2020 has been a remarkable year. Businesses have been closed or otherwise impacted by restrictions. Kids have had to leave their schools and much of their sense of normalcy. Many nonprofits have seen an increase in the need for their services. Through all of this, we have also had to figure out how to live our lives with a novel virus that can not only infect people, but also the animals that call Carolina Tiger Rescue home.

We are fortunate to have staff, volunteers, and supporters who are not only dedicated, but have also proven to be quite adaptive! By mid-March, the decision was made to close the sanctuary to everyone except our essential staff. That meant that all of our animal care, normally covered by our keepers and dozens of volunteers, was now going to be completed by no more than eight people. Office staff had to figure out how to work from home. We all had to figure out how to keep the people and the animals safe.

Then the situation changed again. In June, we welcomed back many of our volunteers and some additional staff. Procedures had to change once more. Now we had to figure out how to add more people to the sanctuary, but also keep them safe.

Throughout all these challenges, there was never a “we can’t do it” moment, only “how do we adapt?” Staff, volunteers, and supporters worked to support one another even when we were separated (so many care packages and meals were delivered!) and adapted to the new rules when we were able to come together again. While 2020 has been an incredibly rough year, it has only strengthened my opinion that we have the best Carolina Tiger Rescue family ever! Thank you for your ever-adaptive support.
Rajah Tiger has been a tour favorite since he arrived at Carolina Tiger Rescue as a cub in 2005. He and another tiger cub, Kaela, were found wandering a back-country road outside of Charlotte, N.C. when they were about 6 months old. How they got there, where they came from, and who they belonged to are still a mystery. Given the circumstances surrounding their rescue, their story will forever be an eye-opening look into the tiger problem here in the United States. North Carolina is one of four states in the country that have no laws prohibiting the ownership of exotic species.

Rajah will often come up to the fence as tour groups pass by, offering up his social chuffles, but reminding you just how large tigers are. Weighing in at more than 330 pounds and standing at about 9 feet tall when on his hind legs, Rajah’s sheer size is a great reminder that tigers are predators and not pets. Some of his favorite activities include painting pawcassos, crushing enrichment boxes, and napping on top of his den box.

Rajah has been an important part of life at Carolina Tiger Rescue since his arrival in 2005. He is a wonderful ambassador for tigers everywhere, and thousands have fallen in love with him and his story. To learn more about Rajah, visit our website: www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

The cover image of Rajah will be available to bid on during the live portion of our “Beads & Bling... It’s a Mardi Gras Thing” virtual auction and celebration.
KINKAJOUS

While kinkajous are classified as carnivores based on their teeth, their needs are dissimilar from the other carnivores at Carolina Tiger Rescue. Kinkajous would do poorly if fed a stereotypical carnivore diet consisting solely of raw meat. Rather, most of their diet consists of fruits and vegetables, with a small percentage of insects and bird eggs for protein.

Another distinction is the kinkajou’s feeding schedule. Many carnivores have digestive systems designed to fast regularly; however, kinkajous have speedy metabolisms necessitating they eat every day. Being nocturnal, kinkajous are most active from 7:00 pm to midnight. For this reason, kinkajou feeding occurs at the end of the day. Meals are also placed in an assortment of foraging enrichment to simulate wild feeding behaviors.

Kinkajous are relatively small (between 3 and 10 pounds) and are native to the tropical climate of Central and South America. These characteristics leave them unable to withstand cold temperatures. To account for this, the kinkajou habitats are different from other sanctuary enclosures in that they each contain a heated indoor space. During the winter months, the kinkajous are kept indoors and allowed outside access as weather permits.

Although kinkajou care is different from other carnivores in multiple ways, we are happy to adapt in order to give them a home where they are respected for the wild animals they are.

KINKAJOU FAST FACTS

- Kinkajous have scent glands on their cheeks and chest.
- A kinkajou’s tongue is around 5 inches long. They use it to lap up honey, making them excellent pollinators.
- Despite their small stature, kinkajous are dangerous! Their sharp claws and teeth make it easy for them to severely hurt a human.
- Kinkajous are popular in the exotic pet trade, but do NOT make good pets. They are wild animals and should be respected as such.

The native habitat of kinkajous is Central and South America.
SANCTUARY ADAPTABILITY

True sanctuaries adapt to the needs of the animals in their care, no matter how challenging they may be.

NITRO TIGER

After his rescue in 2009 from a junkyard in Kansas, it was determined during his quarantine physical that Nitro was blind. To help him adjust to his new home at Carolina Tiger Rescue, new accommodations were made for him. A sand line was put down along his perimeter fence, and special scents were added to his water dishes and den box to teach him where they were. Nitro quickly learned and was finally a happy tiger in his new home. Nitro passed away in 2013, but will always remain one of the sanctuary’s most memorable rescues.

ELVIS SERVAL

One morning in 2016, keepers noticed that Elvis’ back leg was severely broken and needed to be amputated. Even though cats are very adaptive when they lose a limb, we still developed strategies to help him become more comfortable in his enclosure. We added more platforms, some of which were lower, and made sure everything in his environment was easily accessible.

CAPRICHIO TIGER

Caprichio is the largest tiger we care for at the rescue, weighing in at an impressive 460 pounds of pure muscle. Unfortunately, his size exacerbates the metabolic bone disease he developed after being used for petting opportunities as a cub. Keepers treat Caprichio daily for potential pain and arthritis caused by this disease, and his enclosure is outfitted with easily accessible platforms, den boxes, and pools in the summer. Caprichio’s bowed back leg caused by his MBD is a stark reminder of why big cat cubs suffer in pay-to-play facilities.
YOU Make the Difference!

Special Thanks To our Recent Volunteers of the Month

Ashley Andrews
Tour Guide

“Ashley has proven to be a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the Carolina Tiger family! She is always willing to help out with tours, events, and community outreach.”

Chris Cheshire
Construction

“Chris has become a vital part of our site team. He never hesitates to help out with a new project and is always willing to lend a hand. His positivity is apparent to all who work with him.”

Chris Bush
Tour Guide

“Chris is someone we can always count on. His love for the animals and his passion for educating others is evident in every tour he guides.”

“The Hidden Tiger” Revealed

Rescue Doc Films’ latest documentary, “The Hidden Tiger”, tells the REAL story behind the captive tiger problem in the United States, and how fixing the problem at home may help save tigers in the wild. Filmmakers spoke to experts in the field of conservation and rescue, including Carolina Tiger’s very own Executive Director, Pam Fulk, to figure out what needs to be done to help save this majestic species. They have also been generous enough to donate 50% of proceeds from rentals and purchases of the documentary using Carolina Tiger Rescue’s own link:

https://vimeo.com/ondemand/hiddentigerctr

Become a Member of the Tiger Tribe Kid's Club

Make at-home learning fun by joining Carolina Tiger Rescue's Tiger Tribe, a club for kids who love tigers and other wild cats!

INCLUDED IN YOUR TIGER TRIBE MEMBERSHIP IS:
• A welcome kit •
• Four newsletters per year •
• A gift on your birthday •
• Other surprises throughout the year!

Visit: shop.CarolinaTigerRescue.org to purchase today!
Keeper’s Corner

An important part of caring for so many animals is the ability to constantly adjust to their ever-changing needs. For example, we calculate a cat’s diet based on their individual body score, metabolism, and age. An overweight animal will require less food and as they lose weight, we can add in more food as needed. Willow Bobcat and Beausoleil (Beau) Cougar were both still juveniles when they came to us and had different dietary requirements than adults. As young animals, we fed them daily (unlike our adult resident cats that are fasted once to twice a week) and we added in calcium supplements to ensure strong bone growth. We also often fed them multiple small meals throughout the day to make positive associations with their new caretakers. We typically increase cat diets in the winter, as they will burn more calories to stay insulated and warm, then decrease diets in the summer when they aren’t as hungry. Adaptability is an important part of our job as keepers!

Thanks to you!

Our Virtual Tiger Day 5k in July was as a roaring success!

With the lack of tour revenue due to COVID-19, new fundraising events were developed to support the sanctuary and keep us all connected, even while apart. We held our first virtual Tiger Day 5k in July – with nearly 700 participants, it was a smashing success! Our Pet Tabbies Not Tigers Halloween Costume Contest brought smiles to all our faces and reiterated that the animals at the sanctuary are predators, and not pets. On Giving Tuesday, more than $85,000 was raised for the sanctuary and the new tractor that was purchased with Giving Tuesday funds is a welcome addition for our site team, who have already made good use of it!

It is only with your continued support that Carolina Tiger Rescue can provide safe, peaceful forever homes to wild cats in need. Thank you, in advance, for helping make 2021 the best year yet!

Louie the Bulldog channeled ET in our Pet Tabbies Not Tigers Halloween Costume Contest.

On Giving Tuesday, the generosity of our donors and supporters allowed the purchase of a tractor that will be an invaluable resource for our site team.
Tours and Important Dates

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

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

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

**BEADS & BLING VIRTUAL AUCTION & CELEBRATION:**
February 28

**SUMMER CAMPS:**
June and July, 2021

**MORE INFORMATION:** CarolinaTigerRescue.org

Thank you for helping us weather the storm in 2020!
Cheers to a healthy 2021.

To learn more about the work we do and the animals we have rescued, visit our website: www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org