



Big Cats from Controversial Tiger King Park Receiving Care at Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance Member Sanctuaries

East Hampton, CT (June 1, 2021) – Member sanctuaries of the [Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance](#) (BCSA) are caring for nearly half of the 68 big cats recently seized by the U.S. government from Tiger King Park in Thackerville, Oklahoma. The animals were removed from the facility, owned by Jeff and Lauren Lowe of “Tiger King” docuseries fame, as a result of ongoing Endangered Species Act (ESA) violations. The BCSA brings together 16 captive wildlife sanctuaries and 8 partner organizations to advance standards of care for wild cats in sanctuaries and works to eliminate the private ownership and commercial exploitation of captive big cats.

The BCSA member sanctuaries that worked together to take in tigers, lions, lion-tiger hybrids, and a jaguar, include [Black Pine Animal Sanctuary](#) in Albion, Indiana; [Carolina Tiger Rescue](#) in Pittsboro, North Carolina; [Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary](#) in Sainte Genevieve, Missouri.; [Keepers of the Wild Nature Park](#) in Valentine, Arizona; [Lions, Tigers & Bears](#) in Alpine, California; [The Wildcat Sanctuary](#) located in Sandstone, Minnesota; and [Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge](#) in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. All of the cats are being provided spacious habitats, appropriate diets, and veterinary care, while the U.S. Department of Justice seeks permanent forfeiture of the animals.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture had cited the Lowes for serious violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including failure to provide the animals at their facility with adequate veterinary care, proper nutrition, sufficient-size enclosures, and appropriate shelter. The couple also failed to comply with a court order requiring them to employ a qualified veterinarian and establish a program of veterinary care, as required under AWA regulations. The U.S. Department of Justice alleges that these violations also constitute violations of the ESA.

“The Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance is grateful to the U.S. government for taking action to protect captive big cats,” said BCSA Program Manager Kathy Blachowski. “And I am extremely thankful to all of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance members who answered the call and worked together to help captive wild cats in need.”

The BCSA is strongly supporting the Big Cat Public Safety Act, H.R. 263/S. 1210. This federal bill would prohibit the private ownership of big cats and restrict public contact with these animals, putting an end to the extensive breeding of big cats for profit.

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

About the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance

Founded in 2017, the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) 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. See a full list of our members [here](#).

About Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, located in Albion, Indiana, is operated by Professional Animal Retirement Center, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization that was established in 2000. The organization provides refuge to displaced, captive-raised exotic animals for the rest of their lives and educates people about responsible animal care and conservation. Black Pine does not buy, sell, breed, or trade animals. Staff guided tours are available by reservation Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the summer. For more information, please visit www.bpsanctuary.org.

About Carolina Tiger Rescue

Carolina Tiger Rescue is a 501(c)3 Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)-Accredited nonprofit wildlife sanctuary located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, that is dedicated to saving and protecting wild cats in captivity and in the wild. They work toward a day when wild cats are living in their native habitats and not exploited by humans. To learn more, please visit: www.carolinatigerrescue.org/.

About Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary

Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary is a GFAS-Verified 501(c)3 non-profit big cat rescue and educational facility. Their mission is to provide lifelong sanctuary to abused, neglected, or unwanted wild cats, and to inspire change to end the captive wildlife crisis. As a true sanctuary, they do not buy, sell, breed, or trade any of their animals; they believe that their big cat residents deserve to live the rest of their lives in a healthy and caring environment. For more information, visit: www.crownridgetigers.com/.

About Keepers of the Wild Nature Park

Established in 1995, Keepers of the Wild is a non-profit wildlife sanctuary and nature park in Valentine, Arizona, founded and directed by Jonathan Kraft. The sanctuary has 175 acres of spacious habitats and is currently home to about 150 wild animals. Keepers is dedicated to protecting abused, neglected, abandoned, and retired captive wildlife; providing the best standard of care; and promoting the humane treatment of all animals through education and public awareness. To learn more please visit: www.keepersofthewild.org.

About Lions, Tigers and Bears

Lions, Tigers & Bears is a federally and state licensed 501(c)3 non-profit rescue facility dedicated to providing a safe haven for abused and abandoned exotic animals while inspiring an educational forum to end the exotic animal trade. Lions, Tigers & Bears is a no-kill, no-breed, and no-sell facility that allows the animals in its care the opportunity to live out their lives with dignity in a caring and safe environment. Lions, Tigers & Bears is accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the American Sanctuary Association. To learn more please visit: www.lionstigersandbears.org/.

About Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Founded in 1992, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and rescue operation protecting survivors of the exotic animal trade. The 450-acre refuge is located 7 miles south of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The organization does not buy, sell, trade, loan out, or breed their animals, and they do not offer cub petting or harmful pay-for-play opportunities. They are accredited by GFAS, a member of the American Association of Zookeepers, and licensed by the USDA and Arkansas Game and Fish. Their mission is to provide lifetime refuge for abandoned, abused, and neglected "big cats" with emphasis on tigers, lions, leopards, and cougars. To learn more, visit: www.turpentinecreek.org/.

About The Wildcat Sanctuary

The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS) is the only accredited, non-profit sanctuary in the upper Midwest. TWS provides a natural sanctuary to wild cats in need and inspires change to end the captive wildlife crisis. Combining natural and spacious habitats with a life free of exhibition, TWS allows all residents to live wild at heart. As a true sanctuary, they do not buy, breed, sell, or exhibit animals. The Wildcat Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association and the [Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries](http://www.globalfederationofanimalsanctuaries.org), and a member of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance. For more information visit: www.WildcatSanctuary.org.