

Celebrating 50 Years



CAROLINA TIGER
RESCUE

Rescue 🐾 Education 🐾 Advocacy

The Paw Print

FALL 2024

Director's Desk

KRIS MARINO
Executive Director



2024 has been an important year for Carolina Tiger Rescue, as we celebrated 50 years of providing rescue, education, and advocacy for the animals who call our sanctuary home. This is no small feat given that less than 30% of nonprofit organizations fail to exist after 10 years. We have worked tirelessly to provide forever homes to animals who cannot advocate for themselves. It has not always been easy, but with hard work, devotion to our cause, and solid leadership we have become one of the most respected big cat sanctuaries in the country.

The question now becomes: What does our next 50 years look like, and how will we get there?

For the past five years we have been quietly working on a plan to expand Carolina Tiger

Rescue. We purchased 12 acres adjacent to our current property, with the goal of building a new tomorrow. The plan includes construction of new animal enclosures, a second tour path, and a Visitor and Education Center, which will focus on telling the stories of the species we care for. Starting in 2025 you will begin to see pieces of this plan as we roll out Wi-Fi streaming from the sanctuary and prepare the new property for future construction.

I am excited to share this news with you and will continue to share the progress on our Protect Magnificent project as we move forward in 2025 and beyond.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer - Adopt an Animal - Be a Monthly Sustainer
Bring Friends for a Tour - Include the Cats in Your Estate Plan
Become a Business Sponsor - Become a Big Cat Dinner Club Member
Donate Items on our Amazon Wish List



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura (Lolly) Gasaway – President
Ruth Stalvey – Vice President
Mitch Haber – Secretary/Treasurer
Chris Bush
Barbara Daniel
Karen Morgan
Nicole Robertson
Harpreet Singh
Mary Szymkowski
Julia Wood

STAFF

Kris Marino – Executive Director
Kathryn Bertok – Assistant Director
Lauren Humphries – Senior Keeper
Cara Vitale – Keeper
Kalyn Walker – Keeper
Stephanie Story – Keeper
Angela Lassiter – Veterinarian
Madison Fales – Education Director
Sabeen Pia-Needleman – Education Asst.
Alyssa Schuberth – Program Assistant
Maryssa Hill – Volunteer Coordinator

Susan King Cope – Development Director
Heidi Zangara – Donor Engagement Director
Beverly Clapp – Gift Shop Manager
Emily Cheney – Marketing & Development Asst.
Kyra Bucich – Manager of Finance & Administration
Nicola Goodman – Data Services Assistant
Louise Orr – Communications Director
Toby Fischer – Site Manager
Brian Evans – Construction Assistant
Brandon Harper – Site Assistant

MEET GARCIA RACCOON

Age: 4-years-old
Rescued: 2022



Garcia Raccoon arrived at Carolina Tiger Rescue from a closing roadside zoo in Maryland in 2022. After years of animal welfare violations, the facility reached a legal settlement, and PETA led a five-day rescue mission to rehome 65 animals. Thanks to this effort, Garcia and many others found safe, permanent homes at reputable sanctuaries and zoos across the country. Carolina Tiger Rescue was proud to be part of this life-saving mission.

Though we are best known for rescuing wild cats, we are committed to providing sanctuary to a variety of carnivorous species in need. Garcia's arrival is a reflection of that mission. Alongside our resident tigers, lions, and cougars, we also care for kinkajous and coatimundis—demonstrating our capability and passion for helping all kinds of animals. Rescuing Garcia made perfect sense, as we are well-equipped to meet his needs and provide him with a safe, enriching home.

Garcia's story is a reminder of the impact of collaborative rescues and the importance of expanding our mission beyond big cats. We aim to be a sanctuary not just for wild felines, but for animals in need of a second chance at a safe, dignified life.

Garcia quickly stole the hearts of our staff and volunteers with his silly antics. He adores nuts and will perch them on his belly while he eats them. Usually he is found napping during the day either in the comfort of his den box or in his hammock. He is nocturnal, meaning he is more active at night when we're not around. Keepers will leave enrichment for him to enjoy while we're all asleep at home!



Site Team: The Unsung Heroes

At Carolina Tiger Rescue, the unsung heroes who keep our sanctuary running smoothly are our dedicated Site team—Toby, Brian, and Brandon. This hardworking trio ensures that everything from enclosures to the property grounds is in top shape, providing a safe and comfortable environment for both our animals and staff.

Their responsibilities are vast and crucial. The team works tirelessly to secure enclosures so that every animal's habitat meets the highest standards. They conduct regular perimeter checks around the property to guarantee no area goes overlooked. Whether it's mending fences, fixing den boxes, repairing broken pipes, or making other vital repairs, Toby, Brian, and Brandon are always up to the task. They also maintain the sanctuary's grounds, keeping grass, weeds, and foliage well-trimmed to ensure the sanctuary remains clean, welcoming, and safe.

Their efforts are collaborative, working closely with the Animal Care team to ensure enclosures are designed and built to meet the specific needs of each resident. They work on immediate needs while also preparing for long-term maintenance and upgrades. Together, they plan enclosures that provide ample space, proper shelter, and enriching environments tailored to the species' physical and behavioral requirements. New elements such as lock-outs, catwalks, feeding tubes, and other modifications like additional steps up to an older animals' platform, are incorporated to enhance the animals' well-being.



The work of the Site team is the backbone of the sanctuary. Without their constant dedication to maintaining and improving our facilities, we simply wouldn't be able to operate. Their hands-on efforts ensure that not only the animals, but also the staff and volunteers have a safe and well-kept environment to carry out our mission.

“It’s the collaboration, cooperation, and hard work of the volunteers and keepers that make this site team special and successful.”

- Toby Fischer, Site Manager

While this trio accomplishes a tremendous amount, they don't do it alone. They are supported by a network of dedicated construction volunteers and workgroups who assist with site projects. We are always looking for more helping hands to continue enhancing the sanctuary. Whether you're skilled with tools or just willing to lend a hand, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and make a difference.

If you're interested in volunteering, scan the QR code to learn how you can help. Every contribution, large or small, plays a vital role in keeping Carolina Tiger Rescue safe, beautiful, and functional for the animals who call it home.



Completed: Garcia's New Enclosure

Our site team recently completed a new enclosure for Garcia Raccoon, providing him with a spacious and enriching new environment. This enclosure is also capable of housing other small cat species in the future. The enclosure features platforms, tunnels, a tiki hut, hammocks, and den boxes, all designed to keep Garcia engaged and comfortable. Upon being released into his new space, Garcia took his time exploring the various elements. It has quickly become clear, however, that his favorite spot is the hammock, where he enjoys snoozing.



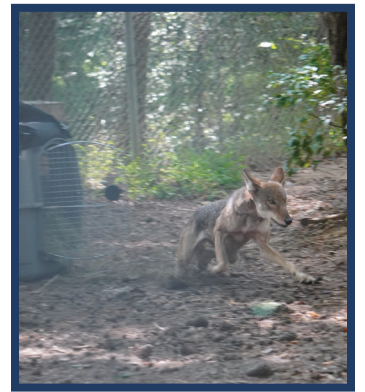
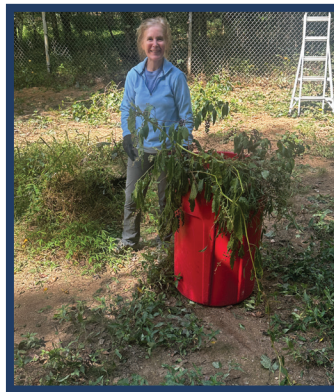
Red Wolves: Team Work Makes the Dream Work

Big changes are underway at Carolina Tiger Rescue. Our Red Wolves, Caroline and Mist, have relocated to new homes to contribute to the Red Wolf SAFE breeding program. Their moves represent a significant step in the conservation of red wolf, and we are proud of their contributions to the future of the species.

Additionally, we have welcomed two new Red Wolves to the Sanctuary. Sage, a 10-year-old spayed female from the Wolf Conservation Center, and Cedar, a 3-year-old male from White Oak Conservation Center in Florida, have joined us as important ambassadors for Red Wolf conservation. Although they will not be part of the breeding program, they will play a vital role in raising awareness for the species.

Before welcoming Sage and Cedar, we had less than 12 hours to complete a massive clean-up and revamp of Caroline and Mist's former enclosure. Our Site Team worked

hand-in-hand with our keepers to direct volunteers and staff on how to most efficiently and effectively get this big project done in such a short amount of time. The clean-up crew finished in record time, and we welcomed Cedar to Carolina Tiger Rescue later that evening. Thank you to all of those who helped!



Looking to the Future

This year has been a trip down memory lane as we celebrated our 50th anniversary. Now, all eyes are on the years ahead as we roll out plans for the future construction of a new 16,000 sq. ft. Visitor and Education Center, a second tour path, and the addition of wi-fi streaming from inside the sanctuary! Our Site team will continue to play an integral role as we begin major construction within the next few years.

To learn more about our upcoming projects and how you can invest in the future of Carolina Tiger Rescue, please email: ProtectMagnificent@CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

Keeper's Corner

Working with our Site Team

Keeping a sanctuary going and well maintained takes a lot of different moving parts and people of different skill sets. A member of our Site team must be a "jack of all trades" (building, mowing, repairs, plumbing, mechanics, electrical), they do a lot that directly impacts the well-being of the animals, and they work closely with the Animal Care team.

In order for keepers to monitor animals and clean their enclosures, grass and vines in the spring and summer are a big issue. Site assists animal care with mowing enclosures and managing work groups to come in and help with such big projects. Work groups are especially helpful for these tasks because lots of hands get a lot done in a short period of time!

Many of the platforms in animal enclosures are made of wood, meaning they deteriorate over time and must be repaired or replaced. Site not only does necessary repairs, but they also build all of the denboxes the animals sleep in. Site is skilled enough to completely revamp enclosures, repair fences and frames, and sometimes even build new animal enclosures!

We are fortunate to have such an experienced team dedicated to caring for the animals. We are also lucky that they have a good sense of humor since they have a never-ending list of things to keep them busy!

Lauren



Grab a 2025 Carolina Tiger Rescue Calendar!

Our 2025 Calendar features beautiful portraits taken by our very first photography intern, Isaac Miconi. Isaac, a student at Randolph Community College, is passionate about wildlife and photography and chose to combine those interests by interning at the sanctuary for the summer. He documented a number of subjects, including our animal care interns, veterinary procedures, workgroups, and more.

Enjoy your copy of our 2025 Calendar and soak up some of Isaac's best portraits! **Calendars will be available in our gift shop in November.**



Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER 2



TIGER TAKEOVER
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN PITTSBORO

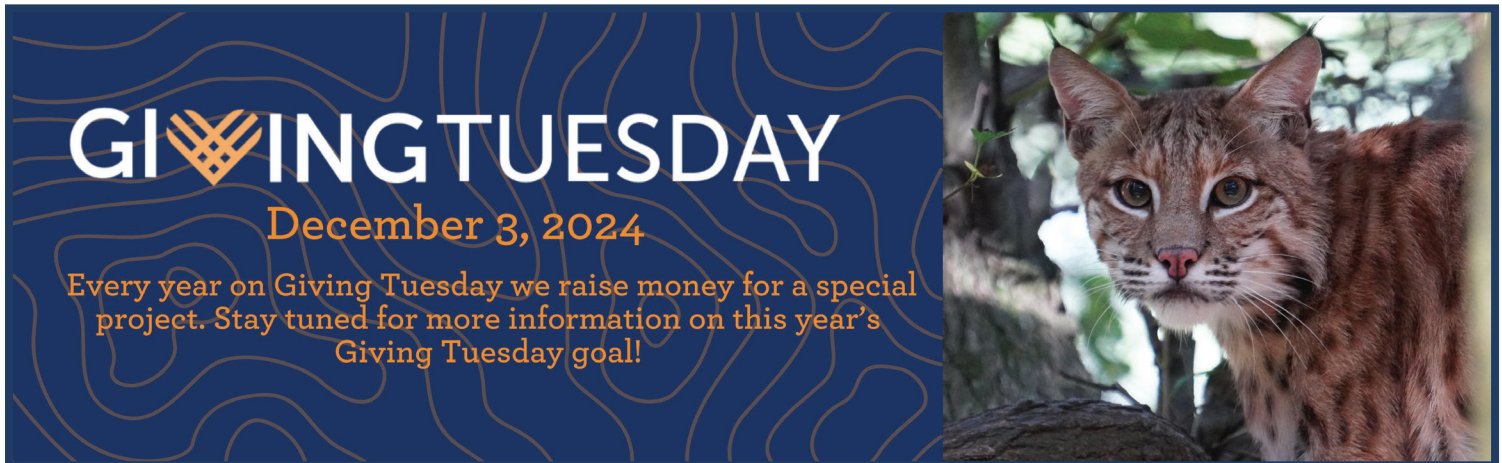
HAVOC BREWING
5 - 9 PM
39 West St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
havocbrewing.com



**LIVE MUSIC
GAMES
EDUCATION
FOOD TRUCKS
BEER
MERCH
& MORE**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DECEMBER 3



GIVING TUESDAY
December 3, 2024

Every year on Giving Tuesday we raise money for a special project. Stay tuned for more information on this year's Giving Tuesday goal!



MARCH 1, 2025



COSTA RICA'S
National Parks
An Evening Under a Starlit Canopy

Black Tie & Tails Ball | Saturday, March 1, 2025
JB Duke Hotel | 230 Science Dr, Durham, NC 27708



Carolina Tiger Rescue
1940 Hanks Chapel Rd.
Pittsboro, NC 27312

919.542.4684

info@CarolinaTigerRescue.org
www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org

Non-profit Org
Presorted
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1910
Raleigh, NC

Tours and Important Dates

DAYTIME TOURS:

*Year-round, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
Get tickets online.*

*Holiday tours, private tours, specialty tours,
virtual tours, field trips, and
volunteer opportunities available.*

TIGER TAKEOVER @ HAVOC
November 2

GIVING TUESDAY
December 3

BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL:
March 1, 2025



India Tiger

**To learn about our rescues, volunteer opportunities,
tour tickets, and more, visit:**
www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org