



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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## OUR PROGRAMS:

ANIMAL RESCUE

ANIMAL CARE

EDUCATION

DATA SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS

## FINANCIALS



**E**ach of our last 37 years has been ground-breaking in its own way, but 2017 stands heads and tails above the rest. With our new 48,000 sq. ft. Welcome Center fully operational, including the construction of our new multipurpose/event room, we were able to share our mission and educational outreach with over 150,000 visitors in 2017 – the highest we have ever had! Substantial infrastructure and data systems improvements paved the way for us to successfully handle the increased number of visitors through the implementation of the Blackbaud suite of software systems, all geared towards better and more efficient non-profit data management. Though never easy, these improvements are vital to our

from our founder : PAT CRAIG

continued growth and ensure that we are always putting the animals first by investing in our organization's future. This year, the result of that dedicated investment was the addition of 71 new rescued animals, 10 additional large-acreage habitats, 65 acres purchased for future development, and growing numbers of supporters, staff, and volunteers to drive the process and help make it all possible. With the groundwork laid, we strive to heighten our impact on the Captive Wildlife Crisis with each passing year and to rescue more neglected and abused animals, remove them from the horrid situations they are in, and bring them here – to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, where they can experience a life of freedom, hope, and dignity for the first time.

With this singular purpose always at the forefront of our minds, we stride confidently forward in our mission. We constantly seek new and inventive ways to push ourselves as individuals and as an organization to be better in our methods, to make a bigger difference in the life of each and every animal we save, and to educate a wider audience about the terrible plight faced by the estimated 25,000 captive wild animals in this country alone. As the largest and

oldest nonprofit Sanctuary in the world dedicated to rescuing and providing life-long homes for captive great cats, bears, wolves, and other abused, exploited or illegally kept carnivores, The Wild Animal Sanctuary is in the unique position to change the scope of the conversation and bring into sharper focus the issues affecting so many captive wild animals in America.

As you read the pages that follow, we invite you to join us in our mission of public education, animal rescue, and rehabilitation of captive large carnivores. Thank you for your incredible support and capacity for caring that positively impacts the lives of so many of these extraordinary animals.

As individuals, we can make a difference. United together, we can make a change.

Pat Craig  
Executive Director

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# TIJUANA TIGERS

In July, 2015 Mexico's new law banning the use of animals in circuses went into effect, making them the 29th nation in the world to stand up for what is right for animals. In January of 2017, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Baily Circus announced they would be shuttering their doors here in the United States come May.

In both cases, the first thing animal-loving people think of, is what will happen to all the animals that are involved with these significant changes. Here in the U.S., the answer is still unclear, as Feld Entertainment – the owners of the circus – have yet to make a definitive announcement as to where their animals will go.

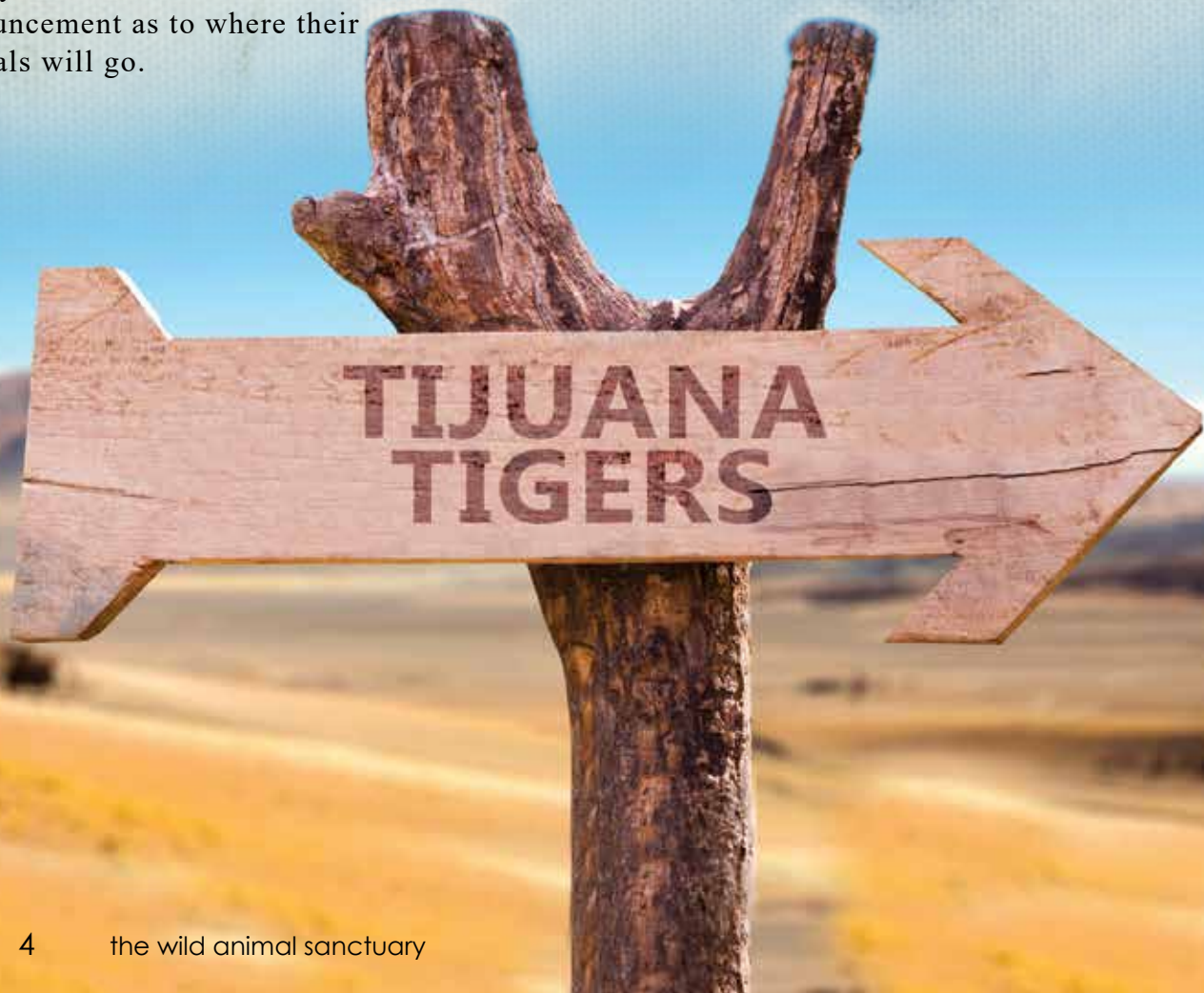
Adding to the confusion is the fact that both of the circus's traveling shows employ foreign Lion and Tiger trainers – along with their complete big cat acts – so it remains unclear if the cats in either show even belong to Feld. It's possible they do, and it's also possible they do not – which would mean there is a good chance the cats would simply go back to Germany and Chile to each respective trainer's home country.

However, if Feld does own the cats and plans to retire them to a Sanctuary here in the U.S., there's no doubt The Wild Animal Sanctuary would stand

ready to provide the best retirement home possible.

Unfortunately, in Mexico, when their ban went into effect, thousands of animals basically had no place to go. Although we have been working with both the Mexican government and private non-profit groups for years on building a Mexican sanctuary for captive wildlife, various government road blocks have held up the project.

So when the time came for many of their Lions and Tigers to retire, most were either sold to private people in Mexico who had the money to buy them, and theoretically care for



a big cat - while others were placed temporarily in zoos throughout the country. Once those animals were parked in zoos, they were destined to wait for the day when space in U.S. sanctuaries would open up... or when and if the Mexican government finally cleared the way for a sanctuary to be built inside Mexico.

For some of the lucky ones, space was allocated here at our Sanctuary early on. Having close ties to all of the Mexican agencies that deal with big cat problems within that country helped immensely.

Some of the circus cats went to the Pachuca Wildlife Waystation to be held, while others went to a couple of zoos in northern Mexico. Two specific Tigers ended up being dumped at the city zoo in Tijuana, Mexico.

With a small amount of back-end caging available for holding surplus cats, the Tijuana Zoo was one of just a few institutions able to take in retired circus cats. The challenge then was to get the international paperwork and red tape taken care of on both sides of the border so these Tigers would be able to make their way to Colorado.

Yet, compounding the problem, one of the two Tigers was in

very poor health. She had been injured at some point during her circus career and was now nearly paralyzed in her back two legs.

Her spine had been injured while performing, and the circus had chosen to leave her suffering in one of their spare cages. There was no investigation into the extent of her injuries, or toward what it would take to repair her traumatized spine.

Then, when the ban took place, she was chosen with one other Tiger to be shipped to Tijuana where both of them sat waiting for a chance to be saved. Our Sanctuary began working with all of the agencies involved right from the start, and was well aware of "*Dalila's*" injury and subsequent mobility problems.

We asked often if there was any way for the zoo to help her while the importation paperwork was being processed, and would receive varying answers that ranged from she was getting better... to she was going downhill and would not be sent to the U.S.

It was a roller coaster ride in communications, with one video showing her walking... and then another showing her dragging her rear legs on the ground. Oddly enough, we had

a similarly-injured Tiger waiting at the Pachuca Waystation who also moved about by dragging his rear legs behind him.

Both had been injured while working in the circus industry, and both were struggling to get better within the confines of Mexico's lacking veterinary medical system. Yet, over time, "*Cucho*" – the male Tiger with spinal injuries in Pachuca – was able to stabilize his injury site and began walking better.

Dalila was not as fortunate. She could walk when absolutely necessary, but it was very painful so her rear legs remained very weak. Much of the time she would choose to drag herself rather than walk, which led to abrasions and open sores on her hips and legs.

Without regular exercise, Dalila's rear leg muscles slowly wasted away leaving her with two horribly-thin appendages that could barely function. Her cage mate, "*Simba*", was another female Tiger that came with her from the circus.

Simba had no major injuries to speak of, but was definitely underweight and seemed to always be in a terrible mood. Of course, everyone understood why her demeanor would be so terrible, given she had been

whipped, beaten and tortured during her many years with the circus.

As far as she was concerned, all humans were nothing but walking vessels filled with torturous devices that could be unfurled at any moment. Anytime a human came near, she felt it was far better to lunge and defend, than to wait for whatever brutal torture the human might inflict.

So, for months, these two misfit Tigers sat in their tiny holding cell in Tijuana, Mexico. Ironically, just yards from the border and a life free from pain and starvation... but it might as well have been a million miles when it came to how fast paperwork moves in Mexico.

So much time passed, that we finally decided to switch NGO entities (*non-profit*) in Mexico in order to get the job done. Between PROFEPA and the first NGO working on the case, the paperwork became stalled - leaving us pulling our hair out in Colorado.

Getting the group that we worked with in Pachuca involved finally broke loose the paperwork... but in true south-of-the-border style... the battle wasn't over yet. After more than a year's worth of finagling, we had reached a point where all of the entities agreed their paperwork was in place.

The Zoo, PROFEPA and the NGO were all ready for us to come get the Tigers and transport them across the border. Of course, we knew from previous experience this didn't necessarily mean they were really ready - but instead - meant they *thought* they were ready.

We kept insisting they weren't ready and didn't understand the documentation we were concerned about, and of course, they would insist they were ready and absolutely did understand the documentation we were so apprehensive of...

So there we were, in a literal Mexican standoff, with no way to resolve it other than to go to Mexico and prove the case one way or the other. So off we went with trailer and transport crates in tow... and our hearts full of anxiety over the possibility that these Tigers would somehow end up at the short end of the stick again.

After driving all the way to Tijuana, and then to the city zoo, our rescue team went straight to the Tiger holding area to meet Dalila and Simba. The zoo had already stuffed Simba into one of the tiniest crates we'd ever seen used for any animal - let alone a full grown Tiger. How they got her into such a miserably-small crate was a real mystery, and of course, Simba was mad as hell about it!

It seemed ironic they would take a Tiger who had been severely abused her whole life, and send her off with a final gesture that involved compressing her into a sardine can size cage! Luckily, Dalila hadn't been moved yet, since we insisted on reviewing the paperwork before loading either Tiger.

Within minutes, it became clear the exact document we had been insisting they would need to have pre-cleared - was not - which proved our case and point. Even they couldn't deny the paperwork was screwed up, and finally agreed someone on their end had lied when they said it would be cleared and everything would be fine.

Compounding the issue, it was an official Mexican holiday, so everyone was already less than focused on the task at hand - especially since according to them no one ever works on a holiday! They were doing us a favor being there, and wondered how we could be upset over some silly missing document, or the fact we had just driven 1,300 miles for no reason.

It was definitely a case of two cultures seeing things quite differently. The rescue was a bust without the proper documentation, and we had just wasted a significant amount of time and

resources based on their promise that everything on their end was completed and in place.

After about an hour of heated discussions back and forth, they announced they simply wanted to take the rest of the holiday off and have us return another day when it would be more convenient. And even though we kept reiterating there was no way for us to generate the documentation from our side of the equation (*no matter what day it was*), it never registered.

The only positive side of the entire fiasco was that Simba would be able to get out of that

insanely small crate! Dalila had remained lying on her bench the entire time as if she knew not to get wound up over some *“proposed”* rescue... and then calmly watched our rescue rig drive out the gates of the zoo as we headed back toward the border.

And for those of you that have ever had the privilege of crossing the Mexico border at the Tijuana crossing... you know what we mean when we say it took nearly as long to get back across the border as it did to drive from Colorado to California in the first place!

Add in the Mexican Holiday factor, and we can actually say it took us nine and a half hours to get from one mile south of the border, to Barstow, CA. Seriously, nine and a half hours to go a total of 192 miles!

The bumper-to-bumper traffic that is always insane in that area of the world was at an all-time high that day - leaving us to endure the abuse of stop-and-go traffic for the remainder of the day and well into the night. It just added insult to injury for the rescue team, as not being able to help the



Tigers after standing just inches from their sorrowful eyes made everyone feel terrible.

Harsh LA smog enveloped our rescue rig as it transitioned from one LA basin highway to the next, but the watery eyes found inside the truck's cab were not actually victims of tainted air. Instead, they were goaded by thoughts of failing the helpless creatures who had depended on the team to succeed.

It was now more important than ever to focus on our goal to get the Tigers out of there, so before the rig could make it back to Colorado, new arrangements were formulated to resolve the paperwork issue. Cost would not be a factor, just as it had not been with the first attempt, but now the only way the Tigers could get out would involve letting the zoo and Mexican Government handle their exodus as a commercial export.

It wasn't the correct application for this type of rescue, but trying to get them to understand the appropriate nature of this transaction as a private non-commercial rescue was impossible. So beyond additional pesos and/or their need to export the Tigers through an inappropriate system... we were just glad to know the Tigers would soon be coming to our Sanctuary.

We did have concerns relating to the Tigers having to wait another week or two to get across the border... as well as they would be at the mercy of non-sanctuary handlers while traveling. The zoo would now be in charge of getting the Tigers crated and across the U.S./ Mexico border, while a professional transporter based in San Diego would be in charge of bringing them the rest of the way to CO.

This solution was not ideal, as we always want to handle the loading and transport of animals we rescue, but our hands were tied at this point and we had to trust the Tigers would be well cared for throughout the process. The only thing we could do now was wait for word as to when they would arrive.

Finally, the day came when we received word the zoo had crated the Tigers and successfully moved them across the border. They were now on their way from San Diego and would theoretically arrive the next day.

Late the next day, the long truck and horse trailer combo backed up to our Veterinary Hospital as our team waited anxiously for an opportunity to peer inside. Everyone had high hopes that the Tigers were OK, and that the multi-day process

of getting loaded in Mexico and processed through their tedious commercial export system hadn't taken a toll on their health.

The first Tiger out of the trailer was Simba. She looked OK physically, but of course, her fear and hatred of humans had only been amplified further as a result of the move. Her defensive nature was still intact and her deep growls filled the air the entire time the crate was being moved inside.

The second crate was half the size of Simba's, which meant Dalila was somehow packed inside of the ramshackle crate being pulled from the trailer. In an odd fashion, the zoo had taken the two tiny crates our team had seen at their facility earlier, and placed the smaller of the two inside the other.

We weren't sure what the point of stuffing one crate inside of the other was... other than possibly there may have been some thought the smaller one might not be able to contain Dalila. It could also have been the smaller crate didn't meet international shipping regulations, so they stuck the smaller cage inside one that did – rather than transfer her to the appropriate one.

Either way, the list of concerns we had was growing quickly, as it was apparent the inner crate





was lined with plywood and could not allow for adequate feeding or watering. How had Dalila been cared for over the last three days?

Once inside the hospital, both Simba and Dalila were set to be transferred out of their crates and into spacious evaluation cages. Simba took her time transferring to her open space cage, as she felt it might make her more vulnerable to human abuse.

With ample patience and lots of reassuring words and chuffs, we were able to convince her to make the transition. Once

inside of her larger space, and after she had a few minutes to realize she would not be harmed, she began to drink water with intense deliberation.

She was obviously very thirsty and needed to hydrate far more than would be expected. Once she was satiated, she began to scarf down chunks for red meat as if she hadn't eaten in days.

Dalila made no attempt to come out of her crate once it was opened. In fact, she didn't move a muscle.

Our thoughts quickly envisioned the worst. Was it possible she expired during transport

and we would be extracting a lifeless body?

Before we could finish such terrible thoughts, Dalila rescued our hearts by slowly lifting her head. She was alive, but definitely weak.

Chuffs and calls to her went unanswered, and even physical touches to her rear legs from outside the cage failed to issue a response. It was apparent she needed our help in backing out of the single-door crate she had been stuffed into head first.

The tiny crate was incredibly dark inside and completely soaked in urine. The air holes

that had been drilled into the plywood only generated small slivers of light, so we were left with no option other than to work with the visible portion of the Tiger that now protruded out the doorway.

Concerns for our safety faded quickly as the horrendous condition of the Tiger we were now lifting was vastly apparent. She was nothing more than a limp emaciated shell of a once majestic creature.

She was alive but not a Tiger, so to speak. Instead, Dalila was in bad shape for a number of reasons. (1) She had come with a long history of living with a spinal injury similar to so many of the circus and zoo animals we have rescued before... and (2) She was in great pain due to being severely confined with no way to move (*even an inch*) for multiple days.

Additionally, it was vastly apparent there had been no water or food made available to her for days - at least none other than the water her Mexican chaperone had occasionally dribble onto her head through one of the tiny air holes at the top of the crate.

She was dehydrated and very weak, so moving her into the larger cage took place without any resistance. She immediately leaned over and plunged her

face into the water bucket that was secured to the cage wall.

Although wobbly and seemingly incoherent, Dalila drank off and on for the next five minutes. Our concerns over the lack of watering were well-founded and now confirmed with her incessant drinking.

Yet, a new concern surfaced quickly with the sudden appearance of significant amounts of blood running down the side of the bucket and splashing onto her front legs. We couldn't get a good look with her head continually buried deep within the bucket, but it seemed the source originated from under her chin.

When she finally felt satisfied with enough water in her system to sit back, we confirmed she had an open wound under her jawline that continued to discharge fluid. Bright red blood was mixed with other clearer fluids, which provided us with a better understanding of what the issue was.

Dalila obviously had an abscess that had just ruptured when she aggressively-rubbed her jawbone across the pail's edge. It had to be a pretty significant pocket to discharge the amount of fluid we were seeing - which meant the abscess had been building for a number of days or even weeks.

Having to guess at this stage of the game, we had to assume she either had a bad tooth in her lower jaw... or possibly a foreign object wedged somewhere deep within her lower gums. Either way, we would need to get her started on antibiotics and then obtain radiographs as soon as possible to verify the cause.

For now, the biggest concern were her kidneys, as they had probably been stressed beyond repair by not having adequate water during the entire load/transport sequence. If true, there would be no way to save Dalila, as renal failure is the number one cause of death in cats.

Stressing an already sick, emaciated and half-crippled Tiger for multiple days was unfathomable, and left us all wondering how anyone could think it was an acceptable thing to do. Dalila's body was a thin rail of bones covered in Tiger fur, and her two back legs weren't working.

In order to get her into the tiny transport crate, the zoo had obviously sedated her and then attempted to stuff her into the small container. Like a bunch of farmers trying to cram a loose bag of potatoes into a skinny rectangle box - they had pushed until her back had folded significantly upwards in the middle.

There simply was not enough room, and no way to pull her into the crate from the other end, so her previously injured back became appreciably re-injured as a result. Now her overall condition was even more complicated than before.

Just a few weeks earlier, when our team saw Dalila and Simba in Mexico, Dalila was emaciated and had paper thin legs... but they did work at that time. It was obvious she chose to lie on her side 90% of the time and would drag herself around due to the pain she was dealing with, but could walk when it was absolutely necessary.

Now, she had no movement whatsoever in her back legs. It would take a few days for us to be able to ascertain if the new injury had actually paralyzed her, or just increased the damage to her spine to the point of temporary paralysis. Either way her kidneys took precedence, as did the infection she was fighting, so we went to work on those issues first.

Over the next few days Dalila received fluids multiple times a day, as well as antibiotics and lots of physical support in cleaning her open wounds. She wouldn't eat, which could have been associated with the jaw infection and/or the overall pain and discomfort she was dealing with throughout her body.

She was limited in how much pain medicine she could receive due to her already stressed kidneys and liver, and we did everything we could to keep her comfortable. We were starting to see her kidney values improve - which was partially due to the significant amount of fluids we were giving her - but it was also an indication her kidneys were starting to recover.

Luckily for Simba, after a day in the hospital and general check over, she was able to move to the Tiger Roundhouse where she could begin her own specific rehabilitation program. She was far healthier than Dalila, and didn't require further medical intervention.

With time she will be able to gain weight, and more importantly, realize not all humans are bad. It won't happen overnight, but will eventually come to fruition with our team treating her with the utmost love and respect.

However, Dalila is one of those cases where the damage that was done may not be reversible. Like Jonwah, we are not willing to simply chalk her near-death condition up to poor luck and fill her veins with euthanasia fluid. Instead, we will continue to do everything we can to help her remain comfortable while giving her body the best possible chance to heal.

We understand how difficult these kinds of stories are to hear, and we always try to be respectful in demonstrating how harsh the realities of abuse cases can be. Dalila's story of a lifetime of abuse is important to tell, as rescues like hers are never easy or free from serious complications.

We run into endless numbers of situations in other countries where well intended people abuse animals in the name of welfare. Although they are trying to help, it's easy for them to overlook the fact they are unprepared to adequately or appropriately improve the animal's situation.

Dalila is a clear case where the transition from her abusive life with the circus... to the life she could have at a dedicated carnivore sanctuary like ours... was overlapped by a necessary (*but also abusive*) pit stop. The complications of international import/export and endangered species regulations only add to the challenges animals face when trying to make their way to a good sanctuary and final home.

Many of the other international rescues that we have carried out faced similar cultural differences and varying levels of what others thought was acceptable behavior and care. The question always remains will the animal be better off in

the end, and not have to suffer at the hands of those who are trying to provide help.

This is the main reason we advocate for sanctuaries to be built within countries that have captive wildlife issues. It's not only important as a way to increase capacity for animals in need... but also to help alleviate the potential for stress and other transport related problems.

There's no doubt Dalila was in bad shape when she arrived at the zoo in Tijuana, and there were very limited resources to help her during her time there. On more than one occasion we had received reports stating she would not make it to the time when a transfer could be carried out, so we always felt lucky that she had made it thus far.

Although we would like to have saved her from having to suffer in any capacity, the realities of her situation made it impossible for us to control many aspects of her transfer. The next days, weeks and months may bring a happy ending to this story... and may not.

Either way, we feel we have made major improvements in her condition over the past week and will continue to do everything in our power to help her regain her health. These are the times when we take great comfort in knowing 95% or more of the animals we rescue do not have serious health problems and only need lots of love, good food and a wonderful space to live in.

With a team of doctors and veterinary technicians working on Dalila daily, we are providing her with the best medical care possible. She clearly comprehends they are there to help and accepts their medical interventions with incredible patience and understanding.

Without her help, many of the procedures and life-giving treatments would not be possible. It's difficult to explain how miraculous the interactions between her and her medical team really are, and we can only hope everyone can value and respect her right to be given a chance to recover.

We are constantly amazed by the love and caring communications we receive concerning animals that are fighting uphill battles, and we feel incredibly blessed to know there are so many of you that care. We understand how we as humans would hope our friends, family and fellow man would not simply give up on us if we ever found ourselves fighting a life and death battle to survive.

We certainly hope to have incredibly positive news in the not-too-distant future about Dalila and her recovery from

a litany of terrible afflictions. Yet, whatever the outcome, we already feel incredibly honored to have an opportunity to help her.

Living in a world where a Tiger like Dalila would have no options for rescue or redemption would not be a place we would want to live in. She and all of the animals we work so hard to save deserve every ounce of effort we put forth.

They were never given the opportunity to choose their life's path, and in most cases,

suffered greatly at the hands of their human captors. We are the only chance they have at getting a new life, and we owe it to them to work as hard as we can to make things right.

*We thank you for your love, patience and understanding, as well as your compassion and caring spirit. Please say a prayer for Dalila and join us in our daily cascade of positive thoughts, so that she may have every opportunity to recover, and live a happy healthy life.*

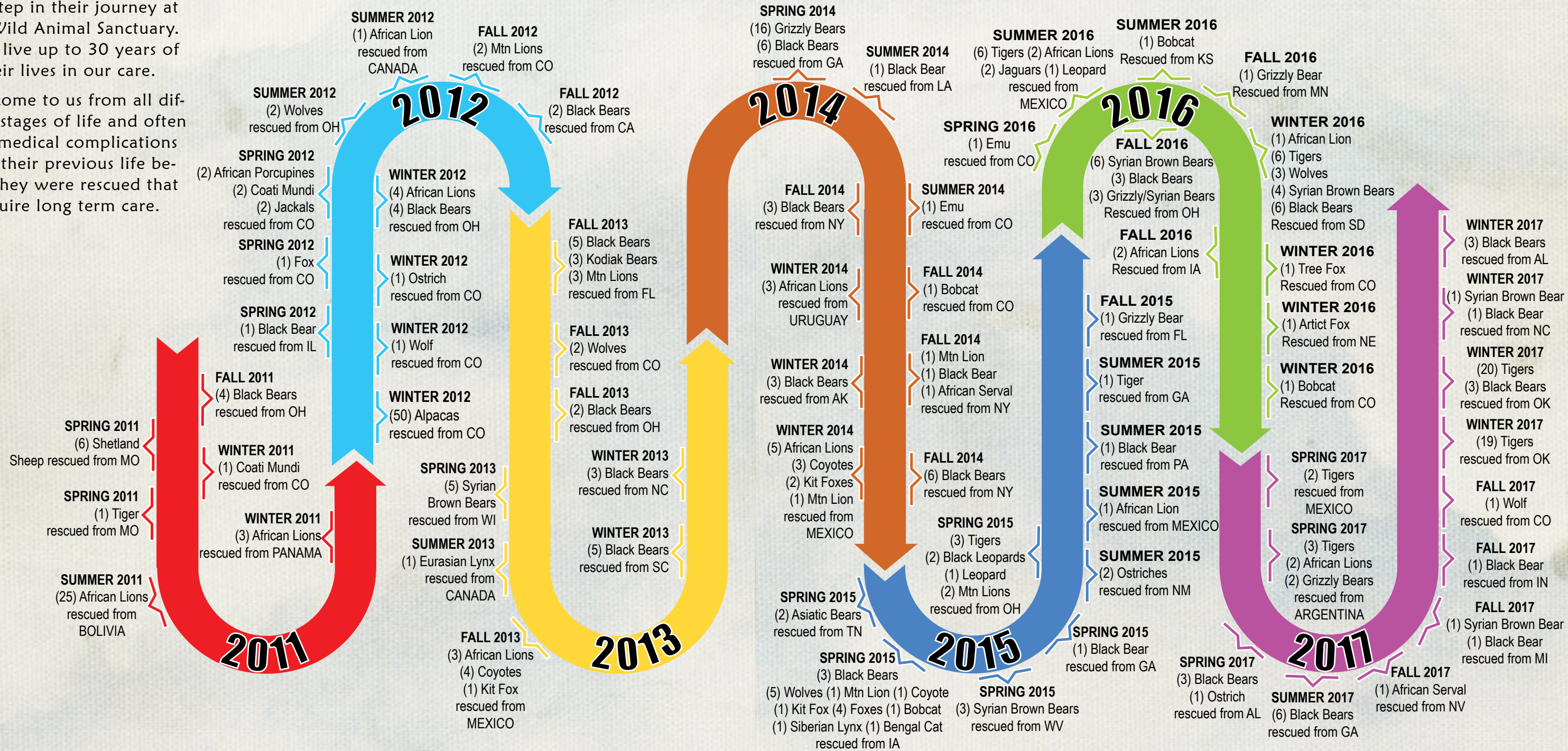
*Amen. 🐾*



**ROAD TO RECOVERY**  
*7 Year Synopsis*

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.





Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Contributed support		
Restricted	300,851	
Unrestricted	<u>288,641</u>	
Total Contributed support	589,493	
Donated Goods		
Donated Feed	0	
Donated Land	0	
Donated Stock	<u>0</u>	
Total Donated Goods	0	
Grants		
Operating	0	
Restricted	<u>0</u>	
Total Grants	0	
Sales	0	
Events Revenue	<u>0</u>	
Total Income	589,493	
Cost of Goods Sold Cost		
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>0</u>	
Total COGS	0	
Gross Profit	589,493	
Expense		
Auto/Truck Expense	0	
BankNisa/MC Charges	0	
Depreciation/Amort Expense	292,064	
Donor Appreciation	0	
Dues and Subscriptions	0	
Education-Captive Wildlife	0	
Event Center - Op Expenses	0	
Feed	0	
Fundraising Expenses	0	
Insurance	13,903	
Interest Expense	12,031	
Licenses & Permits	7,325	
Medical	0	
Miscellaneous	0	
Network Operations	0	
Payroll Expenses	244,899	
Postage & Delivery	0	
Printing & Reproduction	0	
Professional Fees	7,529	
Rent	0	
Repairs & Maintenance	0	
Small Tools	0	
Supplies	6,020	
Taxes	10,143	
Telephone	4,147	
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	106,083	
Uniforms	3,788	
Utilities	0	
Volunteer Expense	<u>0</u>	
Total Expense	707,931	
Net Ordinary Income	-118,438	
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposal	0	
Unrealized Investment Gain	0	
Interest, Royalties, Dividends	<u>0</u>	
Total Other Income	0	
Net Other Income	0	
Net Income	-118,438	

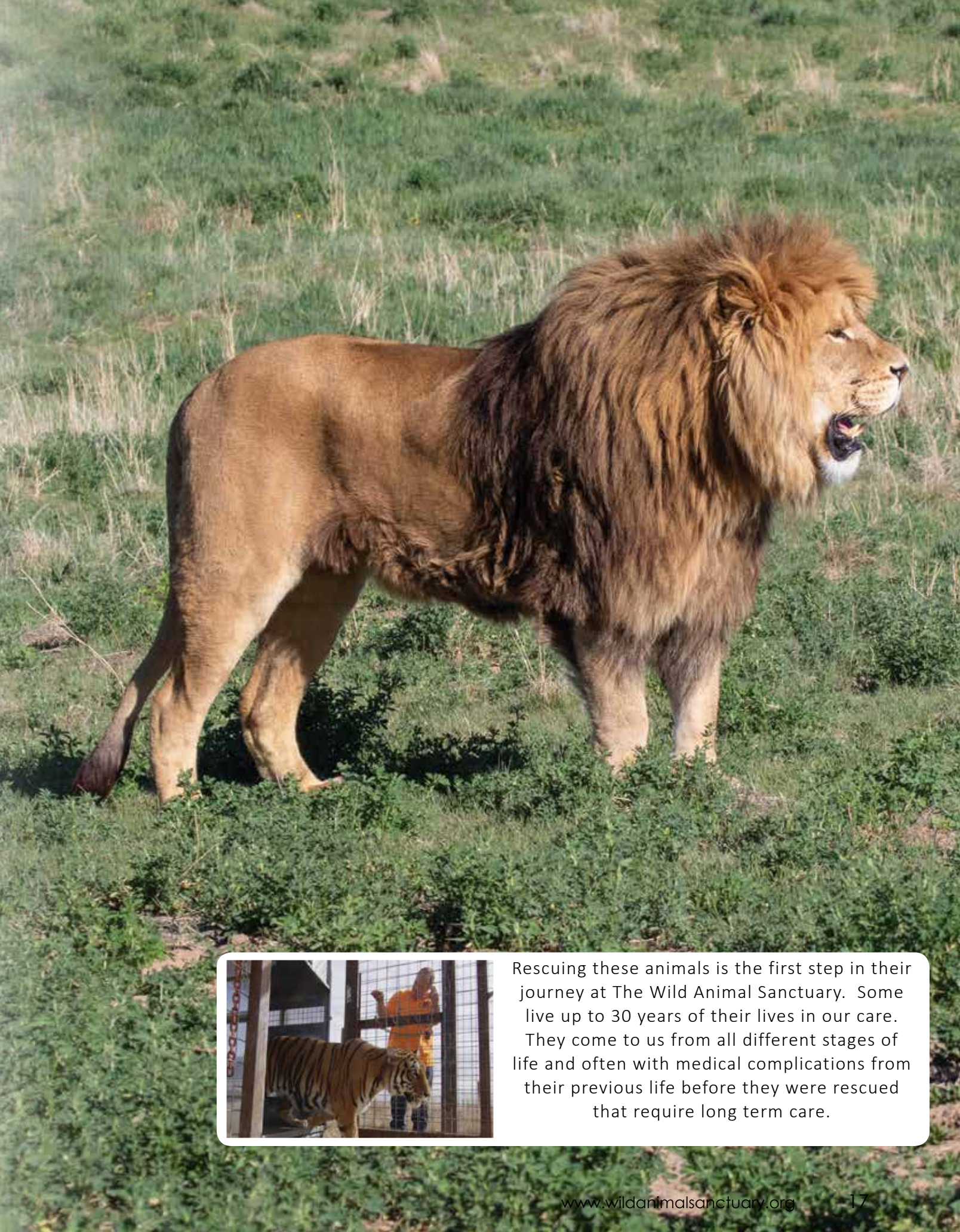
In 2017 the Sanctuary was home to over 450 large exotic animals – making us the largest carnivore sanctuary in the world – and that number is constantly growing due to our dedicated efforts to save the lives of what seems like a never ending stream of animals needing to be rescued.



In 2017, we were able to rescue 71 animals from across the United States representing over 8 species and sub-species from all over the world.



Animal rescues take an extraordinary amount of time, resources, and dedication. In 2017, our team drove over 13,000 miles on rescue operations within the United States, using over 2,000 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.

DON'T CRY FOR ME...



# Argentina

How long is too long... or how hard is too hard?  
Is there ever a time when it is perfectly clear that it's time to throw  
in the proverbial towel?

**T**hese are valid questions that have been floating around the universe for as long as people can remember – or at least since man started questioning the value and/or overall impact of his efforts. Yet, even so, they are always subject to interpretation based on what we are trying to accomplish.

When it comes to relationships, there's no end to the line of people who feel they may have stuck with a sour-patch partner for far too long... or many others who feel they may have been the only one working toward making a difficult relationship succeed!

Either way, it's never good to wake up one day feeling slighted, especially if you feel you have just thrown away the best years of your life!

So why do we do it? What makes us stay when we

probably shouldn't... or work harder instead of letting go? It's mostly due to our subconscious telling us over and over that our tenacity will pay off in the end and everything will come up smelling like roses!

We're addicted to gambling – even though most times it never involves money. Why not stick it out since the payoff will be huge, we ask ourselves. If I just stay a little longer or work a little harder everything will be better tomorrow – right?

Well, not usually. In most cases we find ourselves saying - what made me think that was going to work... or why didn't I just quit sooner? Of course, the incoherent mumblings that usually follow that type of rhetorical question are not something that should be spoken out loud – or at least not in public.

Yet, there is some truth to the theory that tenacity is a good

attribute to have, and if you really want something bad enough, working extra hard might help you earn it. It's the payoff at the end we all hope to get, and the reason so many of us continue to hone our skills with the expectation it will somehow increase our odds of winning.

So when is it OK to go off the deep end and never give up no matter how terrible the odds are? It's simple... when there's a life on the line! That's the golden rule in many people's book, and one that most say should trump all others.

Ask a firefighter or police officer, or a military veteran, and they will tell you that saving a life is worth giving up their own, if need be. It sounds a little harsh to say it that plainly, but in that split second when a decision like that has to be made... it happens automatically.



Why would anyone be willing to die for another? That's a great question, and one that points to the core of humanity in general.

What is it that drives a person to value the life of another living being as much or more than their own? Could it be we want to extend that value on others that we wish for ourselves? If so, would we be devoid of worth if no one was willing to lay down their life to save ours?

It's easy to see how deeply impacted we are when we hear of someone dying... and in some cases, we are even more devastated when we see another life experiencing pain or suffering beyond description. It's something we all feel deep within our inner core, and something that motivates most of us to act in ways that can baffle the majority of people we know.

This is something we see time and time again when we go far beyond the norm in rescuing

animals - and even more so - when we carry out rescues in other countries. However, it's never a problem for us to shoulder the burden of explaining our motivation for going outside US borders.

When we look into the eyes of an animal who is suffering greatly, or one that is clamoring persistently at death's doorstep, we lose all ability to rationalize why their life would be of any less value than one positioned more conveniently.

There is no difference between the two when it comes to suffering, and subsequently dying from severe neglect. It's the same wherever they are positioned in this world.

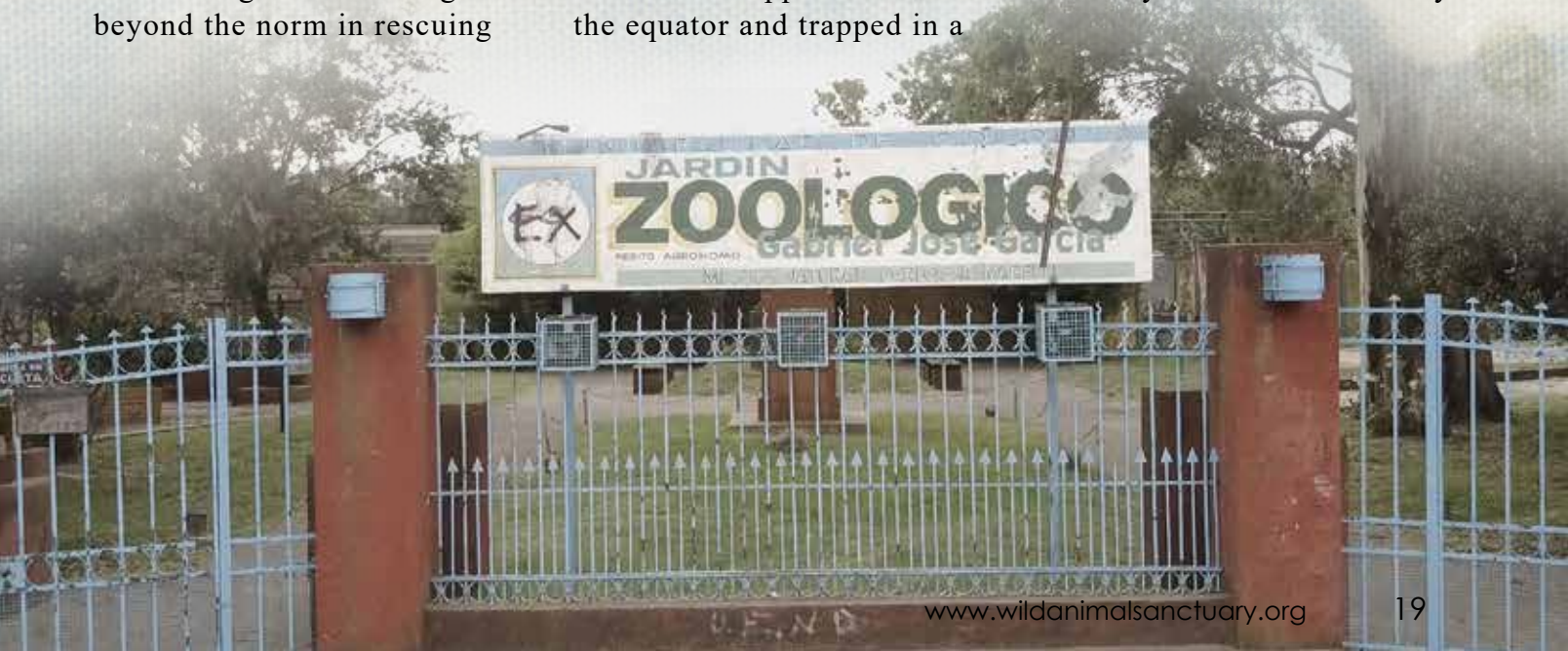
So when we first heard of the animals in Colón, Argentina, we knew the suffering and deaths being reported were every bit as important to address as any recent domestic rescue had been. They just happened to be on the opposite side of the equator and trapped in a

zoo where the town's government felt it was OK to allow their animals to starve to death.

And by "*their*", we mean the city owned and operated the zoo - just like so many others do. Yet, in this case, the city failed to see the difference between caring for their stone monuments and caring for delicate lives.

It was vastly apparent the city had a great capacity for building beautiful statues and monuments, as well as keeping their streets, parks and other public spaces in perfect condition. Yet, they somehow failed to see how the living, breathing inhabitants of their zoo required the same level of dedication and care.

Having a beautifully landscaped zoo and public park does not mean the zoo's caretakers will somehow magically have the same success in healthscaping the animals. Yet the city chose to continually





ignore the difference between the two – believing everything would be OK as long as the grass was always cut and the sidewalks were always swept.

So as one animal slowly starved to death after another, the zoo continued to ignore their suffering and focused on the appearance of the grounds. As long as the visitors had nice amenities, that's all that mattered.

Adding to the distraction from what was truly important – meaning the welfare of the animals – the city had built a soccer (*futbol*) stadium inside the zoo's grounds. Yes, inside, with all of the cages for the carnivores being located adjacent to the stadium walls that supported fan seating.

Thus, whenever there was a soccer practice, or a regional game, there were hundreds-to-thousands of people inside

the zoo screaming and yelling. To add to the insanity, the local soccer team had a rooting section which included drums, horns and other assorted noise-making gadgets.

Of course it wasn't soccer or "*futbol*" without beer and other alcoholic beverages available in ample supply... and the sheer rowdiness of the fans only added to the furor. The team was the city's pride and joy, and of course, soccer was always more important than anything else.

So not only were the cages tiny, dirty and totally dilapidated... the animals inherited the added madness of having drunken or inconsiderate soccer fans harassing them from atop the walls of a stadium less than a dozen feet away. As the game clock ticked on, and fans began to lose themselves in riotous idiotic behaviors, beer bottles, cans, pennants and

whatever else was available to heave into the air plummeted into the cages below.

For hours the cadence of drums and sudden thunderous roars from opposing fans would fill the air. Whistles and horns, bells and clackers, and any other noise maker that held a unique ability to pierce one's ear continued to resonate far and wide.

After each game, as the bellowing thunder of crowds began to subside, the animals remained unable to avoid the consequences of soccer fans being inside zoo grounds, as many streamed through the park as they exited the stadium in mindless disarray.

Hours would pass before many animals felt comfortable crawling out from under whatever hiding place or shelter they had used to survive the aerial assault. Others who were lucky



to be located a little farther from the stadium walls still required a certain amount of time before they felt safe enough to relax.

Some used shallow depressions in the dirt to become invisible while an onslaught of sporting onlookers marshaled outside their enclosure... while others who were forced to remain front and center knew to remain candidly disengaged to better their odds at diffusing the situation.

There was no doubt the zoo had two glaring issues. On one hand, the city held no interest in maintaining animal health, care and wellbeing on a daily

basis... and on the other, they chose to put zero effort into finding a way to separate the soccer operations from the zoo grounds.

As animals continued to suffer and die, local activists began to rally on their behalf. They petitioned city officials to address the conditions at hand, but were refused an audience with any top officials - including the mayor - who just happened to also carry the official title of Director of the Zoo.

The activists continued to persist, but became extremely frustrated by a total lack of response from city officials. A virtual war eventually broke

out between the activists and city officials after some of the activists chose to shift the battle to a more personal level.

The Mayor's house, along with other city officials' personal property became the target of vandalism, as did a number of city structures. Much of what was done was more along the lines of what most of us would consider a high school prank known as getting your house TP'd... but it was an act of vandalism just the same.

According to the activists, many of the city officials then retaliated by abusing their power in ways that hurt their members through city run services

and ordinances... and so the battle raged on. It seemed the rest of the city's residents were split on the matter, with many siding with the activists and sharing their concern for the animals living at the zoo.

Conversely, there were other citizens that felt the city officials had been wronged and the zoo was actually a great asset to the community. Many remembered a time when the zoo had actually been considered one of the best in all of Argentina.

Either way, the battle finally reached a tipping point, and city officials agreed to hold meetings in order to discuss the situation and prevent things from degrading further. Yet, by this time, the story of the horrid conditions that existed at the Colón Zoo had spread and the story was now beginning to surface in media outlets around the world.

The zoo had earned the title of being one of the top ten worst zoos in the world, and now there were millions of people looking at Colón with a magnifying glass. During the discussions, both the activists and city officials decided to reach out to The Wild Animal Sanctuary to see if we would be able to help.

Both sides wanted to know if we could take their animals if

a decision to close the zoo was made. Of course we wanted to help, especially after seeing some of the early photographs coming from the zoo... but we were also concerned that many of the animals might be too weak or sick to be moved.

We gave them a precursory answer that indicated we would be able to help – but also requested an opportunity to come see the animals in question. City officials agreed to let us bring a team of experts to view and evaluate the animals, and subsequently decided to close the zoo until further notice.

We were glad the zoo was closed, as it had become a sort of mecca for the curious and morbid who wanted to see or experience what one of the worst zoos in the world was like. No doubt a disgusting human response, but nonetheless one that only added to the problem.

Within a short amount of time we sent a special team to Argentina consisting of head veterinarian Dr. Felicia Knightly and Executive Director, Pat Craig. Additionally, Becca Miceli, the Sanctuary's Director of Animal Care, and Monica Craig, the Sanctuary's Communications Director, filled-out the team navigating the 6,000 mile journey south.

With countless strings of emails, phone calls, letters and various other communication lines being open with dozens of Latin American and other Spanish-speaking countries happening on a monthly basis these days, Monica's expert ability to understand the Sanctuary's policies, procedures and overall ethical procedures has become a critical part of her translation and interpretation skills.

Being a native-born Colombian, Monica expertly handled all of the Spanish communications for our team, and helped liaise with city officials during the review process. Our trip was well worth the effort, since immediately upon arrival it was clear the animals were in desperate need of help.

Yet, by the time we arrived, City officials were still struggling with varying public opinion and were beginning to give significant credence toward the opposition to permanently closing the zoo. We quickly became concerned and began questioning our assigned representative about the possibility of the zoo being reopened.

According to our rep, the Mayor was definitely feeling an abundance of pressure and said he would wait until the last minute before our departure to make his decision. Reluctantly,

our team had to proceed with our visit not knowing if it would all be in vain.

Entering the zoo it was clear the facility had become run down, even with the city caring more about the grounds than the animals. They had reduced the staff to the one caretaker who had been there for longer than most people could remember... and we were joined by the zoo's one and only veterinarian.

When we asked him about his position and time there, he responded by saying he was just a contracted resource and was only there on occasion. He also stated there were no

medical records whatsoever, nor any other records pertaining to when or where the animals living there came from, since there had been a recent fire in the building that contained all of those documents, and the only thing remaining was a blackened concrete pad where the building once stood.

So much for knowing anything about the animals we were about to evaluate... but realistically, that is the same scenario we face in most rescue cases so we weren't necessarily thrown by the news. Historical data would have been nice, but present-day documentation was more important.

Going from cage to cage we were surprised to find most of the animals were not so close to death that they were unsavable, but we did have concern for each resident for varying reasons. Some had issues with their eyes, mouths and paws, while others had severe skin conditions that had been left untreated for years.

All were underweight and in need of better nutrition, with the Tigers and Lions being remarkably lethargic as a result. The Bears had a slight advantage in feeding since the caretaker had planted some squash on the grounds years earlier to help provide something besides





the stale bread he was provided as their official diet.

All of the animals seemed distressed in one or many ways, and their clear distaste and overall distrust of people was vastly evident. Everyone looked like a soccer fan to them, and thus, received the same indignant response.

Their enclosures were for the most part extremely small and seemed to have dirt floors. Yet, the tops and sides of scattered clay bricks could be seen in certain areas. The bricks had obviously been part of the original design back when the cages were constructed, but

time, weather and an inability to shift animals for repairs had taken its toll.

It was obvious the tight brick patterns had become dislodged by residents over time and the lockdown houses attached to each cage had become too dilapidated to function. None of the shifting doors showed signs of having been moved in years,

with each one being every bit as dysfunctional as the cages themselves.

The animals had basically become entombed within their cages, and the only time a human went in or an animal came out was when the latter passed away. Sadly, there had been many instances of tomb breaching within the previous year leading up to our arrival.

Once the team completed their inspection of the two Lions, three Tigers and two Bears that remained, they were summoned to a press conference where their findings would be announced. Media from many locations throughout South America came to hear the results, as did the activists, numerous city officials and a large crowd of concerned citizens.

Everyone was there except the Mayor. He had been notably absent or too “*busy*” to meet with us or anyone for quite some time, so we weren’t surprised to see his chair remain empty throughout the conference.

Our team reported the animals were alive and stable, but were underweight and had numerous issues that would need addressing prior to any move. They also discussed the international paperwork, permits and other documentation that would be needed to successfully relocate the animals to the United States, and those would take time to get in order.

Having this delay would be beneficial to the animals’ recovery by giving the city ample time to improve their nutritional intake. It would also allow the animals to gain strength and have more stamina for their upcoming journey.

Once the press conference was over, the team was transported to Town Hall, so they could finally meet with the Mayor. It turned out to be a very tense meeting, since the Mayor still counted himself as one of the many who felt the zoo should reopen.

Yet, despite his opposition to closing the city’s “*pride and joy*”, he became less resistant when the team stated the other option would be to move the soccer stadium to a new location. Besides the costs involved, there was no way he or the city wanted to disrupt their favorite weekend sport, so closing down the zoo suddenly became the lesser of two evils.

A decree was made the zoo would remain closed and the animals in question would be officially donated to The Wild Animal Sanctuary. The team had succeeded in securing their release and provided those in charge of caring for the animals everything they needed to begin readying the animals for a future move.

Upon returning to Colorado, the team and other staff began the long process of securing permits from both governments involved, as well as preparing transport crates and handling other international rescue logistics. Adding to the burden, communications via email,

letter and by phone suddenly put us back into a much slower mode as compared to being in-country.

If we’ve learned anything, stimulating people to move at a quickened pace through virtual communications is far less effective than when you are standing in front of them. For all that was accomplished while the team was in Argentina, everything now would be like pushing a wet noodle!

For every one item that needed to be resolved from here to there via communication, it would become ten, twenty or thirty emails or calls to get that item completed. In addition, the clock continued to move regardless of how slow their processes were, so in the end there were numerous thorny repercussions related to moving at a speed from days-gone-by when steam ships were used to cross oceans.

Days, months and years passed. Once they had their permits in place, ours would expire... and once we had our permits in place, theirs would expire. It was a sad comical process of two worlds moving at completely different speeds and with totally different communication styles.

Oil and water go together better than two completely different countries do. Yet, we

## ARGENTINA RESCUE CONT'D...

remained strong and always believed our efforts would pay off. No matter how crazy and idiotic the situation seemed at times, we kept the fires burning and finally succeeded in syncing the two worlds together!

Fortunately, the city of Colón had kept their promise and had cared for the animals we had agreed to take. Even though they remained in their dilapidated cages, each had been given far more food and much better care while the permit and logistics process ran its course.

Finally, with all the stars aligned in the sky, we set the date for the airlift. Our team returned to Argentina after sending our special transport crates to Colón a couple weeks earlier.

Upon arrival, they immediately returned to the zoo in order to check the animals and make sure they were in the best shape possible to travel. Most had improved over time, with one exception.

The male Grizzly Bear had continued to lose his vision while we were gone, and was now completely blind. His eyes had shown signs of having cataracts when we originally visited, but had since degraded further to a point where he could no longer see at all.

He had adapted to his condition by mentally mapping his

cage and was able to navigate the entire space by memory. Although he seemed comfortable living day-to-day, he did have trouble whenever things became a little hectic – like when the soccer games were underway.

Luckily, our sedation process would be quick, and he would not have to deal with any navigational issues for more than a few minutes on the morning of the move. His skin condition had also worsened, but that was something we could address over time back in Colorado, so we weren't too concerned.

On a more positive note, the set time for loading the animals turned out to be just right. The town's soccer team had a match scheduled for the same day – but it wasn't supposed to start until mid-afternoon.

As long as nothing unexpected would disrupt our loading process, we would be able to remove all the animals prior to any rowdy soccer fans entering the park. The team spent the day before departure cleaning and prepping the transport crates, as well as choreographing the next day's loading sequence.

Arriving before dawn, each set of animals received an early morning treat laced with a special sedative that would help minimize the amount of







tranquilizing medicine needed. Within an hour all were to be fully-sedated and receive a quick medical exam prior to being placed in their transport crates.

One by one, each of the animals made a personal journey to the loading/exam area, leaving behind the filth and dispiriting waste that framed their existence for years on end. Each received one final physical exam, as well as a quick dose of vital fluids and a microchip, which would help identify them as they transitioned into their new life.

When the male Bear came through the station, it was hard to abide the condition of his feet and mouth. Under close inspection, both were nothing short of heartbreaking.

Whatever his origins were, the humans who dealt with him as a cub had obviously decided to remove all danger associated with his claws by simply hacking them off – along with nearly 50% of each digit! He was left with short stubby feet that more resembled catcher mitts than actual Bear paws.

His teeth barely protruded beyond his gum line, which was likely the result of being purposely ground-down for protection (*similar to his claws*). Seeing both his teeth and claws butchered in such a barbarous manner suggested his former life involved a stint with some ghastly traveling circus.

That's more-or-less a story that many animals in countless countries share, as traveling

circuses have been around since nearly anyone can remember - and their favorite option for dumping unwanted animals was to give them to the nearest zoo as they marched onward. Usually, the “*unwanted*” animal was one that refused to perform anymore... or one that had been worked so hard for so long that they became useless and were no longer considered a “*money-maker*”.

In this Bear's case, he had survived with all of his man-made deformities and aged-related health conditions, and would be able to make this final journey without adding more pain and suffering. Once in Colorado, we would provide the very best medical care possible, so



he could enjoy his retirement years without pain and suffering, or the oppression and abuse that had filled his life up to this point.

Once all of the animals had received their physical checks and were safely in the transport crates, they were loaded onto the truck and began their journey home. Leaving the city of Colón was just the beginning, as there were many more legs in the journey to reach their final destination, but they were finally on their way and in our control so we knew they would never be mistreated again.

As the crates were unloaded at the airport, our team began to feel anxious. They were entering a new era in international rescue operations, as advancements in jet aircraft design and capacity had given birth to what only could be described as a hybrid commercial passenger and commercial cargo jet!

To most, that may not even make sense, but to our team, it represented the first time ever where they would be loading full grown Lions, Tigers and Bears into the luggage compartment of a commercial passenger jet. Historically, all passenger jets – no matter how large – always possessed small cargo doors that were never large enough to allow much of anything other than bags, golf clubs, skis and other sundries.

Usually, the items that are flown on cargo jets are heavy and very bulky, so there was never a way to utilize passenger jets to move typical air cargo. Yet, with jets becoming bigger and bigger, a threshold was crossed where some new designs are able to carry more weight than would be the norm for a passenger aircraft.

Add in a much taller profile, and suddenly you have a jet that can carry hundreds of passenger in the top half – while also being fully loaded with bulky cargo below. That is pretty incredible since we all see how much baggage the typical traveler tries to bring on a normal trip, and most of us usually wonder how the plane is ever going to take off with all that excess baggage... so

imagine now the plane you are on may also have 10 times that in immense cargo area below!

So for the rescue team, this particular trip was the first time they would see their precious cargo loaded into the belly of a passenger jet - and would then have to sit in the normal passenger seating area. Given a choice, the team would have been happy to trade their cushy cabin seats for the rough and tumble jump seats typically found in cargo holds... but the new design and arrangement called for animal chaperones to utilize the cabin instead of remaining close at hand with the animals.

This wasn't a great option, and one we hope to see changed. However, there are so many





advantages to this new design that relate to opening new routes and schedules for animals being rescued, it will be a real game changer. Besides, how many people would ever think there are Lions, Tigers

and Bears right below their feet while flying to their next business meeting or family vacation!

So it seemed fitting this new massive jet would be flying a combination of rescued

animals, and their rescuers, since both had survived the impossible. It was the beginning of the end on certain fronts, and an end of a new beginning on others, and all that mattered now was these seven animals



and their guardians were headed to Colorado where they would be forever free from the obstinate and painful blockades that previously kept one group from reaching the other.

Upon completion of their six thousand mile journey, the animals began entry into the Sanctuary's system. They had all made the trip without issue and actually seemed to enjoy the maiden flight.

One by one they were released into temporary enclosures as our normal rehabilitation process requires. Each was located in an area that would offer the most advantages for their condition, with the Lions going

into the Bolivian Lion House, the Bears into the Veterinary Clinic, and the Tigers into introduction cages inside a new habitat.

Of the three groups, the Bears were in most need of attention. The male Bear, with his health issues and blindness, would require further evaluation before moving into an outdoor setting. The female had far less issues, but the two needed to remain together for reassurance purposes if nothing else since they had spent the entire time at the zoo living together.

The male and female Lions were in the best shape of the three, and would be well

accommodated in the Lion House amongst their kin. Seeing and hearing other Lions would help stimulate their innate desire to be social, and energize their minds and spirit.

And the Tigers would be best served by remaining together in a group, since they had lived and relied on each other for many years back in the zoo. With a beautiful new habitat awaiting their arrival, it would be easy to let them get acclimated to their new spread by utilizing temporary introduction cages placed within the space.

Within two to three weeks they would be ready for release and

could discover what something other than clay bricks and pulverized dirt felt like. With oceans of grass, multiple water holes, trees and lots of three dimensional structures to play on... their new habitat would be incredibly different than anything they had ever known before.

Once everyone was stable and in their appropriate locations, our Veterinarians went to work on the male Bear. Yet, before anyone could begin treatments, it was important to resolve a lingering problem. None of the seven animals rescued had names, as not a single person in Colón had bothered to look at them in any manner that would exhort giving them a name.

So the challenge began, with staff being given the honor of naming the seven Argentinians. "Mafalda" and "Walter" were the names bestowed on the Bears, with Mafalda being a reference to a precocious Argentinian cartoon character... and Walter being a name that seemed to match the male Bear's easy going attitude.



Oddly-enough, Walter seemed to become a whole different Bear the minute he stepped foot outside his transport crate after reaching Colorado! He immediately sprawled out onto the floor of the clinic and began rolling around and moving as if he was making virtual snow angels.

At first we thought he was stretching after such a long journey, but as he began eating grapes and playing in childish ways that didn't involve having to navigate his new surroundings – we knew he was just plain happy! Silly Walter, what a ham!

Mafalda watched with the hardened eyes and reserved stature of an embarrassed wife... but nonetheless seemed to understand as well that her mate was enjoying his new home. Even though Walter would need further medical checks before he could be moved outdoors, it was nice to know he had no issues with his temporary hospital stay.

After a week of observation and medical evaluations, both Walter and Mafalda were moved to their new habitat. Of course, with Walter being completely blind, the habitat required special modifications that would help Walter navigate the much larger space.

In the zoo, Walter had mapped his enclosure over time as he

slowly became blind, so it was a much easier process than having to take on multiple acres of natural open space from scratch. It was our job to design the habitat in ways that would be easy to map, and have added cushioning devices that would prevent him from becoming frustrated or scared while repeating the mapping process.

Luckily, our operations team who designs and builds these habitats had plenty of experience, since we have rescued numerous blind Bears, Fox, Lions and others who required the same special attention. Walter and Mafalda would have no problem adapting to their new home and would definitely love all the natural upgrades the space offered.

Having never hibernated like so many other rescued Bears we've taken in, their new home proffers a wonderful underground den that grants them safety, comfort and the tranquility needed to actually progress into a deep slumber for the first time in their lives!

So what to name the Tigers and Lions? Well, since the staff was given the challenge of matching personalities and/or profiles, the caretakers who would be spoiling the Tigers decided to name them Lysander, Viola and Titania.

William Shakespeare, through his play titled “*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*” would be proud to know his characters are now represented via the power and majesty of these three cats. As the sole suitor for the only two female characters available in his former challenged life, Lysander’s character seemed to make sense for the male Tiger.

Titania was a fairy queen and became associated with the stronger female Tiger, while the more delicate female appropriately received the name Viola - since it belonged to a flower in the play. Finding names that work for newly-rescued animals is actually difficult, since we do it so rarely. Nearly every animal we rescue comes with a name that was coined long before they ever arrive.

Feeling a need to continue with connections to their origin, the Lion caretakers chose “*Sandro*” and “*Mercedes*”. Known as the “*Argentine Elvis*”, Sandro was a charismatic singer that emulated many of the amatory and slightly more aggressive moves found in Elvis’s compendium.



With the male Lion being attractive, outgoing and flirtatious, the name and persona seemed like a good match.

It was also fitting to find an Argentine musician who stood for strength in the face of oppression, just as the female Lion had for so many years. The name Mercedes was chosen in honor of folk singer Mercedes Sosa, who was born on Argentina’s Independence Day... and was known as the “*voice for the voiceless*”. She stood strong for those in need, and spoke loudly to make her point - much like her Lioness namesake.

With everyone aptly named, the rehabilitation process marched forward. Mafalda and Walter moved into their new habitat which happened to be next to Fifi and Bruno, another distinctive pair of geriatric Bears who we knew would make great neighbors.

Mafalda quickly set out to befriend Fifi from her side of the fence, and the two seemed to be more than happy to gossip about their husbands’ nasty habits. Although Bruno isn’t blind, he definitely enjoys his own privacy – sporting a cantankerous attitude similar to an old geezer who believes there’s no use for meddling neighbors.

Walter was just happy to be free and in such a comfortable



and natural space. There was no need to see anything, as gobbling down grapes, strawberries and watermelon while being stretched out in a bed of fresh green grass quickly became his daily agenda.

Not having any teeth or claws, this was the life. Other than having to take his daily medicine for arthritis, he was sure he had gone to heaven!

Lysander, Titania and Viola didn’t take long to get used to their new home, and were released into their habitat within weeks of arrival. All three introduction cages were located inside the habitat, so opening doors was the only formality involved in giving them their final freedom.

Of course Lysander was the first to come out, and spent the next twenty minutes methodically exploring (*and sniffing*) the habitat from east to west and north to south. The tall prairie grasses from a previous

## ARGENTINA RESCUE CONT'D...

summer's growth were still present, but a new bed of lush green grass was beginning to carpet the ground below.

Finally, as he summited the large pile of freshly dug dirt we had used to cover their massive above ground den, we could see his demeanor beginning

to change. At first it looked as if he was stumbling on the loose dirt, but then we noticed his muscles beginning to bulge from beneath his normally smooth fur.

As he reached one end of the peak and began to widen his grip and hunker down, we started to comprehend what was going on. Lysander had finally decided his new home was safe and this habitat was his for the taking!

*Lysander*





Mixing incredible strength with equal amounts of childish glee, Lysander spun 180 degrees and began leaping across the peak in the opposite direction. Every muscle rippled as he powered his way across the dirt hilltop burying his razor-sharp claws into the soil with every step!

He was happy, oh so happy, and was more-or-less winging it as he went! Having never been able to run, play or bound in open spaces before, we could see he was enjoying

every bit of this highly-tactile experience.

Using the dirt to isometrically transfer his power, Lysander exploded off of the pile, and into the air! The commanding demonstration continued as his body gracefully transitioned to flat ground.







His marvelous expression of joy didn't stop there – as he chose to forge ahead into the deep ocean of grass spreading before him. It was truly a remarkable display of self-expression!

It was obvious this was the first time in his life he felt free and he was letting his mind and body go with the flow. Nothing was planned, and he had no agenda. He was simply and innocently reacting to a sudden realization that he was

now in charge of his own actions and he could do whatever he felt would make his heart and soul soar!

The girls were like two different versions of fruit – one apple and one orange. Titania waited until she saw Lysander

cutting loose before she chose to leave the confines of her introduction cage.

She began repeating the exploratory pattern Lysander had employed... but was doing it at a much slower speed.

Viola kept going right up to the threshold of her doorway, but refused to step into the abyss. She was not convinced it was completely safe just yet, and felt it would be better to remain inside the cage while Titania took all the risk.

So as Viola watched from behind a safe barrier, Titania continued to explore the habitat. She also completed the obligatory screening process with a passing grade, but did not celebrate like Lysander had.

Stopping from time-to-time to lay down and soak it all in, Titania was playing it safe. We could see her cautionary behavior thinning with each pit stop she made... yet we knew she was never going to erupt in celebration. Well, at least not that day!

Finally, after Titania made a few generous passes behind Viola's cage, she stepped out for the first time. Not far mind you, but out just the same.

Each time she would come out her steps would stretch just a little bit farther, exhibiting tiny incremental increases

in self-confidence. Slow and methodic was the name of the game for Viola, she definitely felt there was no reason to rush anything!

Within days, the three were much closer to being equal in overall confidence and having a general acceptance of their home. Of course, Lysander was enjoying a myriad of activities by now... and Viola was just happy to remain conservative as can be.

But Titania had decided that her responsibility to both was of great importance, and thus, could be seen chilling with Viola one minute, then romping and playing with Lysander the next! Being quite the mediator, Titania might be better suited as the leader of Libras rather than queen of the fairies, as purported by Shakespeare.

In any case, it was great to see all three Tigers roaming and living freely – especially in comparison to their previous life in Argentina. It would be hard to imagine what they think happened, since we're unsure if Tigers believe in reincarnation or being reborn!

And finally, the Lions. What amazing transformations have the Lions gone through? Well, none.

None that is - if you expected them to be running freely in a large pride with at least a

dozen loving members considered to be family! Of course that is our ultimate plan... but quite simply, it hasn't happened yet.

So what has? Good question. To date (*which at the time this newsletter went to press they had only been in rehabilitation for two months*) they have made monumental strides!

Yes, Sandro and Mercedes are doing extremely well inside the Bolivian Lion House and are making friends quickly. Yet, it takes time to integrate Lions into an existing pride, or even when we are building a new one from scratch – so we are moving forward in a positive and safe manner for their sake.

Both love the atmosphere inside the house with Lions all around and numerous roaring sessions each day. They go outside into a large exercise yard whenever and as often as they want, and will be getting an opportunity to interact with some of the other single Lions very soon.

By sometime this summer, they will have successfully joined together with a certain number of other Lions, and should be able to move into a large acreage habitat of their own. Their health and happiness is of utmost importance and we will continue to work toward that goal daily.

We can attest to the fact that they are incredibly happy together now that Mercedes has a contraceptive implant on board – which is why they were never allowed to stay together in Argentina. For years they sat in cages opposite each other yearning to feel the touch and love their mate could provide - but luckily the zoo was smart enough to know it wouldn't be a good idea to have babies – they were kept physically apart.

Now, with the contraceptive implant inserted under Mercedes' skin, she will be unable to cycle or become pregnant for at least two years.

Sandro is in heaven since he is instinctually driven to manage the females within his pride - and for now - Mercedes is the only female he has to court and protect.

They are definitely in love and constantly remain by each other's side. Spooning day and night, they have no shame! It's hard to imagine being separated from the one you love for years on end, never feeling the touch of their skin or receiving a gentle kiss from time-to-time.

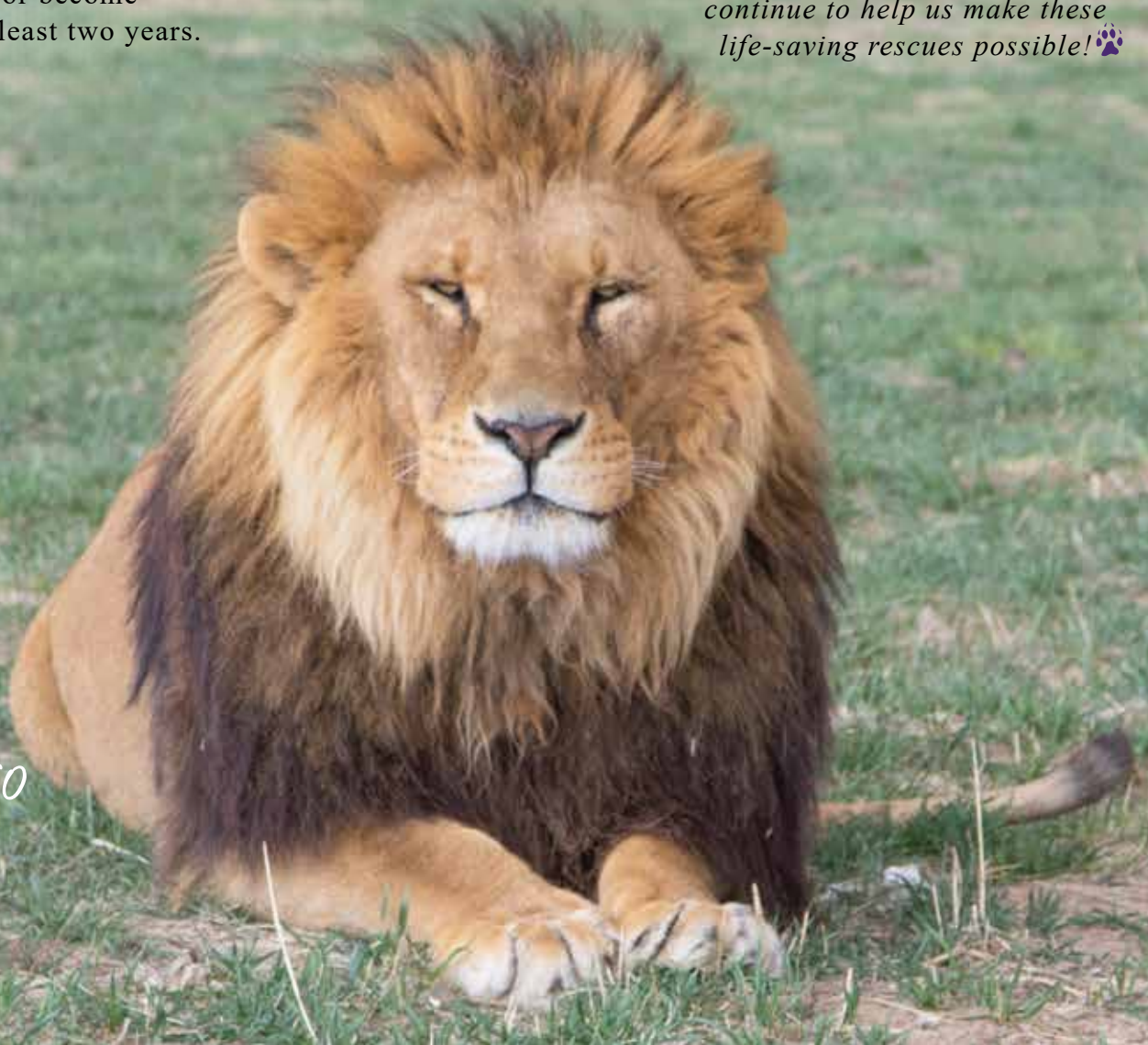
It's OK, they are together now and will be able to stay together for the rest of their

lives! Thank you for helping us be there for them... and for so many others! Any animal that is in dire need deserves to have someone fighting for them, no matter what language they speak!

Our tenacity and dedication is strong, and we know how much you care. Together we can save lives and change them for the better! The world needs to know these animals are being killed and mistreated on a daily basis, and needs to learn how to treat them with dignity and respect!

*Thank you again, and please continue to help us make these life-saving rescues possible! 🐾*

Sandro





## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2017, we had 10 full-time Animal Keepers on staff to care for over 450 rescued animals.



The Sanctuary operates on 735 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 2017 The Wild Animal Sanctuary delivered over 1.4 million gallons of water and 2.4 million pounds of food to our rescued animals.

Utilizing multiple refrigerated trucks with two full-time drivers, the Sanctuary picks up food from over 40 food sources across Colorado's front range.



THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL INCOME & EXPENSE JANUARY TO DECEMBER 17


<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Contributed support</b>		
Restricted		166,604
Unrestricted		<u>1,854,562</u>
<b>Total Contributed support</b>		<b>2,021,166</b>
<b>Donated Goods</b>		
Donated Feed		6,015,570
Donated Land		472,500
Donated Stock		<u>0</u>
<b>Total Donated Goods</b>		<b>6,488,070</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Operating		4,500
Restricted		<u>85,800</u>
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>90,300</b>
<b>Sales</b>		0
<b>Events Revenue</b>		<u>203,178</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>8,802,714</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold Cost</b>		
Cost of Goods Sold		<u>0</u>
<b>Total COGS</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>8,802,714</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Auto/Truck Expense		86,429
BankNisa/MC Charges		0
Depreciation/Amort Expense		923,078
Donor Appreciation		20,677
Dues and Subscriptions		3,046
Education-Captive Wildlife		0
Event Center - Op Expenses		0
Feed		6,032,680
Fundraising Expenses		0
Insurance		110,334
Interest Expense		12,396
Licenses & Permits		10,988
Medical		93,604
Miscellaneous		960
Network Operations		0
Payroll Expenses		677,307
Postage & Delivery		16,041
Printing & Reproduction		0
Professional Fees		73,174
Rent		15,339
Repairs & Maintenance		42,391
Small Tools		7,732
Supplies		175,943
Taxes		83,796
Telephone		12,442
Travel, Tolls & Rescue		0
Uniforms		15,153
Utilities		91,125
Volunteer Expense		<u>8,288</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>8,512,925</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>		289,789
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposal		0
Unrealized Investment Gain		0
Interest, Royalties, Dividends		<u>43</u>
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>43</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>		<b>43</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>289,832</b>




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

In 2017, our Operations Team built 10 new habitats for our growing population of rescued animals!

 6 Tiger Habitats

 2 Bear Habitats

 1 Fox Habitat

 1 Jaguar Habitat



We upgraded eight of our bear habitats with 3 more dens each for the bears to enjoy and retreat to in times of extreme temperatures. One lion habitat also received 4 new dens!

In order to prevent a house and large plot of land adjacent to the Sanctuary from being developed into a residence which would disturb the animals, we purchased the residence and 65 acres for \$625,000 in 2017.

Our Operations Team planted over 13,000 trees and seeds in 2017. That's over 1,000 new plantings each month!

# JAGUARS' NEW HABITAT...

## Jaguars Move Uptown...

**M**oving is never fun, nor easy, even when you have a small number of possessions in life. There are always numerous details that need addressed, as well as oodles of loose ends that remain dangling for quite some time after you've relocated your domicile. In some cases, it can take a long time before the dust settles and your new residence actually begins to feel like home.

Yet, for some, with a small semblance of magic, the second they lay eyes on a specific dwelling they know right away it will become their forever home!

Even if you happen to have big teeth, spots and claws... moving is still moving and a home can still become a home that you absolutely love and cherish. At least that's what "*Manchas*" and "*Negrita*" would like to tell after just completing their own life-changing transition into a brand new 15-acre habitat.

Located at the northern end of the Sanctuary's property, near

our Welcome Center complex, their new habitat is quite the deluxe abode. Filled with ponds, boulders, unique play structures and grass - their uptown accommodations are definitely something to see!

These two elegant creatures believe they may have just won the lottery given the size and scope of their new digs - as our operations crew spent an enormous amount of time and energy modifying the wide-open space just for them.

Being inquisitive and highly intelligent, both *Manchas* and *Negrita* spent the last year getting to know each other in their previous home located far to the south within our main compound. There, they had many smaller play structures, cubbyholes, dens and hammocks to enjoy while working on the finer points of their relationship.

Now, being more like a happily married couple, both are thrilled beyond measure with their new home. Of course, there are no curtains to hang or barbeque grills needing placed

on the back patio, since their new model home comes completely furnished.

The manor's "*grand staircase*" - so to speak - emerges in the form of a world-class play structure that spans hundreds of linear feet in combined length, and rises multiple stories into the air. And the water features below complement the design by providing a great place for any Jaguar to practice their backstroke!

Both above and underground dens provide plenty of comfy and quiet sleeping arrangements, and the multiple lofty perches spread throughout the habitat provide great observational (*and napping*) opportunities. And last but not least, the open fields of tall grass make slinking and stalking so much easier - which offers endless opportunities to scare the Begeebers out of each other when getting up to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night!

It's definitely a very nice habitat for two amazing creatures who deserve the very best in



FALL 2017





*Jaguar Habitat*

## JAGUARS MOVING... CONT'D...

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life. Their past lives of abuse are far-gone, and hopefully, not even a memory anymore.

They are “*home*” for sure now, with both Manchas and Negrita seeming to be fully content. They can now enjoy years and years of beautiful exquisite freedom with the added benefits of world-class care.

We always strive to make the life of every animal here as good as we can, and this pair of muscle-bound geniuses can now be added to the list of rescued animals who are benefitting from our Wild Open Spaces program. For without the land being available, these two cats would never know the freedom and tranquility they enjoy today.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Sanctuary in general... as well as give added thanks to those who have helped us purchase land. The proof of how incredible a difference large open space makes for these animals is plain to see.

Of course, they can be kept alive in tiny cages and with someone giving them human contrived enrichment... but that’s not what our Sanctuary is about. We have never settled for building lots of cages to keep hundreds of animals on 40 acres, or 80, or even a 100 for that matter.

Providing acres, not square feet, is the scale these animals truly require, and we hope you understand how important it is to maintain this balance. They thrive in natural open spaces, and so we always need your help in creating opportunities for animals like Manchas and Negrita.

Please donate today to our Open Spaces program and the very special “*Pay It Forward*” land match grant discussed in the associated land article within this newsletter. You can make an incredible difference for so many animals by doing so, and we thank you in advance for realizing how important this project really is! 🐾



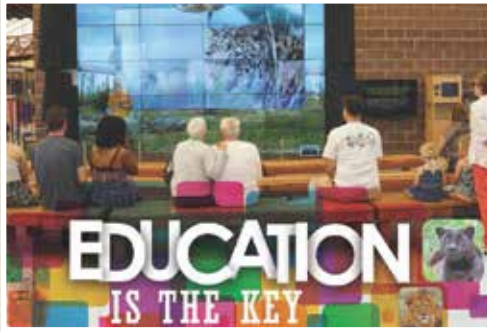


# EDUCATION



## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2017, the Sanctuary had over 150,000 visitors, including 32 School groups.



Our Animal Ambassadors presented over 21 speaking engagements in 2017 to promote the Sanctuary and educate the public about the Captive Wildlife Crisis.



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



We had over 200 (233 exactly) dedicated volunteers in 2017 that provided much needed support to our staff in caring for our rescued animals.

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL INCOME & EXPENSE JANUARY TO DECEMBER 17

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributed support	
Restricted	0
Unrestricted	2,487,713
Total Contributed support	<u>2,487,713</u>
Donated Goods	
Donated Feed	0
Donated Land	0
Donated Stock	0
Total Donated Goods	<u>0</u>
Grants	
Operating	0
Restricted	0
Total Grants	<u>0</u>
Sales	0
Events Revenue	0
Total Income	<u>2,487,713</u>
Cost of Goods Sold Cost	
Cost of Goods Sold	0
Total COGS	<u>0</u>
Gross Profit	<u>2,487,713</u>
Expense	
Auto/Truck Expense	71,754
BankNisa/MC Charges	76,846
Depreciation/Amort Expense	486,773
Donor Appreciation	2,585
Dues and Subscriptions	9,713
Education-Captive Wildlife	440,107
Event Center - Op Expenses	0
Feed	0
Fundraising Expenses	0
Insurance	22,156
Interest Expense	9,844
Licenses & Permits	0
Medical	0
Miscellaneous	0
Network Operations	9,547
Payroll Expenses	1,272,512
Postage & Delivery	107,224
Printing & Reproduction	180,353
Professional Fees	49,267
Rent	15,339
Repairs & Maintenance	25,137
Small Tools	699
Supplies	166,981
Taxes	84,022
Telephone	8,135
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	0
Uniforms	5,051
Utilities	91,125
Volunteer Expense	3,431
Total Expense	<u>3,138,600</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-650,887
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposal	0
Unrealized Investment Gain	0
Interest, Royalties, Dividends	0
Total Other Income	<u>0</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0</u>
Net Income	<u>-650,887</u>



Our volunteers gave over 24,000 hours of work valued over \$625,000 helping the animals in 2017.

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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.

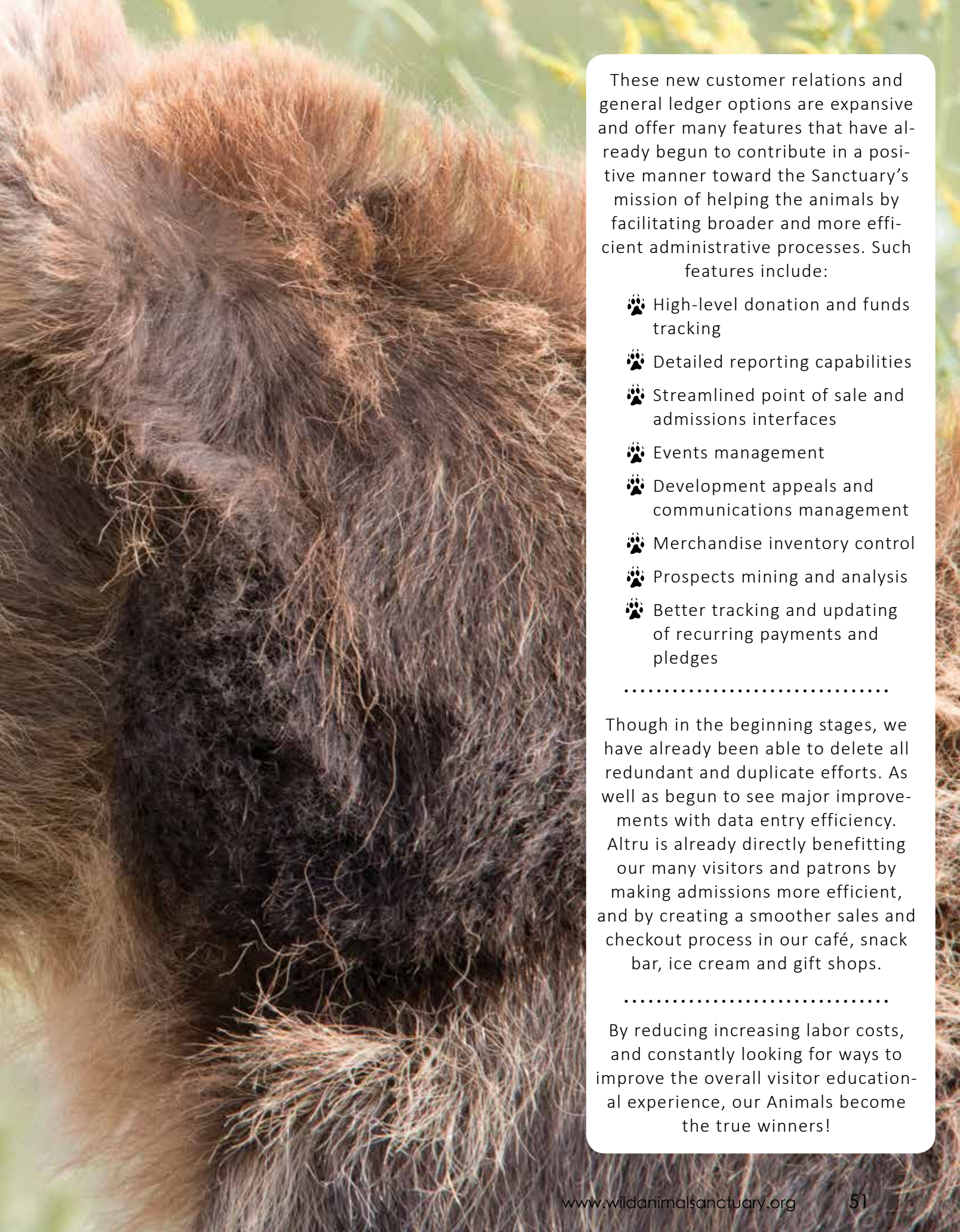


## BLACKBAUD- ALTRU

Due to an increase in the number of visitors annually (in large part due to our new 48,000 sq. ft. Welcome Center), as well as an ongoing increase in number of total supporters, the Sanctuary has been forced to hire more accounting staff over the past few years. Yet, the need for additional full-time employee positions was more related to our use of Quickbooks (QB) accounting software, than the increases in attendance and overall support. The increase in labor was associated with QB's inability to seamlessly merge data between its Point of Sale (POS) and Premiere (PR) software modules, causing double or redundant entries from one module to the next. In response, the Sanctuary management team chose to implement new Blackbaud software systems (Altru and Financial Edge) to vastly improve both our information technology processes and our bonded accounting infrastructure.

Altru and Financial Edge are just two of many options in a line of products offered by Blackbaud - all of which are geared towards non-profit data management. Through the end of 2017 and into 2018, the Sanctuary will systematically implement multiple Blackbaud programs in the areas of email campaigns and donor management, financial accounting, over the counter sales, general admissions, inventory control and peer-to-peer fundraising.





These new customer relations and general ledger options are expansive and offer many features that have already begun to contribute in a positive manner toward the Sanctuary's mission of helping the animals by facilitating broader and more efficient administrative processes. Such features include:

- 🐾 High-level donation and funds tracking
- 🐾 Detailed reporting capabilities
- 🐾 Streamlined point of sale and admissions interfaces
- 🐾 Events management
- 🐾 Development appeals and communications management
- 🐾 Merchandise inventory control
- 🐾 Prospects mining and analysis
- 🐾 Better tracking and updating of recurring payments and pledges

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Though in the beginning stages, we have already been able to delete all redundant and duplicate efforts. As well as begun to see major improvements with data entry efficiency. Altru is already directly benefitting our many visitors and patrons by making admissions more efficient, and by creating a smoother sales and checkout process in our café, snack bar, ice cream and gift shops.

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By reducing increasing labor costs, and constantly looking for ways to improve the overall visitor educational experience, our Animals become the true winners!



# DETROIT BRUINS RETIRE IN COLORADO



**A**s many of you know, the vast majority of animals we rescue come from terribly abusive situations. A large percentage of those are also held illegally by people who either thought owning a Bear as a pet would be a good idea... or breeding and selling them as pets would make them rich.

If keeping a Bear as a pet was possible, our Sanctuary wouldn't be in business today, and more than likely, a number of your next door neighbors would have Bears playing with children in their backyards. Not a good idea no matter how you spin it...

Yet, occasionally we end up being called upon to help provide a home to legitimate animals coming from well-known entities. In those cases,

we are usually helping due to critical space limitations, or in some cases, helping provide a home to animals with health problems.

Thus, when officials from the Detroit Zoo contacted us, we were open to listening to circumstances surrounding the collection of Black, Brown and Grizzly bears they had. It turns out they had a wide selection of Bears that had come in over the years, which started to create issues with space and compatibility.

One female Brown Bear had been taken in from a circus back in 2000, while another female Black Bear attained residence after being discovered by wildlife officials as a young cub with a face full of porcupine quills. Both girls were in serious need of better

accommodations – yet, “*Polly*” the circus Bear came loaded with a number of psychological issues that were related to her previous training and performance regimen.

For a time, the two girls were able to coexist in the same enclosure, but eventually, Polly became overly nervous cohabitating with “*Migwan*”, who was by now full grown female Black Bear. Add in the zoo also accepted three orphaned male Grizzly Bear cubs from Alaska, and things started to get a little crowded.

Luckily, the zoo had multiple accommodations for Bears, so each girl was given their own space to live in - while the three rowdy Alaskan cubs were able to continue roughhousing to their heart's content inside a totally separate exhibit. This

arrangement seemed to resolve the situation at hand, but did have some drawbacks.

By creating multiple exhibits for the Bears, each space had to be substantially smaller since there was only so much real estate available within the zoo. That meant, rather than benefiting from living in one large exhibit, the Bears had to trade space for individuality and privacy.

Although it is a growing trend for zoos to remodel in ways that encourage building larger exhibits – the Detroit Zoo was stuck trying to provide space for all of its Bears. Eventually, with the three Grizzly brothers growing substantially as each year passed, it became obvious the zoo would have to make some hard choices.

When evaluating which Bears would be able to live well together inside of a large habitat (*if the zoo was able to build a new one*), the clear choice was the three brothers. Although Polly and Migwan were well known and much loved by both the public, and their keepers...

it was obvious the best option would be to find a new home for the girls.

Given Polly's lingering PTSD symptoms, which included stereotypic head swinging and extended bouts of nervous pacing - along with Migwan being a small North American Black Bear (*which few zoos choose to exhibit*) - it would be best to look for a sanctuary setting, rather than trying to transfer them to another zoo.

Once that was decided, the zoo began to search for a sanctuary that could provide a wonderful home for the girls. Within no time, our facility rose to the top of the list of sanctuaries that could help. With large natural habitats, great food and the unhindered ability to hibernate each winter without disruption, it was obvious we would give the girls the best life possible.

Yet, the zoo's extensive protocols relating to transferring animals required their Chief Life Science Officer, as well as the Curator of Mammals, to visit our facility and witness firsthand how their Bears would be

cared for. We were more than happy to accommodate their evaluation process, and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to show representatives how our Sanctuary operates.

Once we had been fully vetted and approved, we extended an invitation to each of the zoo's Bear keepers to not only accompany them on their journey to Colorado - but also stay for a few days to comfort the girls as they adjusted to their new home. They gladly accepted and a date was set for the transfer.

Meanwhile, a problem surfaced that we see fairly often. Many people began to wonder how the Bears would transition into our general population.

It is only natural for people who are not familiar with the Sanctuary's rehabilitation process to be concerned. So, when some of the general public, as well as other keepers within the zoo voiced concern about transitioning Polly and Migwan – we responded.

## DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



DETROIT ZOO ♦ BELLE ISLE NATURE CENTER

Our Public Relations team and upper management took the time to explain how the Sanctuary would build special introductory habitats for both Migwan and Polly. Each would have their own space where they could adjust to the sights, sounds and general routines associated with their new home.

Each girl would have plenty of room within their own personal habitat – which would be built adjacent to each other – and neither girl would have to worry about meeting other Bears until sometime in the future. This way, they could get used to their new home slowly, and also have a chance to experience their first true hibernation in peaceful underground dens.

Only after they successfully completed their rehabilitation process would they be given the opportunity to live with other bears. With nearly 200 bears living at the Sanctuary and 37 years of experience working with the species, we know that both girls will eventually enjoy having company.

During their transfer to Colorado, the girls did very well. Polly, of course, was more agitated at first... but calmed down once the transport team had her loaded and on the road.

Frequent stops allowed their former keepers the opportunity

to reassure their respective charges that everything was OK. Upon being unloaded into their temporary introduction enclosures – which were located within each new habitat – both Migwan and Polly took an immediate opportunity to look in all four directions while their majestic snouts pulled in large amounts of fresh country air.

Once they were sure the coast was clear and no danger was immediately present... each fluffy girl chose to bury her face in a pile of fresh fruits and vegetables that our staff had previously readied. It

wasn't long before each brunette moved on and was gently padding the air with their own unique sound of slurping water.

These bearish manners were reassuring, as they convinced everyone the Bears were feeling right at home. The icing on the cake came when each girl eventually ended up plopping her satiated body into the cool tanks of water we supplied.

All they had to do at this point was spend a few or more days repeating this process to solidify their trust in us. It would not be long before we would be able to open the doors to their

Polly



temporary enclosures, so each could finish exploring their new habitat!

Having their former zookeepers present definitely helped with the transition... and it became obvious Polly greatly appreciated having a familiar face standing by. Instead of pacing incessantly and tossing her head about, she chose to walk the perimeter of her temporary enclosure in a calm and normal fashion.

It was clear both girls could sense the peace and tranquility that prevailed, so neither girl seemed the slightest bit stressed. In fact, both Migwan and Polly quickly discerned the benefits of their underground dwellings, as both have been enjoying long peaceful naps deep within their soundproof caves.

Since winter is just around the corner, we are willing to bet neither girl has much time left to get to know every nook and cranny in their new home. Instead, they will most likely have another week or two of napping and eating before the primal urge to sleep convinces their plump little bodies to stay asleep.

It will be spring before they truly get a chance to expand and appreciate their new lives here with us - which is actually not a bad thing - since we all know how a little shuteye can make a big difference in how willing we are to take on the world around us!

We are very glad these two Bears are now able to retire here in Colorado and no longer have to wonder where they fit in. There is no doubt it is tough being a captive animal, and we definitely understand how important love is to every living being.

We spend every day of our lives truly loving the animals we rescue, and we work hard to ensure their lives with us are absolutely enjoyable. Between providing

the best living spaces available... and spending the time, money and energy needed to give them great diets and world-class medical care... we strive to give them everything possible.

We, of course, can't do any of this without your love and support - so thank you for understanding and supporting our mission. Both Migwan and Polly will spend the rest of their lives being loved and well cared for thanks to your caring donations.

We look forward to providing an update in our Summer 2018 newsletter as to how these Michigan transplants are doing, but until then, we hope you keep them in your hearts, thoughts and prayers! 🐾

Migwan



# FINANCIALS



## The Wild Animal Sanctuary Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2017

Dec 31, 17

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking/Savings	2,086,807
Stock	189,763
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>2,276,570</b>
Other Current Assets	
Inventory	168,603
Other Current Assets	109,462
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>278,065</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,554,635</b>
Fixed Assets	
Fixed Assets	
MIW Walkway	2,329,105
ADI Habitat	430,356
Medical & Emergency Equipment	229,528
Animal ID & Health Equipment	62,039
Buildings	8,766,973
Equipment & Machinery	1,311,502
Fencing & Cages	1,350,086
Furniture & Fixtures	699,323
Land	1,720,290
Office Equipment	702,937
Roads & Grounds	1,253,069
Signage	85,599
Vehicles & Trailers	1,315,629
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>20,256,433</b>
Accumulated Depreciation	-4,594,949
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>15,661,485</b>
Other Assets	
Other Assets	
Art, Deposit & Endowment	75,690
Contingency CD	85,188
Habitat Playground	1,073,638
Accumulated Amortization	-448,403
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>786,113</b>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>786,113</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>19,002,232</b>

Dec 31, 17

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	122,193
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>122,193</b>
Credit Cards	
Credit Cards	59,999
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>59,999</b>
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Payroll	7,992
Other Current Liabilities	303,153
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>311,145</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>493,337</b>
Long Term Liabilities	
Long-Term Liabilities	7,328,640
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>7,328,640</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,821,977</b>
Equity	
Unrestricted	9,154,489
Net Income	2,025,767
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>11,180,256</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>19,002,232</b>

### Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
Contributed support	
Restricted	1,745,533
Unrestricted	7,423,763
<b>Total Contributed support</b>	<b>9,169,296</b>
Donated Goods	
Donated Feed	6,015,570
Donated Land	472,500
Donated Stock	175,766
<b>Total Donated Goods</b>	<b>6,663,836</b>
Grants	
Operating	4,500
Restricted	85,800
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>90,300</b>
Sales	542,367
Events Revenue	203,178
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,668,977</b>
Cost of Goods Sold Cost	
Cost of Goods Sold	359,072
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>359,072</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>16,309,906</b>
Expense	
Auto/Truck Expense	176,121
Bank/Nisa/MC Charges	155,502
Depreciation/Amort Expense	1,734,366
Donor Appreciation	25,847
Dues and Subscriptions	20,645
Education-Captive Wildlife	442,444
Event Center - Op Expenses	22,641
Feed	6,032,680
Fundraising Expenses	237,348
Insurance	155,481
Interest Expense	492,197
Licenses & Permits	18,313
Medical	93,604
Miscellaneous	960
Network Operations	19,094
Payroll Expenses	2,898,661
Postage & Delivery	135,309
Printing & Reproduction	181,079
Professional Fees	147,308
Rent	30,670
Repairs & Maintenance	75,040
Small Tools	8,781
Supplies	455,450
Taxes	226,962
Telephone	31,903
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	106,083
Uniforms	25,256
Utilities	242,421
Volunteer Expense	11,720
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>14,203,892</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>2,106,013</b>
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposal	97,349
Unrealized Investment Gain	11,124
Interest, Royalties, Dividends	5,977
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>80,247</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-80,247</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,025,767</b>

# The Wild Animal Sanctuary

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Jan - Dec 17

<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Net Income	2,025,767
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
Accounts Receivable	1,021
Inventory	-14,798
Other Current Assets	27,798
Accounts Payable	-107,235
Credit Cards	37,617
Accrued Payroll	-94,985
Other Current Liabilities	13,188
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	1,888,373
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Fixed Assets:MIW Walkway	-129,678
Fixed Assets:ADI Habitat	22,087
Fixed Assets:Medical & Emergency Equipment	43,333
Fixed Assets:Animal ID & Health Equipment	-1,300
Fixed Assets:Buildings	164,893
Fixed Assets:Equipment & Machinery	461,088
Fixed Assets:Fencing & Cages	-173,684
Fixed Assets:Furniture & Fixtures	-281,109
Fixed Assets:Land	-472,500
Fixed Assets:Office Equipment	-84,628
Fixed Assets:Roads & Grounds	43,626
Fixed Assets:Vehicles & Trailers	778,355
Accumulated Depreciation	-677,907
Other Assets:Art, Deposit & Endowment	-914
Other Assets:Contingency CD	-1,264
Other Assets:Habitat Playground	40,581
Other Assets:Accumulated Amortization	-127,393
Net cash provided by Investing Activities	-396,412
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Long-Term Liabilities	-217,752
Unrestricted	0
Net cash provided by Financing Activities	-217,752
Net cash increase for period	1,274,209
Cash at beginning of period	1,002,361
Cash at end of period	2,276,570

“If you’ve seen one hotel conference room, you’ve seen them all.”



## A Hotel Conference Room or The Wild Animal Sanctuary?

**M**ore than likely that thought has crossed the mind of anyone who has ever sat through talks, PowerPoint presentations or any variety of formalities that might be held in a rented hotel conference room.

Then, during the hourly breaks one may use the restroom, get some coffee and either return to their seat or mill around idly in the hallway. After eating lunch, more milling around takes place before taking one’s seat and beginning the afternoon round of talks.

But instead of meeting at a sterile hotel conference center, many organizations are coming to realize that their employees and customers will have a much better and enjoyable time spending their free moments and lunch break observing rescued captive-born large carnivores at The Wild Animal Sanctuary!

That’s right. Since its inaugural event in April, the Circle of Life Society luncheon, the Sanctuary’s indoor event center has seen a good deal of use and bookings of the space continue.

It may be too early to spot trends, but Continuing Education and employee “*team building*” days seem to be the most popular uses for the versatile space.

With the capacity to seat over 200 people, the specialized space sports two large projection screens and accompanying sound systems. On-site catering is available in many cases and tables and chairs can be arranged to fit any need, from dining events to seminars to break-out groups and more.

But, of course, people do not choose to use this space because of the seating arrangement possibilities, but rather,

the absolutely unique sanctuary just outside its doors!

A major airline held a meeting of its Denver senior management in the center—and knowing how healthy and enjoyable it would be for its employees—allowed for a 2 ½-hour lunch break. This gave the employees time to view the Sanctuary and its rescued animals. Not surprisingly, the employees returned from their break energized rather than being sleepy and lethargic.

There was such a great interest in the Sanctuary and its mission that a half-hour Q & A was held with a Sanctuary employee as well. Contrary to the upper management thinking this was a waste of time, to a T they all felt it was important for them and their employees to learn about, and potentially become personally involved in, such a worthwhile enterprise

as rescuing large carnivores—especially since community service and “giving back” are important themes to this company.

Likewise, a couple of veterinary-related groups have held an employee in-service and regional sales meeting, and as one would expect, they were absolutely thrilled with the setting and hospitality provided by the Sanctuary staff.

A couple of events booked for later this summer include an exquisite company dinner catered by the Sanctuary’s chefs—followed by a

multi-media presentation about the Sanctuary and its work, as well as a wedding and wedding reception in September.

All of this is to say that the event center is doing what it was designed to do. Namely, introduce more people to the Captive Wildlife Crisis and the work of The Wild Animal Sanctuary while also garnering funds to support the animals and pay for the complex.

For those groups that may need overnight accommodations, the nearby town of Hudson, Colorado has a Best Western Plus that opened in

the last year, while the town of Brighton has many lodging choices.

If you or your organization might be interested in reserving this unique venue, please give us a call at (303) 536-0118 to further explore the possibility.

We are pretty sure you may never want to use a hotel conference room again! 🐾







## The Wild Animal Sanctuary Statement of Functional Income and Expense

January through December 2017

	Animal Care (Programs)	Education (Programs)	Rescue (Programs)	Land Acquisition (Programs)	Capital Improve... (Programs)	Total Programs	Administration	Fundraising	TOTAL
<b>Expense</b>									
Auto/Truck Expense	86,429	71,754	0	0	0	158,182	8,643	9,296	176,121
Bank/Visa/MC Charges	0	76,846	0	0	0	76,846	1,810	76,846	155,502
Depreciation/Amort Expense	923,078	486,773	292,064	0	0	1,701,914	32,452	0	1,734,366
Donor Appreciation	20,677	2,585	0	0	0	23,262	0	2,585	25,847
Dues and Subscriptions	3,046	9,713	0	0	0	12,760	7,886	0	20,645
Education-Captive Wildlife	0	440,107	0	0	0	440,107	2,337	0	442,444
Event Center - Op Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,641	22,641
Feed	6,032,680	0	0	0	0	6,032,680	0	0	6,032,680
Fundraising Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	237,348	237,348
Insurance	110,334	22,156	13,903	0	0	146,393	4,283	4,804	155,481
Interest Expense	12,396	9,844	12,031	0	454,644	488,915	2,188	1,094	492,197
Licenses & Permits	10,988	0	7,325	0	0	18,313	0	0	18,313
Medical	93,604	0	0	0	0	93,604	0	0	93,604
Miscellaneous	960	0	0	0	0	960	0	0	960
Network Operations	0	9,547	0	0	0	9,547	2,864	6,683	19,094
Payroll Expenses	677,307	1,272,512	244,899	0	0	2,194,717	417,304	286,640	2,898,661
Postage & Delivery	16,041	107,224	0	0	0	123,265	1,897	10,147	135,309
Printing & Reproduction	0	180,353	0	0	0	180,353	0	726	181,079
Professional Fees	73,174	49,267	7,529	0	0	129,970	6,787	10,551	147,308
Rent	15,339	15,339	0	0	0	30,678	0	0	30,678
Repairs & Maintenance	42,391	25,137	0	0	0	67,528	3,756	3,756	75,040
Small Tools	7,732	699	0	0	0	8,431	349	0	8,781
Supplies	175,943	166,981	6,020	0	0	348,943	45,105	61,402	455,450
Taxes	83,796	84,022	10,143	0	0	177,961	18,638	30,363	226,962
Telephone	12,442	8,135	4,147	0	0	24,725	5,583	1,595	31,903
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	0	0	106,083	0	0	106,083	0	0	106,083
Uniforms	15,153	5,051	3,788	0	0	23,993	631	631	25,256
Utilities	91,125	91,125	0	0	0	182,249	30,086	30,086	242,421
Volunteer Expense	8,288	3,431	0	0	0	11,720	0	0	11,720
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>8,512,925</b>	<b>3,138,600</b>	<b>707,931</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>454,644</b>	<b>12,814,100</b>	<b>592,599</b>	<b>797,193</b>	<b>14,203,892</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>289,789</b>	<b>-650,887</b>	<b>-118,438</b>	<b>1,223,978</b>	<b>638,410</b>	<b>1,382,852</b>	<b>887,982</b>	<b>-164,821</b>	<b>2,106,013</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>									
<b>Other Income</b>									
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	-99,816	2,467	-97,349
Unrealized Investment Gain	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,562	5,562	11,124
Interest, Royalties, Dividends	43	0	0	0	0	43	2,967	2,967	5,977
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-91,287</b>	<b>10,997</b>	<b>-80,247</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-91,287</b>	<b>10,997</b>	<b>-80,247</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>289,832</b>	<b>-650,887</b>	<b>-118,438</b>	<b>1,223,978</b>	<b>638,410</b>	<b>1,382,894</b>	<b>796,696</b>	<b>-153,824</b>	<b>2,025,767</b>



## The Wild Animal Sanctuary Statement of Functional Income and Expense January through December 2017

	Animal Care (Programs)	Education (Programs)	Rescue (Programs)	Land Acquisition (Programs)	Capital Improveme... (Programs)	Total Programs	Administration	Fundraising	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>									
<b>Income</b>									
<b>Contributed support</b>									
<b>Restricted</b>	166,604	0	300,851	1,223,978	54,100	1,745,533	0	0	1,745,533
<b>Unrestricted</b>	1,854,562	2,487,713	288,641	0	788,056	5,418,973	1,330,198	674,592	7,423,763
<b>Total Contributed support</b>	2,021,166	2,487,713	589,493	1,223,978	842,156	7,164,506	1,330,198	674,592	9,169,296
<b>Donated Goods</b>									
<b>Donated Feed</b>	6,015,570	0	0	0	0	6,015,570	0	0	6,015,570
<b>Donated Land</b>	472,500	0	0	0	0	472,500	0	0	472,500
<b>Donated Stock</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	175,766	0	175,766
<b>Total Donated Goods</b>	6,488,070	0	0	0	0	6,488,070	175,766	0	6,663,836
<b>Grants</b>									
<b>Operating</b>	4,500	0	0	0	0	4,500	0	0	4,500
<b>Restricted</b>	85,800	0	0	0	0	85,800	0	0	85,800
<b>Total Grants</b>	90,300	0	0	0	0	90,300	0	0	90,300
<b>Sales</b>	0	0	0	0	250,898	250,898	147,438	144,030	542,367
<b>Events Revenue</b>	203,178	0	0	0	0	203,178	0	0	203,178
<b>Total Income</b>	8,802,714	2,487,713	589,493	1,223,978	1,093,054	14,196,952	1,653,403	818,622	16,668,977
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>									
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	172,822	186,250	359,072
<b>Total COGS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	172,822	186,250	359,072
<b>Gross Profit</b>	8,802,714	2,487,713	589,493	1,223,978	1,093,054	14,196,952	1,480,581	632,373	16,309,906

# THE WILD ANIMAL *Sanctuary*

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