naturally. Ultimately, everyone wanted to see these Bears roaming freely and having their first chance at hibernating like they would in the wild.

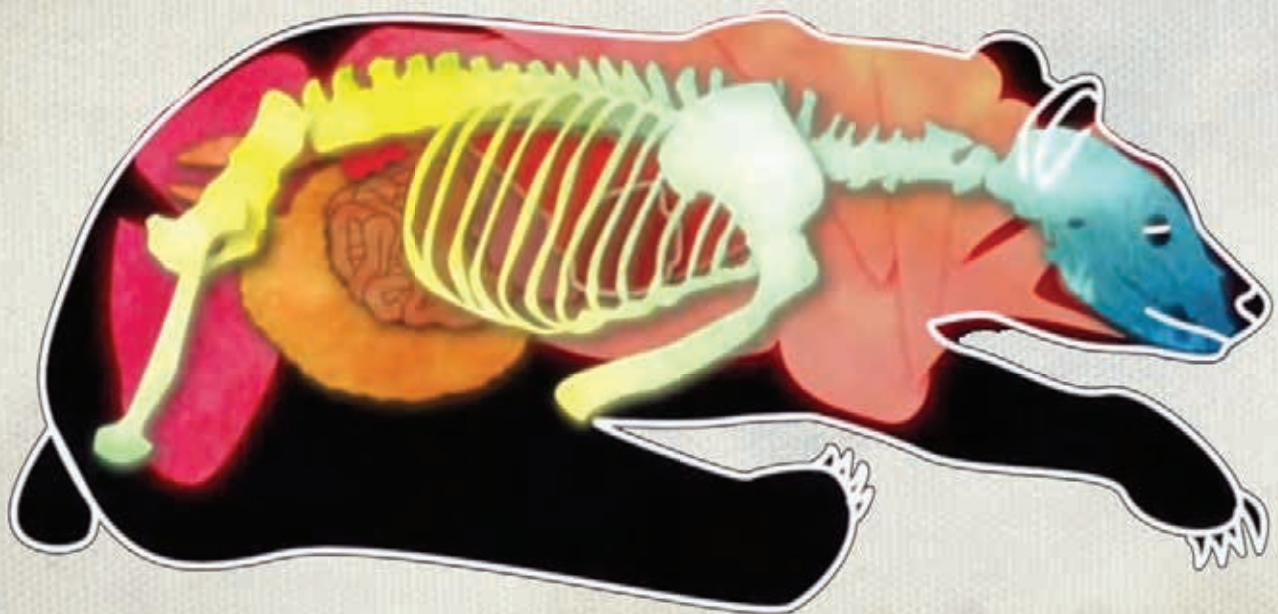
Being Kodiak Grizzly Bears, hibernation plays a significant role in their natural lifecycle, just as it does when living in captivity. Many of the Bears we rescue have never had a real opportunity to go through the five stages they should normally experience on a yearly basis.

The stages are as follows

- (1) normal activity,
- (2) hyperphagia,
- (3) fall transition,
- (4) hibernation and
- (5) walking hibernation.

Of course, normal activity is from late spring through summer when the Bears are functioning normally.

When hyperphagia starts, they begin bulking up in order to store the energy they will need to survive winter when their normal food supply will be unavailable. This is a period of excessive eating and drinking to fatten themselves for hibernation. Bears with unlimited resources consume enormous amounts of food and water per day while continuing to purge all the toxins from their bodies.



Fall Transition is a period after hyperphagia when a Bear's metabolic processes change in preparation for hibernation. They begin to eat less but continue to drink in order to purge body wastes. They become increasingly lethargic, resting 22 or more hours per day. Their mobile heart rates fall from 80-100 per minute to 50-60 per minute, and sleeping heart rates fall from 60-70 per minute to less than 22 per minute.

Hibernation involves a continuous dormancy with distinct decreases in heart rate and metabolic rate. Hibernating Bears can use up to 4,000 calories per day, mainly body fat, but do not eat, drink, urinate, or defecate. They reduce oxygen consumption by half by breathing only once every 45 seconds.

Their heart rate can also drop to as low as 8-21 beats per minute, and blood flowing to skeletal muscle (*particularly the legs*) can be reduced by 45% or more, which can make it difficult for some Bears to wake and run away in winter.

Walking hibernation is considered the 2-3 weeks following their emergence in the spring, when metabolic processes



OK Fall Transition is over, it's time for you to take your TV and go...



## COSMOPOLITAN BEARS... CONT'D...

begin adjusting to normal summer levels. During walking hibernation, Bears voluntarily eat and drink less than they would during summer... and will also excrete less urine, nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium.

This is why keeping Bears in warm or hot climates can have adverse effects on their overall health. Of course, Barolina and Atze could continue to survive in an alternate environment, but since it took thousands of years for Bears to adapt their bodies to this unique lifestyle, it's always best to provide them with a robust four-season environment whenever possible.

With nearly 200 Bears currently living (*and hibernating*) at our Sanctuary, we definitely have a front row seat when it comes to witnessing the five stages that Bears go through. There is definitely an overall improvement in their health and happiness when they finally get to do what comes naturally... so we are big fans of allowing Bears to live in colder climates!

As with all of our rescues, this pair's initial arrival at our sanctuary involved a short introduction period. Both Atze and Barolina were placed inside temporary cages located within their new large habitat, just so they would have a little

time to get used to the sights, sounds and people associated with their new home.

Both were a bit cautious and even a little slow in trusting their new human caretakers - but that was to be expected. With a consistent flow of grapes, watermelon, strawberries, fish and marshmallows coming their way, it wasn't long before they decided our animal care staff must be on their side.

Seeing a number of other Bears living close by also brightened their outlook, as the Syrian Brown Bear family living next door were definitely active. As it turned out, Simon, Paula and Kelly were thrilled to see someone moving in, and spent quite a bit of time trying to get the cautious pair to watch as they indulged in their daily play.

After a week or so, both Atze and Barolina were free to leave the confines of their smaller cages. They immediately began exploring their habitat and soon discovered the underground dens. It only took a few sniffs during a minor hesitation before Barolina plunged into one of the dark and silent cavities.

Atze had been watching her from a distance, and realized she must have disappeared into some sort of den, so he

kept exploring until he found a den of his own to explore. He quickly took advantage of a dark tunnel leading to a cozy space situated deep underground, and spent the next hour coming and going as if he was working out logistics relating to every way possible he could access his newly discovered treasure.

Since they arrived just this fall, both Argentinian transplants have had some time to get used to their new home while also fattening up for the oncoming winter. Their hyperphagia stage is complete and both are making their fall transition with fewer and fewer appearances on a weekly basis.

They are still drinking more than anything, and will transition into full hibernation any day now. Usually, by Thanksgiving, all of our Grizzly Bears are asleep and pretty much everyone else is too. There can be a few Black Bears here and there that hold on until mid-December, but even that is fairly rare.

Come spring, both Atze and Barolina will awake refreshed and feeling more centered than they have at any other time in their lives. At that point, going through numerous stages of their yearly cycle will have definitely set them on the road toward a full and healthy recovery.

We are extremely glad we could help Atze and Barolina, especially since they were in dire need of finding a good home. Both will be able to live here the rest of their lives and spend each winter dreaming of running, playing and eating all the sweet fruits, fish and other awesome foods they get to enjoy here.🐾

*Dream on, our pleasantly plump friends, dream on...*

A large brown bear is the central focus of the image, standing on a patch of ground with sparse grass and some water. The bear is facing left, looking towards the camera. Its fur is thick and dark brown. In the background, there are some large rocks and a fence line under a bright sky. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a natural or semi-natural habitat.

Atze



**The Wild Animal Sanctuary**  
**Statement of Functional Income and Expense**  
 January through December 2018

	Animal Care/Op (Program)	Refuge (Program)	Education (Program)	Rescue (Program)	Land (Program)	Total Programs	Administration	Fundraising	Total
Unrestricted Contributions			1,717,258.48			1,717,258.48		4,149,105.29	5,866,363.77
Restricted Contributions	1,327,251.64	4,099,212.73		172,444.07	20,804.00	5,619,712.44			5,619,712.44
Grants						-			-
Special Events	88,020.68					88,020.68		107,543.88	195,564.56
Special Event Expense	(88,944.98)		(20,728.08)			(109,673.06)		(101,185.51)	(210,858.57)
In-Kind Donations	7,978,566.23		90.00			7,978,656.23			7,978,656.23
Other Income	775,338.50		620,314.49			1,395,652.99	5,267.30	37,500.00	1,438,420.29
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,080,232.07</b>	<b>4,099,212.73</b>	<b>2,316,934.89</b>	<b>172,444.07</b>	<b>20,804.00</b>	<b>16,689,627.76</b>	<b>5,267.30</b>	<b>4,192,963.66</b>	<b>20,887,858.72</b>
Personnel	1,430,056.64		1,201,723.52			2,631,780.16	964,027.17	257,781.08	3,853,588.41
Community Outreach		15,000.00	4,266.90			19,266.90			19,266.90
Animal Care/Maintenance	8,260,099.78	15,475.43	-	5,000.00		8,280,575.21	-		8,280,575.21
Food/Merchandise Expense			347,675.75			347,675.75			347,675.75
Program Supplies	240,987.31	129,861.07	54,974.53	256.10		426,079.01	2,684.22	75,323.65	504,086.88
Contract/Professional Svcs	215,674.14	175,733.38	153,475.45	13,370.40		558,253.37	31,190.09		589,443.46
Communications	43,105.53	258.57	1,031,745.04	222.20		1,075,331.34	22,021.98	27,334.40	1,124,687.72
Office Expense	99,540.06	1,443.00	14,733.08	406.14		116,122.28	41,367.60	224,018.64	381,508.52
Meeting Expense			345.55			345.55			345.55
Travel/Transportation	133,211.55	35,232.31	5,667.22	151,615.26		325,726.34	3,436.14	175.10	329,337.58
Staff Development/Donor Cultivation	971.62	2,568.45	5,399.24			8,939.31	2,555.24	17,779.10	29,273.65
Occupancy	256,057.73	2,049.84	594,060.84			852,168.41	35,146.31	4,664.51	891,979.23
Depreciation	1,036,854.57	5,502.41	840,417.82	36,437.78		1,919,212.58	63,621.37	70,700.99	2,053,534.94
Insurance	138,177.69					138,177.69	12,323.26		150,500.95
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>11,854,736.62</b>	<b>383,124.46</b>	<b>4,254,484.94</b>	<b>207,307.88</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,699,653.90</b>	<b>1,178,373.38</b>	<b>677,777.47</b>	<b>18,555,804.75</b>
Net Income	(1,774,504.55)	3,716,088.27	(1,937,550.05)	(34,863.81)	20,804.00	(10,026.14)	(1,173,106.08)	3,515,186.19	2,332,053.97
	63.89%	2.06%	22.93%	1.12%	0.00%	90.00%	6.35%	3.65%	10.00%
									100.00%

# THE WILD ANIMAL *Sanctuary*

1946 County Road 53

Keenesburg, CO 80643

303-536-0118

[information@wildanimalsanctuary.org](mailto:information@wildanimalsanctuary.org)

[www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org](http://www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org)

