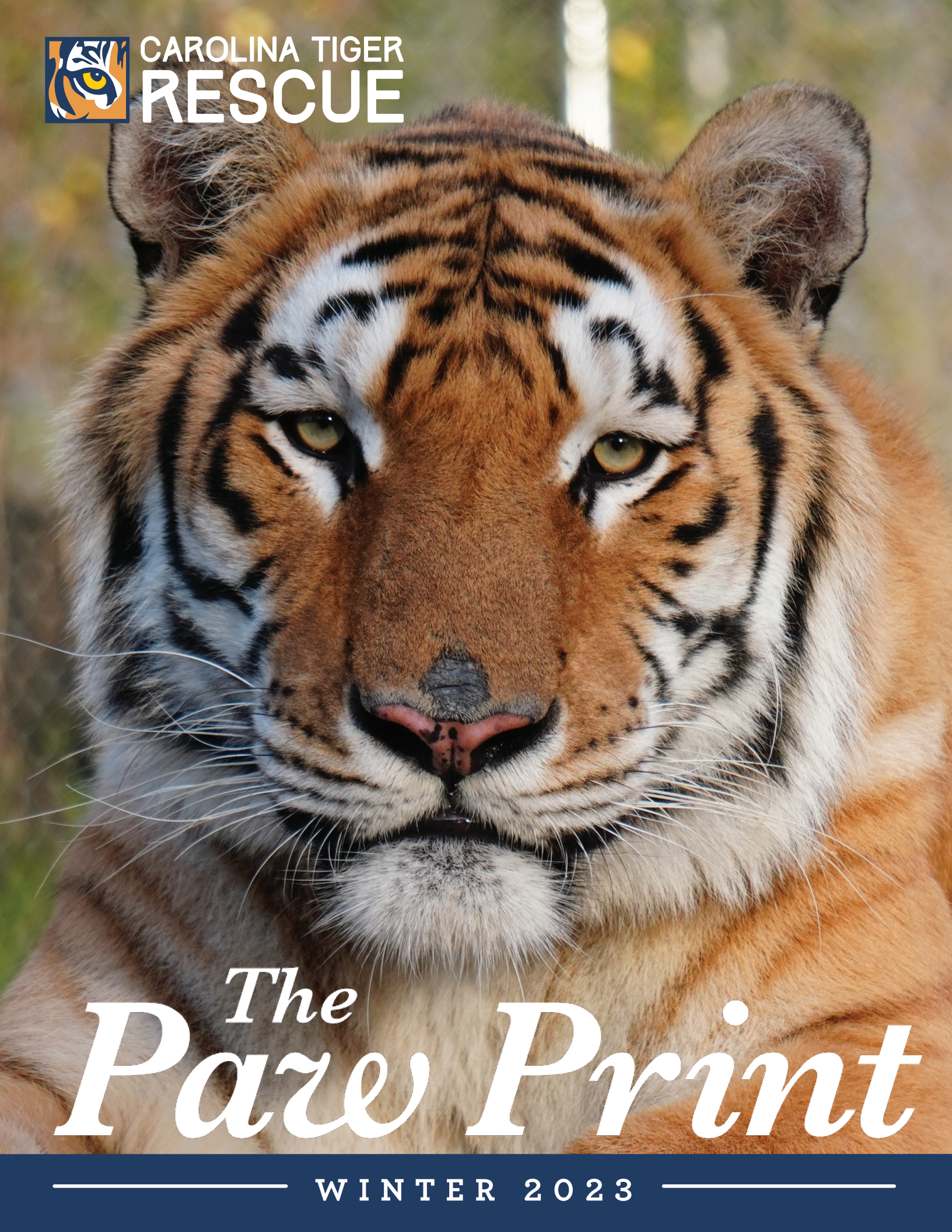




CAROLINA TIGER
RESCUE



The
Paw Print

WINTER 2023

Director's Desk

The recent passing of the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA) has caused me to think about the changing landscape of exotic cat rescue. This federal act bans private ownership of big cats defined as lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, cougars, or any hybrid of these species, and prohibits direct contact between the animals and the public. With an estimate of over 5,000 tigers living in the United States, many owned privately, this will have a huge impact on the lives of these animals.

But how do we get from the passing of the legislation to ensuring forever homes for these cats? Large organizations like IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), USHS (US Human Society) and ALDF (Animal League Defense Fund) are currently at the legal forefront, paving the way for accredited sanctuaries like Carolina Tiger Rescue to provide forever homes. The passing of the Big Cat Public Safety Act will give these organizations the legal standing to work with

authorities to remove animals from private homes and non-accredited facilities such as road-side zoos.

While the BCPSA is a huge step forward for the future of big cats, the work is not over. There is still a gap in the protection of exotic cats with no mention of small cats in the legislature. In the past year alone, we have rescued five bobcats, a serval, and a caracal, all from private homes. Many states still allow private ownership of small cat species, and some do not even require a permit.

Carolina Tiger Rescue will continue to work with our partner organizations to ensure a future forever home in our sanctuary for big and small cats in need. Our goal is to remain rescue ready, but our hope is one day there will no longer be a need for rescue.

Kris



KRIS MARINO
Executive Director

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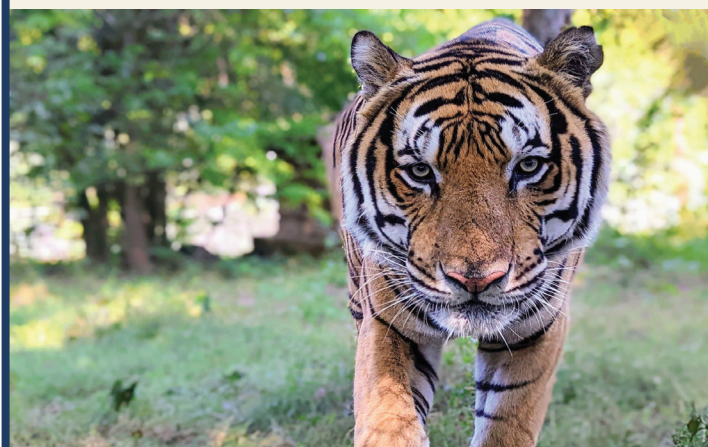
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WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer
Adopt an Animal
Be a Monthly Sustainer
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

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
CarolinaTigerRescue.org



Samar Tiger

MEET NAVEEN TIGER



Naveen Tiger is one of four big cats Carolina Tiger rescued from “Tiger King Park” in Thackerville, Oklahoma in early summer of 2021. This facility was shut down due to numerous Endangered Species Act violations - serious offenses that include a lack of adequate or timely veterinary care, a lack of appropriate nutrition, no shelter to protect them from inclement weather, and no shelter of a sufficient size to allow them to engage in normal behavior. In total, 68 cats were rescued. Due to the nature of the court case, we were unable to speak about them until last year.

Naveen and the other Oklahoma cats now receive the best in veterinary care, diets, daily enrichment, and enclosure space and design.

They have settled in wonderfully to sanctuary life and have proven to be very special additions!

As the newest resident on Oak Hill, Naveen has already captured the hearts of hundreds of visitors. This handsome male has a laid-back and flirtatious personality that is often interrupted by severe cases of the “zoomies”! He is always eager to greet visitors with a chuffle or two and loves to destroy enrichment boxes.

Naveen and his rescue story is a great example of why the entire big cat sanctuary community is thrilled by the passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act. Roadside zoos like “Tiger King Park” will no longer be allowed to exploit big cats like Naveen for profit.



VISIT OUR KID'S WEBSITE!

Interested in teaching your kids more about wild cats and Carolina Tiger Rescue? Our Kid's Website is a fantastic resource. On this site you will find information about all 12 of our species, the 55 residents that call Carolina Tiger Rescue home, fun activities, games, quizzes, and our very own Bloggers!

SCAN THE
CODE TO
VISIT:



Animal Spotlight

PREDATORS, NOT PETS: MEET MOLLY & ELVIS



MOLLY BOBCAT

Age: 1.5 • On Tour: Yes

Molly was about a year old when she was brought to us last year by a family who owned her and voluntarily surrendered her into our care. She was captive-born at an exotic breeding facility and was gifted to her owners at just a few months of age. While her owners love her dearly and have provided for her better than most, they knew that being a “pet” was not the life she deserved.

While it took some adjusting to her new life, Molly has become quite the inquisitive bobcat! She is always curious as to what the humans are doing when they are near her enclosure. She can be found supervising from her favorite platform high above, or visiting with her next-door neighbor, Talon Bobcat.

Age: 15 • On Tour: No

ELVIS SERVAL

In 2009, Carolina Tiger Rescue received a call from a woman stating that her friend owned a pet serval that she could no longer care for. The caller would not identify herself and asked if we could take the serval. It was explained to the caller that the owner of the animal would need to speak with our curator (who was not on duty that day) to arrange the rescue. The next morning, our curator discovered a full grown serval in a small dog crate at the entrance to the sanctuary. A note left on the crate said that the serval’s name was Elvis. After being examined, Elvis was found to be malnourished, weighing far less than he should have. He also had evidence of a collar having grown into his neck and he had scarring on his forehead that we believe came from him constantly rubbing his face on the crate.

While Elvis can be a social serval and will often come up to the fence to greet visitors, his wild instincts and serval behaviors are why he would have never made a good pet.



In order to surrender their private pets over to Carolina Tiger Rescue, we ask owners to sign a document that states they “...will not acquire any additional dangerous exotic animals including but not limited to any rescued, donated, traded or sold exotic animals.” With the rise in popularity of small wild cats and other exotic animals being purchased as pets, this is one way we ensure that owners will not continue to support the exotic pet trade.

Pictured Left: Elvis Serval the day he was found outside of our gate in a dog crate.

CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE MINI-BITES

Bite-sized stories to catch you up on what's happening at Carolina Tiger Rescue!

Fabio Porcupine gets an upgraded enclosure

Our site team worked diligently last year to build Fabio Porcupine a new enclosure that better suits his needs! It is fully insulated including the ceiling. It has windows that close up tight for the winter. He also has tunnels that lead outside, a denbox underground, safe places to burrow and dig, and now it's easier than ever for keepers to get in to clean and scatter his food. This project is a fantastic example of the hard work our site team puts in year-round to improve the sanctuary.



Carolina Tiger Rescue welcomes two new species



Carolina Tiger Rescue is now home to two new species: a New Guinea singing dog (Cantata) and a raccoon (Garcia). Rescuing wild cats means we're prepared and ready to welcome other carnivorous/omnivorous species. Both Garcia and Cantata fit right in to our current system of animal care and what our keepers and volunteers are used to caring for on a daily basis. Garcia and Cantata have settled in well to the sanctuary, and Cantata can be found (loudly) greeting guests on tour! Garcia is currently off tour and enjoys his days sleeping in his cozy den box.

A Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA) Update

We are thrilled to announce that the Big Cat Public Safety Act was passed UNANIMOUSLY by the Senate and signed into law at the end of 2022 by President Biden. This bill ends the private ownership of certain big cats and their hybrids and prohibits direct public contact with big cats, putting an end to the cruel cub petting operations using these animals.

It is important to note that the BCPSA only extends to certain "big" cats. There are many smaller species of wild cat that continue to be exploited for profit in the United States.



YOU make the difference!

Become a Volunteer



Volunteers play a vital role at the sanctuary. Whether you're a tour guide, helping keepers as an animal care volunteer, staffing the gift shop, or assisting our site team - we are always grateful for a helping hand!

To learn more about volunteering, email our Volunteer Coordinator, Maryssa Hill, at:

MaryssaHill@CarolinaTigerRescue.org



Daisy Coatimundi

Congratulations to January's Volunteer of the Month: Megan D.



Megan is an incredible animal care volunteer who joined the team in December 2021. She has logged more than 400 hours since, and is someone the animal keepers know they can trust to get things done. Her favorite species is the coatimundi (like Daisy, pictured above) and she loves any experience she has with Mila and Riley Tigers. Thank you for all of your hard work, Megan!

Operation: Rescue Ready Part II was a success!



Carolina Tiger Rescue wrapped up another very successful Giving Tuesday in November, raising over \$58,000 for a new big cat enclosure and other habitat improvements including new food chutes, water bowls, lock outs, and den boxes. With the support of a generous donor who offered a matching gift of \$18,000, we were able to meet our goal and ensure that we stay rescue ready.

Thank you!

Our Modular Building is OPEN for business!

Our modular building is ready to be used! After acquiring the necessary permits and building a handicap access and parking spaces, our December board meeting was held inside to inaugurate the new building. It will now be used as a meeting space, an alternate check-in area for tours, an education center for camps, and more. We are very appreciative of the two bequests that made this purchase happen for us - thank you!



The Keeper's Corner



When we rescue a new animal, their first stop is our quarantine building. They will stay here for approximately 30 days, which allows us to separate/distance them from our resident animals in case they have anything contagious. The quarantine period allows us to fully vet

the animal. We conduct a full physical, collect and run blood, urine and fecal samples, and assess their overall health and behavior. This gives us time to treat any fecal parasites and determine if they have any potential diseases. If the animal is intact, we will likely spay or neuter them as well.

The quarantine building may look sparse, but it's important to be able to disinfect everything when we clean. Each enclosure has an indoor and

outdoor shift, so they have options. We want to make sure animals are fully treated so they don't carry any parasites or viruses to their outdoor enclosure.

Quarantine also gives us an opportunity to get to know their personalities. Being in a new environment and around new people can be scary, so we make sure to spend extra time with them so we can get to know each other. We bring treats, sit with them and give enrichment to help them adjust. Once they're more comfortable, we can assess if they'd do better on or off the tour route. We also take into account the species to determine the appropriate enclosure for them. Once animals have been treated and completed their quarantine period, they can be moved to their new outdoor enclosure.



Left: Cara Vitale – Keeper
Center: Larissa Hill – Keeper
Right: Lauren Humphries – Senior Keeper
Not pictured: Kalyn Walker - Keeper

Southeast Asia A Celebration of Tigers Past & Promised



Black Tie & Tails Ball | Saturday, February 25, 2023
Washington Duke Inn | 3001 Cameron Blvd. Durham, NC

Join Carolina Tiger Rescue on February 25 as we celebrate the tiger and look toward a future when tigers are no longer endangered. The annual Black Tie & Tails Ball benefits the amazing animals at Carolina Tiger Rescue. For more information on tickets, sponsorships, auction items, and more, scan the QR code:





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www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org

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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:
Beginning in March

BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL:
February 25

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK:
April 3-7

EARTH DAY:
April 22

With your help, we were able to welcome four new rescues.

Cantata New Guinea Singing Dog



Garcia Raccoon



Pharaoh Serval



Nelly Caracal



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