

THE WILD ANIMAL Sanctuary

Artists, Journalists, Photographers, Videographers Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in helping the animals via your talents!

We hope you will enjoy what you see and share it with your friends and family. You are welcome to bring cameras and video cameras if you are taking pictures or videos for your own personal enjoyment. You may want to bring binoculars as well, to view the animals.

Photographers, Artists, Videographers, and Writers often want to use their skills and involve the animals in their work. If you are going to use your talents to create income, we feel that the animals deserve something from your creative efforts, since they are the subjects that make it possible for you.

The Sanctuary has strict policies concerning non-commercialization of the animals, so we do not have pay-for-photo-opportunities or tours. There are plenty of great opportunities to take photographs of the animals from our elevated walkway and observation decks, so there is no need to get "behind-the-scenes" access.

Photographers and videographers that have wanted to use photographs of the Sanctuary animals in natural settings for profit - as in selling pictures through a gallery or fair - are asked to find a way to help the animals through their work. Some examples include providing no-cost framed or matted photos for the Sanctuary's Gift Shop to sell - which allows us to use the proceeds from those sales to purchase needed items, medicine and supplies for the animals.

We are glad to work with you for the benefit of both yourself and the animals, so once you have reviewed the guidelines, please call the office, 303-536-0118, and we'll discuss ideas about how you and the animals can each benefit from your work.

We get many requests from artists, journalists, photographers and videographers who would like to capture something about our rescued animals in their work. These requests range from professionals to students (all ages) with school projects, to hobbyists.

If you have never been to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, you are in for a most unique experience. The Wild Animal Sanctuary is the world's oldest and largest sanctuary dedicated exclusively to rescuing captive exotic Great Cats, Bears, Wolves and other large carnivores who have been abused, abandoned, exploited or illegally kept. The animals get to live out their lives with dignity and respect in large acreage, species-specific habitats.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary
"Saving Captive Wildlife For Over 39 Years"
1946 CR 53 * Keenesburg, CO 80643 * 303-536-0118
www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org

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Normally, viewing of the animals for all visitors consists of walking along our absolutely one-of-a-kind 1 ½-mile long elevated walkway and associated observation decks. Our unique observation system provides unlimited opportunities for photography and videography – both up close and in more distant, natural settings - without intruding on the animals, and without requiring a staff escort.

We have a very small staff for our large operation, and while all visitors are given an orientation, and a guide book about the animals, to which they can refer while they are here, staff members do not accompany visitors on the ramps or observation decks, and tours are given to groups only by pre-arrangement.

Other than feeding and cleaning, staff members are closely involved with the animals only when they are being rescued, need medical attention, or they are being relocated within the sanctuary confines. ***The animals are large and dangerous, and The Wild Animal Sanctuary does not provide opportunities to be “up close and personal” with the animals, or to interact with them.***

Because of these factors, we do not have personnel who can spend lots of time with all the individuals who request it, nor can we accommodate people who want to “get closer” to the animals to take pictures or film them. This is because we are a true sanctuary for these unfortunate victims of the Captive Wildlife Crisis. As such, we do not train any animals, nor do we ever make them perform. The Sanctuary is their home for life and we do not breed, sell, or exploit the animals in any way.

Our number one goal in working with artists, writers, photographers and videographers is the successful answer to the question, **“how can this project help the animals?”**

Some examples of projects that have benefited the animals are: photographers have donated matted or framed photos, and photo greeting cards for Gift Shop sales; artists have donated sculptures and paintings to sell in the Gift Shop; videographers have created short videos for our Education Center and web site; journalists have written articles for magazines (assignments and/or publication are pre-agreed upon, as opposed to free-lance shopping of articles); students who have done journalism projects or marketing studies, benefiting the animals with publication/education, or statistical studies that help drive our education and development programs.

With our staff limitations, and what’s reasonable for us, combined with your interest in helping the animals through your work, we have developed the following criteria for art, journalism, photography and video projects:

1. All projects need to include information about the problems and potential solutions to the Captive Wildlife Crisis. For instance, journalism, photojournalism, videos, documentaries can, of

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course, include this in the writing. Artists, photographers and craftspeople should include the story of The Wild Animal Sanctuary's work in their literature about their pieces.

2. Visit our web site, www.WildAnimalSanctuary.org, to understand more about the Captive Wildlife Crisis in America and around the world, and the Sanctuary's mission to save exotic captive wildlife and educate the public about their dramatic plight.
3. Visit the Sanctuary, see how we're set up, and how you can do your work from our walkway and observation decks. Some of the best photos we have were taken from these locations.
4. Send us your work: high resolution photography, please, and we can discuss further how these pictures, articles, artwork will be used to help the animals. **The Wild Animal Sanctuary retains full rights to use your work to benefit the Sanctuary animals.**
5. If your project is a development piece (such as, developing a documentary trailer to shop to television networks for a show or series), the Sanctuary management staff will need to ascertain the likelihood of success of such a project, based on a number of factors, and proceed from there.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary has a number of ways that your work can help support the animals. We have an interactive web site, a Gift Shop in our Welcome Center, an Education Center with videos and information on Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram and Twitter and more. We have thousands of photos and lots of video available for use on certain projects.

Our mission includes putting the animals first, and ascertaining the best ways to do this. We know that your work can be of great benefit to the animals. We would like to work with you in the most efficient ways possible to make life better for all the animals at The Wild Animal Sanctuary, and to provide education about the problems and solutions to the Captive Wildlife Crisis.

For questions, please call 303-536-0118.

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