

the Wild Side

WINTER 2017

Volume 2017 No. 2

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



A TRUE SANCTUARY

Forest Animal Rescue (FAR) is a nonprofit sanctuary dedicated to meeting the lifetime needs of almost 100 rescued wild animals.

At FAR's state-of-the-art, 80-acre facility in the beautiful Ocala National Forest, we are 100% committed to providing each animal with:

- a spacious, natural habitat
- a healthful, natural diet
- high-quality care by staff and volunteers
- quality veterinary care, when needed
- a firm "no breeding" policy
- socialization and enrichment appropriate to each animal's preferences, and
- protection from further victimization

FAR is an internationally recognized organization, **accredited by the American Sanctuary Association** and listed as one of the "**Best Tiger Sanctuaries in the U.S.**" according to **Tigers in America**.

Forest Animal Rescue
640 NE 170th Court
Silver Springs, FL 34488
(352) 625-7377



FAR is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.



Two cougars rescued from a closed zoo in Argentina found a forever home in Florida

At the Rawson Zoo in the Lower Chubut River Valley in Argentina, two tiny cougars were born. It was 2002 – the zoo was known for its collection of more than 60 exotic species of animals, but not for their proper care.

The cougars (also known as pumas or mountain lions) lived their lives in a tiny concrete and dirt enclosure with some grasses, a little shade and a pool that stayed empty because they never used it; cougars seldom play in water.

continued on page 2

Socialize with FAR:



ForestAnimalRescue.org



Facebook.com/forestanimalrescue



Twitter.com/ForestAnimalRes



Youtube.com/ForestanimalrescueOrg

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(Continued from page 1)

As they grew to adulthood, they languished in this tiny cage, with food insufficient for them to gain weight and a constant stream of onlookers for the zoo to make money – but nobody was meeting their needs.

Their wild nature was being completely suffocated; all they had was one another. They were just considered *property* and nobody cared enough about them to even refer to them with names.

11 years passed, the nameless big cats remained, never knowing life without constant exploitation or having a natural habitat to play in.

Finally, a kind-hearted group of animal welfare advocates cared enough to make a difference in their lives. The group teamed up and brought serious animal abuse charges against the zoo due to animal deaths under their care and the poor conditions in which the animals were forced to live.

Three more years passed, as the fight continued.... In 2015 an agreement was finally made that the facility would be converted into an amusement park and the animals would be moved to better places.

The group made arrangements for almost all of the animals to be transferred to better places in their own country; but they couldn't find a forever home for the two nameless cougars. With nowhere else to turn, they sought an international solution.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) offered their assistance and contacted Forest Animal Rescue to ask if we could accept these two beautiful cougars for lifetime care at our sanctuary. With IFAW's support, these magnificent animals would be flown to the United States to live their lives at a true sanctuary, never to be exploited again.

July 2017: Two more years passed. After a lengthy legal process, legislation in Argentina that prohibited the export of animals native to their country had been suspended and permission was finally granted for the two pumas to move to Forest Animal Rescue.

Under the careful watch of the animal welfare groups in Argentina, the cats gained weight for the trip. The two pumas have never been apart, so we agreed to keep them together for the rest of their lives.

August 2017: The years of teamwork and patience paid off and the pumas arrived on a flight to Miami. The transport crates were loaded into Forest Animal Rescue's air-conditioned trailer and driven five hours north to their forever home at the sanctuary in the Ocala National Forest.



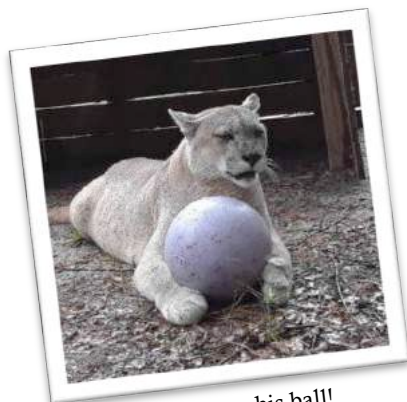
Pumas in their transport crates, ready for the long flight to the US

Now at Forest Animal Rescue, they have a large, natural habitat to play in with trees, toys and a caring staff tending to their needs, and of course, the best diet and veterinary care they could wish for.

After they settled in and safely, the next task was to give them names! We put it to a vote, and our supporters chose *Harvey* and *Irma*. Considering the timing of their arrival, those names were a fitting tribute all of the people impacted by the recent hurricanes.



After the long trip, the cougars were unloaded just as the sun was setting



Harvey loves his ball!



Irma is so relaxed here

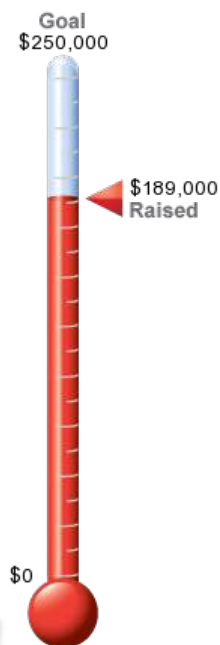
UPDATE: Bob Barker Animal Care Building

We are hoping to finish the construction of our Bob Barker Animal Care Building in the next few months so that we will have an expanded food preparation area and full on-site veterinary care capabilities. The animals will not need to leave the sanctuary property when major veterinary procedures are involved – they will have everything they need right here on our property.

Once this building is finished it will also allow us to rescue more animals from situations of abuse and neglect, we can expand our **Black Bear Rehabilitation and release** program to include the youngest, most fragile cubs because we will have greater on-site veterinary care capabilities.

Former game show host, Bob Barker, helped us get the ball rolling with a substantial gift, but we still need to raise more funds to complete the construction.

We have almost reached our goal! Will you help us to finish the building? Learn more on our website at www.forestanimalrescue.org/animal-care-building



Hurricanes had a serious impact on the sanctuary

We made it through Hurricane Irma with no animal escapes or injuries. **The safety areas we have for all of the animals held strong.** The new building, in the midst of construction with no doors or windows and an unfinished roof also held strong.

The power was off for just under a week and our facility-wide generator served us well. The bulk of our damage was to trees, perimeter fencing and minor damage to some of our buildings. It could have been much worse.

The worst part happened a week and a half after the storm...



Wolves in safety area

Tigers in safety area

10 days after Hurricane Irma...

The most serious damage of all, causing a major blow to the sanctuary...

When Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, much of our regular support was diverted to help the human disaster victims. When Hurricane Irma hit Florida, even more of our regular donations were diverted to humans in need. This is expected and is typically felt by all animal charities faced with natural disasters. We planned for this, knowing that it would be temporary.

But then we were hit with something we hadn't planned for...

For the past 19 years, we have had relationships with grocery stores that have donated fresh produce and meat for the animals. As a result of the hurricanes, both of the Winn Dixie stores that had been supporting us since 2013 **suddenly stopped**.

We now must purchase \$125,000 in food every year for the first time in 19 years.



The good news is that we located a wholesale supplier for the food we need and our donors are coming through and making small, **recurring monthly gifts** more than ever.

If we continue this trend we will be able to purchase food for the animals and the funding will be regular from monthly gifts from hundreds of different supporters. We will no longer have "all of our eggs in the same basket!"

For less than you spend on your morning coffee, you can help feed the animals with a recurring monthly gift.

Will you help with a small monthly donation? Automatic recurring gifts can be set up and controlled by you securely on our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org/donate/

MATCHING GRANT – YOUR DONATION IS TRIPLED!

GREAT NEWS! One of our generous donors has committed to helping us raise money so we can continue our rapid rate of construction and growth.

Between now and December 31, 2017 - All general fund donations will be MATCHED TWO TO ONE up to \$68,000!!

This means that each dollar you donate will MATCHED with TWO MORE DOLLARS!

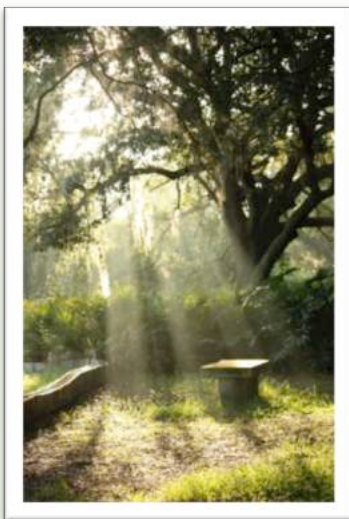
With your help - we can raise \$68,000 by December 31; these funds will be matched by our donor with another \$136,000 for a total of \$204,000 for the animals.



Will you help us maximize this gift? You can donate in several different ways:

1. Donate securely on our website at: www.ForestAnimalRescue.org/matching-grant
2. Mail a check to Forest Animal Rescue, 640 NE 170th Ct., Silver Springs, FL 34488
3. Call our office at 352-625-7377 and we'll take care of it for you

Legacy Society



This society is created exclusively to honor and recognize people who have helped to continue our life saving work through a gift to Forest Animal Rescue in their wills, estate plans or trusts. As a Legacy Society member, you will receive a certificate of appreciation and a Legacy Society lapel pin to serve as a reminder to others of your support of our mission. Your gift can be recognized publicly, unless you prefer to remain anonymous.

If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift, please notify us so you can receive your membership perks. If you are still considering such a gift, please let us know so we can help you and your advisors complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your intention to help the animals at Forest Animal Rescue; contact us at 352-625-7377 or development@forestanimalrescue.org

When you join the Society, you demonstrate your commitment to the prevention of cruelty to animals and help ensure the long-term strength of Forest Animal Rescue and the lifetime care of all of the animals at the sanctuary

YES - I WILL HELP!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation to Forest Animal Rescue for \$ _____☐ Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CVV Code: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Please earmark my gift: ☐ **General fund/Where it is needed most [Matched 2:1*]** ☐ Nourishment/medical care☐ Animal Care Building project ☐ other _____☐ **Make this a recurring monthly gift, ending on (date)** _____*(One-time and monthly donations can also be made securely at ForestAnimalRescue.org)*☐ Please contact me to discuss a tax-deductible contribution of equipment or materials☐ Please contact me regarding a planned gift to The Legacy Society

*2:1 match is for up to \$68,000 received before 12/31/17

***Thank you!***

Forest Animal Rescue is grateful to our dedicated supporters, who help us care for over 100 animals at our 80-acre location in the beautiful Ocala National Forest



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Forest Animal Rescue

640 NE 170th Ct.
Silver Springs, FL 34488



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THE WILD SIDE

WINTER 2017

FAR Extends our deepest gratitude for support from the following
Groundbreaking Sponsors:

- DJ & T Foundation
- June Albert
- The Felburn Foundation & Mr. Guy Marwick
- For our Friends the Animals Foundation
- The Morningstar Foundation
- International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- Sparr Building & Farm Supply
- Silver Springs Storage
- Consie VonGontard
- Westbrook Services
- ASL Administration Services, Ltd.
- Northern Tool & Equipment
- Master Lock
- Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.
- Bears vs. Babies
- Tigers in America

Celebrating 20 years of rescues

2018 will be our 20th year of rescuing and meeting the needs of rescued wild animals.

Each year we gain more amazing volunteers and supporters. It is fantastic to see so many like-minded people coming together to make all the difference for animals in need.

We couldn't do this without all of you –

Warm regards,

Lisa Stoner



FAR Officers:

President Kurt Stoner; Vice President Lisa Stoner and Secretary Lila Hepner