The Director’s Desk

Pam Fulk
Executive Director

From our first incorporation as Carnivore Evolution Research, Inc. in 1973, our second as Carnivore Preservation Trust, to the Carolina Tiger Rescue of today, we’ve continually evolved to meet the challenges and opportunities of the times. Over the years, rescue became a growing part of our mission; we ceased breeding and ended any direct contact with our animals. We established our new mission as “saving and protecting wild cats in captivity and in the wild.”

We have grown from four paid staff members to sixteen and increased our budget of $230,000 for approximately 150 animals to a $1.2 million budget for 40 animals (a typical budget for reputable sanctuaries of similar size.) We have made big strides in building an organizational infrastructure that is the foundation for a sustainable future.

While we will continue to rescue, now we are focusing our efforts on building a first-class conservation education and advocacy program.

Changing the hearts and minds of coming generations is the key to ending the pet trade and commercial exploitation of wild cats.

Thank you for being a part of our journey — helping to care for the animals, educating the public to help improve these animals’ lives, and helping to make Carolina Tiger Rescue a true wildlife sanctuary that continues to grow and become a force for change!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP
Get Involved, Lend a Hand

Volunteer
Be a Member
Adopt an Animal
Be a Monthly Sustainer
Bring Friends for a Tour
Become a Business Sponsor
Attend the Black Tie & Tails Ball
Include the Cats in your Estate Plans
Donate Items on our Amazon Wish List

More information at CarolinaTigerRescue.org

The Paw Print is published three times a year. Special thanks to Judy Johnston for design and layout.
Carolina Tiger Rescue hosted 51 campers in grades 3-8 this summer. Campers learned about the seven species of animals at Carolina Tiger, created enrichment for the animals, and watched the tigers paint.

In one of the hands-on lessons, campers learned about using observation to help wild cats in their native habitat. We were fortunate to have Dawn Friedel, a WildTrack volunteer and Adoptive Parent at Carolina Tiger, as one of our guest speakers. WildTrack is a local non-profit whose mission is to improve the monitoring of endangered species to help reduce human-wildlife conflict through their Footprint Identification Technique (FIT) that allows for the observation of wildlife without disturbing the animal or their normal behavior.

Campers learned how WildTrack volunteers work with our Keepers and resident cats to gather footprints. Using photos of footprints, WildTrack developed a computer program which allows for the identification of the species, age, sex, and even an individual cat with greater than 90% accuracy.

Our campers learned about the different characteristics of cat footprints. By the end of the lesson they were able to identify the front, hind, left and right paws of tigers and cougars, just from looking at their prints!

Campers also made their own tracks, first in sand with their hands and then on paper using paw stamps, so they could take them home. The kids quickly grasped the identification techniques and gained insights into why taking an observation-based approach to conservation is good for animals.

Contact Katie Cannon, Education Director, for more information: KatieCannon@CarolinaTigerRescue.org

Save the Date! Tickets Available November 1, 2016.

Teacher Workday Camp on October 31, 2016, 8am-5pm.
Summer 2017 Big Cat Safari Camp will be offered in June and July.
Summer is a time to kick back and relax, right? Not for everyone. At Carolina Tiger Rescue, summers mean intern season! From May-August, Carolina Tiger is home to interns from all over the country. The goal of the program is to teach interns the basics of animal care, prepare them to make sound decisions about their careers, and to explain the values of a true sanctuary so that they can carry those ideals into their future work.

In addition to the day-to-day activities of feeding and changing waters, interns attend weekly workshops covering topics including basic vet care, trap cameras, and professional development. To ensure that they have a sound base of knowledge to work with, interns are also responsible for researching and presenting a paper each week. Topics for the papers include the natural history of the species we house and issues facing wild animals, both in captivity and in their native habitats.

Animal care is incredibly rewarding, but it’s not always as glamorous as people think that working with exotic animals will be. Our hope is for the interns to leave with a better understanding of what it means to be an animal keeper. Thank you, interns, for all of your help and hard work this summer!

Contact Kathryn for information on 2017 Internships: KathrynBertok@CarolinaTigerRescue.org

From left to right: Ellen, Morgan, Diana, Megan, Haley, Daniel, Olivia, Elizabeth
Our amazing interns built a platform and hammock for Sheba, Tarzan, and Sebastian Lions

Destiny will always be remembered as a sassy caracal. Though you were not likely to win her over, you had to appreciate her brutal honesty.

Destiny’s life started as a private pet. When Carolina Tiger Rescue was called to take her in, she was living in a six-by-six enclosure that was covered in feces. Her travel crate was filled with clean bedding, and over the three hour drive, she groomed every inch of her fur. If she wasn’t such a proud cat, she would have thanked us for finally getting her into something clean! Maybe she just knew that she always deserved to live a pampered life.

In May, we found that tumors we had previously removed around her head and neck had returned and were beginning to interfere with her esophagus, and her blood work showed significant anemia. We made the decision to euthanize her, knowing that her quality of life was suffering. Please join us in remembering beautiful Destiny Caracal.
Elvis is a rock star serval. He knows how to work the spotlight and is always a favorite among tour guests and volunteers alike.

On the morning of April 27, 2009, a staff member found him abandoned in a crate near the entrance. A note mentioned that his name was Elvis and gave a few details about his history, including that he had become aggressive with family members. Elvis was immediately examined by a veterinarian who found his health to be poor. He was about two years old and significantly undernourished – his ribs and backbone were clearly visible and he weighed only a fraction of what he should have. There was evidence of a previously embedded collar and scarring on his forehead, likely from continuous rubbing on a cage or crate. His hind legs were atrophied. Those findings suggested that Elvis spent much of his time confined in a very small space.

Despite his rough start, Elvis flourished and quickly worked his way into our hearts. He attained a healthy weight, gained strength in his back legs, and became more active and confident in his new home. In October 2009, he was moved to the tour route due to his increasingly social personality.

On morning rounds in June, keepers noticed that Elvis wasn’t putting any weight on his back left leg. He was taken for x-rays, which showed nearly a dozen fractures to the area surrounding his left knee — despite there being no external evidence of any injury at all. There was no viable option for repairing the leg and so the decision was made to amputate.

Staff thoroughly combed his enclosure and found nothing to indicate how he sustained his injury. Although it will remain a mystery, Elvis has healed beautifully and is doing better every day. He’s back on tour and enjoying the spotlight.

Elvis’ case illustrates what often happens when private individuals own exotic animals as pets. It is easy to purchase a wild cat as a pet. However, giving a wild cat the habitat, nutrition, veterinary care, and enrichment that they require is usually not possible for private owners.
YOU Make the Difference!
Special Thanks to our Volunteers of the Month

DANIEL STUTTS • ANIMAL CARE
June 2016
Daniel often works double the shifts that are required, helping keepers in his hard working and good humored way. We are grateful for his dedication. Thank you, Daniel!

HAL BURGER • CONSTRUCTION
July 2016
Hal Burger is a gentleman volunteer, using his broad spectrum of ability and unfailing good nature to lead volunteer workgroups in a safe and productive way. Thank you, Hal!

LAURA COX • ANIMAL CARE
August 2016
Laura’s extensive animal care knowledge and her generous nature make her an invaluable volunteer. We are grateful for her skill and her kindness. Thank you, Laura!

SANCTUARY STEWARDS
Supporters, members, volunteers, adoptive parents, and friends who have included Carolina Tiger Rescue in their estate plans are invited to join our Sanctuary Stewards group.

This special program gives Carolina Tiger the opportunity to acknowledge your thoughtful planning for the future of the animals who have found their forever home at Carolina Tiger Rescue. Thank you!

We are deeply grateful to those who have made arrangements to continue their support through bequests and gifts through trusts, retirement plans, or life insurance policies – these gifts help to ensure a safe, healthy, secure future for the cats.

Sanctuary Stewards will be invited to our special donor events, receive an annual calendar, and get public recognition for your meaningful gift. Of course, you may remain anonymous, if you wish.

By joining the Sanctuary Stewards, you help Carolina Tiger Rescue in two important ways: through your own gift and by inspiring others to take advantage of these special ways of helping Carolina Tiger Rescue fulfill our mission to save and protect wild cats in captivity and in the wild.

We are honored to welcome the inaugural members of our Sanctuary Stewards group:

- Lynn Cartee
- Martha Lewis
- Tamanda Comer
- Larry Mahan
- Amy R. Crowder
- Larry Smith
- Sidney and Carla Dalis
- Patricia A. Stanish
- Pam Fulk
- Mark and Elizabeth Zeringue
- Charlie Lewis
- 2 Anonymous Members

For information on including Carolina Tiger Rescue as a beneficiary of your estate, please contact Heidi Zangara, Planned Giving Manager:
HeidiZangara@CarolinaTigerRescue.org
OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE WILD

The Paw Print • FALL 2016

Keepers: Larissa Keliher, Lauren Humphries

INDIE SERVAL

FALL 2016
One of our top priorities is making sure that the animals in our care are comfortable; they should be healthy, free from stress, and have opportunities to develop proper habits in order to achieve a good quality of life. Part of ensuring that each animal is happy and healthy is assessing an individual’s personality and matching that to the appropriate habitat enclosure.

Indie is an asthmatic 21-year-old serval who has lived in a quiet, sunny part of the sanctuary for many years. However, she has gotten older and the warmer area did not help her asthma so, we decided it was worth it to move her to a shadier area that is off-tour. She has done much better in the cooler area and, even though we still treat her asthma with medication, she continues to surprise us with her stubborn personality.

Indie Serval passed away as this issue went to press.

FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Enjoy Membership this Fall

- FREE unlimited daytime public tours
- 50% off Twilight Tours
- 10% off Specialty Tours
- 10% off gift shop items
- Carolina Tiger Rescue member decal
- Invitations to members only events
- Become a part of the Carolina Tiger family and receive email about rescues, animal updates, job openings, upcoming events, and more.

More information at CarolinaTigerRescue.org

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Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Enjoy Membership this Fall
Tours and Important Dates

DAYTIME TOURS: Year-Round
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

TWILIGHT TOURS: April-October
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Holiday tours, private tours, specialty tours, field trips, and volunteer opportunities available. More information available at CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

SUMMER CAMPS: June and July, 2017

BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL: February 25, 2017
Join us as we celebrate the African Serengeti.

Roman is thankful for your support of Carolina Tiger Rescue!

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please email info@carolinatigerrescue.org