



The Wild Side

Quarterly newsletter of
Peace River Refuge & Ranch
- Forest Animal Rescue

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www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Meet Elizabeth Rose: American black bear

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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

Four years ago we were contacted by a group of animal lovers who found an ad for the sale of a bear cub in Ohio. The ad said that if she didn't sell, she would be put in a "tasty stew."

They raised the money and bought her. Since she couldn't be released into the wild, they needed a place for her to live out the rest of her life. They found our sanctuary and so the story begins....

Elizabeth Rose was originally bought from a breeder by a man in Ohio when she was only a few weeks old. She was supposed to be a pet for his young son and wound up living in his bathroom.

At the age of 3 months and at only 15 pounds, the man listed her for sale online. He realized that he had made a serious mistake trying to keep a wild animal as a pet. After only a few months, he couldn't afford to feed her properly and he needed welding gloves to handle her—so he decided to sell her before she died from her failing health.

After much coordination from people in several different states, her trip to Florida was arranged.

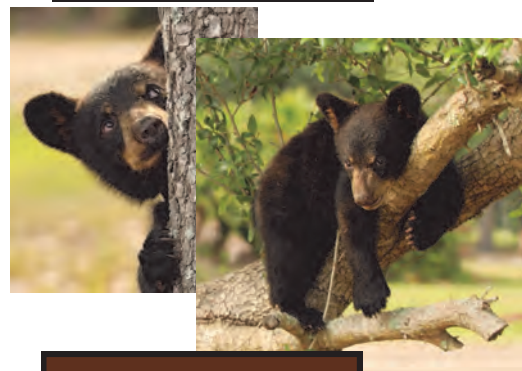
Upon Elizabeth Rose's arrival, we discovered that she was half the weight she should have been and had been fed apple sauce and honey instead of proper formula.

In the wild, baby bears nurse for a year and their mother's milk is very high in fat, protein and calcium. She had none of those nutrients.

As a result, she was very calcium deficient



Welcome committee



Learning to climb



Growing quickly but still fragile...

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In memory of Angel, Wendy & Cheyenne

The hardest part about working on construction to move the sanctuary is turning away new rescues, knowing that the animals are often destroyed for lack of a suitable home.

It would be counter-productive for us to delay our move date by creating more construction at our current location, knowing that we will need to turn around and rebuild everything at the new place. For that reason, we have made a decision to turn away new rescues until after we move.

**Wendy & Cheyenne had
been together for
21 years**

Meanwhile, our hearts break as the first animals we rescued when we started the sanctuary 13 years ago continue to age and we lose them one at a time.

In the last issue, we relayed the loss of Zulu, the tiger that inspired us to start the sanctuary.

This issue brings similar sad news; in July, we lost two of our old cougars; Wendy and 48 hours later, her long time companion, Cheyenne.

Wendy had been struggling with kidney failure and it seems that Cheyenne was just hanging on for Wendy, because she passed away in her sleep only two days after she lost her companion.

We will miss you girls - you will always remain in our hearts and will be with us in spirit when we move the other animals to the new, safer location.



In July we also lost Angel, one of our oldest fruit bats. She was everyone's favorite; she and would come out

early every night to have her pick of the fruit before the other bats came out to eat. She would often stay outside of the dark roost during the day because the sunlight helped her to see her surroundings better through her cataracts.

It was comical to see the little Egyptian fruit bat roosting in the middle of the large habitat alongside the huge flying foxes that roost outdoors during the day instead of staying inside the dark hiding place that their smaller cousins prefer.

We have some great things in the works to speed the process of building and moving, but it saddens us that some of our long time friends won't be with us to see the fantastic new location in the forest.

Thank you Wendy, Cheyenne and Angel for sharing your beautiful lives with us. You truly are unforgettable. May you rest in peace.

To our human friends—thanks to your generosity, all of the animals at the sanctuary live their lives under the shade trees and blue sky without having their lives prematurely ended because there is nowhere for them to go.

It is because of you that our work is possible and will continue.

Thank you for caring,

*Lisa Stoner, VP
Peace River Refuge & Ranch*

Elizabeth Rose; American black bear (continued)

Continued from page 1

and at risk of severe injury if she was not kept properly until her little bones had a chance to strengthen.

She was full of parasites and we estimated that she would have died within weeks without intensive veterinary care.

We spent thousands of dollars on proper bear formula, veterinary care and supplements to help her recover from her malnourished state.

It took over a year for her bone density to improve to the point where she was no longer at risk of injury from simply climbing and playing like a baby black bear should.

Once she had grown strong enough, she was introduced to Molly, Dolly and B-Bear, the other non-releasable bears at the sanctuary.

Elizabeth Rose should live up to 35 years in captivity, so making the commitment to provide lifetime care for her was not an easy one.

We would have preferred to release her into the wild, but since she was born in captivity that was not allowed.

Our goal is to try to mimic the natural environment as much as possible in captivity. Our bear habitats join together to give the four bears over an acre to play. They climb trees, swim in their pools and have multiple dens to choose from.

Here they have the opportunity to exhibit the natural behaviors that they would have in the wild. Its amazing to watch animals who have been born and raised in captivity change behavior as they are given space and playmates of their own kind. They quickly learn to behave much more like a wild animal, foraging, scent marking and communicating with the others much the same as their wild counterparts do. They are truly happy.

Once we relocate the sanctuary to the



Ocala National Forest, we plan to assist authorities with rehabilitation and release of native black bears.

We already have relationships with biologists all over the state and hope to assist with repopulation of large tracts of

restored natural habitat that will support black bears.

Cubs without an established territory can be relocated to new areas quite easily, so when we wind up with orphaned bear cubs, we may be able to place them in other areas to establish new populations as permitted.

You can help the animals while chatting online!

Would you love to volunteer but can't get away? Do you have a computer?

We have a job for you!!!!

You can help the animals by promoting the sanctuary online and helping to spread the word to encourage others to join our cause.

Social networking is our friend...

Although we are currently redesigning our website, we have an online presence on many different sites.

You can join in and collaborate with us and we will all help the animals together.

*You can be a **virtual volunteer** from anywhere in the world!*



"Like" our page on Facebook and share it with your friends:

<http://www.facebook.com/peacriver>



Follow and share on Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/PeaceRiverRefug>
(NOTE: no 'e' on the end)



Watch our videos on YouTube and then "Favorite" and share them:

<http://www.youtube.com/PeaceRiverRefuge>



Create an online fundraiser and invite your friends to join you on Razoo:

<http://www.razoo.com/story/Peace-River-Refuge-And-Ranch>

If you spread the word and your friends do the same, the animals will win in the long run

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.

We have 80 acres of heavily wooded 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 in time.

THE LATEST: We have been busy installing the 8' perimeter fence around most of the property and been



approved for small grants to help with restoring the habitat for native wildlife.

We finally had enough rain to safely burn a few brush piles that have been stacking up for months.

We still need your help to finish the fencing and build



animal habitats as quickly as possible so that we can move the animals before the economy completely stalls our efforts!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Any gift in the amount of \$5,000 or more will give you the opportunity to *permanently* name an animal habitat in your honor or in honor of a loved one at the new location.

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

Please donate today to help move the animals to safety.

New building will help with the move

We have a HUGE 51' X 100' metal building to put together. We purchased it still on pallets, still new and unassembled, for about 25% of its original value, blueprints and all!

It had been delivered but not assembled. The land owner sold his property and we had the opportunity to buy it before the new owner moved in. We had to borrow to come up with the funds fast enough, but we did it and have already unloaded it at the new property in the forest (thanks to some great friends!)

This building is something we can assemble with volunteers (no special skills needed) and it will protect our equipment and materials while we continue building animal habitats and



fencing. Once the animal areas are completed, we can initially use the building for food preparation, office, vet clinic and more. This will allow us to make the initial move and get the animals settled in. Once we are back on our feet, we will continue with the construction of our permanent infrastructure.

The construction of this building will singlehandedly reduce our first phase of construction enough to bump the date that we can move the animals to safety 1-2 years closer!

Yes!! I will help!!

Sept 2011

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: _____ Date: _____

_____ 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!!

11th Annual Christmas for the Animals Event

Even wild animals deserve a Christmas celebration!

Paper mache' gifts and "prey animals" will be filled with treats for the tigers, cougars, black leopard, lynx, and other big cats at the sanctuary.

The bears, wolves and other animals will receive decorated boxes, stuffed with food and treats. The monkeys will receive stockings and gifts filled with goodies.

For a \$15 donation, visitors will watch as animal caretakers distribute the edible gifts to the animals for them to "explore and destroy"

This is a unique opportunity for the whole family to experience an inspiring day and witness one form of enrichment provided to sanctuary animals as part of our high standards of care.

There will be a silent auction and raffle prizes during the event as well.

WHEN: Saturday, December 10, 2011
1:00-4:00pm

WHERE: Peace River Refuge & Ranch
2545 Stoner Lane
Zolfo Springs, FL

100% of the proceeds benefit the rescued animals at the sanctuary.

Call 863-735-0804 or email RSVP@PeaceRiverRefuge.org to reserve your spot and obtain driving directions.

**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 a whole bag of monkey biscuits for the primates
- \$ 100 provides nutritional supplements for the animals to keep them healthy
- \$ 500 provides life-saving veterinary care for a rescued animal
- \$1,000 cares for all of the animals at the sanctuary for one day
- \$5,000 builds a small habitat in your honor to move the animals to safety



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Peace River Refuge & Ranch

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The Wild Side

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Nonprofit wild animal sanctuary
and educational facility



Dear Friends,

This year is going by so fast! We're already planning for our Christmas for the Animals event in December....

I hope we will see you at the sanctuary for the event, it is certainly an unforgettable experience.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support—please enjoy the cooler weather ahead and spending time with your loved ones this Holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stoner, VP
Peace River Refuge & Ranch

