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Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance Celebrates 2nd Annual Animal Sanctuary Appreciation Day on Nov. 6
Event brings attention to critical work of true animal sanctuaries

October 29, 2020 - The Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA), in partnership with the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), and the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA), is celebrating the 2nd Annual Animal Sanctuary Appreciation Day on November 6, 2020. This special event honors true animal sanctuaries and raises awareness of the critical rescue, rehabilitation, and animal care work that over 100 recognized sanctuaries engage in every single day.

“On Animal Sanctuary Appreciation Day, the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance celebrates the unsung heroes who rescue and save the lives of countless animals,” said Kathy Blachowski, Program Manager of BCSA. “True sanctuaries deserve to be acknowledged for the essential work that they perform for animals that range from captive exotics, such as big cats and non-human primates, to domesticated animals.”

Another important goal of this special day is to help the public identify genuine sanctuaries: those that prioritize the welfare, safety, and care of rescued animals and do not buy, sell, breed, trade, or exploit their animals for profit. They also do not offer public contact with captive wild animals of any age.

“Many facilities call themselves rescues or sanctuaries, but they are merely exploiting animals for profit,” said Blachowski. “We urge the public to support only true animal sanctuaries – those accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries or who are members of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance.”

The BCSA represents 16 sanctuaries and 8 partner organizations seeking to enhance the care and welfare of big cats in sanctuaries. The organization works toward the day when sanctuaries are no longer needed, because the private ownership and commercial exploitation of big cats have been eliminated.

“True sanctuaries are vital to rescuing and providing top notch, lifelong care for animals in need,” concluded Blachowski. “The BCSA is profoundly grateful for the hard work and dedication that legitimate sanctuaries demonstrate every day of the year.”

BCSA sanctuary members are: Big Cat Rescue (Tampa, FL); Black Pine Animal Sanctuary (Albion, IN); Carolina Tiger Rescue (Pittsboro, NC); Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary (Sainte Genevieve, MO); Cedarhill Animal Sanctuary (Caledonia, MS); Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch (Murchison, TX); Elmira’s Wildlife Sanctuary (Wimauma, FL); Forest Animal Rescue (Silver Springs, FL); Keepers of the Wild (Valentine, AZ); Lions, Tigers & Bears (Alpine, CA); Performing Animal Welfare Society (Galt, CA); PrideRock Wildlife Refuge (Terrell, TX); Safe Haven Wildlife
Sanctuary (Imlay, NV); Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (Eureka Springs, AR); The Wildcat Sanctuary (Sandstone, MN); and WildCat Ridge Sanctuary (Scotts Mills, Oregon).

For more information on the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance, visit www.BigCatAlliance.org.

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**Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance**

Founded in 2017, the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance brings together 24 professional captive wildlife sanctuaries and partner organizations to advance the standards of care for wild cats in sanctuaries, and to eliminate the private ownership and commercial exploitation of wild cats in the U.S. BCSA members are true sanctuaries – those that do not buy, sell, breed, trade, or exploit their animals for profit, and do not offer public contact with wild animals of any age.

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**Information and Photo Sources:**

[BCSA Website] | [BCSA on Facebook] | [BCSA on Instagram]