

the Wild Side

Newsletter of **Forest Animal Rescue** (formerly known as **Peace River Refuge & Ranch**)



We did it!

The animals have been moved!

We moved 138 animals safely in 4 days.

The move was necessary, but we decided to also make the experience meaningful to other animals in the future. It was structured as an exercise to train disaster responders how to safely handle a large-scale movement of potentially dangerous animals. The exercise was called "The Evacuation of a Sanctuary."

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The move went well but there were other problems

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Forest Animal Rescue - *a true sanctuary*

- Dedicated to the *lifetime* care of non-releasable wild animals to prevent them from being destroyed
- Registered 501(c)(3) charity
- Fully licensed
- Accredited by the American Sanctuary Association
- Internationally recognized
- Animals are never bred or exploited in any way
- Rescued animals live in large, natural habitats with high quality care by our all-volunteer staff



WWW.
**FOREST
ANIMAL
RESCUE**
.ORG

by Peace River Refuge & Ranch

640 NE 170th Ct.
Silver Springs, FL 34488
(352) 625-7377

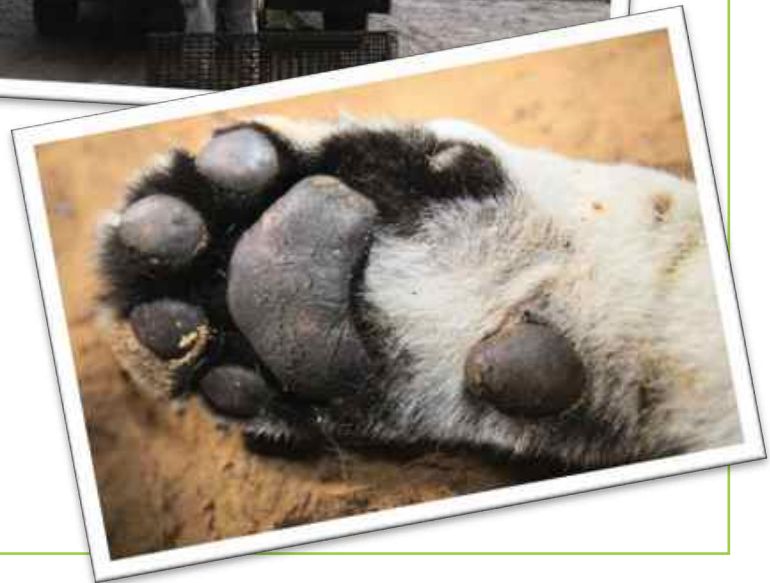
We did it! The animals have been moved! *(continued)*

48 volunteers gathered from all directions, including highly trained animal disaster responders from seven emergency response groups, seasoned volunteers and excellent medical and veterinary personnel....

Although we work with 13 veterinarians on a routine basis, the move was led by our own lead veterinarian and advisor to our board, Barry Kellogg.

The move wasn't without its challenges, but with our careful advance planning, we were able to make adjustments to the schedule and accomplished the move without any animal mishaps or injuries.





Why did the sanctuary move?

With development growing near the old location in Zolfo Springs, the safety of the animals and the promise of lifetime protection would soon come under fire. When human populations increase near wild animal facilities, a fight eventually follows and, statistically, the animals lose.

In keeping our promise of protection, we decided to move the animals to a new, safe location. Their new homes will be on 80 acres of beautiful wooded land, surrounded by the Ocala National Forest. They will be protected forever from encroaching development – and their new homes will be better than ever!

The move went well, Marion County is welcoming, but there are other problems...

The animals are all at the new location, safe and sound in the Ocala National Forest. After the move, we had 4 weeks to run back to Zolfo Springs and take down old fencing and caging material before the new owners took possession.

In the end, we wound up short of help and ran out of time....

It seems a shame that with as many fantastic volunteers as we had to help us prepare for the move and then to accomplish the move itself; too many people had family emergencies at one time.

We ran out of time and the new owners were completely inflexible about allowing us an extension of time to get our things.

We lost \$50,000 in caging and fencing, a huge amount of building materials, most of the animals' toys and heaters, a storage shed, many of our yard tools, and an RV and a 34' yacht that we were selling to help buy more materials.

Two regular volunteers had deaths in their families; two others had family medical emergencies. To make it worse, the sanctuary's co-founder, Kurt, suddenly had heart problems and wound up in the emergency room three times during the first three weeks. He was unable to make the drive to go down and collect materials, and he was the primary organizer for that effort. (he is much better now)

Now, instead of having the materials on hand to immediately expand the animal habitats to the acreage sized they have grown accustomed to, we must purchase new materials and start over.

In addition to the caging and fencing we need to buy, we must build their platforms and dens

again, buy new toys and heaters and find a shed to store things in and do our food preparation before everything is ruined by rain.

We can do this! We are already well into the construction and although we don't receive funding from the government, we have learned that animal lovers stick together. We have faith in our new community and all of our supporters; we know this will work out like everything else has.

For now, the animals are in secure but comparatively small habitats. These habitats are still larger than they had before they were rescued, but nothing near the acreage they had grown accustomed to at our old location.

It won't be long and they will have the space they deserve. Once they are comfortable again, we will be able to rescue more animals and give guided tours of the sanctuary to our supporters, but the comfort of the animals in our care needs to come first.

There are many ways you can help us reach our goal:

- Donate an item from our wish list (on our website at www.forestanimalrescue.org)
- Make a monetary gift to help pay for special-order materials
- Donate a small amount monthly to help cover our recurring expenses
- Volunteer your time (18 and older only)
- Help spread the word to others

If we all stick together, we won't miss a beat. The animals will have their comfortable homes again with plenty of gifts from all of their friends

Will you help us?





Habitat building, equipment repairing, intern house remodeling, landscaping, fundraising, animal feeding....

If you have a little time on your hands and would like to share it with us, we would love to meet you!

The entire sanctuary is run on volunteer-power.

Our volunteers do everything from food preparation and feeding animals to building habitats, organizing fundraisers, building fencing, maintenance, landscaping, equipment repairs, carpentry, cleaning animal habitats and more.

If you have skills to share we are happy to have

them; but even if all you have is a love for animals and a desire to do something rewarding with your time, there are no special skills required.

All we ask is that you are over 18, can document that you are TB negative (for the protection of the primates) and are willing to work as a team.

To request an application, simply call Lisa at 352-625-7377 or visit our website at www.forestanimalrescue.org/volunteer/

We look forward to working with you!!

“Timber” the wolf

Timber was rescued in January, making her the first resident at the new location

A woman in Illinois bought her as a pup - but when Timber showed her wild nature she was quickly sent to live outside.

It didn't take Timber long to escape soon she was running with coyotes. With no idea how to hunt, she began to lose weight; her owner didn't have the ability to take proper care of her. The authorities demanded that she find another home for Timber or she would be put down.

Thanks to the generosity of all of our friends, we were able to help when Timber needed it most. *Thank you!*



Tornadoes in Oklahoma impact animals in Florida

The Oklahoma tornado has devastated so many lives and families in Oklahoma, but the ripple effect carries across the country – to both humans and animals.

After relocating 138 wild animals to the Ocala National Forest a few months ago, we are still struggling to get permanent power run to the sanctuary. We are working with US Forest Service to get the final permit to cross a few feet of Federal land; all the other permits are in place.

Meanwhile, the well for water, refrigerators and freezers for the animals are all being run on two large generators ...generators borrowed from the Sumter Disaster Animal Response Team.

The Sumter Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) came to the rescue by lending the generators to Forest Animal Rescue a few months ago when the animals needed to relocate before permanent power was installed.

Although we knew we could only borrow these generators until they were needed for a disaster, we had hoped to get final approval from US Forest Service to run power before something like this came up.

Once the tornadoes hit in Oklahoma, the disaster team had to reclaim the 10KW generator that we were using to power our well and we braced ourselves for the fact that the other generator may soon be reclaimed as well.

We were scrambling to find an immediate solution, but all of the generators offered to us wound up being too small to do the job or were in need of repair.

We have a 4" well, sufficient to provide water for all of the animals and to fill the pools for the tigers and bears. The produce and meat are stored in large commercial refrigerators – all of



this requires a substantial amount of power.

Lucky for us, the Sumter DART team called us back and said that the authorities in Oklahoma were able to use their own resources to provide for their displaced animals, so we could once again borrow the generator that they had initially taken back. We only had to haul water in containers for two days.

Needless to say, we are scrambling to acquire either two more 8-10KW generators or, preferably, one 20KW (or more) standby unit to power everything so we will not be put back in this position again when another disaster strikes.

We are already running underground water and electrical lines in preparation for the installation of a standby generator and eventually permanent power, but we need to sort out the rest of the equipment as quickly as possible.

Permanent power is likely to be months away, so a big standby unit would be the most efficient way to go. The estimated cost of running a large standby generator is \$3,000 a month, but we are already spending that to fuel multiple smaller generators.

If you would like to donate toward fuel, the electricity project or alternative energy, just specify that when you make your gift and it will be used as directed.

Yes!! I will Help!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

- OR -

_____ Please charge my: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____ in the amount of \$ _____

My card number is: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

_____ Please contact me about volunteering (must be 18 or older)

Comments: _____

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Visit our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org and visit our “Donate” page for details, or you can call us at 352-625-7377 for details.



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THE WILD SIDE

JUNE 2013



Did you miss us?

I'm sorry it has been so long since we mailed a printed newsletter. Between the tight schedule in preparation for the move and the cash flow crunch, we just couldn't swing it.

As you will see when you read on, we have completed our move! We are back on track now and plan to mail a newsletter to all of our supporters on a quarterly basis once again. *Thank you for your understanding!*

Warm regards,
Lisa Stoner

PS – How do you like our new newsletter format? Drop me an email and let me know!

lisa@forestanimalrescue.org

