

The

BOLIVIAN

LION

JOURNAL





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2.16.2011

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All the Lions arrived safely at the airport. While waiting to unload all the Lions you could hear them roaring inside the cargo plane, Three Lions were exceptionally louder than the others, we found out later that Bam Bam was the lead singer, followed by Colo Colo and a small female lion named Dalila.

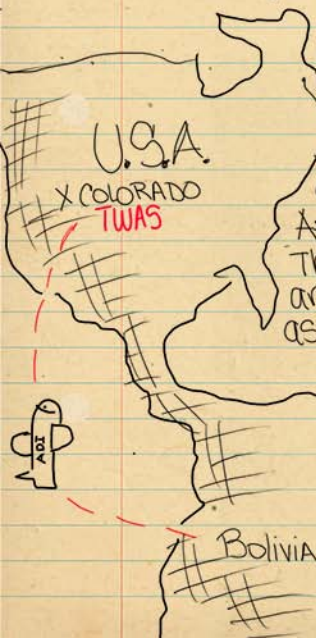
As the lions were being unloaded, most of the lions handled it well, there were a few that seemed quiet, but after a 13 hour plane ride, that is to be expected. The Cavalini ♂, seemed to know they were in for a new



life here in Colorado, they all continued roaring and talking to each other as they waited for the other 17 lions to be unloaded. Everyone appeared fairly healthy from what we could see, all are under weight, but healthy.

After looking at everyone closely at the airport, we noticed Kimba has an obvious problem with his left eye, as does Chitara and India.

We arrived at the Sanctuary around 9:00 pm to start unloading, everything went very well, the lions that were separated while waiting to get to Colorado greeted each other with head butts...





and rubs as they were introduced one by one. Colo Colo, Muñeca and Lulu, the oldest group were the FIRST LIONS to be introduced to their new home at the Sanctuary. They began running around, rubbing on the pine trees and playing on the new grass instantly.



This was the FIRST TIME any of these LIONS felt grass on their paws and were able to rub on fresh pine trees... They loved every minute of it. Kiara II and her three cubs, Bob, Nancy and Percy cuddled up and fell asleep quickly after their long exhausting day.

2-18-2011



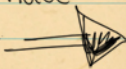
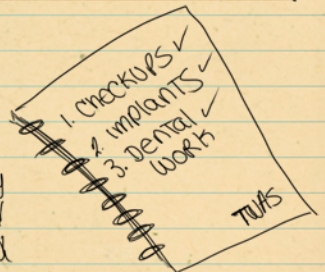
After a few days, we can see the animals' personalities emerging. Colo Colo, who was described as "the most aggressive" has already started to rub against the fence for attention from the caregivers. ADI is still here, visiting with the lions and saying their goodbyes, all of the lions have become quite fond of the people that have saved them from the life they had in the Bolivian circuses. Everyone's appetite has been excellent and all are adjusting nicely. Tomorrow will be a big day, as we are going to Sedate and exam Colo Colo's pride, the Cavalini pride, Mhitara, Dalila, India, Kenya...

Panchula, Fiola and Kimba. The lights were turned off early in the Lion House, to hopefully get them to rest a little for their big day tomorrow. As we turned off the lights and shut the door, all the boys began to Roar, Bam Bam of course, being the last one to say "good NIGHT." z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z



2-19-2011

We arrived at 6:30 a.m. to begin sedating Lions. DR. Don Hyde, the resident vet at the Sanctuary and DR. PETER Emily, a renowned dentist of veterinary medicine and his STAFF came today to exam and treat the Lions that were sedated. We placed Deslorin implants, micro chipped and drew blood ourselves, but it was indicated by ADI that multiple Lions have oral issues that needed to be addressed



→ We began with Fida & Panchula, everything went very well and after the sedated lions fell asleep, DR. Hyde arrived to begin his exam, shortly followed by DR Emily and his associates. Fida & Panchula were found to be in excellent health for their age, underweight but everything else looked good.



Chitara & Dalila were the second group to be sedated and there were multiple problems...

→ The CAVALINI SISTERS

Chitara has cataracts in both of her eyes, we originally thought that she only had one, although her eyes may be an issue, everything else physically checked out well. Dalila had a fractured pre molar that was infected and needed to be removed.

DR Emily and his staff prepared their equipment and Dalila was transported to the clinic where they began working on her under Isoflurane.



(type of Anesthesia)



→ DR Emily and his team, working on Dalila.

Each group continued to be sedated and problems arose right and left. Kimba was thought to have a tick in his ear, but after Dr. Hyde inspected Kimba he became concerned that it is a mast cell tumor. Due to the location, removing it would be nearly impossible and more traumatic for Kimba than it would be helpful. After everyone received their checkups, implants and dental work they slowly started waking up one by one.



== It was a long day at TWAS but it was all WORTH IT! ==



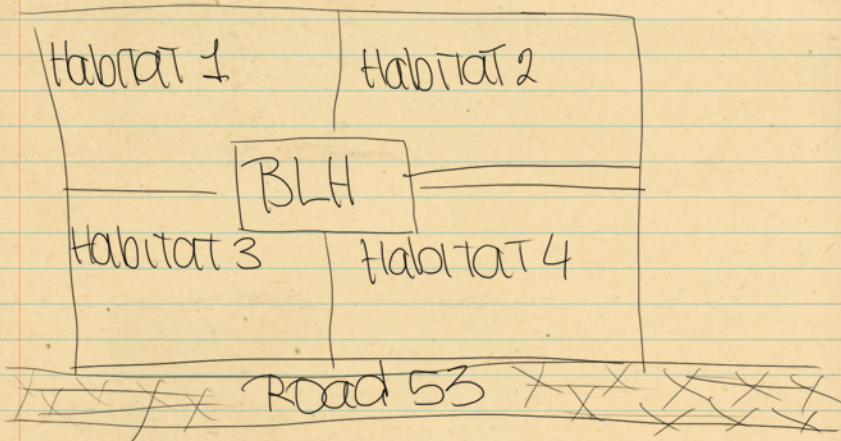
⇒ Colo- Colo

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2.24.2011

Everyone has done great since their exam last week. Colo Colo's attitude is already changing


AFTER HIS root canal and he is rapidly putting on weight. The rest of the lions are all improving quickly and soon they will get to experience heading out into large acreage habitats and having more room to run and play than they have ever imagined.

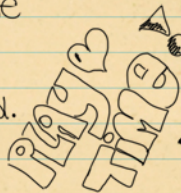



2.25.2011


Another BIG DAY greets us today. As we have watched the lions this past week and a half, we have decided that now is a good time to try and introduce some of the lions together. When introducing animals to one another, it is usually best to try and introduce them before they have a chance to claim their new enclosures as "theirs," this helps eliminate them from



 Feeling of acting possessive of the space. Chitara and Dalila were the first girls to be moved, these girls have become very flirty with the boys Pancho & Temuco through the fencing. At first everyone was a little apprehensive, but after only a few short moments, you could see the friendships develop. Pancho playfully tapped the back feet of Dalila, and pranced around after her like a school boy chasing a little girl on the playground. Chitara was a little more reserved as she got to know the boys and



 their antics. As they grew more and more comfortable as the day went on, we decided it was a good time to let India join the group. She is a surprisingly boisterous girl considering she hadn't seen other lions since she was a cub, until ADI rescued her. She and Chitara seemed to have a little jealousy over who the boys would pay the most attention to, but as the day progressed,

 everyone started to find their place in the pride and slowly calmed down and settled in. We also moved Kenya into a transfer pen, she is so shy and quiet, there is concern she won't fit in as well as we had hoped with Pancho, Temuco, India, Chitara and Dalila. She settled in and spend most of the day watching the Cavalini 8 in the enclosure next to her.

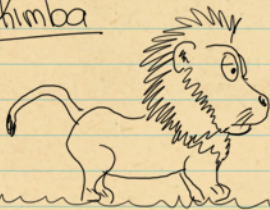
Sweet Kenya



In the mean time, we introduced Panctula, Fida and Hercules again, they had lived together for quite some time while in the circus, but were separated once arriving at the ADI compound. All went well and they quickly reestablished the family bond they had been missing so much.

Kimba, our oldest boy of the group was moved into the center transfer enclosure to give him a chance to develop a relationship with Kenya. They are both calm, quieter lions...

Kimba



Kenya

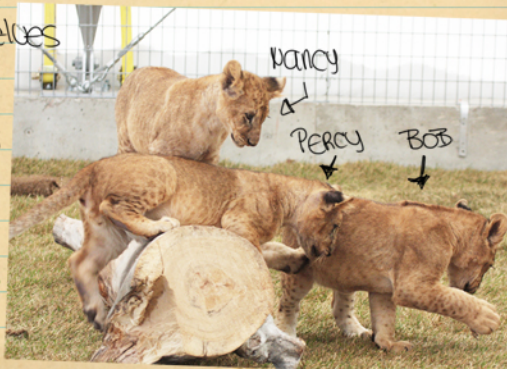


... and our hope is that maybe they can develop a more laid back lion pride, that is happy with sleeping and laying in the sun all day.

Next Kiara and her cubs were released into a new enclosure, Percy and Bob were the 1st to start investigating. Bouncing around, and

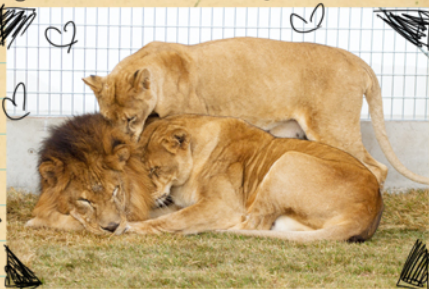
seeing what trouble they could get themselves

into. Not far behind was little Nancy, she may be small, but we have already seen that she is NOT to be underestimated, she rules her brothers and usually is the leader...



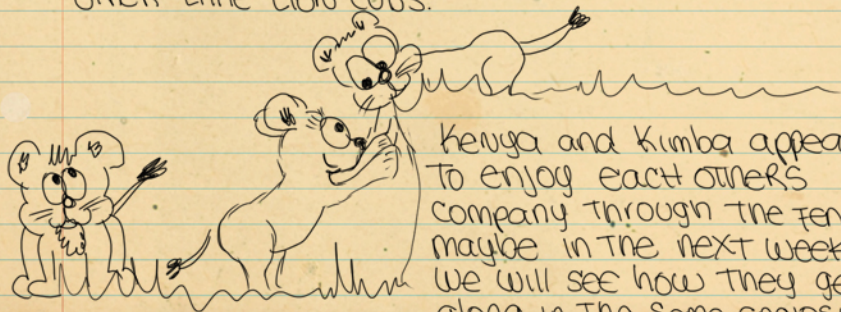
... OF Finding things to get INTO. The trees in their enclosure become quick toys to play with and rip up, as was the sod. Who knew Sod could be such a wonderful enrichment toy for our new lions. The sun set and all the new friendships progressed quickly. ♡

We are happy with the progress these lions are showing and how quickly they are adapting to their new life.



2.26.2011 Colo-cob, Lulu and muñeca →

All is well in the Lion House. Everyone has snuggled up overnight, gotten plenty of rest and were ready for the day to start. The lions finally seem to be getting satisfied by the new food and have rather round little bellies right now. The cubs have enjoyed a night of rearranging the sod and playing in the dirt. Their little faces were covered with guilt and dirt as they looked at us with an expression of ^{~~~~~}WHAT? ^{~~~~~} We didn't do that to the sod... It must have been some other little lion cubs.

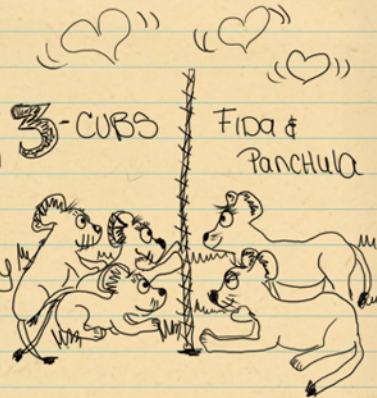


Kenya and Kimba appear to enjoy each other's company through the fence, maybe in the next week, we will see how they get along in the same enclosure.

3-1-2011

As each day passes, all of the Lions are settling in more and more. Paneto and Temuco are enjoying their new friends and have fun playing and being the boisterous young lions that they are. Fida, Panhula and Hercules all seem to be doing well and have begun interacting with Kiara and the cubs through their common fence.

Fida and Panhula especially love to mimic the 3 young cubs, running back and forth along the fence trying to entice them to play. The weather has been beautiful here and the Cavalini 8 love to lay in the mid-day sun that comes through the doors.



3-3-2011

We have already started an outside enclosure for the entire east side of the Lion House to increase their space to run, play and build motor skills.

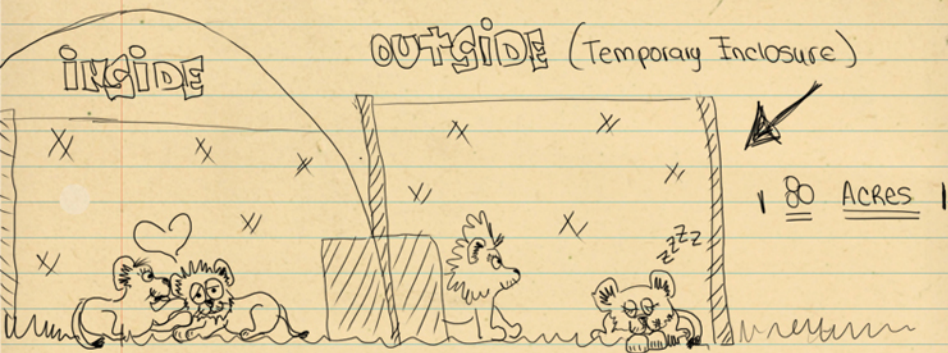
The Cavalini 8 seem to know a surprise is in store for them.

They enjoy having the staff talking and being around them all day. Colo Colo is feeling a million times better since his root canal. He plays, jumps over his sisters, scratches at the log and even tries to ...



LULU & Colo-Colo

... See if we want to play with him. It is amazing the changes in him in just a few weeks. Spring weather is starting to kick in, going back and forth from warm to cool, but the lions don't seem to care. They have transitioned to the new climate quite well.



3:30pm - 5PM, Kimba is not transitioning quite as fast or as well as the other lions, as all the years of abuse he suffered in Bolivia has taken a toll on him. Most large cats can live up to 23 years in captivity - if they are well cared for - but the ones that have spent a large portion of their lives in terrible situations usually have shorter life spans due to the lack of proper nutrition and health care.

According to his blood work, he has signs of early kidney disease, but that is not uncommon for a lion his age and considering his background. We are giving vitamin and mineral supplements to help him feel better and gain strength. It's 8:00pm now and we are saying Goodnight. Kimba already seems to be improving from his treatments even in just a few hours. ♡ WE LOVE YOU KIMBA ♡

3.4.2011 -

We once again moved Lions around this afternoon to promote new friendships and find the best matches to form future prides. The Cavalini 8 are already an existing family and will stay together as they transition into a new 20 acre habitat.

♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

-The Cavalini 8 Taking a Small afternoon Nap...



... PRICELESS! ♣️

♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

Kenya has moved in with Chitara and Dalila and they are all becoming fast friends. All the three girls love being in with the boys (Pancho & Temuco). India was too domineering to the other girls, so she has been removed from the group for the time being. Kimba now has a chance to build a relationship with India instead of Kenya. They are next door to each other, and we see this as a possible future match.

3.7.2011

We have a date set for the rest of the Lions to be sedated & examined. Dr. Emily and his staff will be here again on the 21st to evaluate the Lions and readdress the problems they found on Bam Bam and Campeon. Little Campeon is so sweet & very smart. At the time of his original sedation he was placed on antibiotics due to the fractures and infections he apparently had in his mouth for months. He has realized that he gets a special treat with his antibiotics and comes up to the fencing and ...

... pretends to his cage mates that he isn't getting anything. I think if he could whistle and roll his eyes like he was just strolling along, he would. He is more self assured and it's amazing to see how quickly all of the Lions are adapting and emerging as confident, playful, outgoing and loving individuals.



3-9-2011

The outdoor enclosures are complete on both sides of THE Lion House and all the Lions are ready to enjoy some exposure to the warm Colorado Sun. The weather keeps getting warmer and the Lions love it! The Cavalini 8 spent most of the day sitting outside, basking in the sun. They quickly have learned the routine here. In the morning, they get FRESH WATER and a little treat, then the doors open to their outdoor enclosures and they spend the day rolling in wood

➔ ... chips, engaging in play with their next door neighbors and dragging sod outside to toss in the air and rip up. ROSARIO was described by her previous caretakers as mischievous, and we understand why more and more every day.

Today, she decided that her log made a great spot to hide behind, waiting for her sisters to pass by, so she can jump on them and then run and hide again, waiting for the next "prey" to walk by.



3-11-2011

The 3 cubs are growing so rapidly. In the short time they have been here, they have gained a significant amount of weight and have learned to share their meat blocks with their mama Kiara. She is a wonderful mother, not only is she incredibly patient, but she is teaching ➔

Nancy
&
Percy
➔





Mama KIARA & CUBS

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... The cubs about life. At first you don't notice what she is doing, but if you sit and wait long enough, you can see her patiently showing them how to sharpen their claws on

their log, chew on grass, interact with Panchula and Fida through the fence, and get

a long drink when their water is refreshed each day.

The cubs are very confident little things, as we walk by each

morning, they come running up to the door and say their hellos. It is wonderful that they will never know the life their mother, father Hercules and sisters Panchula & Fida, had to endure. They will never have to jump through hoops, stand on their hind feet or experience any of the other "acts" their families were forced to perform.



THANK YOU



"The Greatness of a Nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"

- Mahatma Gandhi

3.12.2011

We are moving lions again today. India & Kimba have become fascinated with one another so rapidly. It is nice to see 2 lions that for at least the past 5 years haven't seen or interacted with another lions become friends. Kimba was hesitant at first when he realized there is no fence in between them anymore. He slowly approached her with an inquisitive nature...



... She was also unsure of what to do, so she lightly tapped Kimba on the face with her paw. He stopped, smelled the air and decided to ROAR, starting a quick little lion concert as the other boys chime in. His vision being impaired makes him a little nervous, but they quickly settled in with one another & established boundaries with one another. Kimba seems so happy to have a friend & India likes that he is a little calmer than Pancho & Temuco. Hopefully we have found them...

⇒..... a FRIEND and roommate FOREVER. Kenya has been moved back in with Pancho & Temuco, she seems at home with the "Younger" crowd & doesn't put up with much from the Rowdy boys.



-Temuco & Kenya
Enjoying The
MORNING SUN
TOGETHER -

3:14:2011

The Lions have spent the past few days rearranging their sod FOR US, once again... The Cavalini 8 decided that about 20% OF THEIR sod needed to be moved outside. IF they could move their log, they'd probably take that outside too. It will be amazing to see these lions once they are released into their habitats. We have begun setting poles FOR their habitats & mapping out where everyone will go. We want to ensure that the relationships developed in these coming months are well established & cohesive. ☺



Everyone continues to eat well & seems very content with their new life here in Colorado. Morena, the mom in the Cavalini 8 is adjusting so well, we were concerned about her the first few days, but she is thriving now. It is sweet to watch this big group interact with her. If she gets up & moves, everyone except for Bam Bam, gets up and follows her to snuggle as close as they can once she lays down. It's like the lion version of a dog pile.

Campeon is especially attached to Morena, he seems to find comfort and solace in spending time snuggled close to her. Sometimes she will look at us as if she wants to say... "Can you please tell these kids, I'm taking a motherhood break."



◀ I love you mom = CAMPEON ▶

3-15-2011

The lions are adapting more & more each day to the weather, the caregivers, and the activity here at the Sanctuary. Everyone is gaining weight & getting healthier. Kimba & India continue to develop a relationship with each other in the enclosure together. India often tries to flirt with him, but he hasn't quite figured out how to interact with her. Sometimes he tries to be affectionate back, but then will lightly tap her on her front legs & then run away. Pancho & Temuco love having 3 girls in...





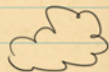
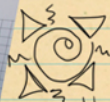
Temuco, Pancho,
Kenya, Chitara
& Dalia

... their enclosure with them. Although it would be very natural for these 2 boys to dislike each other or be in competition with one another, they absolutely love one another. They are not only brothers but they are best friends. ☺

3:18:2011 - Hercules has been enjoying the time he is getting outside every day. At first we thought he might be losing his hearing, but over the past few days, we have decided he has selective hearing and only wants to listen if you have a treat for him. He is feeling so good & often runs around, getting his 2 daughters Panchula & Fida to engage in a game of chase with him. The sod still continues to be a good enrichment toy for all of the lions.

They have also enjoyed other enrichment items

such as cinnamon, mint, bubbles & watching the dogs play as the building staff continues to work on their habitats.



- Hercules, Panchula
& Fida soaking
up the sun -





3-21-2011-

Dentals, Dentals, Dentals... We are at count number 8 FOR dentals FOR the Bolivian Lions. Almost every Lion we have sedated FROM this rescue has needed moderate to severe dental work. Today we sedated Panchito, Temuco & Campeon. Campeon needed 2 molars pulled & Panchito & Temuco BOTH had several problems that needed to be addressed. Panchito's mouth is the worst of all the Lions so far. He needed 2 major molars pulled & a root tip from his canine removed from his jaw...

.... When he first arrived at ADI, they had suspected infection from something in his mouth and we have spent the last 3 weeks trying to get it under control before we sedated him. After 4 hours of anesthesia, lots of pulling & suturing, his mouth will finally start to feel better. His brother Temuco's mouth wasn't nearly as bad, Temuco's upper left canine had to be removed because the root had eaten down into a hole the size of a quarter. All 3 of the boys are recovering well from their procedures and it will be interesting in the next week to see how this changes their personalities as it did Colo Colo. Colo Colo still amazes us every day with his new found happiness & spunk after getting his teeth taken care of. Colo Colo loves running around his enclosure like a race track over & over again, he is having so much fun.

Colo Colo, Muñeca
& Lulu



3-22-2011-

All 3 boys have recovered nicely from their procedures yesterday. Campeón♥ once again snuggled up next to Morena all night, he finds so much comfort with her. She is being such a wonderful mom to him. First thing this morning, she spent almost half an hour cleaning his face for him & reassuring him that he will feel so much better now after his procedure. Pancho had the hardest procedure of all yesterday. He is still feeling a little under the weather, but with his new diet of softened & blended meat, he will soon be back to being the spunky & rambunctious lion again.

Temuco is also feeling better. When Temuco came to us, his left eye has always been slightly squinty, but now that the canine on his left side has been removed, his face has relaxed & his eye isn't nearly as flexed. Hopefully that is a good sign that he will be feeling a million times better & gaining the rest of the weight he needs to. Temuco has been attending to Pancho most of the day..... ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨



-Pancho stretching his legs after surgery...

⇒⇒⇒... He encouraged him to go outside this morning & sunbathe with the rest of the lions from their enclosure. He is a good broiner to Pancho, it's very heartwarming to watch the relationship they have with one another.

3:23:2011

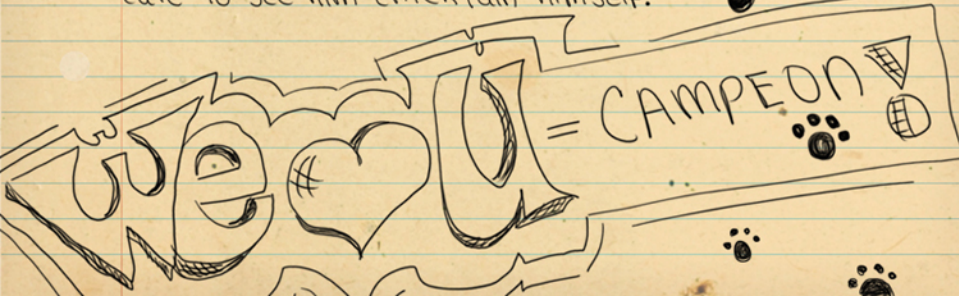
- Everyone continued to do well today. With the major dental work that Pancho & Temuco had done a few days ago, we have been checking on them and giving them treats multiple times per day. At first they weren't quite sure what to do with all the added attention...

...but now I think they know we are spoiling them - and having several girls doting on them is something they are enjoying very much.

Pancho is still sore & will continue his medications for at least another week. The 3 girls in with Pancho & Temuco, have

watched over them the past few days. Kenya is still a little rowdy & the boys have explained that they don't feel like playing, but Dalila & Chitarq have been good about respecting their space and letting them eat first.

Campeon is also doing well today. After everyone was let outside for the day, he was inside playing with the sod & galloping about with it in his mouth. It was cute to see him entertain himself.



BAM BAM



3:26:2011 -

The sun rose on yet another beautiful sunny day here in Colorado, and all the lions couldn't wait for their outside enclosures doors to be opened so they could go outside & enjoy the sun. The Cavalini 8 almost looks like they are a big family on vacation when they are all outside. Because they share 2 enclosures outside, they have a choice to be on one side or the other, often you will drive by and see Bam Bam & Morena snuggling outside together like a couple on a beach blanket soaking in the sun. Then separated from them, by their own choice, are all of the kids sent to go play & tire themselves out on the other side, like kids playing in the ocean with their parents hoping they will wear themselves out before it's time to go home & settle down for dinner. The three young "R's" as we call them, will run inside, through the other indoor enclosure & out to the side Bam Bam & Morena are on, race around, jump over their parents & then back inside & through to their outside area, all while Bam Bam & Morena barely blink an eye. All of the lions here are wonderful parents - patient, calm & loving. ♡

3.29.2011 -

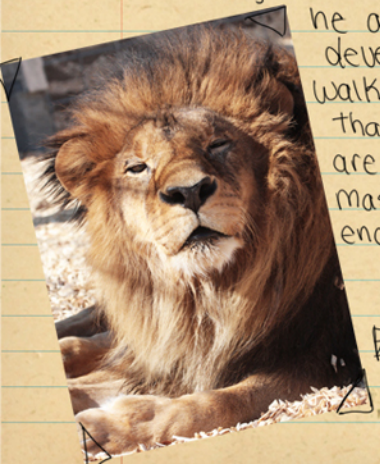
We now have almost all of the EXTERIOR Fencing up on the habitats and are starting to section off the 80 acres these lions will have to roam on. The Lions have all been watching eagerly as the Fencing has gone up. Luckily FOR us, most circus animals

that we rescue are very used to machinery, so it doesn't stress them to have the front loader or bobcat drive by. Kimba barely



Seems to even notice that something is going on, he is so content to just lie in the sun & sleep all day. He is doing much better now & continues to grow strong each day. He has put on close to 30 pounds since

he arrived & his muscles are starting to develop as he gets the opportunity to walk around in a space that is bigger than 10 feet X 10 feet. All of the lions are gaining weight & developing the muscle mass they lost from being kept in small enclosures in Bolivia.



➡ Kimba Soaking up the Sun.

3-30-2011

The concrete tunnels arrived today. As the semi drivers drove past the Cavalini 8, they definitely knew those were for them. The 5 young girls, jumped around, threw up wood chips & almost seemed to smile like kids on Christmas morning do, for the new toys they are about to receive. Although I'm not sure that they understand that the concrete tunnels are for their underground dens, not something to play on & try to roll around, they will have plenty of toys & enrichment structures built to entertain them. We are expecting their habitat to be done by mid April & can't wait to see what this fun & rowdy group will do with all that space. This will be an exciting moment for everyone that has been a part of their rescue and care. ♡♡



4-3-2011

-The Lions experienced their first snow fall in Colorado today and it was interesting to see all of their reactions. The weather was warmer this morning so all of the Lions were out basking in the sun, but as the day progressed, the weather quickly turned & soon we were blanketed by snow. Since today was the first time they have ever seen snow, their reaction wasn't unexpected. The Lions rushed inside, quite taken by the sudden weather change. The Cavalini 8 sat inside next to each other, watching the snow come down. They almost seemed afraid of it, but their neighbor, Kimba, seemed completely un-phased by the snow. He sat outside as the snow drifted closer & closer to him... and after 10 minutes of experiencing the snow, he decided he was done and was ready to come in. As he emerged from the tunnel leading inside, he looked so regal, strong & proud. It's amazing to see the adjustments he has made. We are all so happy he is doing well & continuing to recover from his previous life.



4-4-2011 -

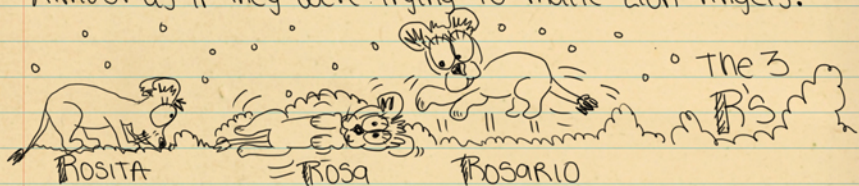
Yesterday they were afraid of the snow, today they were ready to get outside and roll around in it. As we opened the Lion House this morning, the apprehension that the Lions had yesterday regarding the snow quickly turned into pure curiosity & excitement. All of the Lions quickly overcame their concern.

CAVALINI

Sister under the snow



... about the snow as they ventured out into the soft powder this morning. Granted, it's only about 2 inches, but for a bunch of lions that have never felt snow underneath their paws... It's definitely a new & interesting feeling. The Cavalini 8 seemed more interested in the way it smelled. The 3 "R's" were all outside, sniffing & rolling around in the snow. Almost as if they were trying to make Lion Angels.



Kimba quickly found his favorite spot in the sun & then decided to see what snow tasted like. He enjoyed the taste of ice cold snow so much that he gave up his prime sun spot to find an area that has more snow to eat. Pancho, Temuco & their group were having fun running around and flinging snow up behind them as they chased each other.

Colo Colo's group was more laid back & reserved about approaching the snow. Their side of the Lion House got a little more snow than the east side, so they decided to remain inside till the morning sun reached the west side of the building.

As the snow began to melt, they went outside to investigate and actually found eating the snow to be pretty appealing. Hercules & his daughters enjoyed the new feeling under their paws & Hercules did his signature prance - which...



⇒... We all have become very Fond of watching him do. The babies and Kiara played it safe & waited FOR Hercules, Fida & Panchula to discover The snow before They ventured outside. The babies enjoyed running around in the snow. We found ourselves wishing there had been just a little more snow so we could have made them a snow man - one of the many enrichment ideas we have planned FOR the Lions as they continue to grow & thrive here.

4.6.2011

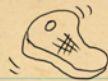
Have you ever played hide n' go seek with your own dog or cat at home? Imagine how fun it is to watch 3 little cubs play "Find the treat!" Every few days, we lock all the lions out of their indoor areas and leave special enrichment items for them to play with when they come back in. Today we hid ground poultry and steaks throughout their enclosure. It was fun...

♡ CUB NINJA ♡





FIND THE TREAT

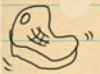


Page 29

... To watch them run in and suddenly realize there was a new scent somewhere in their enclosure. They looked like hunting dogs

Scrambling about trying to

hone in on the scent. Percy was the first to discover the poultry hidden under the large log, then Bob was next, but he was more interested in taking whatever his brother had than enjoying his own treat. Nancy sat back waiting for both of her brothers to become occupied with treats before she made her move on a large steak hidden alongside a boomer ball. Kiara seemed very proud of her offspring's hunting skills & peacefully enjoyed a steak of her own as they were off running around.



4.9.2011

Just as the Cavalini ♂ thought the concrete tunnels that were delivered last week were going to be the most exciting thing they would get to play with, their excitement & giddiness only increased this week as they watched giant wooden spools being moved into their habitat. Each time a load passed by their enclosure, they would sit mesmerized like children watching birthday cake being cut and passed around at a birthday party. Rosario especially found great interest in watching the spools being stacked

← CAVALINI ♂ Habitat →



→ ... higher and higher as they formed a pyramid-style jungle gym. She will definitely be fun to watch when they are released into their large acreage habitat, as she will surely make a bee-line for the mountain of spools to jump on. In the meantime, she has found a new trick she likes to impress us with each day. She climbs on top of the concrete tunnel that runs between their indoor & outdoor enclosures &

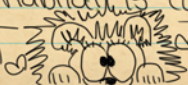


precariously positions herself within the frame of the door. Once settled, she leans back & falls asleep cradled by the frame - looking much like a cowboy taking a nap under a shade tree. It looks quite uncomfortable to us, but she seems to enjoy it very much. It almost looks like lion yoga. :)

4-11-2011 -

Another beautiful day here in Colorado and not much is going on at the Lion House except for lions being lions. ☺ The sun is shining and all of lions were out basking in its rays. They all seem to be resting to save their energy for the big days to come. We are so excited that in only a few days, 8 of these lions will taste the freedom they so richly deserve. Pancho & Temuco's group almost seem a bit jealous as they have realized that they are not the 1st group to get a habitat, but little do they know that their freedom awaits for them only a few weeks after the Cavalini 8's habitat is completed.

READY FOR FREEDOM



READY FOR IT! ✓

4.12.2011

The finishing touches are being made to the habitat & the Cavalini 8 are ready to go have fun in it. The spool structure has been built, the dens are completed & covered and the fencing is getting the last inspections for safety. Campeon loves to sit and watch the guys work on the fence and he also enjoys watching Petey, a yellow Lab that lives here at the Sanctuary. They seemed to have made a friendship through the fences. Petey limps a little on his front left limb from an old injury. It is almost like they share a kinship because of their messed up legs. Everyone is anticipating the 14th and getting excited to experience seeing the lions race out into the habitat.



♡ ♡
 WE ARE READY!
 =CAVALINI 8 & ♡

4:14.2011-

Well **THE BIG DAY** has come! Our first Bolivian pride was released today into their 20 acre habitat. The lucky Cavalini 8 all seemed very excited as they greeted us this morning with roars & lion chatter when we opened the doors of the lion house. Of course the weather didn't agree with us, as it was 8 am & the...

→

→ ... snow was already starting to fall. Although excited, the 8 were apprehensive about the snow.

✿✿✿ AFTER MUCH coaxing & treat giving, Maria was the 1st Lioness to test what would happen IF she stepped beyond the safety of the enclosure.



1

✿✿✿ It is hard to imagine that only a few months ago, these lions were all crammed together, in a small steel cage in South America.



2

Maria touched her paw down ever so lightly to test the ground, almost as if she was checking to see if the open space before her was real. She quickly realized that it was indeed real, and quickly raced outside across the slopes of their habitat.



3

ROSARIO was behind her, but halted once she felt the grass underneath her paws. It was amazing to watch the face of this young lioness as she felt the soft greenish matter underneath her feet.



4

~~~~~  
"Maria was the first to walk into the new habitat"  
~~~~~

~~~~~ ... →

If a lion could smile with joy, we would have seen that expression as she galloped across the habitat and tackled her sister.

Next was Rosita & Rosa, both quickly glided across the habitat to join Maria &

Rosario. Marta was a little less enthusiastic as her sisters, she's the more proper & reserved of the girls—at least until she realized the speed she could gain as she ran to catch her sisters. Once she was reunited with them, she ran around her sisters trying to convince them to follow her down into the lake basin within the habitat.



Bam Bam re-emerged from inside the Lion House and was trying to figure out where everyone went. Once he stepped out into the habitat, he looked around, almost puzzled as to where his family had gone. He scanned the horizon looking intensely for any sign of them. He finally spotted movement down by the basin and quickly trotted off in their direction.



→ Bam Bam, being the leader of the pride, wanted to join the joyful family fun, but also wanted to make sure that he could control the situation since the girls' reckless abandon was a bit chaotic. Campeon was the next to the last one out, with Morena following him. It's funny how Campeon seemed to be the least afraid of venturing into the habitat. He looked at the door to the enclosure & pretty much strutted out!

Yay!  
Campeon!



enclosure & pretty much strutted out!



Morena never seems to leave Campeon's side, as she provides constant

SUPPORT & COMFORT. She is

FIRST & FOREMOST his mother, but more importantly, she is his **GUARDIAN ANGEL!**

Bam Bam Exploring his new home



→ As the group spent the day enjoying their new found freedom, it was wonderful & awe inspiring to see them do what they want, when they want, and where they want.

The group spent the day searching every inch of the habitat for fun things to do or get into. Campeon tried all day to keep up with the group, and for the most part he did a pretty good job. It's hard to see him lag behind because of his legs, because in spirit, Campeon truly wants to be right up there with the girls, having fun and getting into trouble. When he grew a little tired, he & Morena took quick naps together & then rejoined the group.

the Cavalini 8 FREE!!

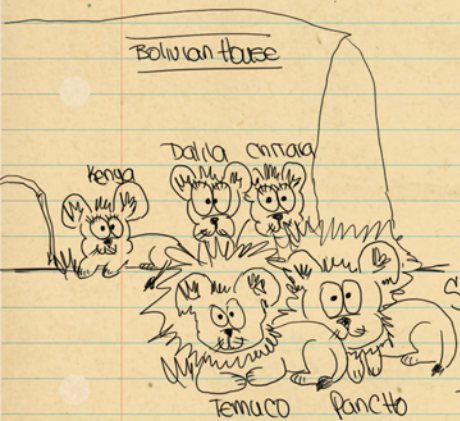


1. maria ♡ 2. Bam Bam ♡ 3. ROSITA ♡ 4. ROSA ♡ 5. MORENA ♡ 6. MARTA ♡ 7. ROSARIO ♡ 8. CAMPEON ♡

4.15.2011

Yesterday was filled with The Cavalini 8 scouring every square inch of their new habitat. Today they discovered their new neighbors, → (2 grizzlies that were rescued from TEXAS, Natasha & tiny). The 3 "R's" ran back & forth along the fence line they shared with tiny & Natasha, and were more than willing to engage in their invitations to play. It is so wonderful to see these lion's spirits still shine even though they came from such small & confined

spaces. Although it started as a game for the 3 "R's"... when the other 5 lions of the Cavalini group showed up - they started to behave like a pride in the wild would - which included stalking, crouching, & hiding in the tall grass.

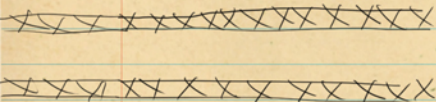
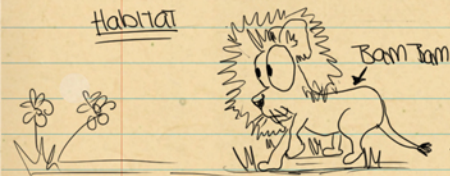


Soon they became bored & all 8 lions headed off into the habitat.

Temuco & Pancho's group have become a bit jealous of the Cavalini 8. The past day they sat outside watching all the excitement in the Cavalini habitat. We have already

begun construction on their habitat & shortly they will be enjoying the freedom to roam as well. All of the males from Bolivia, and the few females that like to join the roaring,

have been very talkative lately. Bam Bam is still usually the first to begin the roaring sessions, but with him being...

Habitat

→ ... so far away from the Lion House now, Hercules has taken the opportunity once or twice to start the sessions.

## HERCULES IS AWESOME!

4.16.2011-

The Cavalini 8 continued to explore their new habitat today.

Every morning, afternoon & evening we check where they are & how they are doing. ♡

CAVALINI SISTERS ♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

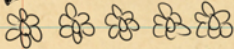


Today, they were all snuggled in a self made tumble weed den.

With the storms and winds we have had the past few days, a large amount of tumble weeds have blown in. The girls have all enjoyed playing with them & chasing them around as they roll by. It took us a while to realize they were actually collecting them and adding them to the large pile the wind produced to create a den for themselves.

The grass & tumble weeds not only create a soft bedding for them, but an amazing source of camouflage. Campeon ♡ especially enjoys the impromptu den. As we came upon their secret hiding place, he was so well hidden that he and Rosa could not be detected until they emerged to...

→ ... race around & play with one another.



4-18-2011



It is once again Sunny and the weather has calmed down. Kimba is like an old House cat. He sleeps all day & comes in at night to get his Food - Then falls asleep. ♡♡☀♡♡ He loves the Sun, and will seek out every inch of it to lay in during the day. He and India haven't quite developed the relationship we had been hoping for, so the decision was made to separate them.



With neither of them being around other Lions...  
(6 years in India's case & 12 years in Kimba's), case, it may be hard

to find a lion that will suit either one of them. India was placed in the enclosure next to Kimba.

✿✿✿ We will see in the coming weeks if she seems to show interest in any of the other Lions here in the Lion-house. Kimba seems content just hanging out by himself. He grunted & roared softly today, almost as if he missed India, but knows that they are not a good match for one another. They still share a common fence & we will watch closely for any interaction that may indicate they could be joined back together.





4.19.2011

Kimba seemed very content this morning & India as well. Pairing Lions that have no idea how to interact with one another can be a difficult and long process. Today they seem absolutely fine with being separated and both ate well overnight. Kimba is almost always the first Lion out of the Lion House.

Colo Colo is usually right behind him on the other side. Muñeca & Lulu were rowdy today and enjoyed running, jumping over each other & rolling around on top of their log. For being the oldest group here, you would never suspect that behavior from them. Of all the Lions they are the most excited to see us when it is feeding time. They can hear the 6 Wheeler (ATV) coming from the Carnivore Nutrition Center, which is over a 1/2 mile away, long before it comes into sight... and stand at attention waiting for us to drive into the house. We have been spending time working

with Colo Colo and his fear of brooms and handles. His favorite treat to get is chicken thighs, so we will sit & give him a constant stream of treats as someone walks by with a broom or shovel. With these being things we constantly use here at the Sanctuary, we want him to feel comfortable & safe knowing that he will never be hurt again by an object like that. He has been improving everyday & now, barley...



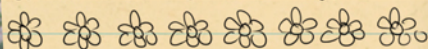
→ "Fears" = GONE!!  
 "Fears" = GONE!!

→ ... notices when we walk by. All of the Lions are becoming so confident & strong in their own spaces. Fida & Panchula are no longer scared or timid, and are now vibrant Lions that love their new surroundings & friends. Hercules LOVES being the new "KING" in the Lion House as Bam Bam is now out in a habitat.



4-21-2011

Today was a pretty calm day. The Cavalini 8 have gotten used to the routine of coming in from the habitat to eat at the end of the day.



Also, it seems as though the

3 "R's" enjoy trying to blend into the landscape as much as possible - which makes spotting them difficult. One thing to our advantage though is that they are not very patient Lions, so if you stand there long enough, their curiosity gets the best of them and they spring out from where they are hiding. - - - The 2 grizzlies they discovered earlier this week have gone back into hibernation as the weather has become colder.

They all seem disappointed that their new neighbors have not been around, but soon the Bears will all be up & they can enjoy playing with them again. The Cavalini 8 have yet to notice the 5 Tigers in the enclosure just SOUTH of them, but as Spring progresses, they are sure to see them & will engage them as well.

Kimba ↘

4-23-2011

Kimba continues to do well with being by himself & India is becoming more & more interested in The Cavalini 8. The 5 younger girls of the group, now come in every morning & evening to see if she is still in the enclosure next to theirs. Rosita seems the most interested in what India is doing, and will sit for hours inside with her, playing & hiding behind the log in her enclosure. India also



seems very interested in Hercules, Fida & Panchula, as she watches them, and tries to see if they will mimic her actions. ♀-♀-♀-♀ Hercules has picked up on her invitations to play, but Fida & Panchula haven't noticed just yet. India has quickly adjusted to being by herself, and we are still watching closely for signs that she might want to join another pride.

Kiara & Limey ↘



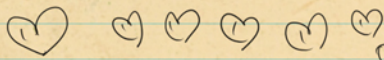
Little Bob, Nancy & Percy enjoy the warmer weather. Not because they like to hang out in the sun, but because we have to water the sod more often & they absolutely love running underneath the stream of water & biting it. Kiara joins in on the fun as well. It is funny to see these cubs "play" exactly like their mom. They make the same movements & sounds as she does when she is playing & having fun in the water. It is strange though, as lions are not supposed to like water, but these cubs have a ball anyway.





Percy has even figured out how to balance atop their log & jump at the stream of water. Nancy has figured out how to tackle her brother as he attempts this feat. She may be smaller than them, but she holds her own quite well.

4.25.2011 -

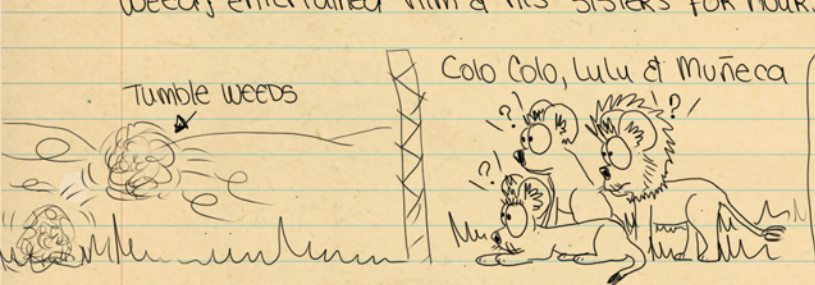


ROAR

As the days have progressed, it has been interesting watching the dynamics change inside the Lion House. Now that Bam Bam spends most of his time out in the habitat, the boys inside are taking the chance to roar and pronounce themselves the New Kings. Now Hercules officially starts the dusk & dawn concerts. Also, more of the girls have been chiming in with soft ROARS these past few weeks. India & Chitara have their own friendly roaring rivalry as well. It appears Chitara is winning the ROARING contest and also enjoys making little lion barks as she runs around and plays. Despite her neurological & sight problems, she is a strong, playful lioness. She and Kenya have developed a very sweet friendship. Kenya almost seems to watch over her when Pancho & Temuco get rowdy. Chitara tries to join in on the fun sometimes & the boys immediately think it's just as fun to playfully pounce on her. Even though she doesn't seem to mind, Kenya finds the play inappropriate & lets the boys know by giving them a swift paw to their behinds. Pancho & Temuco's pride is growing closer each day. They have started sharing their treats with one another. Kenya is a little greedy sometimes & will gobble up her treat in order to convince Temuco that he should share his. Kenya is the young spirit in this pride & it is wonderful to see her playfulness rub off on the other lions she shares her space with.

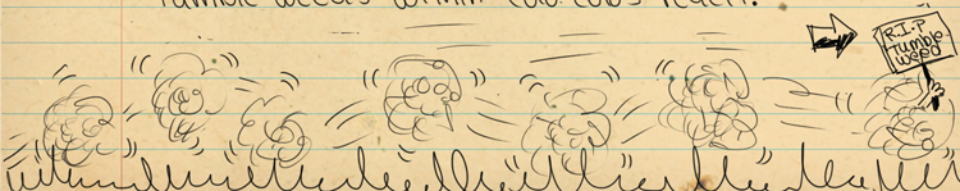
4.28.11-

You never realize how simple & wonderful life is until you meet an animal who enjoys living despite their past. ☼—☼—☼— Colo Colo, Muñeca & Lulu are a wonderful example of this. Today, Colo Colo was spotted, watching Tumble Weeds go by, something as simple as a Tumble Weed, entertained him & his sisters for hours.




Every time one got close to coming into their enclosure, you could see the excitement in their faces. Since they previously lived in a small elevated cage, they have probably never known what it feels like to catch a Tumble Weed. ☼...☼... As the day went on, the girls lost interest in the Tumble Weeds and spent the rest of the day sleeping. Yet, Colo Colo kept his guard up in hopes that a stray Tumble Weed would get close enough for him to grab.

4.29.2011- Colo Colo succeeded in his Tumble Weed hunt sometime overnight, as he was sitting proudly with his catch this morning. It was a bit windy last night & it must have helped push a few Tumble Weeds within Colo Colo's reach.

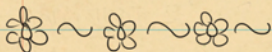





 → ... little Campeon also gets involved. This Time, they all 4 quickly trotted off after the butterflies. It didn't seem like they wanted to harm them, but rather follow them and see what things they might discover. Colo Colo's group hasn't had the chance to experience butterfly chasing yet, but given Colo Colo's excitement over the tumble weeds. I am sure they will be fun to watch when they get to see them!

5-3-2011

Hercules continues to make his presence known in the Lion House.




He greets us every morning with an energetic prance and happy lion barks. A lion bark is almost like a short quick roar that mimics the muffled barking of a dog. Often the lions make these noises in the morning as we come in to open their doors & let them out for the day. Hercules greets us, and then begins ROARING, almost like a lion alarm clock for the rest of the lions.

Kimba joins in almost every morning, but you can tell he is more annoyed than appreciative of Hercules's early morning wake up calls. Kimba LOVES to sleep all day in the sun. If there is any sunshine in his outdoor enclosure, he will seek out. Sometimes we find him laying in strange positions, trying to soak up every last bit of sunlight that he can, as the sun descends to the west. Hercules and his daughters Fida & Panctula...




— Hercules playing with his boomer ball.




 ... love the sun as well, yet because they are on the west side of the lion house, they have to wait until 10 AM or so before their enclosure is basked in sunlight. Until that happens, they fill the first few hours of their day playing & waking everyone else up. Panchula loves that her younger siblings, Nancy, Bob & Percy are growing & learning to play with her through the fencing.

5.5.11


 Colo Colo may not have gotten the chance to play with butterflies yet, but as the days roll on, he continues to be more & more playful with his sisters. Today they were spotted laying together, facing one another, pretending to be asleep. All of a sudden, Colo Colo would tap his sister on the face with his paw. Lulu would return Colo Colo's invitation to play with a light bite & some more pawing. They laid for half hour pawing at each other, rolling around & acting like little kittens. If lions could smile, those two would have had huge grins on their faces. Shortly after they decided to go back to sleep, Muñoz entered the Lion House at full gallop, tackling Colo Colo & Lulu in one giant leap. They all got up, jumping back & forth on each other, until all 3 finally collapsed into a pile outside.





5.7.2011

As the 2nd habitat nears completion, Pancho & Temuco's pride is growing in excitement. They spend their days watching the construction crew complete the finishing touches on their habitat. Today the stock tank went into the habitat & was filled. Pancho & Temuco's eyes seemed to light up as if they knew from watching the first habitat being built that the stock tank means that they are just days away from moving into their new palace. A large shade structure has also gone up to protect the lions from the heat of the summer. Chitara, Dalila & Kenya have all been eyeing the structure, wondering what it is. Their excitement has been building too, as Kenya is rowdier than normal. ♂ ~ ♀ ~ she has been running back & forth from inside to outside, jumping over, and running under, her house mates.



Pancho - Kenya - Dalila - Pancho - Temuco

She is sure to be one of the first lions out the door and into their new enclosure. Kimba has also become interested in the construction, wondering what all the noises are. With his sight mostly gone in one eye and about 40% gone in the other, he spends a lot of time listening closely to what goes on around the Sanctuary. He is often found sitting in the hallway of his enclosure looking very regal. He is so peaceful and calm, like a wise old king.

5.10.2011

A few days have passed and the habitat is almost done. The expected release date for Pancho & Temuco's group has been pushed to Friday because of the large storm coming in tomorrow. Pancho & Temuco will be interesting to watch as they go out into the habitat, since they both have serious coordination issues. The circus they came from kept them in a tiny steel cage - practically since the day they were born - so they never had the chance to develop the normal motor skills that a lion would have. As time has gone by here at the Sanctuary, they have slowly begun building their muscles and increasing their coordination, but it will take even more time - and the freedom to roam in a 20 acre habitat - before they fully recover.



Bob, Percy & Nancy are growing rapidly every day. Bob is definitely going to be the biggest of the cubs, as he outweighs both of his siblings by 10 pounds. They are also learning how to engage...



... The staff and volunteers that come to feed and clean. They love to stalk everyone, including the sanctuary's dogs, hiding behind the poles of their enclosure. They quietly peer from one side to the other, as if we cannot see them... then pop out and run around absorbed in the excitement of their success.

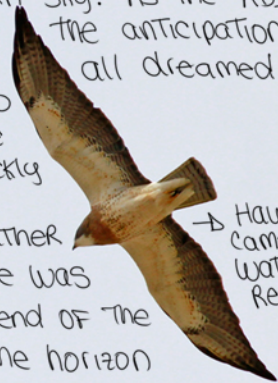
5.12.2011

The anticipation continues to grow in the Lion House for tomorrow's release. Despite the rain, all of the lions seem energetic. The cooler weather has encouraged the lions to remain inside today, and we are hoping the weather will clear up by morning so Pancho's group can begin their new adventure. ♡

5.13.2011 -

It may be Friday the 13th...

but it's a wonderful day for Pancho & Temuco's group! The weather has cleared, and the morning sun is shining brightly in the eastern sky. As the ADI team arrives to watch the release, the anticipation grows among the staff, as we have all dreamed of the day that Pancho and Temuco would get to run free. As the door opens, both the boys quickly exit the building through the tunnel leading outside. But rather than noticing the habitat gate was open... they stopped at the end of the tunnel and begin searching the horizon for Bam Bam...



→ Hawk came to watch the release.





→ It's a normal behavior, since male Lions are always occupied with keeping track of each other (in order to protect the members of their respective prides). Once they spotted him lounging in his habitat,

They turned their attention back to the habitat gate directly in front of them that was now open.

With Tenuous and somewhat snaky steps, the boys ventured through the opening. They paused for a few seconds, scanning the sea of grass that flowed in all directions, and then simultaneously broke into a full-out run! It was great to see they had so much enthusiasm for an opportunity to run without restrictions, and we smiled as they disappeared over one of the rolling hills within the habitat.





1

page 51

- Pancho & Temuco  
running to their freedom

- It was amazing  
to see them go happy-

2



3

- Both ran UNTIL we  
couldn't see them  
anymore.

We love  
you  
Pancho  
&  
Temuco

4



5



→ Kenya and the other girls had also witnessed the boys disappearing act, and chose to pursue them...



... After a few minutes, both the boys and girls returned to the entrance of the Lion House, as if they were making sure their home base had not gone anywhere. After being reassured their home was safe, they proceeded to make a few more laps around the habitat.



The Cavalini 8 seemed happy to have their old neighbors... and both prides spent the rest of the day playing and interacting along the length of their common fence.

5.15.2011 -

AFTER two long days of exploring and playing, all of Pancho and Temuco's pride are laying inside the Lion House. They are definitely exhausted from their many adventures, and seem to be resting before they head out into the habitat again. The 3 "R's" have decided it is great fun to play with Pancho's pride through the fence, and race up and down the fence line to draw in them into the game. When everyone has finished playing, Campeon and Chitara can usually be found quietly sitting near each other on opposite sides of the fence. They both are calmer lions with quiet personalities, and seem to enjoy each other's company.

♡ Campeon We Love You ♡



5.17.2011

As the lions out in the habitats slowly discover each other, it is interesting to watch relationships develop through the fence. Again, these past few days, Campeón has been spotted spending a large amount of his time sitting with Chitara on the other side of the habitat fence. They spend hours, sitting and watching one another while lying in the warm Colorado sun.



We are expecting another storm to come in tomorrow and it seems as though the lions know it. They take every opportunity to play, as if they know the storm will keep them from their normal routine. They have adapted very well to Colorado's sudden changes in the weather. Pancho and Temuco's group have enjoyed spending long days lounging underneath the shade structure that we created for them.



3 Female lions under the shade

Pancho & Temuco's group in their habitat...



As construction continues on the next habitat that will be Colo Colo, Lulu & Muñeca's, they bide their time playing through the fences with the Sanctuary dogs that accompany the staff that is working on the habitats.

Colo Colo often looks at us as though he is trying to hypnotize you. He is a very intense lion, and his strong features and dark mane make him look like he is ready for anything.

5-20-2011 - Today has been a fairly quiet day in the Lion House. Everyone seems content with simply enjoying being lions. The Cavalini 8 spent most of the day atop their spoils, surveying the surrounding area and getting used to their new neighbors.



Rosa surveying the surrounding area...

Colo Colo and the girls had a roaring contest with Kimba, Hercules, Pancho and Fida, while Kiara and the babies enjoyed lying in the sun.

5-23-2011 - It is surprising that the recent rain here hasn't affected these beautiful lions. Most, if not all, enjoy playing outside in the rain and splashing about in the small puddles that appear. The 3 cubs and Kiara seem to have the best time playing in the rain. Kiara chases the cubs around and around, and then they run back inside shaking off the rain. They rest for a few moments, then outside they go again!



5.24.2011-

Colorado might NOT be a jungle, but inside the Lion House, it looks like one now. The lions are enjoying the new sod that was installed today. It looks amazing, and they are enjoying the lush dense grass underneath their feet.

The babies are enjoying laying on top of it. Bob has positioned himself in the center of their inside enclosure, laying on his back, only exerting a small amount of energy to swing a paw at one of his siblings or mom as they walk by.



⇒ ⇒ Nancy seems to think the grass makes an excellent material to land on. She spent most of the afternoon leaping off of the log and crashing into the soft grass, repeating the cycle over and over again. Kimba looks even more regal and handsome than ever in his deep green carpet of grass. The Cavalini 8, have been spending so much time exploring their habitat they haven't even noticed the new sod inside the house. To see these lions so happy and relaxed is truly rewarding.

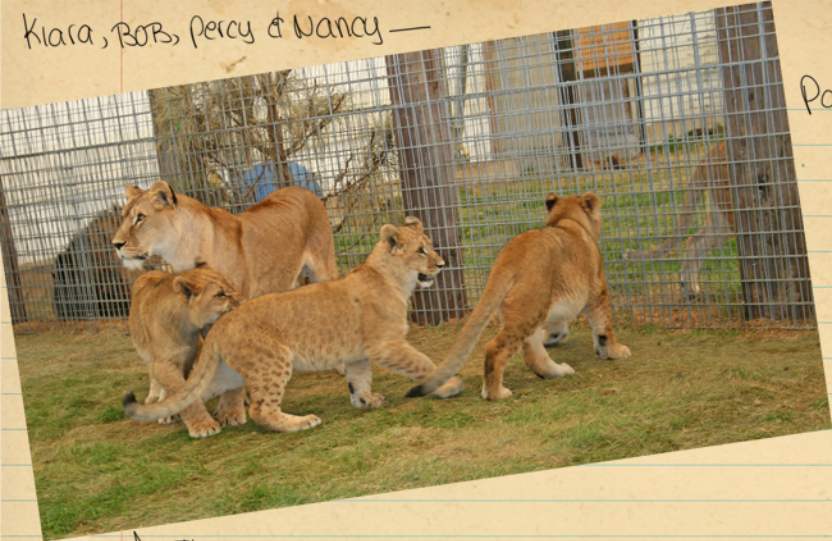
## The Cavalini 8

Bam Bam and maria



5.26.2011 - The lions continue their love affair with the new sod. Panchula and Fida love to pull up sections and throw them around. They play keep away from one another for hours, then enjoying lying down and taking a long nap. They have continued to build a relationship with Bob, Nancy and Percy through the fence, which is helping with the process of pride integration. Initially, they had been separated by several fences - which allowed Kiara to get used to having Hercules around again, and for the older girls to become familiar with the cubs. In only a few months, their relationship has progressed enough, for us to remove one of the interior barriers last week...





→ The cubs are enjoying being able to interact much closer to their father and sisters.

5-28-2011 — Kimba is enjoying the warm summer weather that has come to Colorado. He spends all day basking in the sun, only to come inside when it is feeding time. He continues to grow stronger every day and protests by roaring at us when we take too long to give him his food. He has adapted to not being able to see very well by following a special path that he has memorized to take inside his enclosure. We like to set a small treat in his path and see him discover them as he walks along. Considering that mostly what he sees is only shadows and shapes, he does quiet well. He seems to be very happy here and loves to greet us whenever we come to the Lion House. ♡

6-1-2011 — Kimba is defiantly growing stronger and more comfortable each day. Today, for the first time since he arrived, he ran around the inside of his enclosure, then plopped down ♡ and rolled over onto his back - wiggling his body back and forth as he laid on his back in the soft grass. After a while he would...



→ → → ... Jump up and start roaring, as if he was letting the world know how happy he was. It's always fun to see the older animals like Kimba, or Colo Colo's group, become Spry & Playful.

# Summer

## SAFARI

Annual Event

6-4-2011 - Tonight was the first night of "Summer Safari", an annual event held here at The Sanctuary. The Lions enjoyed having visitors late into the evening today. Kimba and India had fun roaring back and forth to each other making it necessary for us to stop our conversations and wait for them to finish. As the evening progressed, it became evident they were competing with the human voices, since they would start when we began talking... and stop when they had successfully drowned us out. In the end, it was very amusing to everyone, as it's not every day that you get to get shushed by a pride of lions!

Pancho and Temuco's pride joined the event as well, and it was the first time we've seen them all together inside the house since they were released a few weeks ago.

Chitara has really blossomed living in the habitat. Her friendship with Campeon has continued to grow, even though a fence divides them. Now that she has acres to stretch her legs on, her gait is slowly improving - as is Pancho's and Temuco's. The boys don't seem threatened by Chitara's new-found interest in Campeon, but Bam Bam isn't as laid back about it, and sometimes tells Campeon to come away from the fence. It's nice to see that, despite their respective pride's approval or denial, Campeon and Chitara are benefiting from their special friendship. ♡♡

~ Romeo & Juliet kind of love ♡

6-7-2011

AFTER a few days of recovering from the excitement of the 1st Summer Safari Event, the Lions are back to their usual antics. We've been getting lots of rain this summer, so the 3 "R's" have been having fun with the taller grass in the habitats! They have discovered that it is a great place to hide and pounce on one another. Little Campeon is often on the receiving end of this, but he seems to enjoy them making him the center of their attention - regardless if it means he has to get ambushed now and then.



-ROSITA, ROSA, ROSARIO-

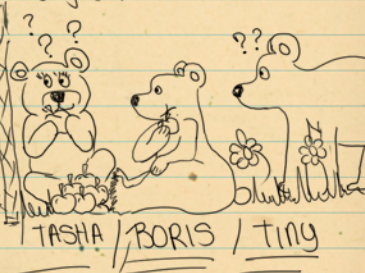
It is sweet to see their family relationship (The 3 "R's") still growing. Campeon can hold his own amongst his rowdy sisters... but they are still very gentle with one another. It's wonderful to see how well everyone continues to do, even in the heat of summer. The days have been reaching about 90 degrees here, and as you would expect, the lions have been spending most - if not all - of their time underneath their shade structures or inside their cool underground dens. Chitara, Dalila & Kenya have established that the girls rule on their new habitat, and Pancho & Temuco seem content with the changes. They have adopted the attitude that not having to do anything - except for roaring on occasion - is a good gig to have.

**GIRLS RULE** → Chitara, Dalila & Kenya

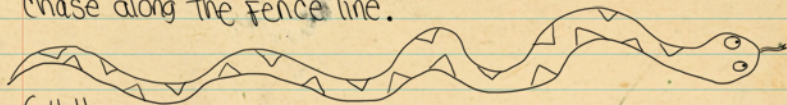
6-8-2011 ♡

Lions may be graceful in the wind... and even when they are running in the habitats here... however, if you aren't paying attention to where you are going, you are bound to run into something. With all the recent activity on the road to the Lion House, Marta & Maria both have enjoyed the opportunity to chase 6 wheelers (ATV) along the fence line. Maria was running beside the fence as she chased the 6 wheeler when we were leaving the Lion House, when all of a sudden she disappeared. As we looked back, she reappeared, somewhat embarrassed. We realized that she misjudged where the ridge along the dam was, and had run right off the highest point because she was more focused on us than the road. She wasn't hurt, except for the small ding to her sense of pride.

BORIS, another one of the Grizzlies rescued from TEXAS last year has taken to sleeping during the day and waking up at night to enjoy the cooler temperatures. Once he has made his early evening rounds, and grabbed a bite to eat, he can usually be found watching the Cavalini 8. Seems that having a wild group of girl lions racing around... and having Bam Bam roaring all night... tends to be good entertainment.



➡ The feeling appears to be mutual with The Cavalini Family, as they spend nearly equal time watching their grizzly neighbors and trying to engage them in silly games of chase along the fence line.



6.11.11

As the summer temperatures continue to rise, the Lions are discovering many neighbors they were unaware of until now. Today, 2 bull snakes joined the Lions in their new home - one in the habitat of the Cavalini Family - and another in Colo Colo's area. The snake that made its way into Colo Colo's enclosure startled him. He was sleeping against the log in the indoor area of the Lion House, when suddenly he jumped up and looked very puzzled at something against the log! We soon realized that a snake had slithered between his body and the log in an attempt to join his comfy nap.



Colo Colo didn't seem too afraid, but he was definitely cautious since (in the wild) all large cats live in areas where most snakes are venomous. Here at the Sanctuary, we tend to have an ample number of bull snakes that come to take

advantage of all the free meat. They aren't a danger to the cats, and actually help keep other dangerous snakes (like rattlesnakes) away, so we always let them be. Colo Colo's watched as the snake made his way through the rest of his enclosure and headed outside.

Fida and Panchula quickly noticed the snake and became very interested in him, but by that time he was on the other side of the fence, so they soon lost interest as he slithered off into the grass. The Cavalini also didn't seem to know what to do with the snake that visited...





→ ... Them as well. The girls tried to playfully bat at the snake ... BUT soon became bored when it didn't respond to their prodding.

6.13.2011 -

Watching the Cavalini girls play in the mud and tall grass is like watching a bunch of neighbor kids enjoying their summer vacation. Usually lions are not fond of water and often avoid it, except to drink. The girls and Campeon are proving that they are game for anything with their new found freedom. The girls LOVE to wade in the shallower water and play along the shore line - which is a little muddy. Even Campeon enjoys playing in the mud and hiding in the tall grass. He looks so majestic, even with his crooked legs. His mane is starting to thicken more and more and



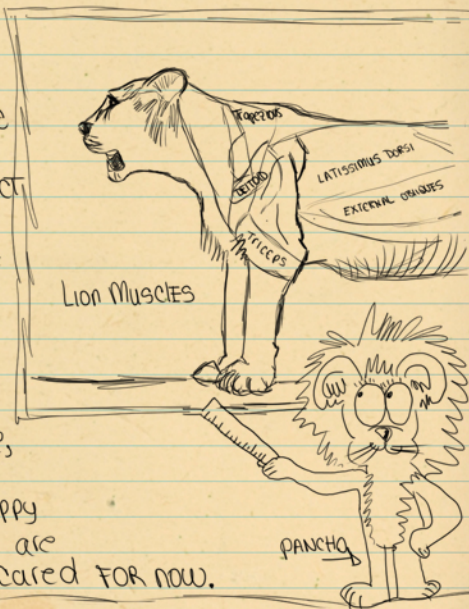
is slowly turning a beautiful Sienna brown. When he first arrived back in February, it was difficult to tell what



color his mane truly was, since it had been so soiled by his previous living conditions.



→ As time has passed, the color of his mane has lightened immensely. He and Chitara continue to develop their relationship between the fences; It's sweet to see that he has a little crush on her ♡. Pancha and Temuco have spent most of their afternoon under the large shade structure in their habitat, but since the grass has grown so much, they have started playing hide-n-seek with each other. Their coordination, muscles and gait continue to get better each day. Hopefully, soon, they will walk with ease and play without tripping over their own feet. It can take several months, to over a year, for their bodies to fully recover from the damage of being incarcerated in tiny spaces. All of the lions have finally put on most of the weight that they needed to... and we got our first random observation on that subject recently when a cheerful volunteer group from Google coined a very fitting phrase for these lions. They compared the "Freshman 15" saying about weight gain when someone goes to college, to a new created term of "Sanctuary 100". We are happy to know that these animals are seen as healthy and well cared for now.



6.15.2011 -

Colo Colo spent most of the day watching Petey, the Sanctuary's resident yellow lab, run back and forth as the last poles of the new habitat get put into place. He also watches the staff clean up the area and bring in a large log for...

... them to play on. The girls (Lulu and Muñeca) have slowly been gaining weight - leaving Colo Colo with a few more pounds to gain. We have found that he loves his chicken treats and often tries to convince us that he needs more every day. They haven't had any recent visitors, such as the snake last week, but they find things to entertain themselves - from chasing the staff, to chasing each other daily with renewed vigor. These lions are some of the most changed since entering our doors, and their playful spirits are proof that love and time can heal even the deepest wounds.



→ Beautiful Muñeca

6-18-11-

Another night for Summer Safari and the lions seem to be enjoying the extra company. All the guests bring a sense of adventure and excitement for them. They are fortunate to meet some of the Sanctuary's long time supporters, and generously thank them through their antics, playfulness, and ample roaring sessions. Most of the animals here at the Sanctuary are now...



→ ... more nocturnal due to the heat, so having new things to explore and people to meet in the evening is rather a nice treat. The cubs are especially engrossed with all the new faces, and both Bob and Percy have accidentally run into one another a time or two as they intuitively respond to the energy created by our delighted guests.

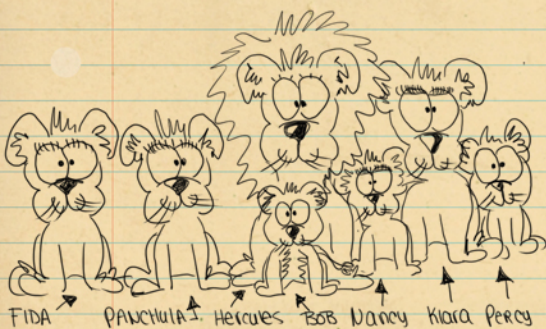
6.20.2011 -

Today, we have decided Hercules, Fida, Panchula, Kiara, Bob, Nancy and Percy are ready to be reunited. In the wild, this family would have already been coexisting in harmony. Yet, given they were separated back when they were in Bolivia, Hercules and the girls had no opportunity to build a relationship with them. When they arrived at the Sanctuary, Kiara was extremely protective of her cubs, and it has taken these past several months for her to be sure all threats to her offspring were gone. As we begin to open the gate, the babies couldn't wait to join their older sisters that had played with them through the fence for so long. They raced past Hercules (as if he didn't exist) on the way to Panchula and Fida. At first, Hercules seemed to be confused by the utter lack of recognition... but the joy of getting his family back quickly overtook him, and he quickly morphed into a 500 pound cub and began playing with his sons and daughter.



➔ Panchula was a little apprehensive when the babies began to play with her, as she didn't want Kiara to think she might hurt them. Yet within minutes, the tension began to fade, and everyone was getting off to interaction with the cubs. Hercules soon became more interested in exploring the other enclosure where Kiara and the cubs had lived, and Bob decided that Hercules should give him a piggy back ride on the way there. For just being introduced, Hercules handled this rowdy bit of play with gentle grace.

It's always amazing to see how the large male lions are so gentle and forgiving of their children's rowdy behavior. Throughout the day, the lions are monitored closely, and everyone appeared to be content and happy.



Hercules looked as if he was engulfed in tranquility; thoroughly thankful to have his family back together.

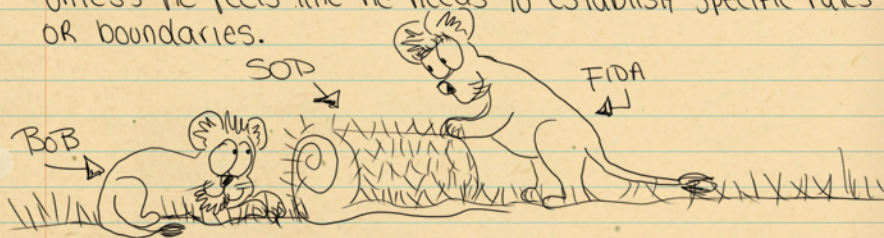
6.21.2011 -

As morning broke, we were back at the Lion house to see how everyone did over night. All of the girls, including Kiara & cubs, are snuggled together. Hercules was already up making announcements (roaring) to the rest of the Lion House that his family was now whole again. We watched their interactions closely over the following days in order to ensure their bonding process had solidified, and were glad to see they were now a happy and well adjusted family again.

6.23.11 -

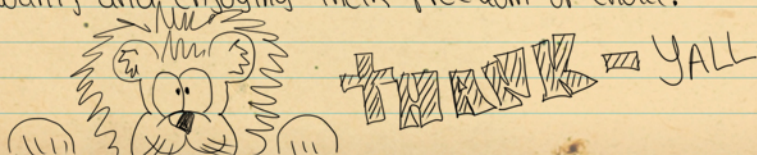
The Sod has met its match with the new combination of the cubs, Fida, Panchula and mom and dad. This morning we walked into the Lion house to find a large amount of Sod had been conveniently hauled outside.

Bob loves to play with Fida, and he discovered they share a similar interest in ripping Sod into a million little pieces, and scattering it about the enclosure. They have definitely ramped up their transplanting activity now that their obsession has become somewhat of a competition. Hercules is doing great with everything, he is patient with the cubs, playful with the girls, and respectful of Kiara. They have already set the pride hierarchy, Kiara is definitely the Boss of the cubs and 2 older girls, and Hercules has chosen to remain fairly laid back unless he feels like he needs to establish specific rules or boundaries.



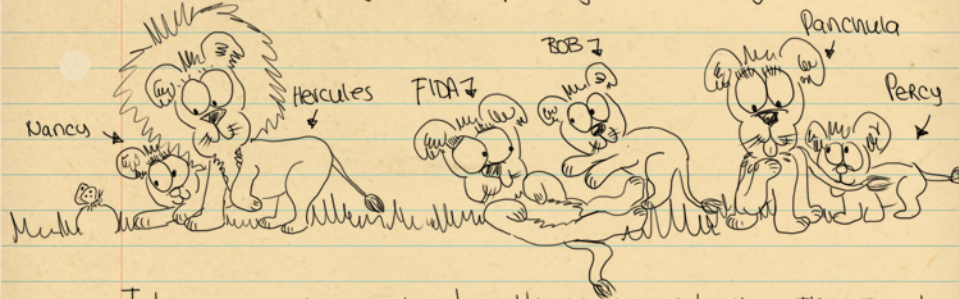
6.25.2011 -

It was almost 100 degrees today and the Lions were showing their true cat spirits. Everyone was passed out sleeping in the sun, with very little effort being expended. It never gets old seeing these Lions void of fear or neglect. They are happy spending the entire day doing whatever they want, whenever they want, and enjoying their freedom of choice.



6-27-2011

The hot weather continues to make the Lions pretty lazy and laid back. Hercules is still announcing to The Lion House that his Family is back Together. He has been so much more vocally the past few days. It is sweet to see him so excited. He and Kimba have been having their own little roaring contest every dusk and dawn. The babies have developed a strong bond with their older sisters. Hercules has also started to form a bond with the cubs, he loves playing with his two boys and exploring with Nancy.

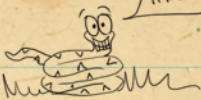


Today we came into the Lion House to find all of the Family snuggled together. The cubs are quite comfortable with the new arrangements and enjoy the additional playmates they now have. Panchula and Temuco have been coming up to the Lion House more often now to see what all the roaring is about. It is interesting, in this group, we often find the girls roaring more often than the boys. Kenya and Dalila have a different kind of roar. It almost sounds like a bark more than a roar.

Campeon and Chitara are still having their special time together near the fence, but as the weather has gotten hotter, they seem more reluctant to spend a lot of time in the sun. They do however still watch each other from their shade structures in each habitat.



HELLO!



6.30.11

Muse

Kimba was up early this morning, roaring and carrying on. Little did we know it is because he had a new little friend in his enclosure. A baby bull snake has taken up residence with him. Although Kimba may not be able to see very well, he can sense changes around him. The night we rejoined Hercules with the rest of his family, Kimba sat inside, listening intently to all the new changes that were being made. Although the bull snake poses no threat to him, he still seems unsure of his new roommate. Soon the baby the baby snake decided that Kimba's roar and pacing were too much for him, and he moved into one of the empty enclosures to seek refuge underneath a water tank.

7/2/11

The last 2 habitats are complete and the Lions can't wait to go exploring. They will have to wait until the 5th though, so the finishing touches can be taken care of. Colo Colo watches intently as we finish the fencing and place their water tank into the habitat, it's only a matter of days before they will be released. The Cavalini group has decided that their smaller water dish makes a great toy to drag about their entire habitat...

**CAVALINI**  
KIDS





... It's interesting playing Finders Keepers with 5 very ornery Lionesses. We looked all over the Habitat for the missing dish, and so far, the Lionesses are winning this game.

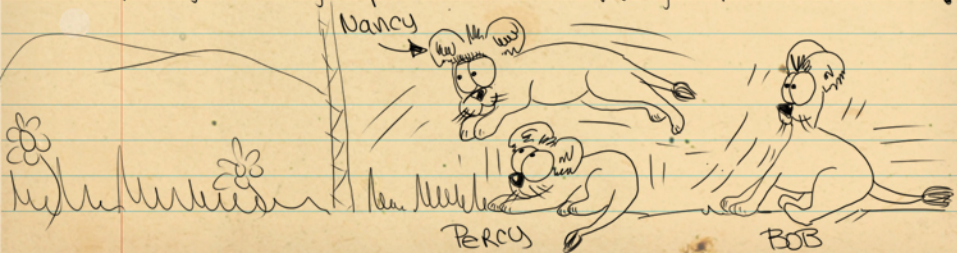
7-4-2011



HAPPY 4th OF July! The Lions enjoyed the quiet of The Sanctuary today. Only a few staff members came in on the holiday to water, feed and medicate the animals. Everyone spent most of the day relaxing and sleeping. They all need their rest for the big release day tomorrow.

♥ 7.5.11 —

The last two groups of Lions are being released into their habitats over the next few days. First to be released was Hercules' family. Just like the other releases, the Lions took a little coaxing to take their first steps out of their enclosures. Percy and Bob approached the opening to their habitat with some hesitation, and took a few moments to stare out into the vastness of their habitat before they ventured through the opening. Yet, while Bob and Percy proceed with cautious steps, Nancy blew right past them in a full gallop into the habitat!



... With little sister being braver than they were, Bob and Percy decide to follow her lead and quickly tailed Nancy into the tall grass and rolling hills of their habitat. Following the three cubs, Pancinulo, Fida, Kiara and Hercules also decided to head out. Kiara was quick to find the cubs and make sure they were ok - and to also reiterate that she was still their mother and boss of the pride. They spent the day exploring and looking for things to get into. It was fun to watch the family wander around, being lead by Nancy. They all stayed close to one another just as they would in the wild. Soon they found respite from the sun in the underground den that had been built for them.



→ Mom Kiara and all the kids running around their new habitat.

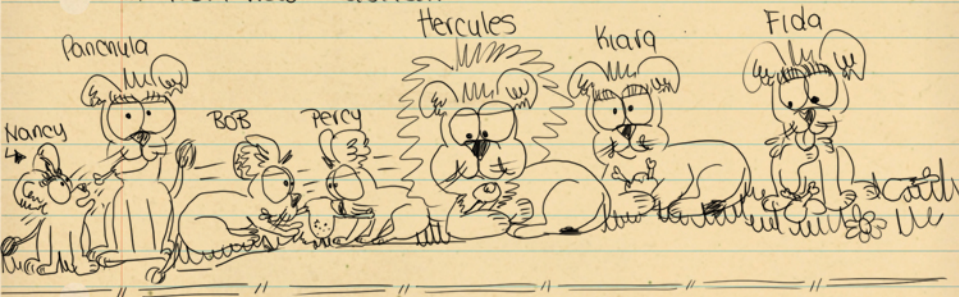


Hercules and his pride in their new habitat



7/6/2011

In order to ensure the success of these releases, we are rotating Colo Colo's group and Hercule's family into their respective habitats. Like a good mother, Kiara is very protective of her cubs, and until she can feel confident that Colo Colo and his pride do not represent a danger to her family - we will need to let them take turns in their new habitats (since they are adjacent to one another). Today, we enticed Hercule's family back into the Lion House with chicken treats, so that Colo Colo and his two sisters could run free in their new habitat.



COLO-COLO, NUNEEA & LULEO Release day ♡♡

As we opened the door to the habitat, the three lions did nothing. We decide they needed a little coaxing, and tossed chicken treats over the fence near the door leading out into the habitat.

That was all it took to get their attention. The girls ran out into the habitat to grab the treats... but then ran back into the lion house! It was funny to see how they had missed the whole concept of being able to access their new space. Colo Colo did the same thing, but upon reentering the lion house, he decided to take a nap.





When the girls realized their brother was going to take a boring nap, Lulu and Muñeca decided it would be more fun to venture out into their habitat. As the girls started exploring Colo Colo woke from his nap and noticed that his sisters were missing. He took one long stretch then headed out into the habitat with no hesitation. It didn't take long before he became somewhat anxious, as he tried to find his sisters... but when he eventually found them - they all took off running over the crest of a grassy hill. As they explored their habitat, they would stop every so often to smell the grass and wild flowers, and then would take off again running and dancing with excitement. It was wonderful to see their playful and free spirit come to the surface after so many years of being buried deep inside.

Colo Colo running  
Free in his new  
Home ♡♡♡





"Feeling Good"

Birds flying high you know how I feel  
Sun in the sky you know how I feel  
Breeze driftin' on by you know how I feel

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good

Fish in the sea you know how I feel  
River running free you know how I feel  
Blossom in the trees you know how I feel

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good

Boluian  
LIONS

All is well in the habitats. We plan to continue rotating Colo Colo and Hercules' families for the next week or so, depending on how they are adapting to their new territories. Today, Hercules' family was allowed back into their habitat. This time, there

was no hesitation as the door opened.

The cubs quickly exited the Lion House, and Hercules was the first to join them in their morning adventures. They all seemed to love the tall grass. The cubs enjoyed the fact that the grass completely camouflaged them, giving them the opportunity to hide, playing stalk and pounce with each other. Every once in a while, Hercules joined the cubs in their hide n' seek game. He also liked to hide from Fida and Panhula and jump out at them and - then prancing off in his signature gait. Kiara was slowly becoming more and more comfortable with her new freedom and security, and she seems to be more comfortable with how secure their territory is. Hopefully, in the next few days, we will be able to release both families into their habitats at the same time.





7/9/2011

Another Summer Safari fundraising event and the chance for the Lions to show off for all the visitors. Hercules' Family was out in the habitat, and one by one, they chose to come inside to make their appearances. As the event got under way, it began pouring, and most of the Lions sought cover inside the Lion House. Almost all of the Lions came in at some point during the night to see the visitors. Kimba continued his roaring at every chance, and the girls joined the vocalizing throughout the night. Chitara was one of the most vocal girls, often outshining the boys with her roaring escapades. Kimba and Chitara seemed to have a friendly rivalry going as to who would have the last word (ROAR).

≠ ROAR ≠ ♡

7/13/2011

All has been going well with Hercules' and Colo-Colo's groups, so we released both prides into their habitats. As expected, Kiara was a bit defensive of Colo-Colo's group, but she soon realized that her space was safe and secure. Hercules did quite well with the introduction, proving to be a wise and mild-mannered king. He and Colo-Colo had a few roaring matches, along their common fence line, with Bam Bam, Pancho and Temuco joining in from afar.

The cubs seemed a bit nervous with their new neighbors and quickly sought comfort beside their older sisters. But soon, their curiosity got the best of them, and they ventured off into the habitat once again. Kiara realized her cubs were safe with their older sisters, and headed back into the den to get out of the mid-day sun. Hercules spent most of the day watching Colo-Colo, Muñeca, Lulu. They all seemed fairly content with the situation and went about their day, exploring, roaring, running and playing.

7/14/2011 -

Campeon



All was well at the Lion House today. Everyone was out in their habitats, enjoying being lions. Campeon still has his little crush on Chitara and they spent the afternoon just watching each other through the fences. Hercules family had discovered the tigers that they share a fence line with, and spent the day watching them. It seemed as though they understood they were somewhat alike...

but also seemed to think it was a good thing they had a fence between them that helped keep those awkwardly striped lions in their own space. Hercules was still feeling slightly... →

⇨⇨⇨... defensive, and spent part of his afternoon marking his territory and scratching up the ground to make monuments he could pee on. Bob, Percy and Nancy entered one of the tigers in the adjacent habitat to play. They all trotted back and forth along the fence until everyone was worn out and collapsed in exhaustion. zzzzzzz

7/17/2011 - The cubs are growing every day. It feels like yesterday when they all were so small and timid.

- Now Bob and Percy are beginning to develop manes and Nancy is establishing herself among the other girls in the pride. Fida, Panchula and Kiara have been teaching her to hunt. By hunt, we mean grasshoppers... As we look out into their habitat we can only see a faint line of tails, as they stalk their prey in the tall grass. The older girls jump up to nab the grasshoppers, but Nancy is still a little too snort, so all we see is this little head bobbing up and down from time to time. It's sweet knowing she is having a wonderful time with her mother and older sisters.



BOB



PERCY



NANCY

7/19/2011 - Colo Colo, Mureca and Lulu have found a haven in their underground den and it's been hard to convince them to come out and explore more. It has been a very hot week and they LOVE♥♥ the cool temperature inside the den. Most of the other groups have spent a lot of time coming in and out of the lion house, but Colo Colo's group has been very different. It's as if they understand what they have out in the habitat, and are not willing to risk giving it up by coming back inside... →



→ ... The large stump in front of their den has made a perfect look-out post, and Lulu in particular has figured out that she can stay hidden behind it, and discretely spy on us and the other lions.

7-23-2011 - Over the past few days all of the lions have established ownership of their habitats. Now that they all have huge spaces to roam freely, the roaring, marking and playing with each other has increased 100 fold in the last week. Pancho and Temuco spent part of their day watching Colo Colo's group, seeing if they could mimic what they were doing in their habitat. They spent the rest of their day playing along the fence line with the Cavalini pride, getting the 3 "R's" to race around and jump about on the spools they have in their habitat. Later, the Cavalini pride watched the 3 cubs as they continued to explore and play. The cubs spent so much time playing on their 20 acres, that by mid morning, they were beat and had to take a nap.



"Rosita"  
watching  
Pancho and  
Temuco next  
to her habitat

7/24/2011 -

Every day the Lions get more and more relaxed. Some days they are so relaxed, that our presence goes unnoticed by them. Today, poor Morena and Bam Bam were caught off guard as we walked into the Lion House. They were snuggled up together, fast asleep, Z Z Z Z Z as we entered the house to start our morning rounds. When one of the animal care takers called out to Kimba, Bam Bam and Morena both jumped up completely startled. They looked at us with a disdain as if to say "I was sleeping - do you mind!" We couldn't help but chuckle a little at Bam Bam's bed-head mane that he had going on. So often, all anyone ever sees in magazines is a regal picture of these animals - poised beautifully - so it was cute to see the real side of one, bed head and all.

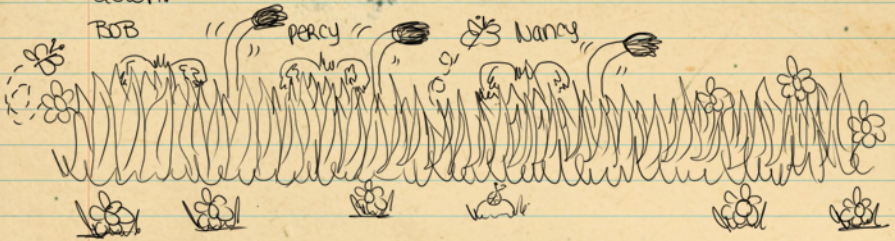


7/26/2011 -

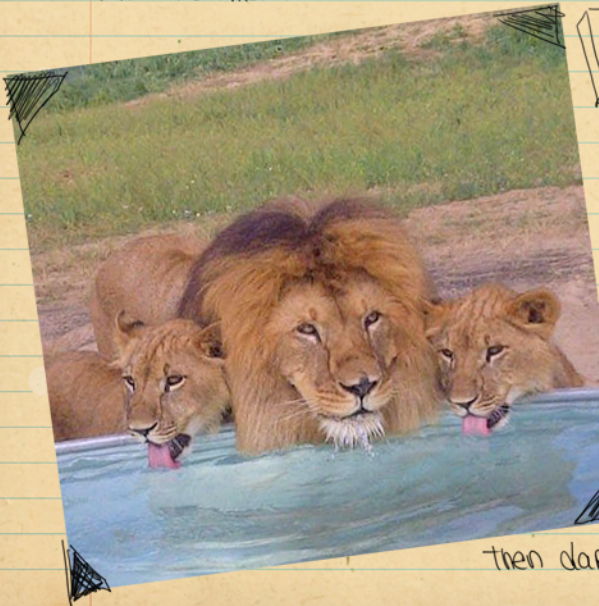
The weather is hot here today. Even though lions naturally live in hot climates; they are smart enough to take advantage of their shade structures placed in their habitats, as well

as the underground dens. The cubs spent hours staring at the tigers that live to the south of them. The tigers enjoy watching them as well. Bob and Percy sometimes think that they are a lot tougher than they are and sometimes try to challenge the tigers through the fence. The tigers are wise adults and often simply walk away as if they are less than impressed by the little boys acting tough. Bob and Percy are young and clueless to the lack of respect displayed by the tigers, and seem to compliment each other thinking they intimidated the tigers into leaving.

... → Bob isn't as graceful as Nancy and Percy. We sometimes watch them FROM across the habitat, as they walk in a characteristic line, watching their little tails bob up and down.



Every once in a while, we can see the two boys beginning to trot along - and soon - you can see Bob take a tumble. He is growing so fast that his feet are incredibly large, and he has a hard time keeping them under control. Percy is still smaller than him, but not by much. And of course Nancy is still her, slim, svelte and graceful self. She is going to end up looking a lot like Kiara.



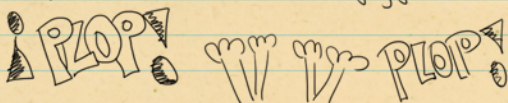
## Kodak Moment!

→ Hercules and his two boys Bob and Percy

Hercules doesn't join the hunting escalades very often, but when he does, he is the JOKER OF THE GROUP. He runs around, tries to tackle Kiara, and then darts in and out of the...

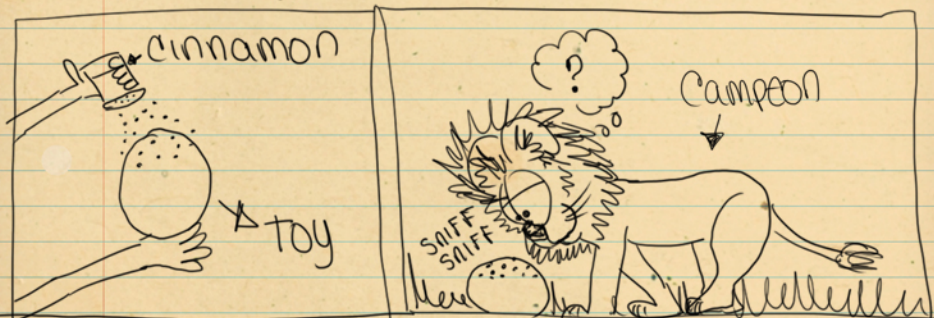
~

wavy line Trying to get someone to chase him. You can see where Bob get his lack of gracefulness. Hercules is a handsome boy and his mane is full and dark, but he has a tendency to not put his feet in front of one another very well. The other day he was running along the fence line, mirroring Colo Colo on the other side, when all of a sudden he tripped and rolled down a short dirt embankment. It all seemed to happen in slow motion, with him tumbling down the hill and coming to a stop with his legs straight up in the air. He was fine and he didn't seem upset at all, but we couldn't help but giggle a little at his klutziness.

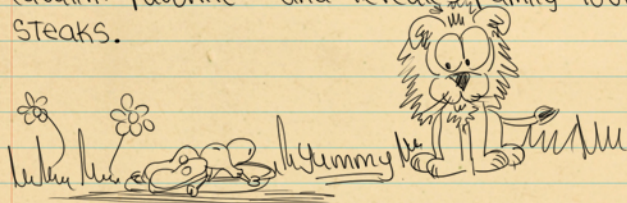


7/30/11 -

It is such an amazing feeling to go up to the Lion house and experience all of the lions running inside from their habitats to meet us. They all have so much excitement and love in their eyes. The Cavalieri pride enjoys it when we place items of enrichment in their habitat - from cinnamon, to ice blocks made with meat treats by one of our volunteers. Campeon is such a handsome young lion and it's joyous to watch him.



Morena and Bam Bam still spend most of their days together watching their happy family enjoy life. They seem like proud parents that love watching their kids grow and learn. Maria and Marta have decided the van is their favorite "enrichment toy". When we go in to feed, both of them love to circle the van as we drive around dispersing food to each lion. They all have their favorite treats - with chunks of chicken breast being the Cavalini's favorite - and Hercules' family loving juice beef steaks.



8/3/2011 -

Pancho's group has discovered that if they hide at the back end of their habitat, or in their den all day, we will drive into the habitat to ensure that they are all OK.



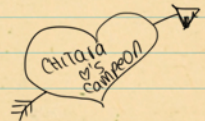


Kenya LOVES♡ the van. She chases it and looks at us through the windows, as if she's trying to figure out how she can join us inside. Her inquisitive and youthful behavior is typical of a lion her age. The others aren't as interested in the van, recognizing it is just there to feed, and isn't a toy. They sometimes lay there watching Kenya race around after the van, enjoying the fact that she is willing to burn so much energy chasing a big white box with wheels.



8/6/2011-

Campeon is simply smitten by Chitara. He will watch her intently as she moves around her habitat until he catches her eye, and she comes over to the fence to watch him as well.♡ A few days ago, we noticed Campeon watching and waiting for Chitara to surface from her den. Once he spotted her in the habitat, he made his way over to the fence and cuddled up as close as he could get to where she laid...



- Campeon looking FOR Chitara...



Even as the weather gets hotter, we often find them still sitting across from each other, while everyone else retreats to the shade. Morena usually comes by to check on Campeon and almost seems to give her approval of the crush they have on one another. Yet, she still watches Campeon's every move, and sometimes seems to get a little worried how far he has traveled, or if he stays in the sun too long. Sometimes she coaxes him into the shade of the spools and sits with him so that he doesn't wander off again. Campeon's mane continues to change almost daily. His mane continues to fill in and is getting lighter and lighter. We think he will end up

looking more like another lion we have here named Sampson. They both have a distinct curl to their manes and the light hair color they share is very beautiful.



~ Bam Bam, on the other hand, has a very dark mane; one of the darkest among the Bolivian Lions. ~

8/8/2011-

Not much to report today, the lions slept all day enjoying the summer sun. Hercule's family has decided that they love watching everyone from the top of their den and almost always fall asleep in a neat little line along its crest. Colo Colo and the girls are rarely seen,

➔ ... EXCEPT FOR a random head poking out of the den once in a while. Paneno and Temuco's group are usually asleep under their shade structure, with only a tail flick here and there. The Cavalini pride was widely dispersed amongst the levels of their spool structure, with a random leg or two hanging down here and there as they slumbered in a "cat-a-tonic" state.

8/12/2011-

There have been a few sprinkles of rain over the past few days and the Lions have enjoyed the brief moments of cooler temperatures. Everyone has been so lazy lately; even the Cavalini pride didn't bat an eye at the rabbits running around in the tall grass a few days ago. Yet, with the cooler air, they were a little more interested today and took a moment to chase one - only to realize the rabbits are just as fast as they were the last time they failed to catch one.



The color of the Cavalini pride's coats are lightening immensely, and Marta and Maria are now almost the same color. The 3 "R's" are all about the same size now, and Rosita has caught up with her sisters..



in both weight and height. ROSARIO is still easy to tell apart because of her tail, which is missing the characteristic black furry fluff at the end, but Rosa and Rosita look like twins.

8/17/2011 -

In a few days, the last of the Lions will be sedated to finish addressing dental issues and to recheck Pancho's mouth after his palette resection. We are excited to see what progress has been made in his recovery, and to get the last of the Lions' medical issues taken care of. The Cavalini pride spent the afternoon watching the Bears as they browsed about looking for hidden treats. The 3 "R's" seem to discover something new every day in their habitats. From new flowers or scents, to new animals and bugs. They will be fun to watch in the fall as the weather cools and new animals and plants emerge. Every season is so different here in CO, it will be interesting to see them discover everything each new season has to offer.



8/20/2011 -

DR. Emily & DR. Hyde were back for the recheck on Pancho, and to sedate Hercules for his general exam and dental check. All goes well throughout the day and Pancho gets a clear bill of health with his palette resection. DR. Emily was thrilled to see how well Pancho

➔ ... had healed. He and Temuco had to be separated so that Pancho could be sedated. It was amazing to see the bond these two brothers have for each other. Temuco was a little distraught not being able to sit beside his brother as he went to sleep from the medication ... but was happy by the end of the day when Pancho had recovered and they were reunited. Watching their reunion after only a few hours of being apart was amazing. They acted as though it had been years, prancing toward each other in excitement, head butting, rubbing and roaring. The girls were quick to join them in celebration, crashing into each other and roaring with the boys. ☺



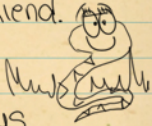
8/21/2011 -

All was well after everyone's sedation and dentals. Pancho and Temuco were still up to their old antics and running around the habitat together. Every day they seem stronger and stronger. Temuco still has some problems with his coordination and we hope it is something that will continue to improve. Sometimes animals that have been malnourished or mistreated never 100% recover from those inflictions. We will keep a close eye on these boys, as they still have a long road ahead of them. Their progress thus far has been incredible, but it can take years for them to be back to normal. Kenya is still holding her position as the dominant female in this pride...



... and she does well at enforcing the Rules. She is Funny about their water tank inside the Lion House, as she has decided that everyone wants to steal it from her. She spends some days sleeping next to it, protecting it from possible thieves. There is a small adolescent bull snake that lives underneath it that she doesn't pay any attention too. It's as if they have some unspoken deal of some sort that if she can't be there to protect the water dish, then that duty transfers to her little snake friend.

8/24/2011 - Colo Colo's pride is enjoying their habitat so much that sometimes it is a few days between seeing them. The warm weather keeps them hidden in their cool den most of the day, so we have realized that if we come back late in the evening, we can catch them out playing. Just like on the east side of the Lion House, where Campeon and Chitara have formed a friendship, the two prides on the west side are starting to develop their own unique friendships as well. Kiara seems much less threatened by Munecca, since she is so quiet, and allows her to come near



-Kiara walking around the habitat with her kids...



the cubs when they are around the common fence area. Lulu is a different story, as she is much rowdier than her sister, and sometimes Kiara takes her boundless energy as a threat and gets

defensive. It's never more than a few growls through the fence, as Kiara just wants to make sure Lulu knows not to get too comfortable playing so wildly near her cubs.



[www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org](http://www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org)

The Wild Animal Sanctuary  
1946 County Road 53  
Keenesburg, CO 80643  
303-536-0118





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