At the beginning of last year’s Annual Report I alluded to this being our 40th year of rescuing and caring for Captive Wildlife. Well, what a year it has been! None of us could have anticipated what has transpired in 2020 – the aftershocks of which we are still engrossed within to this day. From the rise of the Coronavirus pandemic, to the fall of the Tiger King, this has certainly been a year for the books. In fact, two of our dedicated volunteers felt just that same sentiment, and have authored “Forever Wild, Forever Home” the true story of The Wild Animal Sanctuary.

However topsy-turvy the world may be, we have been blessed with several silver linings. First, is the adoption of our newest facility, The Wild Animal Sanctuary- Texas, into our network of sanctuaries. This facility, located in Boyd, Texas, boasts 41 acres with on-site staff and intern housing. Their spacious bear habitat is one of the best I have encountered, as it is heavily forested with mature, deciduous trees providing endless joy and enrichment for the resident bruins. Along with the 70+ rescued Animals we have inherited with this new facility, we have also gained a handful of new staff members who are responsible for the day to day animal care, operations, and business functions for the Texas Sanctuary. We are thankful to have such dedicated and caring individuals join our Sanctuary family and look forward to working together for years to come.

Our next silver lining revolves around the docuseries sensation that is the TIGER KING. However salacious and difficult to watch it may be for true animal lovers, the spike in awareness about the Captive Wildlife Crisis is a clear benefit to our mission. Despite Covid-19, we have seen steady to increased visitorship to our educational facility in Keenesburg, which is attributable to the interest generated by the true crime series, as well as many just wanting a safe, socially-distanced escape from the monotony of staying indoors. With such a bright spotlight being shone on the Captive Wildlife Crisis and its key antagonists being so prominently featured in the show, the public and regulatory pressures on such places has increased dramatically starting a chain reaction of long-awaited court cases, seizures, and relinquishments much to our delight. At last! Many of these magnificent creatures were able to be rescued and brought to our Sanctuary where they received proper veterinary care, nutrition, companionship, and large acreage habitats to explore to their hearts’ content.

Though several battles have been won, the war against horrendous and exploitative facilities like Wildlife in Need, Dade City Wild Things, and The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park is far from over. No doubt, we will be called in to rescue from these and similar facilities for many months and years to come. We eagerly await the call to action!

With so many rescues transpiring in 2020, we are more appreciative than ever to have our Wild Animal Refuge to rely on. With over 9600 acres of dense forests, scruffy grasslands, and rocky outcroppings, the Refuge is uniquely able to provide expansive, large acreage habitats for our rescued animals. With a whopping 84 new rescues this year alone, we certainly use all available space and resources to their fullest extent. Developing nearly 10,000 acres of remote, virgin ranchland into habitats is no small feat, and we are forever grateful to our Supporters and Refuge Founders who make this massive undertaking possible. With over 550 rescued animals happily settled between all facilities, we are easily the largest carnivore sanctuary in the world!

Despite the challenges of surviving a COVID year, our dedicated Volunteers, Staff, and Supporters have seen us through and allowed us to continue our mission of educating the public about the Captive Wildlife Crisis while simultaneously rescuing many in-need large, exotic animals both domestically and abroad. In the pages and stories that follow, we invite you to delve deep into the true mission of The Wild Animal Sanctuary and the Animals we serve. We couldn’t do it without you! 🐻

Sincerely,

Pat Craig, Executive Director
Imagine being a Bear sitting peacefully in the woods and listening to pine trees as they whisper to each other courtesy of a gentle breeze. As the morning light begins to find its way through the tall and majestic pines, a startling crack with an instantaneous boom suddenly fills the air!

C reated by a high power rifle, the shocking sound is clearly unmistakable. And just as your nerves and body begin to relax and recover from such a brilliantly rude and resonating sound - it happens again!

Over and over, the weapon discharges, but with an unpredictable rhythm, so each piercing instance catches you off guard. You discover there is no way to escape these sounds, since you are confined within a small and completely barren space.

As the hours, days, weeks and months pass, your mind learns to block the noise no matter how greatly it continues to assault your ears and basic survival instinct. This, unfortunately, was the reality of one male Asiatic Black Bear that was held captive inside a concrete and steel cage located in Pennsylvania.

As many of our regular newsletter subscribers and faithful Facebook, Instagram and other social media fans have already learned, the male Asiatic Black Bear is named “Dillan”, and was in dire need of help.

Thankfully, Dillan was recently rescued from a place called the Union County Sportsmen’s Club - which is located in Millmont, Pennsylvania. The Sportsmen’s Club is a facility situated near state parks and other vast tracts of forest plots and offers memberships with access to amenities such as a bar, restaurant, camping area and massive rifle shooting range, as well as an additional clay pigeon shooting complex.

It is a private club for paying members that just happens to have a make-shift area where a small number of cages were built. Seemingly like an afterthought, some corn-crib cages, a line of small bird pens and a concrete and steel cage built to hold two Bears were positioned directly between the club house and shooting range.

Stories and reasoning’s behind the collection of animals being held seem to vary… but in general, the club said they were there to entertain and educate members. Unfortunately, a single Bobcat, along with a single Raccoon, a collection of game birds and Dillan the Bear were practically the only animals there.

However, in the field adjacent to Dillan’s cage and the shooting range, were a small herd of deer also being held captive by the club. Needless to say, all of these animals were subjected to the constant sound of rifles and shotguns firing loads of ammunition less than 150 feet away.

Dillan’s plight had gained national attention shortly after PETA challenged the Club to address serious concerns relating to his health. Dillan was severely obese, with significant health problems that included bad teeth and infected gums.

He was also declawed at some point, which left him with stumps and severely disfigured toes.

As a result of his mental suffering, Dillan would sit upright in his barren cage and rock back and forth in stereotypic fashion for hours at a time. If you missed the video before, go to: http://tinyurl.com/y4w7cy9

PETA began to apply relentless pressure on the club through the use of highway billboards, TV and radio ads, petitions and news media coverage. The USDA did their part by increasing their inspections and issuing citations.

When PETA asked actor Alec Baldwin to write a second letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania, and also released his letter to news agencies, it was picked up by People Magazine. As such, their millions of readers became the final public push that was needed to secure Dillan’s release.

The USDA worked with the Sportsmen’s Club to come to an agreement where Dillan would be transferred from the club to an accredited sanctuary. Fortunately for Dillan, TWAS just happened to be the accredited sanctuary they were thinking of… so we were called upon to quickly remove Dillan.

Like so many of the rescues we are involved with that are contentious and high profile, the people holding the animals will usually claim (1) the animals are perfectly fine and do not need to be saved, and/or (2) they certainly can’t be moved due to their age… or the deep love they have for their owners… or even because they have lived at that location so long that they would simply die if they had to move somewhere else.

Of course, those are not legitimate excuses and are never true, but they love to use them purely to mislead the public.

We knew from having helped hundreds of Bears in similar situations - including another obese Asiatic Bear named Lily - that we would be successful in relocating Dillan and would provide him with a wonderful home.

From day one, club members, employees and the organization’s Board of Directors had continuously denied allegations that Dillan had serious medical issues, and continued to stand by their claims that Dillan was healthy and happy just the way
he was. Yet, we could easily see Dillan was extremely obese from eating too much and having no exercise, and that his mouth showed clear signs of gum and dental disease.

It was obvious Dillan needed medical attention right away since his mouth was likely riddled with infection. And, if allowed to persist, Dillan could become septic and die from associated complications.

A few days prior to leaving Pennsylvania, the USDA had convinced the club’s veterinarian to begin giving Dillan antibiotics since he had a hole in his jaw that was actively draining fluid. This was definitely a sign of infection, and the antibiotics would be helpful toward subduing whatever was going on inside his mouth until he could receive proper treatment.

Upon arrival in Colorado, Dillan was taken directly to our Veterinary Hospital so we could get him off the floor and stabilized by the anesthesia team, the doctors were able to get ready for his big day under anesthesia. Soon, tons of specialized dental equipment began rolling into the Hospital and the team turned their focus on placing everything exactly where it would be needed most. Without a doubt, this condition also provided just as many agonizing years while his mouth slowly rotted away.

For the week or so it took to get all of the specialists and professionals lined up to attend this procedure, we were able to really get to know Dillan. We were pleasantly surprised to see what a unique character he had, and found ourselves falling in love with his daily antics.

Staying in a part of the hospital where he could stay indoors, or go outside, Dillan found endless ways to “accidentally” garner attention. Some of his favorite antics included rearranging his toys and furniture numerous times a day… to flipping his large 500 gallon water tank just so he could parade around with it on his back (upside down).

During the times he would flip the tank and get under it (as if he was pretending to be a giant turtle), he would walk around until someone would arrive to take it off. Then, suddenly, he would lay down so you could no longer see him.

For now, everyone (including Dillan) was more intent on getting a good look inside his mouth much more than worrying about his physical exercise (which would definitely help him lose weight).

Each time we would stick a pole into his enclosure to lift the tank - two little stubby paws would come out from under the tank and push the pole away. Further, whenever we decided he didn’t want our attention and would begin to walk away… Dillan would stand up and look as if we were ruining the game - seemingly asking us to come back and play some more!

The list of his funny antics and charming personality goes on and on to the point where our veterinary medical team has become convinced Dillan needs his own cartoon strip. From slapstick comedy to stoic dry humor, Dillan has quite the repertoire of comic behaviors.

However, the time came when Dillan’s van club had to put their smiles on hold in order to get ready for his big day under anesthesia. Soon, tons of specialized dental equipment began rolling into the Hospital and the team turned their focus on placing everything exactly where it would be needed most.

Although we knew he was incredibly overweight, we found ourselves totally amazed when twelve perfectly strong people could barely budge Dillan! That’s right, even with twelve people crowded around his gurney, the most we could get him off the floor was about eight inches.

Thankfully, our veterinary hospital has a custom built lifting platform that was made for this exact situation. With a capacity to lift over 2,000 pounds, it succeeded in lifting Dillion up to the surgery platform, which was approximately four feet of the ground. Being so obese, everyone was naturally concerned for Dillan’s ability to breathe while sedated. Fortunately, our hospital received a special grant last year to help purchase an anesthesia ventilator (breathing machine) that was designed for extremely large animals; all the way up to elephants in size!

Once he was on the table, intubated, and stabilized by the anesthesiology team, the doctors were finally able to get a better look into his mouth. The term OMG (oh my God) resounded!

Dillan’s mouth was a complete disaster. It was absolutely ravaged by widespread infection and long-term decay.

This kind of wide spread devastation is a direct result of living for years without proper care, diagnosis or treatment.

Without a doubt, this condition also provided just as many agonizing years of suffering!

The sheer amount of unnatural debris that was pulled from within the rotted and hollow root canals of his canine teeth was mind boggling. So too was the number of infection drainage holes that were discovered throughout his teeth and gums.
This is what Dillan lived with day-in and day-out as he sat in his barren cage at the Sportsmen’s Club. And, of course, everyone there said he was fine and perfectly happy. Bless Dillan for having the fortitude to make it through so many agonizing years while his mouth slowly rotted away.

Dillan did very well through the entire procedure which lasted approximately two and a half hours. The expert team of dentists removed two of his canine teeth (or what was barely left of them), and the entire row of smaller teeth on front portion of his lower jaw.

Dillan was fortunate to not need work on the smaller teeth located at the front of his jaw, nor on any of his molars… but did require root canal therapy on the other two broken canine teeth.

We hate to say it was somewhat of a bloody mess, but this kind of severe damage required the doctors to work in areas that had significant blood supply. Yet, in reality, we have to admit it looked a lot worse than it really was, and Dillan didn’t truly lose much blood.

It’s just this kind of surgery is never pretty, so we think most of us would be glad there isn’t a mirror above the chair at our own dentist’s office.

Thankfully, Dillan made it through the procedure without issue and woke up on his favorite hammock as if nothing ever happened. With lots of Novocain and other pain control, the only thing Dillan noticed was he quite oddly couldn’t feel his tongue for the next few hours!

By the next morning, Dillan was back to his funny self - playing with all his toys and furniture and loving the constant attention he was getting. With lots of soft treats to eat and endless fruit juices to pick from, he was pretty happy with the outcome, too!

Now that we have address his urgent dental issues, the next phase of Dillan’s rehabilitation will involve getting lots of fresh air and exercise. He will be moved to a habitat with a very pretty female Asiatic Black Bear named “Lily” who was rescued from a very similar situation a couple years ago. She, too, was morbidly obese and arrived with a stomach that dragged on the ground… but today, she is as fit as a fiddle and will be very happy to have a new friend. Dillan is fixed, which means they will only be dating and not mating – so there is no need for anyone to worry about little “Dillans” or “Lilys” joining the ranks.

We want to thank everyone who played a part in Dillan’s rescue and recovery – from PETA and the USDA, to Alec Baldwin and the Governor of Pennsylvania. Additionally, we want to thank the hundreds of thousands of people (including you) who heard of Dillan’s plight and took action.

Ironically, it literally took an insanely huge collective of people and energy to get Dillan released from a tiny handful of stubborn people at the Union County Sportsmen’s Club. However, for Dillan’s sake, it was absolutely worth the effort! As so many of you know, our motto is:

**Saving one animal may not change the world...**

**But surely, for that one animal...**

**The world will change forever!**

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Wayne H. Givens, President & CEO
2010

SPRING 2010
(5) Lynx (6) Bobcats rescued from WA

SPRING 2010
(1) Bobcat rescued NE

SPRING 2010
(5) Tigers (1) African Serval rescued from CO

SUMMER 2010
(1) African Lion (1) Black Bear rescued from OH

SUMMER 2010
(1) Bobcat rescued from ID

FALL 2010
(1) Wolf Hybrid rescued from MI

FALL 2010
(2) African Lions rescued from CANADA

WINTER 2010
(1) Brown Bear rescued from CA

WINTER 2010
(2) Black Bears rescued from OH

WINTER 2010
(20) Black Bears (5) Grizzly Bears rescued from TX

WINTER 2010
(1) Tiger rescued from WA

2011

SPRING 2011
(1) Tiger rescued from MO

SPRING 2011
(6) Shetland Sheep rescued from MO

SUMMER 2011
(25) African Lions rescued from BOLIVIA

FALL 2011
(4) Black Bears rescued from OH

WINTER 2011
(1) Cavia Mundi rescued from CO

WINTER 2011
(3) African Lions rescued from PANAMA

2012

SPRING 2012
(1) Black Bear rescued from IL

SPRING 2012
(2) African Porcupines (2) Coati Mundi (12) Jackals rescued from CO

SUMMER 2012
(2) Wolves rescued from OH

SUMMER 2012
(1) African Lion rescued from CANADA

FALL 2012
(2) Black Bears rescued from CA

FALL 2012
(2) Mtn Lions rescued from CO

WINTER 2012
(50) Alpacas rescued from CO

WINTER 2012
(1) Wolf rescued from CO

WINTER 2012
(4) African Lions (4) Black Bears rescued from OH

WINTER 2012
(1) Ostrich rescued from CO

2013

SPRING 2013
(5) Syrian Brown Bears rescued from WI

SPRING 2013
(1) Eurasian Lynx rescued from CANADA

SUMMER 2013
(2) Wolves rescued from OH

SUMMER 2013
(1) African Lions (4) Coyotes (1) Kit Fox rescued from MEXICO

FALL 2013
(5) Black Bears (3) Koldik Bears (3) Mtn Lions rescued from FL

FALL 2013
(2) Wolves rescued from CO

FALL 2013
(2) Mtn Lions rescued from CO

FALL 2013
(3) Black Bears rescued from CO

FALL 2013
(2) Black Bears rescued from NY

FALL 2013
(3) Black Bears rescued from NY

FALL 2013
(6) Black Bears rescued from NY

WINTER 2013
(3) Black Bears rescued from SC

WINTER 2013
(1) Black Bear rescued from NC

2014

SPRING 2014
(15) Grizzly Bears (6) Black Bears rescued from GA

SPRING 2014
(1) Black Bear rescued from LA

SUMMER 2014
(1) Emu rescued from CO

SUMMER 2014
(1) Bobcat rescued from CO

SUMMER 2014
(1) Mtn Lion (1) Black Bear (1) African Serval rescued from NY

SUMMER 2014
(3) Black Bears (5) Wolves (1) Mountain Lion (1) Coyote (1) Kit Fox

FALL 2014
(4) Foxes (1) Bobcat (1) Siberian Lynx (1) Bengal Cat rescued from LA

FALL 2014
(3) Tigers (2) Black Leopards (1) Leopard (2) Mtn Lions rescued from OH

SPRING 2015
(3) Syrian Brown Bears rescued from WV

SPRING 2015
(2) Asian Bears rescued from TN

SPRING 2015
(3) Black Bears (5) Wolves (1) Mtn Lion (1) Coyote (1) Kit Fox

SPRING 2015
(4) Foxes (1) Bobcat (1) Siberian Lynx (1) Bengal Cat rescued from LA

SPRING 2015
(3) Tigers (2) Black Leopards (1) Leopard (2) Mtn Lions rescued from OH

SPRING 2015
(3) Syrian Brown Bears rescued from WV

SUMMER 2015
(8) African Lions (1) Mountain Lion (2) Bobcats (1) Coyote rescued from MEXICO

SUMMER 2015
(2) Ostriches rescued from NM

SUMMER 2015
(1) African Lion rescued from MEXICO

SUMMER 2015
(1) Black Bear rescued from GA

SUMMER 2015
(1) Tiger rescued from PA

WINTER 2015
(2) Emus rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(24) Chickens rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(2) Pigs rescued from CO

2015

SPRING 2015
(2) American Bison rescued from WA

SPRING 2015
(5) Monkeys (1) Tiger (1) Bobcat rescued from WA

SPRING 2015
(6) African Lions (4) Grizzly Bears rescued from SPAIN

WINTER 2015
(1) Emu rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(2) Pigs rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(24) Chickens rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(2) Pigs rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(2) Pigs rescued from CO

WINTER 2015
(20) Black Bears (5) Grizzly Bears rescued from TX

WINTER 2015
(1) Tiger rescued from WA

WINTER 2015
(5) Monkeys (1) Tiger rescued from WA

WINTER 2015
(1) Emu rescued from CO
In 2020 the Sanctuary was home to over 550 large exotic animals – making us the largest carnivore sanctuary in the world – and that number is constantly growing due to our dedicated efforts to save the lives of what seems like a never-ending stream of animals needing to be rescued.

In 2020, we were able to rescue 84 animals from across the United States and internationally representing over 14 species and sub-species from all over the world. 56 of those rescued came to the Sanctuary in Keenesburg and the other 28 are now at home at The Wild Animal Refuge.

Animal rescues take an extraordinary amount of time, resources, and dedication. In 2020, our team drove nearly 35,000 miles on rescue operations within the United States, using over 5400 gallons of fuel. Leading up to their release, we do everything in our power to ensure that each obstacle faced by these animals is overcome so that they can have the best life possible.

Rescuing these animals is the first step in their journey at The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Some live up to 30 years of their lives in our care. They come to us from all different stages of life and often with medical complications from their previous life before they were rescued that require long-term care.
A
other win for animals came in the form of a final court order where the owners of a facility located in Dade City, Florida called “Dade City’s Wild Things” (DCWT) were more or less forced to shut down their business and were told they could never own Tigers or other endangered species ever again.

Yes, it was an extreme order, but given the circumstances surrounding the case, it was by far the best judgment that could have been handed down. In many ways it was a landmark case, especially since it involved people using Tiger cubs for profit by selling “swim time with babies” to people who were willing to pay for what we would consider to be an oddly grotesque experience.

Using cubs that were in some cases a matter of days or weeks old, the owners of DCWT would allow strangers to come to their roadside zoo and pay money to swim in their regular backyard pool with incredibly vulnerable baby Tigers (and many other exotic species of cubs). Videos posted on the internet showed tiny baby Tigers crying and struggling to get away from laughing and smiling people who were clearly clueless to the distress they were causing.

For years this family used animals for their personal gain, as well as funneled donations that were intended for their non-profit into their own personal business accounts. Accusations of fraud and embezzlement came to light after the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services filed charges against Kathy Stearns.

Stearns, 59, was arrested and charged with the federal Endangered Species Act. The order clearly bans Wild Things from ever owning Tigers again.

With this monumental legal battle completed, we were asked to go to Florida to rescue the remaining six Tigers that were still being held at DCWT compound. Like so many places we go to, the Stearns did everything they could to thwart our efforts to quickly and safely load the Tigers.

Even though our Sanctuary is never the one to initiate these types of legal battles, the perpetrators always take out their frustrations and anger against us. It’s a rather odd deflection to understand, especially since we are rarely involved in the actual court case and usually receive a request to help the animals at some point after the dust has settled.

Much of their anger seems to be related to the fact they had numerous chances early on in the process to change or comply with initial outside requests to improve the quality of care for their animals. But instead, they always resist and choose to dig their heels into the sand.

As the battle rages on, they end up wasting precious amounts of time and resources. Most do it to the point where they become bankrupt, or completely exhaust every legal option available.

Finally, when they have lost everything and are now required to give up their animals, they become desperate to blame somebody else for their misery. Yet, rather than blaming the entity that won the battle, or themselves for clearly failing to care for the animals, they instead turn their anger in another direction and attack the nearest innocent party.

This happens to also be a very typical animal characteristic, as many dominant animals that lose a decisive fight over ruling their pack or pride will then turn and attack one of the weaker animals that had nothing to do with the altercation. This is done just so they can draw a tiny bit of satisfaction from causing someone else to suffer.

Seeing we are usually the first people to be on scene after one of these epic battles, we are usually guaranteed to get physically blocked, yelled at, spit on, threatened or just plain harassed the entire time we are there.

In some cases, like a recent rescue involving two Tigers
Swimming With Wild Things Cont’d

and one Lioness from Tri-State Zoological Park in Cumberland, Maryland, we are still being harassed by numerous people who were directly involved with the zoo and its resulting legal battle. Like parasitic bacteria, these people not only tried to block and harass our efforts on the day of the rescue, they then physically followed our rescue team back to Colorado.

After many attempts to harass us at the Sanctuary, they returned to Maryland and have continued to spend their days doing everything from posting fake ads for missing animals (yes their Tigers and Lion) in Colorado newspapers, to personally stalking our supporters, volunteers and staff online.

Some of these nuts have openly stated they are making it their life’s mission to see our Sanctuary shut down. These acts of lunacy clearly depict the type of characters involved with these horrendous facilities - and so as crazy as all of this may sound - it actually makes sense.

Simply stated, the kind of people that will abuse, neglect and let animals suffer are the same kind of people that continually drag our society into the gutter. It’s been proven over and over that people who kill, hurt, maim or abuse animals have serious mental issues and need to seek treatment.

For our part, we focus on their victims, and work tirelessly to heal the wounds, correct the health deficiencies and give each animal the proper life they should have had from the very beginning. It clearly makes our job harder when we are constantly harassed by people who should have better things to do in life, but we remain focused for the benefit of the animals.

In the case of Dade City Wild Things, instead of being able to connect our transport cages to each of the individual Tiger enclosures, the Stearns refused to let us temporarily remove a simple PVC pipe handrail that ran along the path surrounding their exhibition cages. By doing so, they knew we would be forced to sedate all six Tigers rather than simply allowing them to walk into our transport cages.

When people choose to do things like this, it completely shatters every long-standing claim they made about loving their animals unconditionally, and that they would always do whatever was in their best interest.

Of course we were glad to get the final six Tigers out of there safely, especially since we knew their hellish life would stop the moment we had them loaded in our rescue trailer and were headed back to Colorado.

Since their arrival at our Sanctuary, we have spent a lot of time acclimating these Tigers to their new home and resolving any medical issues they may have had. Soon, they will be joining other Tigers that were taken from DCWT in an earlier debacle involving good old Joe Exotic.

Our final tally of rescued Tigers that were at one time or another used by the Stearns in their “swim with Tigers” scheme comes to 25. Sadly, that is only a fraction of the animals they used over the years, but at least these 25 Tigers will be able to live the rest of their lives being pampered, well cared for, and finally get to swim on their own terms!
In 2020, we had over 16 full-time Animal Keepers on staff to care for over 550 rescued animals. The Sanctuary operates on 789 acres of land in Weld County, Colorado. Operations include:

- 1 Operations Office
- 1 Business Office
- 1 Veterinary Clinic
- 1 Lion House
- 1 Tiger Compound
- 1 Rest Area/Snack Bar
- 1 Nutrition Center
- 1 Education Center
- 1 Welcome Center

In 2020 The Wild Animal Sanctuary delivered over 1.75 million gallons of water and 2.75 million pounds of food to our rescued animals. Utilizing multiple refrigerated trucks with three full-time drivers, the Sanctuary picks up food from over 40 food sources across Colorado’s Front Range.

Our natural large acreage habitats are a critical component in addressing the overall physical and psychological needs of our rescued animals.

In 2020, our Operations Team built 8 new, large scale habitats at The Wild Animal Sanctuary and 6 new habitats at The Wild Animal Refuge for our growing population of rescued animals!

We upgraded 6 of our habitats at the Keenesburg facility. Each habitat received new dens, new fencing, new play structures for enrichment, and hundreds of new trees.

We relocated 4 Tigers, 5 African Lions, and 4 Grizzlies from our Keenesburg Sanctuary to the Wild Animal Refuge in Southern Colorado. Those rescued animals now enjoy even larger and beautifully forested habitats than they had previously known.

Due to limitations caused by Covid-19, we were not able to plant as much as in previous years. However, our Operations Team still planted over 200 trees and thousands of seeds in 2020!

Our expansive Wild Animal Refuge has 9,684 acres bringing the acreage total of both facilities to 10,473 acres!

The Wild Animal Sanctuary-Texas, formerly known as the International Exotic Animal Sanctuary, joined our Sanctuary network in 2020, adding another 41 acres and over 70 additional rescued animals under our care.
Amidst all the other crazy and unpredictable things going on in this world, the one thing we are not surprised by is that Mexico continues to see their Captive Wildlife Crisis growing. With more and more private citizens buying Lions, Tigers, Bears and other exotic animals as pets, the number of animal abuse cases and the blatant disregard for animal welfare will certainly continue to increase.

Although the problems facing mankind right now are critical and should demand our utmost attention, the tribulations relating to other important lives within Mexico should not be completely ignored. As such, we have remained vigilant with our work inside Mexico and that of our colleagues working at the INVICTUS Foundation, which is located in the small city of Pachuca.

As a temporary waystation, the Pachuca facility has become one of the principal locations utilized by the Mexican government and many of the NGO welfare agencies that operate within Mexico. As Tiger after Tiger and Lion after Lion are found in private residences throughout Mexico, the need for a safe place where these animals can go to recover and begin the process of finding permanent sanctuary is high.

Additionally, many of the zoological collections across Mexico are just as much a part of the problem as the circuses were for the past century or more. Most allow uncontrolled breeding and have little-to-no controls for handling dangerous exotic animals and the public interactions that take place.

It’s easy for many of us to forget how lacking their standards relating to animal welfare are, and that most big cats, Bears and other large exotic animals are forced to live in tiny sterile cages. Nutritional deficiencies are another major issue, as nearly every animal that we rescue from inside Mexico has severe medical problems that stem from malnutrition.

This is why the INVICTUS Foundation and their small but efficient facility are so important. Most of the animals that are discovered in illegal or abusive situations within Mexico are usually half starved and suffering from varying degrees of metabolic bone disease. More and more people are breeding Lions, Tigers, Jaguars and other big cats, as well as Bears and other types of exotic animals so they can make money selling them to private individuals. Many of these animals die long before the government or INVICTUS hear about their existence, while many others get resold and shipped to other countries through an illegal wildlife trafficking network.

Thankfully, the waystation in Pachuca offers a much needed service where those animals that are rescued can go and remain safe until a permanent home can be secured. Having worked with the INVICTUS Foundation for nearly fifteen years, we know how hard they work for the benefit of the animals, and how they also campaign on a constant basis for better animal welfare laws within Mexico.

Erika Ortigoza Vázquez is the Executive Director at INVICTUS, and has worked tirelessly for more than two decades as one animal after another found its way to the Foundation’s doorstep. She knows how big the problem really is, and has invested everything she has toward finding a solution.

For the past two years, the Foundation has continually traveled throughout Mexico rescuing animals that were suffering, and brought them back to their facility where they provided medical treatment and round the clock care. As each animal was saved, our Sanctuary moved forward with processing the international paperwork needed to eventually bring the animals to our Sanctuary in Colorado.

Once we had all of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits in place, we were able to transport the animals that had been patiently waiting in Pachuca.

“Pachuca” is a female Tiger that was rescued by the Foundation in May of 2017. At two months of age, she was rescued from two boys that had bought her from a breeder and were keeping her in the back of their pick-up truck. Originally thinking she would make a great pet, they quickly realized...
having a baby Tiger was not the same as having a cute little kitten. After failing at bottle feeding her and providing proper round the clock care, a concerned couple took her from the boys and contacted our Sanctuary. We recommended they take her to the Foundation so they could care for her until she could be transferred to us. Although she was severely underweight, her young age served as a real blessing, since it enabled her to recover much faster than an abused adult might.

By providing a vitamin rich diet and feeding her on a regularly scheduled basis, Pachuca was able to recover to her normal growth rate and avoid the medical complications that would have otherwise plagued her body. As she grew over the past two years, Pachuca was able to remain happy, healthy and well cared for while she waited for the day she would travel to Colorado.

“Patricio” is a male Tiger that was originally held in a private residence somewhere in Mexico. As if he wasn’t enough to care for, the family also purchased a female Tiger named “Shakira”.

As the two Tigers grew in size, the family also realized how dangerous Tigers could be, and eventually decided to dump them both at a local zoo.

Unfortunately, the zoo was no improvement, since Patricio and Shakira were placed inside a small cage where they ended up fighting constantly. With minimal food and practically no space, their survival instincts were forced to kick into high gear and they brawled constantly in order to survive.

Thankfully, INVICTUS heard of the situation and convinced the zoo to surrender them both to the Foundation. Once Patricio and Shakira were at the waystation and living in separate spaces, they were able to calm down and return to a more amicable state.

However, the ultimate goal was to eventually have these two reunite once they made it to Colorado, especially since they had grown up together and actually pined for one another whenever they were not starved or packed into a small space.

“Mia” and “Arusy” are female African Lions that were also living at a zoo inside Mexico. The zoo was located in an area where they had a massive earthquake, and with all the damage they suffered, the zoo was desperate to relocate a number of their animals.

INVICTUS agreed to take Mia and Arusy so they would not have to be put down, but subsequently spent numerous months addressing many of the medical issues they were suffering from when they arrived. Rather than being half starved to death, Mia had been kept in a small cage and was overfed until she became morbidly obese.

Beyond having an ample figure, Mia also had lesions all over her face, which were caused by excessive rubbing and unsanitary conditions. Once she was at the Waystation, Mia was put on a diet and given space to exercise.

Additionally, Mia’s lesions were treated, and over time, her face completely cleared up. By the time of their transfer to Colorado took place, both Mia and Arusy were in tip top shape and ready to enjoy living in an expansive habitat.

Like all of the animals that come to our Sanctuary, Mia would be given plenty of space and others of her own kind to live with, so she could live as naturally as possible until the day she passed on to another world.

“Nala” is another female African Lion that arrived with this transfer of Mexico refugees. She came from the infamous Tijuana Zoo – which for those readers that might remember – we had another rescue that came from there a few years ago, and that Tiger suffered from some of the worst care and housing conditions we had ever seen.

Nala was held in harsh solitary confinement. The INVICTUS Foundation had to utilize the court system to eventually win her freedom, and in June of 2019 she was finally transferred to their facility. With lots of loving care and attention, Nala was able to recover. However, had they not been able to secure her release when they did, Nala would surely have perished within weeks.

Last but not least, “Kiara” was caught within the excessive illegal wildlife trade inside Mexico. This Lioness was passed from one illegal owner to another until she was finally seized by the government and taken to Pachuca. Like so many of the other rescued animals, Kiara was suffering from severe malnutrition and physical abuse.

The Foundation worked very hard to nurse her back to health, and eventually, Kiara began to look and act like a normal Lion. By the time of
The importance of such can’t be understated, since Lions have evolved in a manner that greatly depends on loud and intricate messaging. Each roar has a distinct message of importance, whether it is to claim territory, warn off invaders or converse with pride mates at great distances.

For us, the sounds that emanate all through the night are simply magical. After years of hearing their nightly conversations, it’s easy to feel as if the night air becomes naked without them.

Within days, all four ladies were beginning to find their place amongst the prides that surrounded them. In particular, Mia and Nala decided they both had a crush on “Gus”, a white male Lion that was living by himself.

Although Gus had dated several other female Lions since his arrival from Canada many months earlier, he had yet to find the perfect match. Now, with two lovely females flirting from the enclosure next door, Gus definitely had new prospects to consider.

In order for us to help develop this relationship, we moved both Nala and Mia to a new habitat, so they could ready the territory for building a new pride. Gus was soon moved to an introduction enclosure within the habitat, so their courting could continue in a controlled manner.

Of course, all of our Lionesses receive contraceptive implants, so even though we do allow dating... there is simply no mating allowed. As handsome as Gus is, the girls will just have to let him know they will never be able to provide him with a nursery full of Simbas or Nalas.

For Shakira, Patricio and Pachuca, they have already begun their assimilation into one of our larger Tiger habitats. Patricio and Shakira spent time getting used to the space, and now Pachuca is taking her turn there.

Soon they will be able to roam freely and enjoy the fresh air and flowing grass that abounds. On the other hand, Kiara and Arusy are continuing to woo the remaining boys in their neighborhood, and we expect each will join one or another of the existing prides - just as soon each girl makes up their mind which pride may or may not suit their needs.

For all of the big cats that made this trip from Mexico, we are very grateful for the work Erika and the INVICTUS Foundation carried out. Without their ability to act as a waystation within Mexico, it would simply be impossible for us to help the animals suffering there.

We are also extremely thankful for your help in supporting our work, as these seven cats were all suffering greatly before anyone intervened on their behalf. With your help, we were able to cooperate on an international level and guarantee these animals would have place where they could go and live comfortably for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for caring, and for giving us the opportunity to make a difference for these amazing creatures!
PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2020, the Sanctuary had over 160,000 visitors. Being an essential business, we were able to remain open to educate the public for the majority of 2020, with COVID-19 precautions in place.

Our Animal Ambassadors presented 32 virtual and in-person speaking engagements in 2020 to promote the Sanctuary and educate the public about the Captive Wildlife Crisis.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We had 197 dedicated volunteers in 2020 that provided much needed support to our staff in caring for our rescued animals.

Our volunteers gave over 28,000 hours of work valued over $720,000 helping the animals in 2020.

Our volunteers split their time equally between Animal Care and Education. Volunteer work includes but is not limited to Cleaning - Bathrooms, bear tubs, compound, pens, education center, grounds. In our Carnivore Nutrition Center, volunteers help with preparing animal diets. On the walkway, volunteers talk with visitors and help guide people along the habitats to learn about the animals and the work that we do to rehabilitate them.
T
ture, we have three.
I know, I know, it’s crazy

As if it wasn’t enough
taken over another sanctuary in
Texas. As if it wasn’t enough
for us to have two facilities to
manage and take care of... now
we have three.

I know, I know, it’s crazy
so you don’t have to say it.
However, just like every rescue
we go on, there were real lives
at stake and something had to
be done.

With more than 70 Lions,
Tigers, Bears, Wolves and
other smaller creatures hanging
in the balance, we were faced
with the option to either close
the facility and take in as many
as we could... or keep the

facility in operation and find a
way for every animal to remain
safe and well cared for.

IEAS is the acronym this
particular sanctuary uti-
lized – which stands for the
International Exotic Animal
Sanctuary. It’s located in
Boyd, TX, which is about an
hour west of the Dallas/Fort
Worth area.

The previous head administra-
tor had been involved with
the organization for more than 27
years, but had reached a point
where age and health issues
had become a major concern.
For the sake of the animals
and the non-profit, there was
a distinct need to find another
organization that could come in
and take over the operation.

Ideally, with the staff, equip-
ment and infrastructure that
was already in place, any new
management would simply take
over the Board of Directors and
continue to ensure the orga-
nization and its animals were
well cared for. Of course, we
need to focus on the definitive
word being “ideally”.

“Ideally” would mean there
was nothing imperative that
needed to be addressed, and/
or the organization was well
balanced and completely
self-sufficient.

On the flip side, in a situa-
tion like this, there could be
all sorts of terrible things that
were going on and the organi-
zation was in critical need of
repair. That would not be a
good in any respect.

Thus, before we ever agreed
to take on this challenge, we spent
an extraordinary amount of
time and energy researching the
organization and its operations.

Attorneys from both sides of
the equation also invested a
great deal of time doing the
same.

It turns out this particular
sanctuary was one of the dozen
or so facilities in the country
that I speak of often. By that,
I mean it was one of the good
guys in the battle against the
Captive Wildlife Crisis and has
been able to save and care for
big cats, Bears, Wolves and
other large carnivores.

It also happened to be one of
the two sanctuaries that had
slipped inside the Association
of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
and became certified years ago
before the AZA closed the door
on sanctuaries joining their
fraternal order. However, that
does not mean it is an accred-
ited AZA Zoo - not by a long
shot.

Rather, it is a “certified related
facility” – which means it has

a loose relation to the AZA as
a business or company that has
wildlife but is not open to the
public on a regular basis and
does not employ some of the
same educational or aesthetic
objectives as the regularly ac-
credited zoo members do.

It was not previously accredited
by either the Global Federation
of Animal Sanitaries (GFAS),
or the American Sanctuary
Association (ASA), but has
since become accredited by
ASA after we took control.
The Sanctuary operates on
41 acres of wooded land and
receives approximately 37+
inches of precipitation per year
– so it has a lush canopy of
trees, plants and vines covering
most of the facility.

Amazingly, it is one of the only
other sanctuaries that has tradi-
tionally taken in Bears. Better
yet, they also feature natural
habitats for the Bears they do
have, which range in size from
three to five acres.

As a bonus, their habitats are
filled with large hardwood
trees, so the smaller bears are
able to climb regularly without
breaking branches. However,
the larger Brown and Grizzly
Bears are too heavy – and
quite frankly – out of shape to
take advantage of this unique
opportunity.

Yet, overall, the 36 Bears cur-
rently living there actually
have a great set up and live
in a very natural state. As for
the big cats and other small
animals such as Lemurs, they
live in more traditional cages.

However, as compared to most
other sanctuaries, their cages
are ample in size and are more
or less engulfed by abundant
shade and green foliage. Water
features for the Tigers and oth-
er water-loving creatures can
be found in each enclosure, and
the staff is very nurturing and
quite dedicated to the welfare
of the animals.

So the big question remains,
what are we going to do with
this facility? Well, our initial
efforts have centered around
ensuring that all of the animals
are safe, comfortable and well
cared for.
Beyond that, we have also focused on stabilizing their funding, especially since the previous administration relied almost entirely on a single Board member to carry the Lion’s share of funding. Going forward, the organization will need to create a better development plan and learn to fundraise in a more mainstream manner.

To be perfectly clear, our Sanctuary and non-profit organization is not responsible for funding this Texas facility. It remains a separate non-profit entity of its own and stands on its own two feet while continuing to operate independently from The Wild Animal Sanctuary. We are simply lending our expertise and manpower, to a certain degree, in order to help protect the animals living there. There is a clear division between us, and that will remain the case until some point in the future when their facility closes down.

However, in an effort to help bolster their reputation and recognition on a national and international level, as well as increase their ability to raise the necessary funds for operations, we are rebranding their identity so that it aligns more with our efforts. Going forward, they are now operating under an official “Doing Business As” filing with the state of Texas under the name “The Wild Animal Sanctuary-TEXAS”.

This will greatly enhance their ability to stabilize funding from within the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and also help identify the expertise, knowledge and general stability that comes with being part of the TWAS network of sanctuaries.

Thankfully, their non-profit is completely debt free and has somewhere between three to five million dollars in assets. If we ever need to close the facility down for some reason, the assets would be transferred to TWAS following strictly-set state and IRS guidelines.

Yet, for now, we have been managing the organization since May of 2020, and have been busy making numerous improvements. Like TWAS, they also receive donated food from some of the national big box stores.

However, their logistical movement and processing of food items was a complete mess, so we immediately changed a significant portion of their direct handling and refrigeration processes. Additionally, there were numerous conflicting policies and procedures that needed to be addressed, especially since essential principles such as efficiency and logic were never applied by the organization’s previous Executive Director.

Currently the Sanctuary has a small but very dedicated staff, which includes four Animal Caretakers, two Operations Crew members, one Veterinary Technician and one Accountant/Office Manager. They also have an on-site dormitory for Interns, so at any given point, there are usually seven to eight college Interns working there as well.

They do have an active Volunteer Program, which has somewhere around a dozen or so regular volunteers, and numerous others that come on an ad-hoc basis. The used to be open for daily tours, but when COVID-19 shut down public activities earlier this year, they ceased public visitation.

Since they do not have an elevated system of walkways we would have stopped the daily ground based tours anyway. As we know, the constant presence of strangers on the ground outside of each animal’s personal territory was not a good practice to begin with, so minimizing that kind of exposure will remain a priority even after state restrictions have been lifted.
For now, as we visit the facility on a regular basis to ensure everything is running smoothly, we look into each of the animals’ eyes and can see how vulnerable they really are. Since they can tell we are new and not part of the regular clan, they look at us with both apprehension and hope.

Much like our rescue efforts in the field, these animals can sense something is different and that life as they know it could change at any moment. A potential for chaos and disharmony looms in the air with every minor change they notice.

Yet, at the same time, they have also learned to trust their caretakers implicitly, as they have become the animals’ beacon of hope when it comes to believing they are safe and protected from harm.

We realize the importance of this mission and that we have taken on a great responsibility. However, if I have learned anything through all my years of caring for and protecting animals, it is that our hearts will lead us in the right direction when it comes to helping others.

For without compassion, love and understanding, there is no future for us or those that may follow. Our general fear of the unknown can easily become a crippling disease, and it can cause us much suffering if we fail to find a way to overcome it.

Yet, knowing our intentions are authentic and true can help us in a myriad of ways. By looking past doubt and peering through apprehension, we can accomplish what is truly important in life.

Helping others when they are in need can become a life giving trait for all those who choose to embrace it. It eventually comes full circle as you find that your efforts have truly changed the world for many over time.

Their lives were touched by your generosity and sincere interest in their wellbeing, and for that, there is no better compensation. Knowing you cared enough to shift the universe in favor of someone who needed a helping hand comes with incomparable rewards.

Seeing misery defeated, pain extinguished and loneliness eradicated are wonderful sights to behold, and each of us should relish every opportunity we get to witness such as a result of our efforts. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to help others and for your incredible generosity toward this same objective.

Supporting the Sanctuary and everything we do to help animals is truly inspiring, as it demonstrates to others how clearly you see that you can make a difference in this world.

Standing idle is not an option, and working together we can save lives that would have otherwise remained ignored, or would simply vanish as if they never existed.

Thank you for caring, and for keeping compassion and love in your heart. I continue to be humbled on a daily basis by the sheer number of people that continue to join our efforts in order to do what is right.

We have successfully righted the wrongs of other lost souls, and have saved countless lives through the years, and for that, I remain eternally grateful to you. Thank you so much for caring, and for listening to the benevolent whispers that emanate from deep within.

I am your biggest fan when it comes to recognizing the charitable things you do, so please continue to help others and know that you are truly making a difference in this world!
Through the many years we have been rescuing animals there have been some major offenders that consistently added to the Captive Wildlife Crisis by breeding their animals on a non-stop basis. Their motivation has always been money, especially since exotic baby animals draw in crowds of people that pay handsomely for the opportunity to play with baby Lions, Tigers and other adorable cubs.

Over the last decade there have been numerous attempts to shut many of these operators down. However, in the vast majority of these cases, the animal exploiters always found a way to dodge prosecution, or simply get by with just a slap on the wrist.

Time and time again we would think some of the really big offenders like Joe Exotic or Tim Stark would get shut down... but one way or the other they would keep plugging along and never throw in the towel. That reality was true, at least until the TV show Tiger King came along.

This highly viewed true crime documentary brought enough attention to the issue to actually make a significant difference in the overall effort to close a number of these facilities down. In an odd turn of events with Joe Exotic, the producers happened to be filming part of their series at Joe’s Greater Wynnewood (GW) Exotic Animal Park about the same time that he was plotting to kill Carole Baskin.

By the time the series aired on Netflix in early 2020, Joe had already been convicted of murder for-hire and other crimes including killing endangered species. One would think his convictions and subsequent 22-year prison sentence would have brought about the end for his GW Exotic Animal Park, but sadly, it didn’t.

Unfortunately, another infamous character from the documentary named Jeff Lowe had taken over the park prior to Joe going to prison. Joe had transferred ownership of the park to Jeff Lowe in order to hide his personal assets from Carole Baskin – who had won a million-dollar lawsuit against Joe for copyright infringement.

So, while Joe went off to federal prison for the next two decades... Jeff Lowe and his wife, Lauren Lowe, kept operating the roadside zoo and continued breeding the animals that remained there. Their bait-and-switch tactic seemed to work, at least for a while. Eventually, due to numerous animal welfare violations, the USDA decided to revoke the zoo’s exhibitor license. This meant the zoo could no longer make money off of cub petting or general tours, so everyone expected the zoo to close.

However, that didn’t happen, and the Lowes continued to breed Lions and Tigers, as well as film additional TV shows with other producers. They also continued to state they were building another zoo in the nearby small town of Thackerville, Oklahoma.

Their plan included moving the animals to this new facility so they could take advantage of the money-laden clientele that frequented a nearby casino. Jeff had purposely chosen a parcel of land that was only a few blocks away from the massive WinStar Casino.
Yet, even with so many alternative plans in the works, Joe’s past caught up with Jeff. The Judge that was adjudicating Carole Baskin’s lawsuit awarded full ownership of the GW Exotic Animal Park to Carole and her organization called Big Cat Rescue (BCR). Additionally, the Judge gave Jeff and Lauren Lowe 120 days to vacate the property.

As the first 60 days ticked by, Jeff continued to battle with other issues including having to relinquish three juvenile Lions that belonged to Tim Stark. Our Sanctuary had recently gone to Tim Stark’s facility in Indiana - since it was being shut down by state officials - and rescued 14 Lions, Ligers, Tiligers and other cats who have their own rescue story in this edition of the Sanctuary News.

While rescuing the 14 big cats from Tim Stark’s facility, the court additionally ordered the three Lions being held at Jeff Lowe’s facility be saved as well. This meant we had to make a second trip to Jeff Lowe’s facility in Oklahoma and bring the three juvenile Lions back to Colorado.

It had been reported that all three Lions suffered greatly during their stay at Lowe’s facility and had numerous medical issues that needed to be addressed. One highly publicized incident involved the cubs being left with untreated “fly strike” injuries – which meant their ears were being eaten alive by thousands of biting flies and their hatched maggot larvae.

“Nala”, the smallest of the three, was in such bad shape when we picked her up in Oklahoma that she couldn’t walk. Every time this emaciated little girl would try to walk, she would collapse due to the severe pain she felt in her legs.

Upon medical examination, X-rays showed Nala had multiple leg fractures that were the result of metabolic bone disease. Suffering from poor nutrition, Nala’s bones lacked adequate calcium levels, which allowed them to break. Thankfully, with vastly improved nutrition, state-of-the-art stem cell therapy and a proper environment to recover in, Nala (and her siblings) bounced back. Within weeks Nala was able to begin walking again, and did so without feeling the severe pain she previously endured. Shortly thereafter, she was back to running and playing with both “Leo” and “Amelia”.

Nala and siblings suffering from Fly Strike
Carole and Howard Baskin, and BCR, were now the official owners of the property and would have full authority to take control of the zoo at the end of the 120-day period. However, as the final weeks approached, Carole chose to go to Hollywood in order to participate in a TV show called “Dancing With The Stars”. This left her husband more or less tied up managing their facility in Tampa, Florida. At that point, they chose to contact Bill Nimmo, who runs an organization named “Tigers In America” (TIA).

They asked Bill if he would take on the responsibility of closing down the GW Zoo when the 120 days were up. The theoretical plan was for Bill to go to Wynnewood, Oklahoma and simply lock up the facility so the Lowes and/or anyone else would no longer have access.

Yet, their plan did not account for the possibility of animals being there when he showed up. There was a chance that Jeff and Lauren Lowe could decide to walk away and leave all of the animals there for BCR to deal with… or they may just move the ones they wanted to keep breeding and abandon the rest.

Either way, it would be incredibly naïve for anyone to go there unprepared. Thankfully, during a phone conversation between Pat Craig and Bill Nimmo, Pat mentioned there was a high probability that animals could be there when the 120-day period was complete. Pat stated that Bill, Howard, BCR or someone should go there being fully prepared to inherit a number of animals – and be prepared to feed, water and care for them as well.

Obviously, if one of these scenarios played out, we (TWAS) would be more than likely be the ones called in to rescue any animals that were left behind. Pat told Bill he would be glad to meet Bill in Wynnewood three to four days prior to the final date, and TWAS would be prepared to rescue any animals left behind.

With TIA being more or less a virtual organization that consists of just Bill and his wife living and working out of their house in New York City, it is important to note they do not have any animal care facilities, employees, volunteers or rescue equipment. Additionally, with limited knowledge concerning the feeding, handling, medical care and transportation of large carnivores, it would be crucial for Pat to be there.

With Thursday, October 1st being the final day of the court’s 120-day allowance, the Lowes had until 11:59 PM that night to get everything they owned off of the property. Bill and Pat were scheduled to meet with Garvin County Sheriff, Jim Mullett, the next morning so all three of them could go to the property to perform a security check – as well as look for any outstanding issues.

Just to be safe, Pat traveled to Wynnewood a couple days early so he could fly one of the Sanctuary’s drones over the property to see if there were any animals that remained. In theory, most people would expect the Lowes to move the animals to their new location at least a week before the deadline.

However, since Pat and a rescue team had just been to the property two weeks earlier (when they were rescuing the three Lion cubs belonging to Tim Stark) and had not seen any indication of animals being moved – they were concerned the Lowes would fail to meet the impending deadline.

Sure enough, the drone was able to see many animals remaining in cages, as well as Jeff and Lauren Lowe loading materials and supplies into trailers. In a strange twist, Allen Glover, the infamous “hit man” depicted in the Netflix documentary was also there helping them load.

As Thursday night’s 11:59 PM deadline approached, the Lowe’s attorney contacted Baskin and BCR’s attorney in order to request another 24 hours to finish loading the last remaining animals. Apparently, the veterinarian that was helping Jeff Lowe dart his cats had run out of tranquilizing medicine – but stated he had more coming by FedEx the next day.

Howard Baskin told Bill Nimmo he had agreed to give a one-day extension, but planned to hold firm to the court order after that. This allowed the Lowes to spend Friday morning attempting to load some of the Lions and Tigers into transport crates while they waited for more medicine to arrive.

Bill and Pat headed to the Sheriff’s office to meet with Jim Mullett at 10:30 AM. However, at 10:20 AM an emergency call came into the Sheriff’s office stating an African Lion had escaped and was on the loose!

As Bill and Pat were nearing the Sheriff’s station, two sheriff vehicles with lights flashing and sirens wailing sped by them in the opposite direction. Pat suspected it had something to do with the zoo, so they subsequently headed toward the zoo to see what was going on.

Upon arrival, the street in front of the zoo was filled with police cars, fire rescue trucks, emergency management personnel and numerous other emergency vehicles. Just as soon as Pat and Bill identified themselves, one of the sheriff deputies asked Pat if he had any tranquilizing medicine.

Pat said no, and explained he was just there to assess whether TWAS rescue teams needed to start heading that way. At that point, the sheriff’s deputy asked Pat to go down the highway to a local veterinarian’s clinic in order to requisition some tranquilizing medicine.

Pat complied, and soon returned with enough medicine to tranquilize one African Lion. A deputy then rushed Pat inside the zoo walls and to the area where the Lion was still on the loose.

Jeff Lowe was standing there with some additional sheriff’s deputies who were clapping shot guns and assault rifles. Jeff had a tranquilizing rifle in his hands, and immediately asked for the drugs Pat was carrying.

He loaded the dart and inserted it into the rifle, then walked about 50 feet into a tall grass area next to some cages. Lauren Lowe and some of the zoo employees were there waiting and held their ground as
Jeff shot the Lion who was hidden in the deep grass. Immediately the Lion became airborne and hit the ground running. She ran across the field and then turned back in the direction where everyone was standing. However, being scared more than anything, she returned to the deep grass and hunkered down in nearly the same location where she started. At that point, everyone held still waiting where she started. At that point, everyone held still waiting for the drugs to take effect. Surprisingly, about 10 seconds later, the Lion ran across the field again – but this time ended up running through the deep grass and hunkered down in nearly the same location where she started. At that point, everyone held still waiting for the drugs to take effect. Pat, Bill and Sheriff Mulliett met again to discuss the policy and procedures for the next day (Saturday). Pat informed Sheriff Mulliett that they would have to be done by midnight (Friday night). At that meeting, everyone agreed no more extensions would be granted and if any animals were still there Saturday morning, the Sheriff would officially confiscate them and then ask TWAS to rescue them. In another strange twist of events, Lauren Lowe called Pat’s cell phone around 6:00 PM on Friday night asking if he had any tranquilizing medicine. Again, Pat said no, and asked why she needed it. Lauren stated their veterinarian had run out of drugs AGAIN, so they were stalled and unable to continue loading animals. It was at that point, Lauren stated they intended to leave some of the animals behind. She said they planned to leave two Tigers, two Bears and eight Wolves. Pat responded saying the Sanctuary would be glad to take those animals, as well as any others they might choose to leave behind.

At 6:00 AM, a very tired sounding Lauren Lowe called Pat again, stating they were still waiting for their veterinarian to get more tranquilizing drugs... but were also heading to their other zoo in Thackerville with a load of animals, and planned to return by mid-morning.

Pat informed Bill Nimmo and the Sheriff about the calls and what Lauren Lowe had said. At that point, the Sheriff and Bill Nimmo stated they still planned to hold firm and not allow the Lowes back on the property. As such, Pat, Bill and Sheriff Mulliett headed to the zoo to get an accurate count of the animals that remained. Pat was eager to get there and finally get an exact count so he could call the rescue team that was at the Sanctuary in Colorado and was waiting to head out.

All they needed to know was how many trucks and trailers would be needed, so they could hit the road and start their 10-hour journey to the zoo. Yet, for some crazy unknown reason, Bill informed Pat that he had already called another sanctuary located in Texas, and planned to have them come haul the animals to our facility! What the heck? Pat struggled to understand the logic... but since the Baskin’s had placed Bill Nimmo in charge of the property, and its closing procedure, Pat didn’t have any say in the matter. At this point, Bill stated the other sanctuary already had a team on the road and were scheduled to arrive by 12:00 PM.

When Pat, Bill and the Sheriff completed their inventory of the animals remaining, more than 30 animals were on the list. As they were exiting the zoo, the Lowe’s veterinarian showed up with his last set of tranquilizing drugs. However, since the Sheriff had promised to not allow the Lowes to load any further, in theory, there would be no need for the veterinarian to stay or use the drugs. But just as everyone was starting to assume the zoo was now under Bill Nimmo’s control, the Lowes pulled into the zoo driveway with an empty trailer. Confident that the Sheriff would tell them they had run out of time, Pat was stunned when he discovered they were being allowed to continue their efforts to move more animals! According to one of the sheriff deputies, Sheriff Mulliett had decided to let them continue their efforts one last time since the veterinarian was there and had brought more drugs.

Within minutes, Jeff Lowe, the veterinarian and some of the zoo employees began darting more animals. In most instances they would dart one animal and then instantly walk off to go dart another. Many sedated animals were left without anyone there to monitor their breathing, heart rate or other vital signs. As the temperature continued to rise, flies began to swarm each of the incapacitated animals’ eyes, noses, ears and many other vulnerable places on their bodies.

With no reversal drugs being given, an increasing number of animals were left unattended and trapped in transport cages with no way to fend off the swarms of biting flies. Two monkeys were also left inside aluminum box crates while sitting in the sun without any water. Thankfully, Pat was able to get some tarps pinned up on the large transport crate holding four big cats to help block the sun. He was also able to water the two monkeys, as well as a Grizzly Bear being held in a cage nearby. Yet, sadly, one of the Ligers they darted died from excessive medication and not having the reversal drugs on hand.

The entire fiasco was a lesson in how not to relocate large exotic animals! It was incredibly obvious they were under-staffed, under-equipped, and definitely under-experienced to deal with the disaster averted, we ended up leaving the zoo so they could continue their final loading process. Of course, if it were up to Pat, he would have preferred they not been given additional time to take more animals but it wasn’t Pat’s call, as Howard Baskin had already given them permission to continue loading.

After leaving, Bill, Pat and Sheriff Nimmo had already given them permission to continue loading. At 6:00 AM, a very tired sounding Lauren Lowe called Pat again, stating they were still waiting for their veterinarian to get more tranquilizing drugs... but were also heading to their other zoo in Thackerville with a load of animals, and planned to return by mid-morning.

Pat informed Bill Nimmo and the Sheriff about the calls and what Lauren Lowe had said. At that point, the Sheriff and Bill Nimmo stated they still planned to hold firm and not allow the Lowes back on the property. As such, Pat, Bill and Sheriff Mulliett headed to the zoo to get an accurate count of the animals that remained. Pat was eager to get there and finally get an exact count so he could call the rescue team that was at the Sanctuary in Colorado and was waiting to head out.

All they needed to know was how many trucks and trailers would be needed, so they could hit the road and start their 10-hour journey to the zoo. Yet, for some crazy unknown reason, Bill informed Pat that he had already called another sanctuary located in Texas, and planned to have them come haul the animals to our facility! What the heck? Pat struggled to understand the logic... but since the Baskin’s had placed Bill Nimmo in charge of the property, and its closing procedure, Pat didn’t have any say in the matter. At this point, Bill stated the other sanctuary already had a team on the road and were scheduled to arrive by 12:00 PM.

When Pat, Bill and the Sheriff completed their inventory of the animals remaining, more than 30 animals were on the list. As they were exiting the zoo, the Lowe’s veterinarian showed up with his last set of tranquilizing drugs. However, since the Sheriff had promised to not allow the Lowes to load any further, in theory, there would be no need for the veterinarian to stay or use the drugs. But just as everyone was starting to assume the zoo was now under Bill Nimmo’s control, the Lowes pulled into the zoo driveway with an empty trailer. Confident that the Sheriff would tell them they had run out of time, Pat was stunned when he discovered they were being allowed to continue their efforts to move more animals! According to one of the sheriff deputies, Sheriff Mulliett had decided to let them continue their efforts one last time since the veterinarian was there and had brought more drugs.

Within minutes, Jeff Lowe, the veterinarian and some of the zoo employees began darting more animals. In most instances they would dart one animal and then instantly walk off to go dart another. Many sedated animals were left without anyone there to monitor their breathing, heart rate or other vital signs. As the temperature continued to rise, flies began to swarm each of the incapacitated animals’ eyes, noses, ears and many other vulnerable places on their bodies. With no reversal drugs being given, an increasing number of animals were left unattended and trapped in transport cages with no way to fend off the swarms of biting flies. Two monkeys were also left inside aluminum box crates while sitting in the sun without any water. Thankfully, Pat was able to get some tarps pinned up on the large transport crate holding four big cats to help block the sun. He was also able to water the two monkeys, as well as a Grizzly Bear being held in a cage nearby. Yet, sadly, one of the Ligers they darted died from excessive medication and not having the reversal drugs on hand.

The entire fiasco was a lesson in how not to relocate large exotic animals! It was incredibly obvious they were under-staffed, under-equipped, and definitely under-experienced. It was also obvious they needed help from other local organizations that were more experienced in how not to relocate large exotic animals! It was incredibly obvious they were under-staffed, under-equipped, and definitely under-experienced.
try and move that many animals in such a short period of time.

Finally, by midafternoon they ran out of cages to use and had to throw in the towel so-to-speak. It was apparent they were done and needed to go ahead and leave without getting every animal out of there.

As they pulled out of the driveway, eleven Wolves, three Tigers and two Bears were left behind. Now Bill, Pat and the other sanctuary’s team could switch from being bystanders to officially being in control and actively addressing the remaining animals’ wellbeing.

At least that is what Pat thought. But as the hours ticked by, it soon became apparent the chaos and uncertainty that had previously existed had not expired. As the Lowes and their staff headed toward the small town of Thackerville, Pat and the two (yes two) members from the other sanctuary out of Texas discovered numerous issues remained.

Apparently, Bill Nimmo had planned to have the Houston Zoo’s Veterinarian come issue the health certificates for any animals left behind. In addition to that, he had requested the other sanctuary bring just four crates and a small rescue trailer to haul whatever animals were left behind.

At this point Bill was missing in action and no one seemed to know where he was. Pat and the other two staff members from “In-Sync Exotics” (the small sanctuary that had been summoned from Wylie, Texas) shockingly discovered the Houston Zoo veterinarian wasn’t planning on issuing health certificates or helping transfer any of the animals until Tuesday!

According to her, she had arranged with Bill to come back on Tuesday morning with her own team to begin moving and sedating animals. Needless to say, Pat and the In-Sync team were shocked by this new information.

Why was In-Sync summoned to bring only one guy and their one veterinarian there... and why would everyone have to wait until Tuesday to begin rescuing the abandoned animals? Well, no one was available to answer either of those questions because it turned out that Bill was inside Joe Exotic’s old gift shop giving an interview to some Animal Planet videographers that Howard Baskin had sent. Why that interview was more important than focusing on the animals, no one understood.

For the time being they would have to wait for Bill to finish his interview, and only then would he be able to let everyone know why he had planned for a two-day delay.

Pat then asked Eddy from In-Sync if they intended to stay and care for the animals until Tuesday. Eddy stated he had a team that was coming up from Texas to manage their care until the zoo vet was able to issue the certificates.

Health certificates are mandatory for the animals to enter into Colorado, so the animals were not going anywhere until the Houston Zoo’s vet was able to issue them.

A few minutes later Eddy changed his answer stating he would rather haul the Tigers and Bears to his facility in Wylie - where they would be cared for until Monday. That way they could save time and energy, and get a different veterinarian to issue the much-needed health certificates.

Pat asked Eddy if he was comfortable having the cats and Bears sitting in transfer crates for that length of time, and Eddy said no. Pat agreed that it would not be fair to the animals, and added that it wouldn’t resolve the dilemma of not having enough crates to transport the Wolves, either.

With a lot of frustration and anxiety hanging in the balance, both Pat and the Houston Zoo vet left the Park. Since Bill
had been giving his interview for more than two hours at that point, it was obvious nothing was getting accomplished.

With only two hours of daylight left, and more than 16 animals’ lives hanging in the balance, it seemed like a hopeless situation!

Pat still didn’t understand why TWAS hadn’t been asked to bring two of the Sanctuary’s larger trailers that could easily haul all of the animals to The Wild Animal Refuge. It all seemed like a giant cluster, and 90% of the current hassle could easily have been avoided!

Regardless, Howard and Carole Baskin were in charge of the facility and they had appointed Bill Nimmo to make the decisions, so there was little our Sanctuary could do other than begin getting the Refuge’s accommodations ready for incoming animals.

Once Pat had a chance to talk with Bill and his wife, Kizmin, it became clear that In-Sync had chosen to transport just the Tigers and Bears and had left the Wolves behind. This meant Pat and another rescue team would have to drive back to Oklahoma to get the eleven Wolves.

The team hit the road immediately and arrived at the Wynnewood Park on Monday evening. They quickly unloaded the transport crates and staged them near the Wolf cages. Yet, with the sun setting in the west, there wasn’t enough light remaining to get all the Wolves loaded safely, so the team decided to wait until first light the next day.

Thankfully, with all of the other chaos done and over the Wolves had some time to relax. As the team shifted from cage to cage, the Wolves seemed glad to leave their small spaces behind and trust they were headed to a better life.

None of the Wolves had to be sedated, as each one seemed ready to leave the eerily empty zoo. NOTE: If you would like to see this stage of the zoo’s closure and our efforts to rescue the last remaining animals from Joe Exotic’s horrendous roadside zoo, please go to our web site and click on “Tiger King” under the “animals” tab. The direct URL is: https://WildAnimalSanctuary.org/tiger-king

Soon, all eleven Wolves and the rescue team were on the road and headed for our Refuge in southern Colorado. Thankfully, In-Sync had been able to get a different veterinarian to issue the health certificates for the three Tigers and two Bears, which allowed them to deliver them one day ahead of the Wolves’ projected arrival.

Although the Wolves were safe inside our trailer and headed toward the Refuge, the rescue team began to face a new and different problem. Colorado’s Department of Agriculture required a special import permit be issued to bring exotic animals into the state.

Without that permit, our team would be unable to continue driving once they reached Colorado’s border. In-Sync had been able to switch from using the Houston Zoo veterinarian to a different one for their trip to the Refuge, but Bill and Kizmin Nimmo were in charge of obtaining the Wolves’ health certificate.

Pat had been asking Bill to get their health inspection and certificate issued for many days, but had yet to see any results. Bill and his wife kept reassuring Pat they had obtained a certificate and that it had been sent to Colorado’s Department of Agriculture.

Once that was done, they promised to stay on top of the processing and would make sure the permit was issued before the Sanctuary’s rescue truck and trailer reached the border. As the day progressed, the rescue team kept inching closer to Colorado, but still hadn’t received the permit.

Ultimately, Pat ended up having to make some high level calls to get the permit issued. At that point, the entire rescue team breathed a sigh of relief and returned their focus toward getting the Wolves to the Refuge as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, at the Refuge, full-time animal caretaker, Taylor Logan, and Operations Director, Clay Tatum, were busy working with other Refuge staff. They had spent the previous day getting the rescued Tigers and Bears situated in their new accommodations, and were now preparing more introduction/quarantine enclosures for the incoming Wolves.

Two of the Tigers were males, so they would need to remain separated from the third Tiger, who was a small and underweight female named “Nala”. Our veterinarian would soon neuter “Forest” and “Diesel” so at least one...
The Final Chapter... Cont’d

of them could potentially rejoin Nala in her habitat, likely at some point in the future.

Yet, since Nala had been living with a fully intact male Tiger at the GW Exotic Animal Park, there was a chance that she could already be pregnant. Of course we hope she isn’t, since she arrived underweight and needs time to focus on her own health.

Besides having to spend the next few months gaining weight and naturally building more muscle, Nala would also need to focus on getting to know the lay of the land and securing her territory. Trying to raise cubs in such a new environment wouldn’t necessarily be impossible, but it could be a major challenge for a Tiger that has grown up and lived in less than 900 square feet her entire life!

Yet, if she does turn out to be pregnant, we would do everything in our power to help ensure her journey into motherhood would be safe, stress free and as enjoyable as possible. With our Refuge habitats being so large and completely forested, we feel this new home would offer Nala the best opportunity to raise a family in what might be considered a semi-wild state.

If she happens to not be pregnant, at least the waiting period will offer her the opportunity to get comfortable with her new home. That would help tremendously when or if another Tiger eventually comes to live with her.

Either way, we are confident Nala will be very happy – especially since she is already enjoying her new completely natural environment. On her first day being released Nala seized the opportunity to explore her habitat extensively.

It was great to see her stop to smell every plant, bush, tree and even the grass. Every time she would pluck a small stem from one of the bushes or tug on some of the evergreen branches, we had to remind ourselves this was the first time in her life that she was able to interact with such common natural things.

Much was the same for the eleven Wolves we took in. Simple things like receiving more food than they could finish practically blew their minds. Upon completion of their own personal feast, many of the Wolves would begin to romp and play with each other inside of their introductory pens.

Bowing down, then springing into the air, their jubilant movements were clearly celebratory dances for all to relish. Between the tails wagging in all directions and the funny smiles that wild canines are so good at making... their joy became overwhelmingly contagious!

As the days passed and the Wolves continued to embrace their new home, the time came for a number of the male Wolves to be singled out. Most of the boys were intact just like the Tigers were - which made sense when we considered all of the breeding that took place back in Oklahoma.

Fortunately, with a full veterinary staff and extra medical personnel in attendance, the newly altered male Wolves were awake and back in their respective enclosures within a few hours. None of them seemed to associate the loss of ballast from the rear portion of their physique with anything the humans had done.

In fact, with so many people lavishing them with praise and attention, none seemed to break stride with respect to their excessive tail wagging and happy talk (eager yips). They can now finish their relatively short stay in the quarantine/staging area and will soon be released into newly-built habitats.

Last, but not least, are the two Bears that were rescued. “Eve” is a rather large female Black Bear, while “Gizzy” is a relatively small female Grizzly Bear.
The Final Chapter... Cont’d

No one we spoke to seemed to know where Joe Exotic or Jeff Lowe got Eve, but while we were at the Wynnewood compound assessing Eve’s cage and overall condition for transport, it quickly became apparent that she had been taunted, harassed or severely abused. From a distance Eve looked and acted like a normal captive Black Bear, but whenever Jeff Lowe approached the cage, Eve would go ballistic and try to tear the cage apart.

Instead of running away from him, Eve would lung in his direction and use all her strength to pull and tear at the steel fencing. Jeff Lowe said she never used to be that way, and blamed Joe Exotic for her highly unusual rage. Lowe claimed she used to be a nice Black Bear, but Joe would torment her and eventually drove her to react that way.

In any case, her behavior was extremely unnatural and unlike any other Black Bear we have ever rescued. With hundreds of Black Bear rescues under our belt, that is really saying something!

We were actually surprised that Gizzy the Grizzly Bear wasn’t acting the same way. We say that in response to a video that has been heavily posted and shared across the internet. Quoting PETA’s official complaint filed with the USDA:

“In the video, Stark grabs the 14-week-old cub—who, in the wild, would be with her mother for the first two years—and dangles her by the mouth, putting her at risk for damaged teeth and back and neck muscles. Even after she’s been placed on Stark’s lap, she screams in distress with her ears pulled back, urinating out of fear and even biting his hand, signaling that she’s been pushed past the flight response and into a fight reaction. Stark terrorized this baby bear in front of a boisterous crowd as she screamed, struggled to escape, and lashed out in self-defense.”

Obviously this was a terribly traumatizing event for Gizzy, and we are extremely thankful that she was able to survive and get past it. Unfortunately, given her very small stature, we believe she continued to be neglected and possibly starved right up until the time we rescued her.

Gizzy now has a wonderful life ahead of her since she is nearly ready to be released into our 103-acre Grizzly Bear habitat at the Refuge. There she will be able to roam freely and eat to her heart’s content, as well as play with two other small female Grizzly bears that came from similarly abusive backgrounds.

Eve has already begun to amaze her caretakers, since she has not demonstrated any of her aggressive behavior toward anyone working there. Of course she is a little cautious when it comes to equipment operating near her introduction enclosure... and also when more than two or three people she doesn’t know come walking in her direction... but those reactions would be considered normal for any newly rescued Bear.

We believe Eve will complete her rehabilitation phase very soon and be released into the Refuge’s 243-acre Black Bear habitat to live, play and hibernate with the other rescued Bears that already live there. Hopefully, by spring when she wakes up, Eve will have forgotten most of her questionable past - or at least believe it was all a terrible dream that she will never have to repeat again!

Now that Joe Exotic is serving 22-years in federal prison, and Jeff and Lauren Lowe no longer reside at the GW Exotic Animal Park, the facility sits quiet and empty. Whether the Baskins decide to bulldoze the place to the ground, or sell it with some sort of legal restriction that prevents exotic animals from ever living there again, is anyone’s guess.

We have heard both versions as possible outcomes, and realize only time will tell us which option will become the facility’s final chapter. But for those of us who care about the animals themselves, we are just incredibly thankful that no others will suffer on that soiled ground again.
# THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY
(a Non-Profit Corporation)

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Refuge</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Rescue</th>
<th>Total Programs</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>2020 Total Functional Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Care/Op</td>
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<td>$1,089,412</td>
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<td>8,710,970</td>
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<td>348,362</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>348,362</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>348,362</td>
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<td>Program Supplies</td>
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<td>783,204</td>
<td>120,285</td>
<td>20,098</td>
<td>1,283,034</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>57,695</td>
<td>1,340,982</td>
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<td>Contract/Professional Svcs</td>
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<td>510,381</td>
<td>26,922</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>537,642</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
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<td>1,497,878</td>
<td>32,694</td>
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<td>103,047</td>
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<td>218,342</td>
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<td>Meeting Expense</td>
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<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel/Transportation</td>
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<td>97,568</td>
<td>6,499</td>
<td>117,541</td>
<td>384,945</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<td>Staff Development/Donor Cultivation</td>
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<td>4,480</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6,030</td>
<td>4,257</td>
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<td>Occupancy</td>
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<td>469,417</td>
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<td>32,097</td>
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<td>1,127,146</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>$-</td>
<td>166,165</td>
<td>15,783</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>181,948</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,147,253</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,077,853</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,537,790</strong></td>
<td><strong>$173,431</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,936,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,285,546</strong></td>
<td><strong>$634,172</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,856,045</strong></td>
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### THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY
(a Non-Profit Corporation)

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Cash - Restricted (Note 1)</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>Other current assets</td>
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<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<td>Property and equipment - at cost</td>
<td>34,923,451</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: accumulated depreciation (10,324,996)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Property and Equipment</td>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
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</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>PPP Loan</td>
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<td>Current portion of long-term debt</td>
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<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Long-Term Debt (net of current portion)</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th>Without donor restrictions</th>
<th>With donor restrictions</th>
<th>Total Net Assets</th>
<th>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
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<tr>
<td>$11,986,568</td>
<td>3,197,734</td>
<td>15,184,302</td>
<td>$28,053,991</td>
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## Statement of Cash Flows

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flow from Operating Activities:</td>
<td>$1,821,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$1,821,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) on sale of assets</td>
<td>15,939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>(4,068)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>2,449,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
<td>(4,892)</td>
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<td>Prepaids</td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>Net Cash Provided By (Used in) Operating Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Flow from Investing Activities:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchases of property and equipment</td>
<td>(3,745,818)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchases of investments</td>
<td>(1,505,592)</td>
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<td>Proceeds from sale of investments</td>
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<td>Net Cash Used In Investing Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Flow from Financing Activities:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from long-term debt</td>
<td>1,623,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments on long-term debt</td>
<td>(1,486,179)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Used In Investing Activities</td>
<td>136,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease) In Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>339,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of the year</td>
<td>2,290,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of the year</td>
<td>$2,630,565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>