

**IN THIS REPORT  
OUR PROGRAMS:**

**ANIMAL RESCUE**

**ANIMAL CARE**

**EDUCATION**

**EXPANSION**

**FINANCIALS**



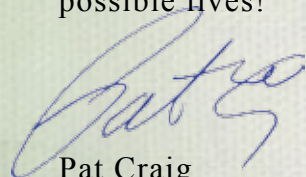


If 2016 could be summed up in a word, it would be “record-breaking,” not just because of the completion of construction and subsequent opening of our brand new 48,000 sq. ft. Welcome Center and 2,600 ft. extension of our “Mile Into The Wild” walkway, but because we are determined to remain on the fast track of growth, as our work to stay ahead of the game is what allows the animals to win, every time. In that sense, this past year was one in a long line of years—36 total—during which we have continually grown and pushed the limits of ourselves as an organization and as individuals who always put the animals first as we look ahead to the future. Between the expansion project to meet the needs of our visitors, 10 additional large-acreage habitats built by our operations team, 78 animals rescued, five added food sources, and growing numbers of supporters, volunteers, and employees, our operations are at an all-time high, even as we continue to look ahead into the future and develop more land, resources, and infrastructure to rescue more and more animals that would otherwise have no options or hope. And yes, we broke at least one world record. At 1.51 miles long, our elevated walkway earned us a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for “Longest Footbridge!”

from our founder : PAT CRAIG

You will find as you read ahead, that everything we strive to accomplish is for one singular purpose: to rescue and provide life-long homes for captive great cats, bears, wolves and other large carnivores which have been abused, abandoned, exploited and illegally kept, and to educate the public about causes and solutions to the dramatic plight of tens of thousands of captive wildlife in the United States. The Wild Animal Sanctuary is the oldest and largest nonprofit Sanctuary in the world dedicated exclusively to rescuing captive exotic and endangered large carnivores, providing them with a wonderful life for as long as they live, and educating the public about the tragic plight faced by an estimated 25,000 captive animals in America today. The scope of our educational outreach, as well as our capacity for animal rescue and rehabilitation, has reached unprecedented levels, and we are so happy to invite you to be a part of the journey with these extraordinary animals.

Thank you for your wonderful support that paves the way for animals to live out their best possible lives!



Pat Craig  
Executive Director

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# WHAT MAKES A TIGER WANT TO DIE



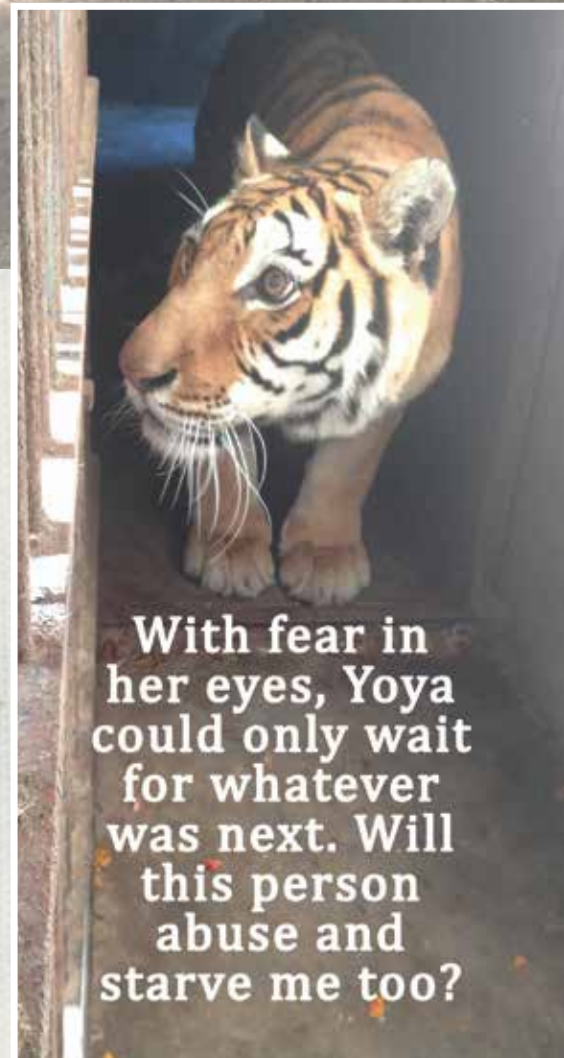
Her spirit crushed,  
Yoya could hardly move  
in her tiny cage .

**M**any of our long-time supporters who have received the Newsletter for a number of years may remember “Yoya” and “Frida”, two female Tigers living in deplorable conditions in Mexico. Their plight was the focus of a story that told their years of suffering and torment, and more specifically, how Yoya had finally reached a point where she had given up hope and was ready to die.

Her tragic story was absolutely heart wrenching, and it was not only difficult for us to see and know about... but was even

harder to pass on to our supporters. Yet, her story had to be told for many reasons, one of which was to gain help in rescuing her, and the other was to illustrate an issue that existed with federal restrictions on importing “generic” Tigers.

In Yoya and Frida’s case, they were two Tigers who had suffered greatly for many years while being held captive at different locations within Mexico. Yoya had spent nearly 20 years locked inside a dark and dingy steel-bar cage located inside a jean manufacturing warehouse.



With fear in  
her eyes, Yoya  
could only wait  
for whatever  
was next. Will  
this person  
abuse and  
starve me too?



She was kept as a novelty by the company's owner who also maintained a female African Lion in an adjacent cell. Rather than give either cat adequate space inside the concrete-floored warehouse, or provide them with a natural outdoor area, their owner just let them waste away inside a cold industrial setting for years on end!

By the time our Sanctuary was contacted about Yoya and her jail-mate's plight, they had just been moved to our partner facility in Pachuca, MX. The Sanctuary's Executive and Communication Directors - Pat & Monica - flew to Mexico to evaluate Yoya and a number of other recently-rescued animals to see if they would be able to make the trip to Colorado.

Upon arrival, the team was introduced to "Cata", who was the female African Lion that had spent years suffering just inches away from Yoya. She was emaciated and in rough condition. Her dark sunken eyes were encased within her ruthlessly-scavenged frame and encircled by a filthy coat of hair.

She had endured the worst life possible and was still alive, standing as a physical testament to how her will to

survive kept her body going. Yet, Yoya was another story, as she lay motionless in her cage.

Having her eyes open, but eerily glossed over, Yoya looked deflated and quite possibly dead. She failed to respond to voice, as well as close human proximity, and gave no indication of breathing.

Only with repeated attempts to gain her attention with Tiger chuffs (*puffs of air*) did she finally slowly lift her head. However, instead of seeing eyes that possessed a glimmer of hope, Yoya responded with a look that said she was ready to die!

How could anyone let this once magnificent Tiger get to the point where she was more ready to die, than live another day? How could she be so far gone and yet still be alive until the moment we were able to meet her?

Trying to hold back shock and disbelief that any animal could be this far gone, the team quickly announced a plan that might provide Yoya with the tiniest shred of hope. Twenty four hour round-the-clock personal care with hand feeding the richest meats attainable might be the only chance they had to restore her belief that life was worth living.

She had to realize someone genuinely cared and that her previous life of mental and physical torture no longer existed. In essence, she would need to be reborn while being alive, and it needed to happen immediately!

Thankfully, using what previously would have been her last breaths on this planet, Yoya began to draw-in air with purpose and even started to eat again. Slowly, and with great caution, she strove to rebuild her strength and trust in humans.

She and Cata would need to become healthy in order to make the trip to Colorado, as would Frida and the other Tigers who had been patiently waiting for us to resolve the generic Tiger issue back in the States. It was complicated and messy, but with the help of so many dedicated supporters, the Sanctuary was able to get the Fish & Wildlife Service to begin authorizing generic Tiger entries into the country.



This was a monumental shift in policy and one we appreciated immensely! It meant a great deal to everyone involved, including many supporters who had taken Yoya's story to heart. Some had been praying for her daily while others kept in touch on a regular basis to make sure she would not be forgotten.

Of course, we were every bit as concerned for her welfare and continually monitored her recovery while the lengthy import permit applications were being processed. We were always very happy to receive reports from Mexico that reaffirmed her and all of the other Tigers were doing well. There were now six Tigers in all waiting for the green light to come to our Sanctuary, and each one had their own terrible story of neglect and abuse.

*"Basthed"*, *"Panchito"*, *"Diego"* and *"Cucho"* were the other Tigers that had accumulated over a two year period, joining Yoya and Frida as they waited patiently in Pachuca, MX.

For Yoya's warehouse mate, Cata, the rescue trip northward took place in August of 2015. She joined numerous other Lions, Coyotes, Bobcats and Mountain Lions as they made their way to a new life in Colorado, and are now enjoying splendid lives amongst

hundreds of other rescued animals that roam freely within our natural habitats.

Six months later, Cata's success story was now ready to be repeated with Yoya and all of the remaining animals in Pachuca who had finally received clearance. In addition to the six Tigers now cleared, two adult Jaguars, two adult African Lions and one Leopard had also come into the picture.

*"Kiro"*, a sleek golden male Leopard, came to the Pachuca Waystation after Mexican agents discovered him being sold on the black market in Mexico's underground. Likely born in a wealthy private setting somewhere inside Mexico, he was just another commodity easily traded amongst the privileged upper class.

*"Agata"* and *"Guera"* were two elderly Lions that had come from years of being swapped between zoos and circuses and were in desperate need of a retirement home where they could spend their waning days in peace and comfort.

*"Manchas"* was a three year-old golden male Jaguar... and *"Negrita"* was a twelve year-old black female Jaguar. Both had been confiscated by Mexican officials - with Manchas seized from being kept as a pet by a family

somewhere in a remote area of Mexico - to Negrita who had been captured in the jungle just outside of Cancun, MX.

Although Manchas' pet story was somewhat typical for a number of captive wildlife, Negrita's appearance was like seeing a ghost from the past! She had spent her entire life in the clutches of a man that some of our long-time supporters may remember as *"Pepe Tigre"* - a man who had once operated a busy restaurant located within the harbor area of old town Cancun.

His restaurant had once been a thriving business where he displayed Lions, Tigers, Jaguars and other endangered cats inside his establishment - where they were kept in steel bar cages mixed amongst the tables and patrons as they ate. Yes, right there where anyone could reach into a cage and more-than-likely pull back a bloody stump!

Pepe had made lots of money operating his exotic eatery, especially since it was located right where cruise ships offloaded their human cargo on day trips into the heart of tourist-laden Cancun. Yet, even when he was raking in the tourist pesos, he rarely took care of his animals, failing to provide medical care and adequate housing for all.





*Yoya*



WHAT MAKES... CONT'D...

*Negrita*



Then, the worst possible thing happened as Hurricane Wilma tore through the city and completely flooded the harbor. Pepe abandoned his animals as the storm raged on, leaving them caged as water levels rose and completely submerged many.

When Pepe returned, most of his Tigers and other big cats had either perished or escaped and those that remained were literally forced to stand upright in waist-deep water for days on-end. In the end, rather than accept defeat and find homes for the survivors... Pepe chose to let his animals starve and suffer while he used them to beg for money from tourists as they passed by his restaurant's gutted shell.

Our Sanctuary learned of this situation nearly a decade ago and spent two years fighting furiously for the welfare of the animals that remained. The government of Mexico was unwilling to intervene on the animals' behalf, and during our two-year fight to get them out of there, many more perished due to Pepe failing to care for them.

It was obvious he was never going to let the animals go, as they were an easy source of income. And even though they brought food to his table... he rarely returned the favor! His

animal population declined (*mostly through death*) from 28 Tigers, Jaguars and Leopards when we first heard of him, to less than 8 by the time our public pressure campaign finally pushed the government into agreeing to seize what was left.

So when we discovered Negrita had very recently belonged to Pepe Tigre and that he was still living in Cancun - but now hiding outside the city with a small collection of animals - we were happy to know where she came from, but also devastated. It was a joyous moment to think another one of his animals had escaped his regimented torture and abuse... but it was disheartening to learn he was still in the business of using animals to support himself.

The story that was relayed to us by government officials was that Pepe had this Jaguar as a cub back when they confiscated the Tigers, but Pepe had hidden her and other cubs so they never knew she existed. Pepe had kept Negrita, even though he had sold the Tiger cubs, and had been using her ever since to finance his endeavors.

Negrita had been hand raised and was easy to use as a prop for luring the gullible tourists Pepe had learned to use so well. He would tie her to the front of his decaying restaurant and persisted in asking tourists

to fund a "sanctuary" that was supposedly located in the jungle outside of town.

In reality, Pepe had illegally squatted on someone else's property near the airport, and was calling it a sanctuary. There were no buildings or infrastructure of any kind and it resembled more of a landfill operation than a jungle paradise! Eventually, the government was able to evict Pepe from the stolen land.

Pepe found a new scam involving using his mother as an additional prop to be used with Negrita (*as seen in tourist-supplied photographs shown to us by Mexican officials*). Negrita was put on a leash and tied to the wheel of the severely-aged woman's wheel chair and then parked on the street corner near the cruise ship dock. Used as a double-duty heart-wrenching attraction for tourists, Pepe thought this combination would be a sure winner in his catalogue of ways to get money rather than working.

When this scam brought more negative reactions than positive, Pepe finally decided to take Negrita to the forest and turn her loose. Unfortunately for Negrita, the amazing freedom she gained nearly killed her when she began starving due to a lack of adequate prey animals in the area. Finally,



government wildlife agents were able to catch her and take her to the Pachuca Waystation where she could recover and receive the nutritional and medical attention she needed.

Her twelve years of abuse and commercialization were finally over! She now lay in a clean and safe enclosure at Bio Parque De Pachuca waiting for the day our rescue flight would come. She, Manchas the Lions and Tigers were now more than ready to leave for their final destination!

Once again, the Mexican Government stepped up to help carry out this rescue. From donating the time, crew and fuel of a military air cargo jet... to having numerous wildlife agents accompany the eleven Tigers, Jaguars, Lions and Leopard to Colorado... it was another incredible gesture on their part to be 100% accountable for the animals found within their country.

In addition, the Mayor of Pachuca, MX, along with his wife and other city officials accompanied the animals on their flight across the border, as did the Director of the Wildlife Waystation and organization's staff Veterinarian and Biologist.

Yoya's long road from her near death experience, to her ultimate salvation was nearly complete. The journey for this

near-dozen group of majestic creatures was finally happening and they were bound for true sanctuary!

We were thrilled, as was everyone, to finally get to see Yoya, Frida and the rest of the group as each one was able to step out of their transport crate and into their new life here with us! Their days will now be filled with pampering and endless amounts of intensely-focused care – rather than being occupied by starvation and severely-debilitating confinement!

Many, like Frida, were quick to realize they were safe and would be well-loved. And some, like Cucho, who had suffered incredible pain due to an absence of medical care and severe confinement, were a little more cautious.

However, within weeks of their arrival, many had shed all their fears and were even beginning to pair as they progressed through their rehabilitation programs. Frida and Panchito, who never knew each other before coming to our facility, were now an affectionate couple who enjoyed each other's company very much.

Their new love for each other has strengthened their belief that our world here is built on a much different concept where everything is about them - and it's not a dream! Each day they wake there is renewed optimism and copious amounts of reassurance that nothing will be taken away from them.

Each of the new rescues has expanded their horizons greatly in the short amount of time they've been here, with Yoya leading the pack! She has now made many treks into the Tiger pool area, which has water falls, streams, hidden caves and lots of green grass for her to take her little siestas in.

At 20+ years of age, she's not looking to train for the Tiger Olympics... but she does love the freedom and natural amenities that are hers for the taking. It's incredible to think of how close she came to dying, and how she rocked our world by showing us that her suffering had become too much to bear.

It's almost as if she did die and go to heaven, as there's no way to compare the life she had with the one she lives in now. Each day is now greeted with deep breaths of invigoratingly-fresh Colorado air... while her evenings gently fade into silence as the beautiful sunsets we are so blessed with give way to the starlit skies above.



This recent rescue brings so many chapters to a close and we cannot thank everyone who has helped us along the way. The numbers of people who have helped us with this incredibly-important rescue are too numerous to tally and/or give proper recognition to, so all we can do is show you how happy these newly-rescued animals really are.

Their faces, demeanors and overall attitudes are completely different now and nearly impossible to describe adequately. They are truly happy animals

that greet their caretakers with bright eyes and warm hearts on a daily basis - as do we with them!

We are beyond grateful for your support and the trust you place with us as we reach out to help animals in need like Yoya. The age-old saying that it takes a village to raise a child is easily carried-over to Tigers as well! Your participation in funding the work we do is vital to each effort becoming a success.

Had we not had the resources to be there for Yoya, she would

have simply stopped breathing. The world would have lost another beautiful Tiger and the evil people on this planet would have rejoiced in another cruel victory.

*We can't allow terrible things like this to happen to animals like her, or any others! So please honor and remember Yoya through your continued donations to our non-profit organization, as she will no-doubt remember and honor us! 🐾*



*Yoya, Before*

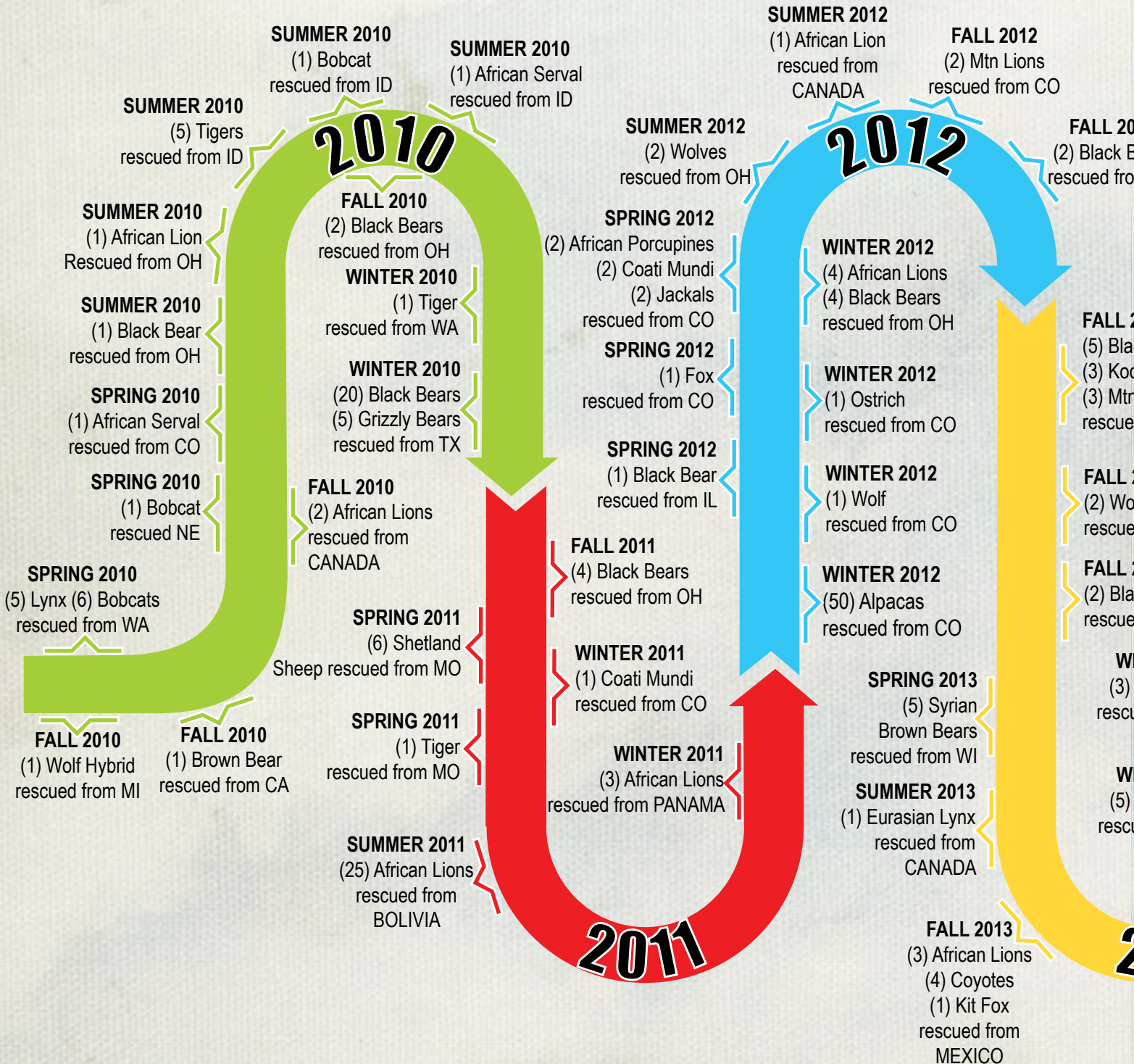
*Yoya, After*





## PROGRAM REVIEW

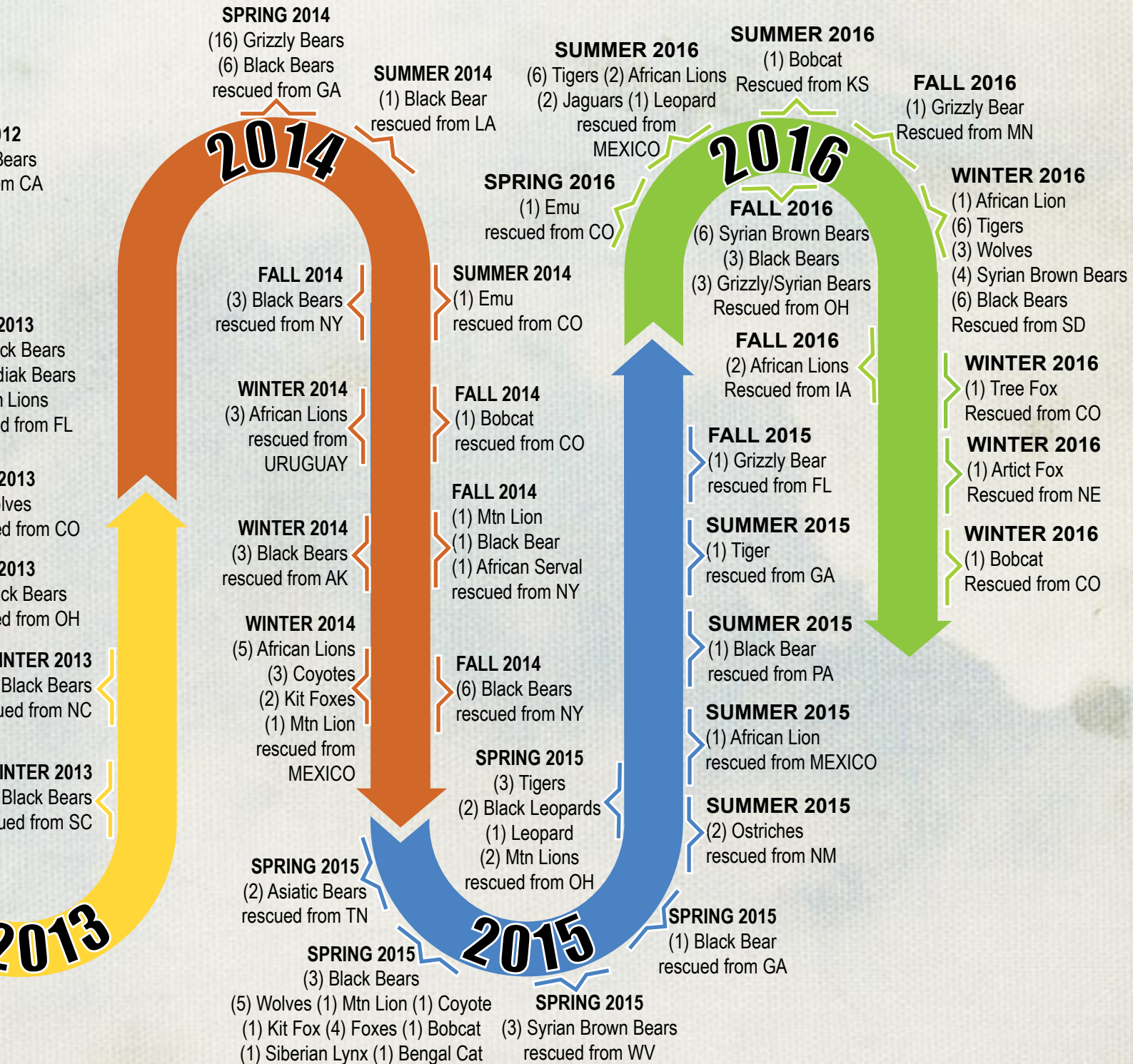
Rescuing these animals is the first step in their journey at The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Some live up to 30 years of their lives in our care. They come to us from all different stages of life and often with medical complications from their previous life before they were rescued that require long term care.





# ROAD TO RECOVERY

## 6 Year Synopsis







Statement of Functional Income and Expense January through December 2016	
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Contributed support	
Restricted	136,185
Unrestricted	323,996
Total Contributed support	460,181
Donated Goods	
Donated Feed	-
Donated Stock	-
Donated Goods- Other	-
Total Donated Goods	-
Grants	
Operating	-
Restricted	-
Total Grants	-
Sales	-
Special Events	-
Total Income	460,181
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	-
Total COGS	-
Gross Profit	460,181
<b>Expense</b>	
Amortization Expense	-
Auto/Truck Expense	-
Bank/Visa/MC Charges	-
Depreciation Expense	230,991
Donor Appreciation	-
Dues and Subscriptions	-
Education-Captive Wildlife	-
Event Center-Op Expenses	-
Feed	-
Fundraising Expenses	-
Insurance	11,497
Interest Expense	9,707
Licenses & Permits	10,954
Loan Fees Expense	-
Meals	606
Medical	-
Misc expenses	-
Network Operations	-
Payroll Expenses	105,047
Postage & Delivery	-
Printing & Reproducton	-
Professional Fees	8,474
Recruitment	-
Rent	-
Repairs & Maintenance	-
Small Tools	-
Supplies	17,682
Taxes	8,126
Telephone	4,253
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	52,677
Uniforms	771
Utilities	-
Volunteer Expense	-
Total Expense	460,787
Net Ordinary Income	(606)
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Income	
Asset Sale	-
Mineral Rights	-
Interest, Royalties, Dividend	-
Total Other Income	-
Net Other Income	-
Net Income	(606)

In 2016 the Sanctuary was home to over 450 large exotic animals – making us the largest carnivore sanctuary in the world – and that number is constantly growing due to our dedicated efforts to save the lives of what seems like a never ending stream of animals needing to be rescued.



In 2016, we were able to rescue 78 animals from across the United States representing over 5 species and sub-species from all over the world.



Animal rescues take an extraordinary amount of time, resources, and dedication. In 2016, our team drove over 17,000 miles on rescue operations within the United States, using over 3,000 gallons of fuel. Leading up to their release, we do everything in our power to ensure that each obstacle faced by these animals is overcome so that they can have the best life possible.







# BUSLOADS OF BRUINS...

**A**s so many of our long-time supporters have seen, we have been going to the State of Ohio for many years now. The Captive Wildlife Crisis was growing there for many years before the state finally passed a new and comprehensive law that restricted the ownership of exotic animals.

With their exotic animal auctions running rampant and backyard breeders selling cubs to anyone who would listen to them, the state had become

saturated with wild and exotic animals. The new law was a great step in the right direction, but the problem was so large there were bound to be issues with implementing the change.

One of the first things the state realized was there would be a need to build a holding facility where they could take in confiscated or abandoned animals and care for them until their court cases were over and/or they could find a new home for them. Once built, the facility would operate like a maximum security prison since the animals inside were dangerous,

but even more so due to the previous owners being crazy enough to want to break in and possibly steal their animals back.

So over the past five years or so, the state of Ohio has been operating this specialized facility and accumulating animals from various breeders, dealers and private citizens who thought they would have an exotic animal as a pet. Most would come and go in a somewhat regular fashion, with the less dangerous animals and smaller carnivores finding







homes in Sanctuaries across the U.S. fairly easily.

However, the larger Lions, Tigers and Bears were not as easy to place and in many cases would end up staying at the facility longer than most of us would like to see. Some had lengthy court proceedings and could not be placed in a new home until the legal battle over their status had been completed.

Either way, the facility was not that large so there was a finite amount of space available, and from time to time, it was necessary to clean house by sending larger groups of animals out at one time. Such was the case when we were recently contacted by PETA and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (*who were the folks in charge of running the facility*).

It seemed Ohio had accumulated a large quantity of Black, Brown, Syrian and Grizzly Bears over the past couple years and were extremely motivated to get them out of the facility. Altogether a dozen Bears that had come from multiple facilities throughout the state had completed their legal battles and were now ready to go to a new home.

PETA had stated the Bears were in dire straits, with some being underweight, while others were

obese. Some were declawed and suffering from intestinal parasites or broken teeth... and one Bear was emaciated and housed in a tiny cage inside a barn.

Three were living at a now defunct outfit called Heaven's Corner for Endangered Animals, and two of them had fractured teeth with exposed pulp and other painful issues. Cages at the roadside zoo were dilapidated and rusty, with some having sharp, jagged and rusted edges.

Since The Wild Animal Sanctuary is one of only a few Sanctuaries in the country that takes in Bears, and more importantly is the only one with large acreage natural habitats where bears can live together and roam freely, we were by far the best option for both entities to call. Of course our ability to participate would hinge on having enough space available for this busload of bruins... and thanks to our thoughtful supporters we did have a number of recently-built habitats that could be allocated for this rescue.

PETA and the State of Ohio also chipped in, as did another wonderful animal friend from another state. Their gifts helped cover transportation costs and some of the

special-built dens and other amenities we added to the habitats in order to meet the Bears' needs.

With a team of highly-trained animal care and operations staff, and a fleet of specialized trucks and trailers, the Sanctuary's rescue convoy was back on the road and headed to Ohio one more time. Our plan was to get in and out of the state holding facility as quickly as possible so the Bears would not have to endure a lengthy loading process, while the state would be happy with our minimized presence.

Included in the Bear count were four cubs that belonged to two different mothers. One female had a single cub, while the other had three little rascals. We needed to get the cubs loaded without stressing the mothers and that would require some thoughtful planning on our part.

Some of you may already be imagining what might happen if someone were to grab a baby Bear while the mother was present... which wouldn't be pretty by anyone's standards! One ear-piercing scream from the cub would send the mother through the roof, so there was no way we were going to go in and just start grabbing cubs.



## BUSLOAD OF... CONT'D...

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The only viable option in such tight quarters was to sedate the mothers and let them fall asleep. Yet, we couldn't do one at a time, as the mother of one set of cubs would panic just as easily hearing another baby cry, so we would need to sedate both mothers at the same time.

Once each mother was gently sedated and snoozing on the floor of their cage, we began to focus on the cubs. In both cases, the cubs were confused by their mother's odd choice to sleep while strangers were present, so they instinctively chose to huddle next to their mothers for comfort.

Their quiet subdued demeanor only lasted until the first person laid hands on one and then all hell broke loose! Baby Bears are like baby Pigs when they are being chased, as they scream as loud as possible and run fast as lightning.

Luckily, their cage was not large so there was relatively no place to go but up the fencing on either side of the cage, which helped us to some degree. Grabbing the cubs from an elevated position while they were less mobile helped speed up the process, and all four were caught and loaded into their respective transport cages relatively quickly.

The mothers were also loaded into the transport crates with

their babies so neither would be traumatized through separation. The cubs were very happy to be reunited with their mothers and all was well to move on to the remaining Bears.

The rest were loaded without incident and we were back on the road in a matter of a few hours. Now all that needed to be accomplished was to return to the Sanctuary where the rest of our team was busy preparing the temporary introduction cages within three different habitats.

The mothers had been confiscated by the state from facilities that had long histories of breeding their Bears, so when they arrived at the state's holding facility both were already pregnant, and subsequently gave birth months later. The cubs had been born in January, so they were approximately 4 months old by the time we came to retrieve them.

When we returned to Colorado, the Bears' new digs were ready and waiting for them. We had prepared one habitat specifically for the mothers with cubs, but were also planning to allow the fathers of the cubs to live

there as well since the facilities where these bears came from had kept the male/female pairs together for many years through breeding cycles and births without issue.

However, this would be the first time these mothers were able to keep and raise their young, so we would be monitoring the introduction process the entire time. It was going to be nice to see the mothers enjoying their babies as they grew, and given they would be going into a 20 acre habitat where they could run, play, swim and actually even hibernate together... we were very excited for them!

As usual, we placed each mother and cub(s) into their own introduction cage which was located inside the spacious habitat so they could get used to the sights, sounds, smells and routines of the Sanctuary. The fathers were placed into their own introduction cages as well, while the remaining Grizzly and Black Bears were placed in two other habitats with introduction cages for each.

With all twelve Bears now comfortably waiting for the big day when they could be released, we spent each day feeding them lots of scrumptious foods, giving them extra water to play in and observing their behaviors looking for signs they were ready to be released. After a few weeks



it was apparent they were all very comfortable with their new home and we decided to open their doors so they could begin exploring their respective habitats.

However, they had other plans! Instead of walking out and running freely across the open fields of grass, all of them refused to step outside their cage.

Instead of being upset by their lack of enthusiasm, we knew this was a possibility, since many animals we rescue have lived in very small and confined spaces their whole lives. Even with plenty of time to adjust, they still have trouble comprehending the concept of large open spaces. To them, the cold steel walls of their cage represent security and help define their territory, so it's difficult to adapt to a new set of standards overnight.

What usually happens is they slowly begin to venture outside their doorway and make little trips; maybe just a few feet into the larger space and then quickly return to safety within their cage where they can contemplate the experience without the pressure of being exposed. These trips begin to get longer and tend to increase in frequency until one day they finally go far enough from their introduction cage to discover one of the underground dens,

or one of the other man-made amenities we provide them with.

Once they realize there are plenty of dens and other structures to live in and employ as safe harbor, as well as finding lots of great things to play with - like ponds, logs, Bear toys, etc... they forget about their old cages and begin enjoying the habitats on a full time basis. Each Bear has their own level of comfort which is related to their background and where they came from.

For these twelve Bears, the only ones that didn't arrive with personal hang-ups were the cubs, since they had never known neglect, abuse or anything truly awful by having been born at the Ohio facility. They were ready from day one to go run and play out in the open, but their mothers weren't, so each time they went to run off like small children sprinting wildly during a day in the park... their mothers would

huff and clack their teeth – which is a specific danger call that urges the children to return and stay close to Mom.

Respectfully, they would come back and circle their mothers, all the while whining and moaning about being scolded and not getting to play. They were definitely ready to go have fun, but each mother wasn't quite ready to take her precious cargo into the vast wilderness just yet.

As the other Bears began to get used to their new spaces, and gained confidence from their short jaunts outside the walls of the introduction cage, we waited and watched in order to see if we could do anything to help buffer their transitions. Yet, there really wasn't much that could be done other than be patient and give them time to figure out how great their new life would be if they just took a few more steps.





Finally, one by one starting with “Molly” the mother that had only one cub, they each discovered the wonderful amenities within their habitats. For Molly, it was fun to see her get far enough into the habitat to discover one of the underground dens, as well as a giant tank of fresh water.

Within seconds of discovering the cool, crisp water she climbed in for a nice refreshing bath. Her daughter “Betty Jean”, who was now nearly six months old, was baffled at first but soon figured out how to climb up and over the side wall of the tank and joined her mother with great relief.

Splashing and playing, the two had a ball interacting with each other in the giant pool of water, which was something neither one had ever had the chance to do before! Frolicking in the water for quite some time eventually led to them getting out and chasing each other around in the tall grass.

They soon discovered one of the underground dens and quickly disappeared. Minutes later they emerged and continued playing tag with each other. This went on for hours as they made a point to explore every inch of the habitat.

By nightfall both Molly and Betty Jean were beat and headed for one of the dens to settle

down and sleep. The other Bears had been watching the whole time, and one of the little female cubs named “Zelda” - from the mother “Ersila” who had three - kept moaning and calling out as if she missed her best friend.

Both Molly and Ersila had spent time in introduction pens purposely located just five feet from each other so the cubs were able to see one another and even play in a virtual manner by mimicking many of the behaviors that each set chose to do. Zelda and Betty Jean must have formed a bond from across the way and now that Betty Jean was out in the habitat, Zelda seemed to truly miss her.

Over time, Ersila began to feel more confident leaving her cage, but every time “Scott”, “Zelda” and “Zoll” would start running around like little kids in a Walmart Store... Ersila would blow a fuse and gather them up and head back home. It was fine when they would all stay together, but whenever they headed in three different directions, Ersila would begin to panic.

Eventually, the family of four began to manage their “*remain close and on guard at all times*” skills and ventured much further into the habitat. Finally, one day Scott – the

only male cub in the group, and by far the most ornery – discovered one of the large water tanks.

Within minutes, the party was on! Just like Molly and Betty Jean, this family went to town on the tank and its refreshing contents.

Never having the privilege of swimming in a large pool of water, it was great to see the cubs discover how awesome water really is! From that day forward, the cubs always looked forward to their trek to the public pool and Ersila became less concerned about the vast wilderness they were going into.

Along with the mothers and their cubs, many of the other Bears have begun exploring their new natural homes. Yet, we are still pretty early in the rehabilitation process, so it may take another month or two before they all gain the confidence and knowledge they need to fully enjoy the expansive part of their new home.

As winter comes knocking on Colorado’s door, the Bears should be ready to utilize their awesome underground dens for hibernation. First-year rescued Bears that never got to hibernate before usually take longer to fall asleep than others, but always do really well the second season.



We expect to continue our work in rehabilitating all of the Bruins that made the trip from Ohio to Colorado, and have great confidence in their ability to fully recover from the sorted pasts from which they came. Now that they have great food, lots of space and freedom to roam, as well as the company of other Bears who would love to have a friend, we look forward to watching them live happily ever after.

We hope those of you that would like to sponsor one of these Bears will take the time to drop us a line so we can get you set up as an adoptive parent. Otherwise you may

want to come visit in person and spend some time watching the Bears as they follow their instincts while living in the habitats.

The Sanctuary now has many new high-powered binoculars that we freely lend for just that reason, since all of our 20 acre habitats allow the animals to be up close, or very far away. Come borrow a pair today and see if you can spot Zelda, Zoll, Scott and Betty Jean, that is, if they aren't playing in one of the water tanks and splashing so much that you can't even see them!

As always, we want to thank you for caring enough to help save these Bears, as they had no other option but to be put down if they couldn't come here. Without your wanting to help save them, and the added help of PETA, Ohio and our dear friend, our hands would have been tied.

On behalf of  
"Chaynn" - "Romeo" -  
"Sherwood" - "Sweet  
Baby" - "Wally" -  
"Waylon" - "Ersila"  
- "Zelda" - "Zoll" -  
"Scott" - "Molly" and  
"Betty Jean" we thank  
you for caring about  
their lives! 🐾












## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2016, we had 9 full-time Animal Keepers on staff to care for over 450 rescued animals.



The Sanctuary operates on 720 acres of land in Weld County, Colorado. Operations include:

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



## OUR 2016 ANIMAL CARE BUDGET

### Statement of Functional Income and Expense January through December 2016

#### Ordinary Income/Expense

##### Income

Contributed support	
Restricted	19,825
Unrestricted	1,784,887
<b>Total Contributed support</b>	<b>1,804,712</b>

##### Donated Goods

Donated Feed	7,296,130
Donated Stock	-
Donated Goods- Other	284,672
<b>Total Donated Goods</b>	<b>7,580,802</b>

##### Grants

Operating	2,500
Restricted	117,850
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>120,350</b>

##### Sales

Special Events	-
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,505,864</b>
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##### Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of Goods Sold	-
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<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>-</b>
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<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>9,505,864</b>
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##### Expense

Amortization Expense	89,489
Auto/Truck Expense	51,306
Bank/Visa/MC Charges	-
Depreciation Expense	641,642
Donor Appreciation	19,830
Dues and Subscriptions	1,989
Education-Captive Wildlife	-
Event Center-Op Expenses	-
Feed	7,311,049
Fundraising Expenses	-
Insurance	111,554
Interest Expense	26,957
Licenses & Permits	16,432
Loan Fees Expense	-
Meals	-
Medical	78,291
Misc expenses	977
Network Operations	-
Payroll Expenses	787,901
Postage & Delivery	18,381
Printing & Reproduction	-
Professional Fees	71,668
Recruitment	-
Rent	11,560
Repairs & Maintenance	19,032
Small Tools	4,159
Supplies	102,648
Taxes	61,373
Telephone	12,758
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	535
Uniforms	3,085
Utilities	68,833
Volunteer Expense	10,542
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>9,521,990</b>

<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(16,126)</b>
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#### Other Income/Expense

##### Other Income

Asset Sale	-
Mineral Rights	80,105
Interest, Royalties, Dividend	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>80,105</b>

<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>80,105</b>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b>63,979</b>
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In 2016 The Wild Animal Sanctuary delivered over 1.2 million gallons of water and 2.2 million pounds of food to our rescued animals. Utilizing multiple refrigerated trucks with two full-time drivers, the Sanctuary picks up food from over 35 food sources across Colorado's front range.

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

In 2016, our Operations Team built 18 habitats for our growing population of rescued animals!

🐾 5 Tiger Habitats

🐾 6 Bear Habitats

🐾 1 Wolf Habitat

🐾 1 Fox Habitat

🐾 1 Leopard Habitat

🐾 3 Bobcat Habitats

🐾 1 Coyote Habitat

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We upgraded three of our bear habitats with spacious concrete pools for the bears to enjoy and play in during the hot summers. One pool alone required 16 truckloads of concrete to fill, totaling 640,000 pounds!

In order to prevent a plot of land adjacent to the Sanctuary from being developed into a residence which would disturb the animals, we purchased the 5 acres in 2016.

🐾 Our Operations Team planted over 2,600 trees in 2016. That's over 200 trees each month!



# TIGER ON THE LOOSE...

Within the world of sanctuaries, there are many levels of “good” that are out there. Of course, we always strive to be the “best” – but we do so for the right reasons, and not the wrong.

As far as we’re concerned, the best sanctuaries not only meet the general standards of - (1) no commercial use of the animals, (2) no breeding, selling or trading animals, (3) are a **501(c)3** registered non-profit, (4) do not take animals offsite for public display or education, and (5) provide life-long care for rescued animals – but also go much further by

providing large natural habitats for the animals, and protecting them from any undue pressure from humans – whether that be visitors or even staff and volunteers.

So when we began our program of building large acreage habitats 36 years ago, we set a new bar for other facilities to strive for even though that wasn’t our goal. Back then, and even today, our goal is to give our animals the very best life possible with whatever resources and knowledge we have at hand.

As we grow and expand, we continue to change our habitat designs and their amenities to improve the lives of the

animals that will live in them. Rather than accept what we have at any one point and then start to chip away at all the good we’ve been able to accomplish – due to more animals coming in – we continue to push ourselves to provide more space, more amenities and more love for the animals!

In doing so, we never let our care degrade in the slightest, and we also make sure to continuously push ourselves harder and harder in order to do better each and every time we accept new rescues. This is the only way to run a Sanctuary, and there are real repercussions for those that fail to hold themselves accountable.





One such example of a sanctuary failing to maintain its own level of care and commitment to its rescued animals just took place in South Dakota a few weeks ago. We were contacted by the USDA who inspected the facility in question on a regular basis – just as they do ours and every-other sanctuary that is licensed with them. We were told there were a number of animals on the property that had lost a significant amount of weight and there was great concern for their wellbeing.

The inspector for that region had seen a general decline in body weight over the past few months, and staff and volunteers there had mentioned they were also concerned - as their Director had made numerous changes in policy that affected the animals and how much they were fed.

His new policy of not allowing anyone but himself to feed the large carnivores and omnivores left many of the Bears, Tigers, Lions and Wolves in jeopardy. The people who knew the animals well and had previously fed them daily were now forbidden to do so, and there was no solid explanation as to why the policy was implemented, other than vague references to the process being dangerous.

Of course, it's dangerous because they are large carnivores,

but sanctuaries that house these types of animals have protocols and safety procedures to prevent injury, so the sudden change was a red flag to the people volunteering and working there. Months had passed since the policy change, and now the USDA had direct evidence the animals were suffering.

They requested us to come rescue the animals that were definitely underweight, and also expressed concern for the remaining animals – yet weren't ready to confiscate all of them at this point. The plan was for us to rescue approximately 13 animals, with the possibility of more by the time we would arrive.

We loaded three large rescue rigs with enough transport crates to bring back up to 18 animals just in case, and headed off to South Dakota. We arrived the night before the planned loading day, and went to bed expecting to go to the facility first thing in the morning.

Yet, at the crack of dawn we received a text from one of the USDA officials stating there had been a serious accident overnight and that we needed to contact them right away. We were told that after a very long day of going from cage to cage with the facility's Executive

Director - to specifically review which animals would be confiscated - the Director suddenly agreed to surrender the animals in question.

He did so to avoid having them "*officially confiscated*" which would prevent the loss of animals from looking so bad in the public eye. The story went on oddly stating how the Director decided to then go out in the middle of the night (*after midnight*) to supposedly give one of their Tigers some medicine.

While doing so, he was mauled by an altogether different Tiger that happened to be in a cage next door. The Director was miraculously saved by Sheriff's Deputies that were conveniently stationed at the front gate for "*security reasons*".

Sadly, the Deputies shot and killed the Tiger, reportedly to save the man's life. We were told the Director had gone into the Tiger's cage specifically because it was located adjacent to the Tiger he was trying to medicate... and he thought the Tiger had been adequately locked inside its house.

Once inside the cage, he was attacked, and found himself fighting for his life. The story gets a little hazier at this point since we received different versions of how he was saved. One version depicted



the Deputies hearing the commotion from a distance, and responding as quickly as possible. Another version stated someone called 911 to report the mauling and the Deputies responded to a dispatch.

Either way, the whole idea of him going to medicate a Tiger in the middle of the night after an extreme day of dealing with inspectors seemed pretty crazy to us. However, it seems no one was certain what was really going on other than the Director himself, who was taken to the local hospital for treatment.

There's no doubt the whole event with the USDA would have been stressful and would probably cause anyone to become frayed at the edges... but many of the staff and volunteers told us this was a multi-month issue that had been getting worse, instead of better, so it's possible this may have happened even without officials intervening.

All we know is how sad it was to then have to go to the facility that morning and see the aftermath of the attack, with the dead Tiger still laying there. We had no choice but to focus on the animals that were still alive and try to make the move for them as safe as possible.

By now everyone was on edge and the Volunteers, Staff and

Board Members of the facility were pretty distraught over the added insult and bodily injury to their leader. They were extremely concerned at that point for the wellbeing of their colleague, as well as the animals, since no one knew if the Director would be returning to his post.

There were definitely a lot of unanswered questions floating about, but everyone on-site that morning regained their focus and turned their attention to the job at hand. We only had a limited amount of time to get the animals loaded and secured for the trip back to Colorado, so we split our team into three groups that could address multiple species at the same time.

While some of the team worked on assessing the Bears, others went to check on a Wolf that was also earmarked to go. The remaining group went to look at the big cats that would be going, and then everyone got back together to formulate a master plan.

The facility was located in the mountains so the cages - and trails leading to them - created serious logistical challenges. Like most facilities that we go to that are built in a haphazard manner, access to gates, doors and houses was nearly impossible.

It's common for these places to be built with no regard for

future access, as if the animals were being sealed in cage by cage. Trying to get even a 5' wide cage into many of the areas was difficult to say the least.

Between the steep grades, tight corridors, irregular surfaces and overall lack of road base, every animal transfer was like pulling teeth. Thankfully, the Veterinarian that lived across the street from the facility agreed to let us use his skid-steer unit, which helped distribute and transport crates, as well as get heavy objects from point A to point B.

Hour after hour as time moved on, our three teams constantly split apart and reconvened in relation to each specialized task. Some animals, like the Black Bears, required all of our team members to carry their lightly-sedated, but also extremely-large, bodies up a steep grade leading to the enclosure doorway.

Huffing and puffing, our crew made the first few trips without having to stop, but the toll of carrying multiple massive creatures took its toll and even the fittest members of the group rejoiced when a 30-second impromptu pit-stop was made. Not that it allowed anyone to catch their breath... but it did allow blood to re-enter peckish hands that remained wrapped within the nylon gurney's hand loops.









Eventually, the 18 transport crates were filled, which meant there were a few more animals that had joined the list of concern between our beginning and end. There may have been a few more had we brought additional crates, but our three large truck-trailer combinations couldn't accommodate another crate even if we wanted them to.

Ten straight hours had passed without a single break for any of the team and the sun was already beginning to disappear behind nearby peak tops. There wasn't any other option but to secure the animals and start heading back to Colorado.

The sudden realization that a significant portion of their animals were now about to head out the gate and down the road was vastly evident on the faces

of the volunteers and staff of this failing sanctuary. Of course we felt bad for them, as they had dedicated their hearts and souls toward helping these animals for quite some time.

Yet, without anyone knowing what the future would hold for their organization and its ongoing managerial problems... there really wasn't anything we could say to help cheer them up. Of course we extended an invitation (*as we always do*) for them to come visit the animals in Colorado... but we knew most of them would not have the means to do so.

Most would probably be left to wonder how their four-legged friends would fare over the months and years to come... basically forced to accept our promise to care for them and love them on their behalf. It's

always sad to see so many people become collateral damage when facilities like this erupt.

There's no doubt they would have liked to find a solution, rather than just walk away as if all of their caring and hard work had never mattered. But the decisions made by their fallen leader had consequences, and it was now too late to reverse the damage to both the animals - who suffered due to a lack of proper feeding - and to the trust that had been lost within the governing agencies.

In the short time that it took for us to return to Colorado and unload the former South Dakotans, the Board of Directors for that facility made the decision to surrender their USDA license. Realizing their former leader was not in a position to return, and seeing how



the animals that remained could also stand to be rehomed, they threw in the towel and asked us to return for the remaining Bears and Wolves.

Of course we were more than willing to go back and rescue them as well, since giving them a better diet and providing an opportunity for them to roam freely in a large acreage habitat was something we would love to do! So as the staff and volunteers here in Colorado began spoiling the first load of SD refugees, one of our rescue teams jumped back on the Interstate heading north.

By the next morning they were back in the distant shadow of Mount Rushmore loading another four Bears and two Wolves. All told, we ended up

rescuing nine Tigers, eleven Bears, three Wolves and one African Lion.

These 24 animals now have a home they can count on to provide all the food they could ever imagine consuming... and will be given the opportunity to live and roam freely in large acreage natural habitats.

Gone are the days of wondering why so little food was in their bowl... or agonizing over days when food may have never arrived at all. Gone is the concern for someone lurking and feeding in the middle of the

night... and hearing gunshots echo between trees and canyon walls.

We hope you will join us in supporting these animals so they will never know hunger again, and we also hope you will consider visiting to see how we continue to push ourselves to provide them with the best possible life. Our jobs are never done here and we will always work incredibly hard for those who need and deserve our help.

We ask that you stand with us as we blaze new horizons in animal care and sanctuary design, for there is no bar that is set too high when it comes to giving these majestic creatures the very best! 🐾





# EDUCATION



## PROGRAM REVIEW

In 2016, the Sanctuary had over 100,000 visitors (taking into account non registered groups, events, etc...)

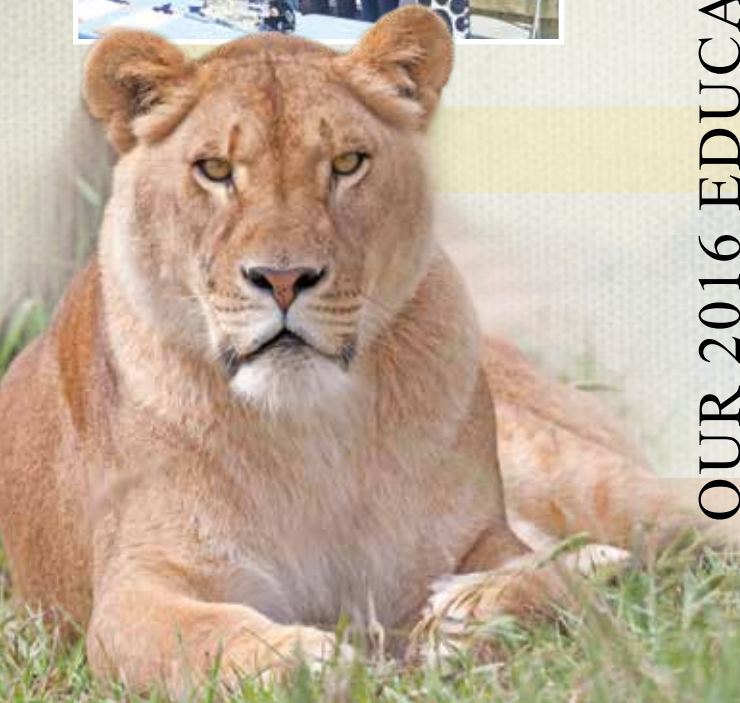


Our Animal Ambassadors presented over 26 speaking engagements in 2016 to promote the Sanctuary and educate the public about the Captive Wildlife Crisis.



## OUR 2016 EDUCATION PROGRAM BUDGET

Statement of Functional Income and Expense January through December 2016	
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Contributed support	
Restricted	1,840
Unrestricted	2,340,791
Total Contributed support	2,342,631
<b>Donated Goods</b>	
Donated Feed	-
Donated Stock	-
Donated Goods- Other	-
Total Donated Goods	-
<b>Grants</b>	
Operating	-
Restricted	-
Total Grants	-
<b>Sales</b>	
Special Events	-
Total Income	2,342,631
Cost of Goods Sold	-
Cost of Goods Sold	-
Total COGS	-
<b>Gross Profit</b>	2,342,631
<b>Expense</b>	
Amortization Expense	-
Auto/Truck Expense	50,666
Bank/Visa/MC Charges	61,053
Depreciation Expense	384,985
Donor Appreciation	2,479
Dues and Subscriptions	5,337
Education-Captive Wildlife	348,795
Event Center-Op Expenses	2,696
Feed	-
Fundraising Expenses	-
Insurance	15,855
Interest Expense	7,942
Licenses & Permits	-
Loan Fees Expense	-
Meals	-
Medical	-
Misc expenses	303
Network Operations	3,237
Payroll Expenses	888,542
Postage & Delivery	147,310
Printing & Reproduciton	86,687
Professional Fees	43,467
Recruitment	-
Rent	11,559
Repairs & Maintenance	16,317
Small Tools	1,188
Supplies	118,531
Taxes	67,321
Telephone	8,341
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	425
Uniforms	1,028
Utilities	68,833
Volunteer Expense	2,427
Total Expense	2,345,326
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	(2,696)
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Asset Sale	-
Mineral Rights	-
Interest, Royalties, Dividend	-
Total Other Income	-
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-
<b>Net Income</b>	(2,696)





## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We had over 200 dedicated volunteers in 2016 that provided much needed support to our staff in caring for our rescued animals.



Our volunteers gave over 23,000 hours of work valued at \$600,000 helping the animals in 2016.



Our volunteers split their time equally between Animal Care and Education.

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Volunteer work includes but is not limited to Cleaning - Bathrooms, Bear tubs, compound, pens, education center, grounds.

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In our Carnivore Nutrition Center, volunteers help with preparing animal diets.

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On the walkway, volunteers talk with visitors and help guide people along the habitats to learn about the animals and the work that we do to rehabilitate them.

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# EXPANSION



## WELCOME CENTER & WALKWAY

In response to major increases in visitor traffic, the Sanctuary pursued a multi-million dollar USDA guaranteed rural development loan to greatly expand its public infrastructure.



Construction was completed in 2016 on a brand new 48,000 sq. ft. Welcome Center at the northern end of the property.



The new Welcome Center is a complex that has eight main structures inside of a large dome shaped tent structure with independent shops under the canopy. The eight structures are:

- 🐾 Men's/Women's Bathroom Building
- 🐾 Men's/Women's Bathroom Building
- 🐾 Gift Shop
- 🐾 "Lion's Den Café" restaurant
- 🐾 Ice Cream Shop (no unique name) excellent quality ice cream from Glacier Ice Cream Company in Denver
- 🐾 Commissary (has three separate bathroom areas built into building – two on ground floor – one on the second floor)
- 🐾 Indoor Mezzanine (5,500 sq.ft.) and outdoor observation deck (5,000 sq.ft.) that are connected at the second story level
- 🐾 Main Meeting Room (5,500 sq.ft.)

A newly paved 10 acre parking lot allows us to host many more people for fundraising events and special events.

An additional half mile (2,600 ft.) of elevated walkway built entirely by our Operations Staff connects the original "Mile Into The Wild" walkway to the new Welcome Center.

Now measuring at 1.51 miles long (one way), the walkway has earned the Sanctuary a Guinness World Record for longest footbridge.

That's right, you can now walk the longest footbridge in the world at The Wild Animal Sanctuary!

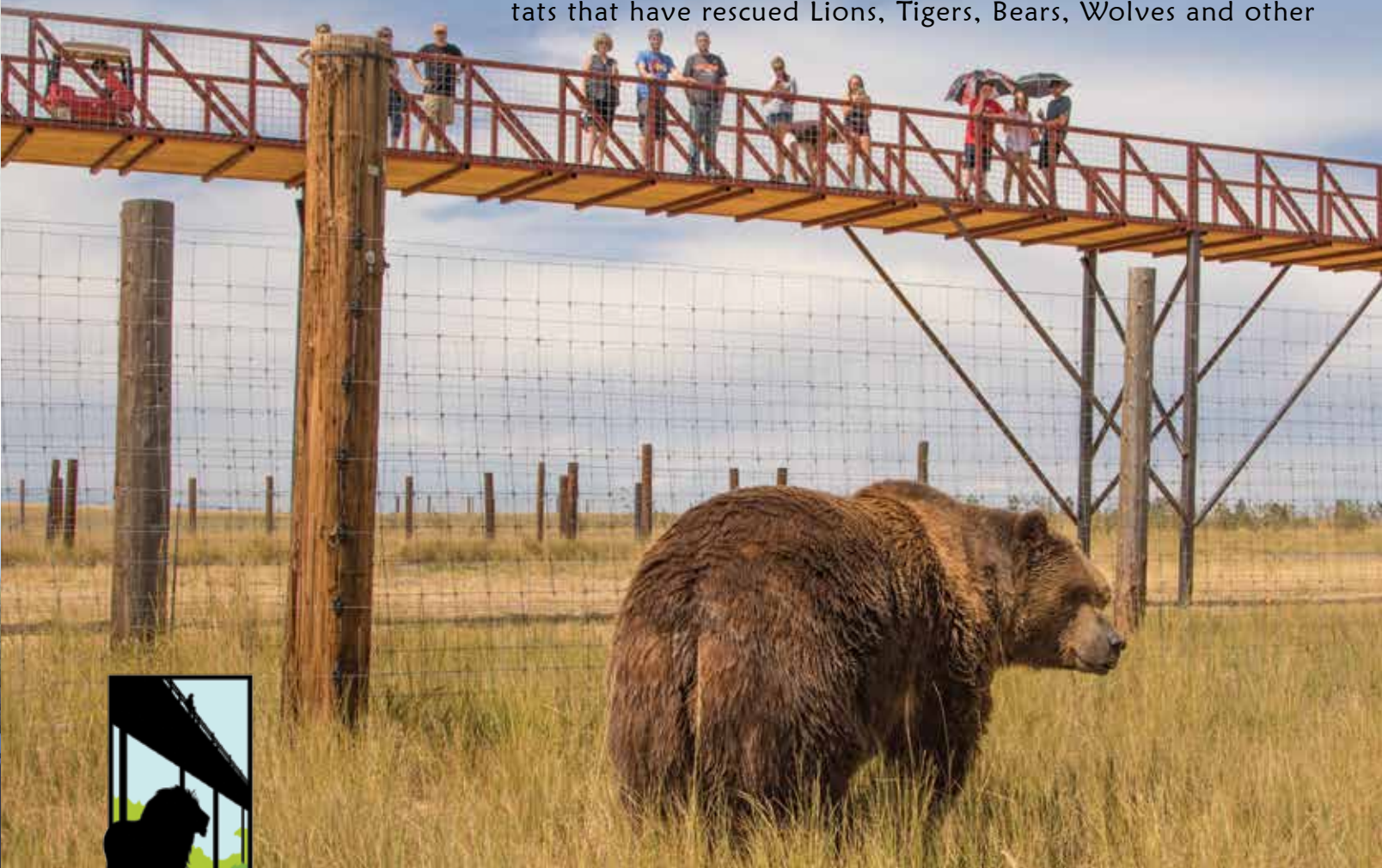






Our new world record for the LONGEST FOOTBRIDGE was something we never considered, but once we realized our unique elevated walkway would gain world-wide attention and help educate millions of people about the importance of taking away the pressure that animals feel when strangers stand at the edge of their territory – we knew it was important to accept the title.

It's unfortunate that humans for hundred of years have misunderstood the intense pressure being placed on animals through ground-based exhibition and education, and continue to allow it to happen today. Our hope is the thousands of people that have witnessed first-hand the amazing pressure-free environment that our elevated walkway and decks provide will continue to go forth and not only educate, but also pressure zoos, sanctuaries and other facilities into changing their educational infrastructure for the benefit of the animals in their care. Visitors can walk over dozens of natural habitats that have rescued Lions, Tigers, Bears, Wolves and other



large carnivores that have been rehabilitated and released to live and roam freely within these habitat spaces





# WHEN IS FAT...

# ...TOO FAT?

**C**an you imagine the endless ramblings that one could put to paper on the colossal subject of weight loss? Or, how about the related subject of people being just too fat to remain healthy?

No one needs to look any further than just about anywhere and everywhere on the internet... or pretty much half of all the printed material you might come across. Finding fact-filled articles on either of these very important subjects is not only easy to do... it's nearly impossible to not.

Yet, as we all know, things get complicated fairly quickly when you are actually trying to lose weight. The mountains of qualified medical information tend to boggle one's mind, and then the whole concerted effort can go out the window just as fast as it came in.

So what's a girl to do?  
Actually, let us rephrase that.  
So what's a Bear to do?

Well, if you are a single female Asiatic Black Bear named "*Lily*", you more-or-less have to wait for someone to come and rescue you! That is, if you want to both, lose weight, and have the opportunity to get your life back on track.

You see, Lily was a female Asiatic Black Bear (*also known as a Moon Bear*) that was stuck in a tiny concrete and steel cage at a roadside zoo in Maryland, and was living all alone. Her owner, or rather the zoo's owner, had put Lily and her sibling brother into the 12' diameter "*corn crib*" cage nearly 10 years earlier when they were just cubs, and then proceeded to never let them out again.

They had been given a sturdy concrete floor, a make-shift roof, and a nice section of cold steel pipe as their official house. Somehow that was supposed to be a great home for a threatened Bear species that would normally live half-way around the world in places like the Himalayas, or the forests of Taiwan, Korea, China and even Russia's far-east.

So there they sat, day after day and year after year as a meager number of visitors would stop by the tiny roadside zoo to see this spectacle. And actually, the name of the place was pretty fitting with it being called "*Deer Haven Mini Zoo*", since they happened to have quite a few Exotic Deer there.

Yet, since every animal there was guaranteed the outcome of

being scrunched into one tiny cage or another... even the less dangerous animals like Deer, Ducks, Pigs and Chickens suffered spatial deprivation. It was the same old blueprint we've described dozens of times before, and yet, somehow, this one was more depressing than ever!

Somewhere around the nine year mark, the zoo owner stated he had to send Lily's brother to some other roadside zoo in order to be bred with another Asiatic female. Apparently, Lily and her brother never belonged to the zoo and were basically on loan from another breeder down south.

That guy was the one who had sent two helpless cubs to Maryland to be raised in the mini zoo's elegant setting... and he had later decided the boy needed to be sold to another roadside zoo so more unfortunate baby Bears could be born!

This left Lily sitting, or rather, mostly laying, in her filthy little cage all alone. And since the zoo had no budget, they only fed grain from the coop... and whatever the local people who knew she existed decided to leave at the end of their driveway each morning.



Yes, each morning, there was usually a bag sitting at the end of the driveway, which in most cases was filled with stale donuts, onions and moldy bread.

Whatever the bag held, it was delivered to Lily along with mounds of ground corn, dog food, or other cheaply-acquired grains.

And since Lily's cage was a whopping 12' in diameter, there

really wasn't much for her to do except eat. So, Lily would eat and eat and eat. Year after year, the fat piled on as Lily just laid there.

A few years ago, it became evident Lily was morbidly obese and was beginning to have great difficulty trying to do anything other than eat more! Soon, visitors started to notice Lily had huge bags hanging

below her already enlarged belly, and in nearly every snapshot taken of her, the bags seemed to resemble masses, or growths that could be life-threatening.

As more and more people visited the tiny zoo located approximately 50 miles northwest of Baltimore, they became increasingly concerned for Lily's safety and wellbeing. Eventually, with the help





## WHEN IS FAT... CONT'D...

of PETA and many other concerned individuals and organizations, Lily's story began populating social posts across the internet.

Of course the zoo's owner was older and had no interest in anyone's concerns, especially those that might be posted on the "*danged internet*". And heck, those were just a bunch of crazy PETA people anyway according to and outgoing message hastily-posted on the zoo's answering machine.

Yet, the fact remained Lily spent her days lying in wet, soggy piles of her own waste that covered every square inch of her cage... and never got to hibernate due to the short pipe that was welded to the side of her cage that was supposed to represent a "*den*". It was easy

to see how Lily had only one thing in her life that wasn't cold, hard, filthy or totally unnatural, and that was the food that arrived each day.

It was the only positive thing she had in her life - and as a matter of fact - even that wasn't what she would really eat if she lived in the wild. With 24 hours in every day and nothing to do other than wallow around in a small circle, food was the only thing she could enjoy.

As weeks passed with the zoo's phone ringing off the hook both day and night, Lily's captor was starting to lose hope that he could outlast the crazy protestors. By now, the regional USDA inspector, along with a local animal control officer, were stopping by on a regular basis.

The pressure of additional phone calls routed to their offices had prompted both agencies to take a front row seat in Lily's case. Both had issued official paperwork and/or citations to the zoo, but each knew it would take the owner's cooperation to get Lily out of there in a relatively timely fashion.

With constant pressure from all sides bearing down, the zoo owner finally agreed to let Lily be rescued. It was a very touchy situation though, as he could change his mind at any second, so time was of the essence. We needed to get to Maryland as quickly as possible!

The plan was to have two veterinarians fly into Baltimore







and join-up with our rescue team as they headed into the countryside. It would be advantageous to have them evaluate Lily on the spot, and also be there in case her severe weight caused any kind of stress when moving her.

When we arrived it was a relatively cold, wet and overcast day, and we found Lily lying on her back basically covered in manure. The zoo owner had tried to hose down her pen before we were allowed to drive around back to see her, but since his garden hose had no pressure... and the cage had absolutely no way to drain-off excess water... he had made a bad situation worse.

The floor of her cage was now covered with a half inch of

standing water, and the water had subsequently integrated with countless piles of Bear poop. It was a real testament to how putrid her daily life was, and our rescue team had the great honor of joining Lily in a swim once she had been gently sedated.

With enough medicine on board to get Lily to go to sleep, we were now looking at her giant rolls of fat which draped over and down both sides of her body. As she lay motionless on her back, it was amazing to see how giant her belly really was!

Even though gravity should have helped flatten her stomach, there was just so much fat present that it still

protruded upwards with great significance! The two sacks that had been of some concern – which populated the left and right regions below her belly – turned out to be more FAT!

With so much belly fat, these two growths had bewildered and confused all onlookers for years, and now that the vets were able to examine them in person... they turned out to be nothing more than extensive secondary fat storage pockets. Everyone was thankful they were non-cancerous growths and weren't fibrous masses either.

Now the challenge would be to get Lily out the tiny opening in her cage wall and into the



transport cage we staged a little less than 10 feet away. Her massive body filled every ounce of the gurney we were using, and rolls of fat still found ways to bulge outward at every opportunity!

Even the local reporter who had come to cover Lily's story for the local rag had no choice but to drop his nostalgic paper/pencil note-taking device in order to lend a hand in lifting Lily's pungently-odored body. With his help, and that of just about every bystander within reach, Lily's body begrudgingly molded its way through her cage opening and then through the transport crate's door.

Once inside, the Veterinarians checked Lily one last time and then reversed her meds in order to let her wake. Soon, Lily was perched on her side in classic Jabba-the-Hutt fashion, and seemed no worse for the wear.

By now the team had endured a couple hours' worth of PETA-bashing dialogue delivered directly from the zoo owner's mouth... as well as answered a litany of questions from the local reporter. It turns out the owner had requested the newspaper cover Lily's exodus since he was certain our team would screw up and kill Lily one way or another.

Of course we didn't, and Lily was perfectly fine, awake and ready to start her trip to Colorado, so we decided to take our leave and head down the road. Unfortunately, like most situations that involve owner surrenders (*versus confiscations*) we had no authority to force the mini zoo owner to give up the other animals that were forced to remain.

It's always sad, and we know how disheartening that kind of news is to our supporters... but it's a cold hard fact when dealing with animal abuse cases. The only way to win the release of many animals who are suffering terribly is to focus on the animals you know you can get out - so their removal helps loosen the grip the abuser has on the remaining animals involved.

It's like a house of cards, where getting one, two or three out can often lead to the fall of the operation altogether... which can then lead to getting the remaining animals out. Of course we always push as hard as absolutely possible in each rescue case, but we usually reach a point where we can potentially lose the ability to get any of them out if we push it too far.

In Lily's case, she was by far the worst case in that zoo and definitely the one that was suffering the most, so it was important to remain focused on her escape.

We pushed the owner to let us take the other animals, but in his mind, Lily was the only concession he was willing to make at that point - and if we didn't like that - he would just keep her there and kick us out!

Knowing the USDA and local animal control agency would keep up their full-court press... we were confident the zoo owner would continue to feel adequate pressure after we left. He and his wife were also in their 70's, so they weren't exactly in a position to fight for decades to come.

Adding insult to injury, Lily had taken an opportunity to scratch the zoo owner's hand pretty seriously about two weeks prior to our arrival, which helped prompt his decision to give in. The injury wasn't life threatening, but it did hinder his ability to care for the zoo's remaining inventory of animals.

We hope the additional effort needed to complete his daily tasks at the zoo will coincide with the two government agencies continuing to push for the zoo to close. It seemed to help lead to Lily's cage being vacated, so it's possible it could help the other animals living there as well.

With our tail lights disappearing in the direction of the Missouri River, our thoughts



“Sun” & “Moon” were rescued from a tourist trap located in Tennessee a couple years ago, and they have spent the last two years transforming from weak Bears being kept in a concrete pit to two beautifully-fit Bears that roam freely within a large natural habitat.





began to wander toward how best to address Lily's enormous weight. She was actually a very petite female Bear stuck inside a virtual muu-muu of fat, and we needed to find a way to help her shed the ugly garment.

On one hand, she would end up living in a large acreage habitat where she would have the freedom to run, play and swim to her heart's content... so that was a promising fat-burning option. And on the other hand, we would only feed her fresh nutritious vegetables and plenty of fruit which would help boost her metabolism.

Yet, the best option coming down the pike (*since it was late in the fall*), was that Lily would be able to hibernate! That's actually what fat on a Bear is for – to help them make it through a long winter's nap – so if Lily would indulge us and go into hibernation once she was settled in at the Sanctuary... we would stand a good chance at seeing a leaner Lily emerge come spring!

Of course we know Lily's accumulated fat percentage is far greater than what a normal bear would store up for winter... and we know that many first-time hibernators tend to sleep less than a Bear that has had a couple years to catch onto the routine... but we have high hopes for a significant reduction in girth when this

cute Asiatic transplant awakens come spring!

Wouldn't we all like to not have to watch our weight, and then be able to sleep it off all winter and emerge slender and ultra-sleek in the spring? Sounds tempting, at least the winter-long nap, right?

So now that we are in the middle of winter, and Lily is safe in her underground den at the Sanctuary, we have nothing to do but wait. While she sleeps in her warm den and enjoys not having to be soaked in her own waste both day and night, we can take some time to imagine what she might be dreaming.

Before going to sleep, Lily did get a taste of the beautiful promise her future life held, as she was able to see the vast acreage that spread before her... and, she was able to briefly meet her new habitat mates. It turns out that since Lily is an Asiatic Black Bear, we happen to have two other Asiatic Black Bears in residence as well, so Lily will get to live with them in their own special habitat!

"Sun" & "Moon" were rescued from a tourist trap located in Tennessee a couple years ago, and they have spent the last two years transforming from weak Bears being kept in a concrete pit to two beautifully-fit Bears that roam freely within a large natural habitat.

Once Lily arrived, both Sun & Moon took the time to say a quick "hello" to Lily before choosing to disappear into their favorite underground den for the winter.

Lily didn't get much chance to spend time talking girl talk with Moon... but she did seem happy to have other Asiatic Bears living in the neighborhood. We are all looking forward to watching their friendship grow this summer... especially knowing that Lily must have missed the company of her brother over the last two years.

Just seeing Lily be happy for the few weeks before she did go into hibernation was pretty thrilling for all of us. Her coat had already begun to shine, and her movements around the introduction pen she was temporarily occupying were far greater than what she had been able to do in her previous life!

It was obvious that once she woke from hibernation, Lily would be ready to move about the entire habitat with ease. The exercise would do wonders for her physique and we know she will enjoy the toys, climbing structures and water features immensely.

Best of all, Lily, Sun and Moon can just sit on their porch and talk trash about their neighbors if they want, as that's what



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freedom is all about. We don't expect to have to force Lily to lose weight and get back to a more natural build, since the amenities we offer all our animals enable them to do and be what comes naturally.

If you ever get a chance to visit this coming summer, make sure to take some time to search out Lily, Sun & Moon, as they are definitely unique-looking Bears

and worthy of our gaze even on the worst of hair days! Thank you for helping us make Lily's new life possible, and thank you again on Sun & Moon's behalf!

Your generous support is what saved Lily's life, and we want to thank everyone else who worked so hard to win her freedom. The tenacious calls and constant harassment that PETA

supporters put forth to drive the zoo owner nuts, definitely deserves praise in itself... and your help in securing a life-long home for Lily is like scrumptious icing on the cake!

Wait, what? We probably shouldn't say icing right? We wouldn't want Lily to start salivating again and blow her new-found diet! 🐾







## The Wild Animal Sanctuary Statement of Activities January through December 2016

	Jan-Dec 16
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Contributed support</b>	
Restricted	359,544
Unrestricted	7,014,950
<b>Total Contributed support</b>	<u>7,374,494</u>
<b>Donated Goods</b>	
Donated Feed	7,296,130
Donated Stock	55,882
Donated Goods- Other	284,672
<b>Total Donated Goods</b>	<u>7,636,685</u>
<b>Grants</b>	
Operating	2,500
Restricted	117,850
<b>Total Grants</b>	<u>120,350</u>
<b>Sales</b>	287,578
<b>Special Events</b>	171,857
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>15,590,963</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Cost of Goods Sold	241,216
<b>Total COGS</b>	<u>241,216</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	15,349,747
<b>Expense</b>	
Amortization Expense	89,489
Auto/Truck Expense	114,639
Bank/Visa/MC Charges	122,903
Depreciation Expense	1,283,284
Donor Appreciation	24,788
Dues and Subscriptions	11,470
Education-Captive Wildlife	349,656
Event Center-Op Expenses	2,696
Feed	7,311,049
Fundraising Expenses	376,035
Insurance	155,225
Interest Expense	404,628
Licenses & Permits	27,386
Loan Fees Expense	471,213
Meals	3,233
Medical	78,291
Misc expenses	1,280
Network Operations	6,474
Payroll Expenses	2,296,613
Postage & Delivery	174,498
Printing & Reproduction	88,315
Professional Fees	139,876
Recruitment	2,058
Rent	23,119
Repairs & Maintenance	40,501
Small Tools	5,941
Supplies	296,375
Taxes	176,080
Telephone	32,713
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	53,731
Uniforms	5,142
Utilities	180,964
Volunteer Expense	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>14,362,634</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	987,115
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Asset Sale	5,942
Mineral Rights	80,105
Interest, Royalties, Dividends	5,243
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>91,291</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>-</u> <u>1,078,404</u>



**The Wild Animal Sanctuary**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of December 31, 2016

**Dec 31, 16**

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
Checking/Savings	1,002,361
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>1,002,361</b>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	1,021
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>1,021</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Inventory	153,805
Other Current Assets	137,260
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>291,065</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,294,447</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
MIW Walkway	2,199,427
ADI Habitat	452,443
Medical & Emergency Equipment	272,861
Animal ID & Health Equipment	60,739
Buildings	8,931,866
Equipment & Machinery	1,772,590
Fencing & Cages	1,176,402
Furniture & Fixtures	418,214
Land	1,247,790
Office Equipment	618,309
Roads & Grounds	1,296,695
Signage	85,599
Vehicles & Trailers	2,093,983
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>20,626,918</b>
Accumulated Depreciation	(5,272,856)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>15,354,062</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Art, Deposit & Endowment	74,776
Contingency CD	83,924
Habitat / Playground	1,114,220
Accum Amortization	(575,796)
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>697,124</b>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>697,124</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>17,345,633</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	229,428
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>229,428</b>
Credit Cards	
Credit Cards	22,382
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>22,382</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Accrued Payroll	102,977
Other Current Liabilities	289,965
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>392,942</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>644,752</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
Long Term Liabilities	7,546,392
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>7,546,392</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>8,191,144</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Unrestricted	8,076,085
Net Income	1,078,404
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>9,154,489</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>17,345,633</b>







	Animal Care (Programs)	Education (Programs)	Rescue (Programs)	Land Acquisition (Programs)
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Contributed support</b>				
Restricted	19,825	1,840	136,185	173,259
Unrestricted	1,784,887	2,340,791	323,996	-
<b>Total Contributed support</b>	1,804,712	2,342,631	460,181	173,259
<b>Donated Goods</b>				
Donated Feed	7,296,130	-	-	-
Donated Stock	-	-	-	-
Donated Goods- Other	284,672	-	-	-
<b>Total Donated Goods</b>	7,580,802	-	-	-
<b>Grants</b>				
Operating	2,500	-	-	-
Restricted	117,850	-	-	-
<b>Total Grants</b>	120,350	-	-	-
<b>Sales</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Special Events</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	9,505,864	2,342,631	460,181	173,259
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>				
Cost of Goods Sold	-	-	-	-
<b>Total COGS</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Gross Profit</b>	9,505,864	2,342,631	460,181	173,259
<b>Expense</b>				
Amortization Expense	89,489	-	-	-
Auto/Truck Expense	51,306	50,666	-	-
Bank/Visa/MC Charges	-	61,053	-	-
Depreciation Expense	641,642	384,985	230,991	-
Donor Appreciation	19,830	2,479	-	-
Dues and Subscriptions	1,989	5,337	-	-
Education-Captive Wildlife	-	348,795	-	-
Event Center-Op Expenses	-	2,696	-	-
Feed	7,311,049	-	-	-
Fundraising Expenses	-	-	-	-
Insurance	111,554	15,855	11,497	-
Interest Expense	26,957	7,942	9,707	-
Licenses & Permits	16,432	-	10,954	-
Loan Fees Expense	-	-	-	-
Meals	-	-	606	-
Medical	78,291	-	-	-
Misc expenses	977	303	-	-
Network Operations	-	3,237	-	-
Payroll Expenses	787,901	888,542	105,047	-
Postage & Delivery	18,381	147,310	-	-
Printing & Reproduciton	-	86,687	-	-
Professional Fees	71,668	43,467	8,474	-
Recruitment	-	-	-	-
Rent	11,560	11,559	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	19,032	16,317	-	-
Small Tools	4,159	1,188	-	-
Supplies	102,648	118,531	17,682	-
Taxes	61,373	67,321	8,126	-
Telephone	12,758	8,341	4,253	-
Travel, Tolls & Rescue	535	425	52,677	-
Uniforms	3,085	1,028	771	-
Utilities	68,833	68,833	-	-
Volunteer Expense	10,542	2,427	-	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	9,521,990	2,345,326	460,787	-
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	(16,126)	(2,696)	(606)	173,259
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
Asset Sale	-	-	-	-
Mineral Rights	80,105	-	-	-
Interest, Royalties, Dividend	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	80,105	-	-	-
<b>Net Other Income</b>	80,105	-	-	-
<b>Net Income</b>	63,979	(2,696)	(606)	173,259



**Wild Animal Sanctuary**  
**Annual Income and Expense**  
**December 2016**

Cap Improvement (Programs)	Total Programs	Administration	Fundraising	Total
28,435	359,544	-	-	359,544
768,510	5,218,184	1,159,773	636,993	7,014,950
796,945	5,577,728	1,159,773	636,993	7,374,494
-	7,296,130	-	-	7,296,130
-	-	55,882	-	55,882
-	284,672	-	-	284,672
-	7,580,802	55,882	-	7,636,685
-	2,500	-	-	2,500
-	117,850	-	-	117,850
-	120,350	-	-	120,350
29,223	29,223	127,554	130,801	287,578
-	-	-	171,857	171,857
826,168	13,308,103	1,343,209	939,651	15,590,963
-	-	114,327	126,889	241,216
-	-	114,327	126,889	241,216
<b>826,168</b>	<b>13,308,103</b>	<b>1,228,882</b>	<b>812,762</b>	<b>15,349,747</b>
-	89,489	-	-	89,489
-	101,972	5,131	7,536	114,639
-	61,053	797	61,053	122,903
-	1,257,618	25,666	-	1,283,284
-	22,309	-	2,479	24,788
-	7,326	4,144	-	11,470
-	348,795	861	-	349,656
-	2,696	-	-	2,696
-	7,311,049	-	-	7,311,049
-	-	-	376,035	376,035
-	138,906	12,311	4,008	155,225
353,938	398,544	5,202	882	404,628
-	27,386	-	-	27,386
471,213	471,213	-	-	471,213
-	606	<b>2,627</b>	-	3,233
-	78,291	-	-	78,291
-	1,280	-	-	1,280
-	3,237	971	2,266	6,474
-	1,781,490	198,057	317,066	2,296,613
-	165,691	1,629	7,178	174,498
-	86,687	-	1,628	88,315
-	123,609	6,015	10,252	139,876
-	-	1,029	1,029	2,058
-	23,119	-	-	23,119
-	35,349	2,576	2,576	40,501
-	5,347	594	-	5,941
-	238,862	32,823	24,690	296,375
-	136,820	14,933	<b>24,327</b>	176,080
-	25,352	5,725	1,636	32,713
-	53,637	47	47	53,731
-	4,884	129	129	5,142
-	137,666	21,649	21,649	180,964
-	12,969	-	-	-
<b>825,151</b>	<b>13,153,255</b>	<b>342,914</b>	<b>866,465</b>	<b>14,362,634</b>
1,017	154,848	885,968	(53,702)	987,115
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	5,942	-	5,942
-	80,105	-	-	80,105
-	-	3,851	1,392	5,243
-	80,105	9,793	1,392	91,291
<b>1,017</b>	<b>234,953</b>	<b>895,761</b>	<b>(52,310) #</b>	<b>1,078,404</b>



# THE WILD ANIMAL *Sanctuary*

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