



The Wild Side

Quarterly newsletter of
Peace River Refuge & Ranch

June 2010
Volume 2010 No. 2

www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Tigers left to starve in the Texas heat— you can help us save them!

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Peace River Refuge & Ranch — A True Sanctuary

- * Fully licensed by state and federal authorities
- * Accredited by the American Sanctuary Association (ASA)
- * Recognized as a World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Member Society
- * Animals receive *lifetime care* and are never bred or exploited
- * **Guided tours offered only twice a month by reservation**

Printed on recycled paper

If you have ever wanted to help an animal in need, now is the time.

Every dollar will make a difference in saving the lives of two magnificent animals – Tony and Roy, two 6 year old Bengal tigers.

Their owner was found dead after 11 days. In the scorching Texas heat, the tigers were left alone, with no food and little water. They had been neglected as a result of their owners failing health and now they were left to die in a little concrete-floored cage.

Their mother, Sabrina, was also on the property when they were discovered, but her enclosure door was

moved to another location to recover from the severe malnutrition and dehydration. Fortunately,

the Wildcat Sanctuary in Minnesota has agreed to give her a lifetime home.

Meanwhile, the two brothers, already 100 lbs underweight, were still alert so they were left at the site while the search began for a sanctuary to take them.

We agreed to provide them with lifetime care at our sanctuary in Florida. Thanks to Pride

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open. She was almost shot by authorities when they decided that she was in such poor condition that they would allow her to be

Progress report: Moving the sanctuary to Marion County

When a huge housing development was approved near the sanctuary, we realized that a fight would eventually begin and we would be forced to move.

We made our plan to secure the future of the animals by making a commitment to move them to a new location sooner, rather than waiting until we were

forced to spend money on legal battles only to prolong the inevitable.

Thanks to your support, we have finally acquired a beautiful piece of land in the Ocala National Forest, *surrounded* on three sides by federally protected land. The animals will no longer be at risk of losing their home to development.

It will take us *years* to complete the construction and move the animals all at once, but with your help, we are confident that we can accomplish the move before the population increase will pose a threat to the sanctuary where it is now.

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Event Information: Help Florida foxes & coyotes

What: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Hearing on Fox and Coyote Penning

When: June 23, 2010 starting at approximately 9:30-10:00 a.m.

Where: Orlando Marriott Lake Mary 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746 (Orlando area)

At this meeting, Commissioners will decide whether to regulate or prohibit fox and coyote penning—a cruel activity in which trapped foxes and coyotes are released inside fenced enclosures **to be chased by packs of dogs, who often kill or maim the captive animals.**

People who participate in fox and coyote penning have attended past meetings in large numbers, which makes it appear that more people support this activity than the few who actually do.

We need animal advocates to attend this meeting and testify--however briefly--in support of a complete, immediate ban on this inhumane practice, and show the state wildlife agency that the vast majority of Floridians strongly oppose such animal baiting inside fenced enclosures.

Please show our government officials that we will not tolerate inhumane practices like this all in the name of "sport"



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1) Call the FWC at (850) 488-4676 and e-mail: Commissioners@MyFWC.com and ask for an end cruel fox and coyote pens.
- 2) Attend the June 23 FWC meeting in Lake Mary at the Lake Mary Orlando Marriot 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746 and respectfully ask Commissioners to prohibit this practice immediately.
- 3) Write a letter to the editor of your local paper calling for state policymakers to ban this egregious, inhumane activity.
- 4) Urge others to write letters to the editor and take action as well.

Tigers left to starve in the Texas heat...(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Rock in Texas; enough food has been donated to sustain them while they await our arrival. They have a temporary caregiver who is feeding and watering them daily, but they cannot remain on the abandoned property much longer.

Although we have so much to do with the plans to relocate the sanctuary, we simply couldn't let these cats down. We have faith that our friends

will come through and help, so we have agreed to drive to Texas and rescue them. They will be brought back to the sanctuary in Florida to recover from malnutrition and will live the rest of their lives in a spacious sanctuary setting.

Please help us to give these tigers a chance to live. It will cost \$8,500 right now to make the trip, build a quarantine pen and provide their initial veterinary care. We still need to raise \$50,000 to build a habitat for

them to live in. Of course, none of this includes the cost of their lifetime care.

**Thank you to all of the people involved in helping to keep these tigers alive until we could make it to Texas to rescue them.
Now we need your help to rehabilitate them and provide them with lifetime care**

Do you want to help with the oil spill?

As so many of us sit by and watch the effect of the oil spill in anguish—we want to do anything we can do to help.

If you are interested in donating, please remember that the cost of the cleanup and all of the materials involved in rehabilitating the wildlife impacted by the oil spill are supposed to be paid by BP. However, that doesn't mean that animal rescue facilities wouldn't still benefit from any donations you can give to help the animals already in their care.

If you are interested in volunteering, you need to know that ALL volunteer activities directly related to the oil spill are being coordinated through a Unified Command structure and the individual states involved.

Specific volunteer opportunities are available to Gulf Coast residents, and each state has posted its current conditions and needs. Please note: in most cases, these opportunities are only available to those who live in the affected states.



For more information:

- Louisiana: <http://www.volunteerlouisiana.gov/>
- Mississippi: <http://www.volunteermississippi.org/1800Vol/OpenIndexAction.do>
- Florida: <http://www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org>
- Alabama: <http://www.servealabama.gov/2010/default.aspx>

In order to be allowed to volunteer in areas where you may come into contact with oiled wildlife or oil in the environment, you would be required to have specialized

training and experience in hazardous materials cleanup, animal handling and more. If you have had such training, be sure to inform the agency that you contact to volunteer with.

If you lack the specialized training, there may still be areas where you can help. There are always people needed to support those who are working in the hazardous areas and there is cleanup to be done on shore before the

oil arrives to minimize the damage.

Meanwhile, if you are at the beach and you see injured or oiled wildlife:

1. **Do not touch the animal!**
2. If you can do so without entering an off-limits area or coming into contact with oiled shoreline or vegetation, slowly and quietly approach just close enough to determine if the animal is alive or not, then immediately move away to reduce stress on the animal.
3. Call the **Wildlife Distress Hotline** at **1-866-557-1401**
4. Report the location and condition of the animal and the time of day.

One of our sanctuary founders, Lisa Stoner, has all the necessary training and is on the HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team. She is likely to be asked to volunteer in the gulf shortly.

We will keep you posted on our first-hand experience through our newsletters and website updates.

Of course, any donations to help the sanctuary in her absence and to cover expenses related to the trip are always welcome.

Stay up to date by visiting us on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter

How do you network?

Peace River Refuge & Ranch is on several social networking sites—You can stay in touch with us and communicate with other people who love the animals.

Facebook: You can show your support in two ways on Facebook, by joining our “Group” and sharing your experience with other fans and by joining our “Cause” so that you can spread the word and help us to recruit more supporters!

To become a participant in our “Group,” simply search within Facebook for “*Peace River Refuge & Ranch*” and you will find the group at the top of the page.

To join the “Cause”, simply visit this page: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/119297> and sign up.

**Check us out on Facebook, MySpace
and Twitter!
Help the animals—spread the word!**

MySpace: We have a profile on MySpace that can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/peacriverrefuge>

It would be great to have you as a friend!

Twitter: Do you tweet? You can follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/PeaceRiverRefuge> (with no “e” on the end)

Of course, always remember our official website at

www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Progress report: Moving the sanctuary to Marion County (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

We are already working with U.S. Forest Service to ensure that we make the most ecologically sound decisions as we proceed.

The management plan for this piece of property includes habitat restoration and the removal of one type of pine—sand pine.

All of the hardwoods and the three other varieties of pine trees will remain, but we have learned that the sand pine has such a poor root system that they will fall in a windstorm, potentially hurting animals or damaging enclosures.

As a matter of fact, one of the biologists who helped us to make the plan joked and said that “the only thing holding up a sand pine is the sand pine next to it”

Removing tons of sand pine from 80

acres of land isn’t something that we originally had in mind, but we’re resourceful (and stubborn.)

We have found a way to make the best use of the timber, by hauling it to lumber mills and mulch plants instead of burning it or leaving it to become a wildfire hazard.

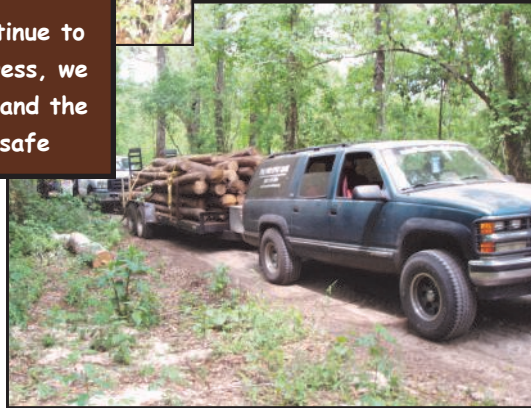
sand pines will not change the lush landscape. The empty spaces left by the trees that have been removed are filling in almost as fast as we are taking the trees out.

Tree removal adds one more step to the construction process, but we are making steady progress—slow but steady.

We still need your help to build as quickly as possible so that we can move the animals to safety and sell the old land to pay for the new property.



As long as we continue to make steady progress, we will meet our goal and the animals will be safe



Your gift now will help to ensure a lifetime of protection for all of the animals at the sanctuary.

Please donate today.

Charitable contributions may be mailed to:
Peace River Refuge & Ranch, Inc.
PO Box 1127
2545 Stoner Lane
Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

Gifts can also be made securely through our website at www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Fortunately, the land is so heavily wooded that the selective removal of

Volunteer spotlight—Alternative Spring Break Groups!

This spring was a very productive one for the sanctuary.

We had five separate groups come to volunteer with us as Alternative Spring Break projects.

Students from Eastern Michigan University, Wartburg College, Texas A&M, Ohio State University and Campfire USA took turns coming to the sanctuary and helped us to break ground at our new property in Marion County.

Instead of spending their spring break hanging around with friends and relaxing, these hard-working students

chose to volunteer.

They made new friends within their groups through Alternative Break programs. They signed pledges that they would be on their best behavior (no drinking and partying) - and they worked *very hard*.



One school or organization each week - approximately a dozen students at a time, came to help us with site preparation and construction.

This was an amazing help to the sanctuary—our first enclosure is already finished! This habitat will be the one we use for black bear cub rehabilitation when the sanctuary finally moves to the National Forest.

With help like this, our construction will keep moving ahead.

What a great bunch of volunteers!
Thank you!

Yes!! I will help!!

Jun 2010

I know the need is great and I want to support the animals at Peace River Refuge & Ranch

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

-OR-

_____ Please charge my Visa___ or MasterCard___ in the amount of \$ _____

My card number is: _____ Exp. _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

_____ Please send instructions for me to set up regular monthly gifts from my bank account or credit card

Comments: _____

The animals can count on me!!

Why doesn't the sanctuary have regular visiting hours?

As a true accredited sanctuary, our concern for the well being of the animals must always come first.

As many of you already know, most of the animals at the sanctuary have suffered at the hands of humans before their arrival here.

As a result, it is not in line with the definition of 'sanctuary' if we allow our need for funding to override the right that the animals have to a stress-free environment.

The compromise that we have found

If you would like to visit the sanctuary, please call us at 863-735-0804 or contact us through the website at www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org to schedule a guided tour

is to offer exclusive guided tours twice a month, led by one of our founders.

By limiting the frequency of tours and ensuring that the people are accompanied by someone that the animals all know and trust, we can satisfy everyone.

We are still mindful of the privacy that the animals require and the animals are confident that all of the strangers will maintain a respectful distance because they are with someone they have grown to trust.

We request a minimum donation of \$15 per person for a 2-hour guided tour, to help with the care of the animals.

The more notice you give, the more likely we are to be able to accommodate your requested date. To request a tour, contact us at 863-735-0804 or through our website www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

On any given day, there are almost 200 animals at Peace River Refuge & Ranch

Here's how your donations help with their care:

- **\$ 25** buys monkey biscuits for all of the primates for five days
- **\$ 75** feeds the fruit bats for a day
- **\$200** provides glucosamine supplements for all of the arthritic animals
- **\$1,000** pays for the care of all of the animals for one day
- **\$5,000** feeds a tiger for a year

Peace River Refuge & Ranch

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Zolfo Springs, FL 33890-1127

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The Wild Side

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Phone: 863-735-0804

Fax: 863-735-0805

E-mail: info@PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Nonprofit wild animal sanctuary
and educational facility



Dear Friends,

Your continued, caring support has allowed us to provide lifetime care to so many animals in need.

Today we are hoping that you will help us to rescue two tigers that have been left to starve in Texas when their owner died and will continue your support as we move our facility to the Ocala National Forest to protect the animals in our care from encroachment by development.

Please visit our website and email us—we would love to hear from you!

Happy Summer!

Lisa Stoner, VP
Peace River Refuge & Ranch

