This is the time of year when I realize how very thankful I am. I graduated with a Master of Social Work from IU, and I devoted 25 years to the field of family violence and sexual assault. It was my passion but never my love. It was a calling. In 2003 I found a new passion. This time it was different; I found not just passion, but my love as well. I am aware every day how lucky I am to love my job and to look forward to coming to “work” every day.

I realize how fortunate I am to work with the people here, staff and volunteers. After a lifetime in nonprofit service I can tell you I have never seen this depth of passion for mission, this willingness to support each other, this total devotion to team! Oh, we have our days. Still, I have never seen people so willing to sacrifice to be here, and to ensure that these animals and their colleagues have what is needed. This culture is filled with so much love. How lucky am I?

To be able to walk outside and chat with the most fascinating animals, to be greeted as a friend (well, at least not an enemy) is icing on the cake. I love to hear the animals chuffle or purr in greeting and to watch them enjoying their pools or the latest piece of enrichment they received. It was a privilege to be able to watch Rajah and Kaela tigers grow up here in safety and health, to watch Aria tiger find health and contentment, to watch Nitro tiger enjoy a spacious home filled with the smells and surfaces that supported him through his blindness. I’ve watched animals grieve for another, throw tantrums (that’s right!), adjust to captivity when they couldn’t remain in the wild, leap onto a Christmas tree in abandonment, play hide and seek, and roar at someone they disliked.

Finally, I am thankful for you! Your support helps us care for these animals at the highest level of quality. It helps us build more educational programs and strategies to change what is happening to wild cats in captivity and in the wild. It is your support that nourishes the staff and volunteers here, because you care. Yes, I am filled with thankfulness this season. Seasons wishes to you, too.
Education Program Expands Reach

Education is the key to changing attitudes about animal exploitation and private ownership in our country, so we are continuing to expand our outreach with new programs.

We have a new STEM-based homeschool program that teaches students about animal behavior and biology, and helps them understand the issues wild cats face in captivity and in the wild.

We are rolling out a new kid’s membership program that allows children to engage with the rescue throughout the year, to learn about our animals and the work that we do. Subscribers enjoy quarterly kid’s newsletters, coloring books, stickers, a plush animal, and birthday surprises!

Also new this year is a Field Trip to Go program that takes us into schools to teach students around the state about our animals and mission. For more information on programs, and to sign up, please visit our website, choosing the “Learn” menu.

BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL

Experience the wonders of Norway, as you enjoy an evening with great friends, delectable dishes, exciting games, and a lively auction on February 29. Early Bird tickets now available at CarolinaTigerRescue.org

NORWAY
Land of the Dancing Lights

Black Tie & Tails Ball  |  Saturday, February 29, 2020  |  Washington Duke Inn  |  3001 Cameron Blvd, Durham, NC
The Curator’s Corner

A year can make an incredible impact on an animal, on a person, and even on an organization. This year was no exception.

Through our work, we have been in a position to impact the lives of so many animals. Of course, there is the day to day care that we provide to the animals in our sanctuary. But there are other ways that we impact the lives of animals, even those animals that we may never meet in person. There are the calls to our vet for advice, the collaboration with other keepers, and our work with the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance to protect all big cats throughout the US.

While it is easy to see our work with the animals, we sometimes miss the impact we have on the people that surround us. It’s the mom looking for new friends, or the college student finding a spark of inspiration, or an animal lover looking for people to call family. All of those people, and so many others, can feel that impact at Carolina Tiger Rescue.

Just as we have changed the lives of the animals and the people that surround us, this year has seen incredible growth for Carolina Tiger Rescue as an organization.

We celebrated our accreditation through the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. We brought in animals that had no place to go. We educated thousands of people and extended our ability to take our message out into the community.

In the end, none of this would be possible without our supporters. We are grateful for whatever way you choose to show your support for the animals and for the work we do. Whether it’s making a financial donation, volunteering your time, or sharing our mission through Facebook, we simply couldn’t do this without you.

INTERNSHIPS

Being an intern means learning a lot, both in keeper-taught classes and project-based experience. It is also a wonderful opportunity to really connect with some amazing animals and explore career options in animal husbandry and veterinary care.

Summer internships are 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. For information and an application, go to: CarolinaTigerRescue.org/learn/internship/


“What’s a chuffle?”

What sound does a tiger make? Clearly, the big cats can roar, but there’s a more social greeting the visitors and keepers at Carolina Tiger Rescue have grown to know.

Tigers chuffle, and it is their way of greeting you. It’s a friendly tiger greeting, a sort of hello! If you’ve ever been out on a tour, there’s a good chance Rajah and Caprichio Tiger gave you a warm, chuffling welcome.
ZOEY SERVAL

Animal Spotlight

Zoey Serval currently holds the title of Carolina Tiger Rescue’s smallest serval, but what she lacks in size, she certainly makes up for in personality. Like many servals, she has a ‘no nonsense’ attitude and prefers to do things on her own terms.

Zoey’s feisty attitude makes an excellent point as to why these animals should not be owned as pets. She began her life as a pet, in a house in Hendersonville, NC. When she was rescued, she was in a small crate in a garage, standing in inches of her own feces. The owners couldn’t care for Zoey properly because she is a wild animal.

While Zoey is on the tour route, she doesn’t come up for every visitor. Instead she waits for those who bring her a few pieces of meat. Although our animals are offered several different types of enrichment, Zoey only really cares about items containing food. Maybe that’s because she can remember a time when she was only fed vegetables. Without any meat to entice her, Zoey will likely be hard to spot. She prefers to camouflage herself by laying amongst her lush enclosure grass or sometimes beneath one of her platforms.

Though Zoey isn’t always visible, she hisses frequently! Listen closely and she is liable to give away her hiding position.

Servals are known for their large ears, fast paw strike, and fierce attitude. In the wild, servals stay active, killing up to 12 rodents in a single day. All of these traits combined, make them dangerous animals and ones that should never be pets. Zoey needed room to roam, enrichment to keep her busy, she needed people who understand that she is wild and nothing would change that.
Protecting our environment and wildlife... thanks to you!

Through EarthShare North Carolina (ESNC), supporters have given more than $8.5 million for environmental nonprofits, including Carolina Tiger Rescue, via workplace giving campaigns. Together, we can raise awareness about the diversity of environmental issues that impact our lives.

ESNC is a giving option in most local and state government workplaces in the Triangle area, as well as many United Way and private workplace giving campaigns. For a listing of workplaces, go to: earthsharenc.org.

Here’s how you can help: give to Carolina Tiger Rescue and ESNC via your workplace giving campaign. Write in our name or give campaign code #1104 when giving through the SECC.

Your Dollar Matters

Did you know that even though we are a federally-accredited sanctuary, we don’t receive any government funding? Most of our funding comes from donations from folks like you.

Here’s where your donations have gone this year:
- Purchase of three winter houses for the coatimundi and kinkajous
- Creation of outdoor playgrounds for our arboreal animals
- Updates to existing enclosures and shift gates to provide increased levels of animal care and safety
- Accommodations for senior animals to provide optimal care
- Medicines and supplements for animals with health concerns
- Daily enrichment, which is just as important to animal health as veterinary care and nutrition

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Many companies will double (or sometimes triple) the value of their employee’s gifts to Carolina Tiger Rescue. These matching gifts provide valuable funds, as we save and protect wild cats in captivity and in the wild!

To see if your company will match a gift to Carolina Tiger Rescue visit CarolinaTigerRescue.org/MatchingGifts or contact your company’s human resource department.
Winter winds are coming and the cold weather is upon us. Our big cats barely seem to notice, aside from growing thicker, denser coats. But our smaller animals need some help to stay cozy. With your generous donations, we were able to purchase winter housing for our weather-sensitive animals, like kinkajous and coatimundis. These animals are tropical and need warm, moist air and a heated enclosure. All of the cats get clean straw in their den boxes to provide warmth and insulation, but the small cats, like ocelots and bobcats, get heaters in their den boxes to ensure they are comfortable. In addition, they have heated water dishes to ensure constant access to fresh water.

You really see the dedication of our animal care volunteers in the winter. It’s no small task to make sure all animals have fresh water, warm den boxes and clean straw. All the staff, and especially the keepers, want to extend a huge thank you to our team— including donors!
**Tours and Important Dates**

**DAYTIME TOURS:** Year round, by appointment on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

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

**TWILIGHT TOURS:** April - Oct., Friday, through Sunday

**BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL:** February 29, 2020
Join us as we experience “Norway: Land of the Dancing Lights” See pg. 3 for info.

**SUMMER CAMPS:** June and July, 2020

**INTERN APPLICATIONS DUE:** Jan. 1, 2020


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

*Rajah Tiger is thankful for your support of his forever home at Carolina Tiger Rescue!*