

the Wild Side

SPRING 2020

Volume 2020 No. 1

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



Can COVID-19 affect monkeys?

That is a very important question, and we may not know the full answer any time soon.

Since monkeys are similar to humans in so many ways and most of the rescued monkeys at our sanctuary are geriatric, we must be very careful not to take any chances.

We will need to change how we live, how we work, and how we operate and manage our sanctuary programs in this unprecedented and extremely stressful time.

At Forest Animal Rescue, the safety and well-being of our staff, supporters, volunteers, and animals are our highest priority. We want to address the corona virus (COVID-19), although we want to avoid the hype, we do take this very seriously and are closely monitoring the situation.

We encourage everyone to learn the facts to mitigate fear. We are following guidance from public health officials and government agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, as well as our

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Socialize with FAR: www.ForestAnimalRescue.org



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es



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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**

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.

Can COVID-19 impact monkeys? (continued)

veterinarian, so we can make ongoing assessments and stay in constant communication with our associates to implement the best policies going forward.

Social distancing of volunteers and staff:

Out of caution, all nonessential volunteers, including those assisting keepers with animal care (which of course continues), have been instructed to stay home until further notice.

Many of these volunteers want to support our animal care staff and help with expansion to allow for upcoming rescues, but that would place them and others at increased risk according to social distancing guidelines.

We are temporarily stopping the scheduling of volunteer groups from around the country as well as our international/residential volunteer program to limit the exposure of everyone involved, to social situations.

We have already had to cancel our “Alternative Spring Break” volunteer groups from across the country, and National Volunteer Week in April will be significantly impacted.

We usually schedule two tours of the sanctuary monthly, limited to four people on each tour. We will not be scheduling tours again until it is appropriate to do so.

Although our animals do not leave our property for events, we have suspended any presentations or public events to educate others on wild animal issues until it is appropriate to resume those activities.

We will continue to be flexible, continue to focus on prevention, and continue to encourage any staff member to stay at home if they are not feeling well.

Even upon the volunteers' anticipated return to the sanctuary, we will face many unknowns:

- *How many of our volunteers will return to the sanctuary?*
- *How many will fall ill and not return for extended periods?*
- *How will this affect our organization's operations and events?*
- *How will we build and be ready for new rescues when the time comes?*



Meanwhile, at the sanctuary:

Our trained staff is using the guidelines and protocols outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization (WHO)

The cleanliness of our sanctuary is always a top priority for us, now more than ever. In addition to our regular cleaning procedures, increased sanitation measures have been added with extra attention to frequently touched and high traffic areas.

Although there is little information available at this point regarding the spread of COVID-19 to various animal species, we are working under the assumption that our nonhuman primates would be susceptible.

Combined with our usual frequent handwashing and hand sanitizer use, hand sanitizer and surgical masks are being carried by every staff member to use throughout the day, especially during food preparation and any care related to our primates.



We would love for all of us to continue to share what we are doing to mitigate fear, connect with others, and move through this uncertain time in the months to come – together. Soon enough, this will be behind us.

We will continue to monitor this situation as it evolves and continue to protect the animals and the staff that cares for them. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We want to keep everyone safe so that we can continue appropriate care for our animals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us by phone or email through our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org

PLEASE – if you are in a position to help the sanctuary make it through this difficult time, we would appreciate anything you can give. We will be forced to hire a few local contractors to do much of the construction and repairs that our out-of-area volunteer groups would normally help with. This expense is hitting us just as donations drop off due to the state of the economy.

Nationwide teamwork benefits animals in need

This isn't the first time such valuable networking has rescued animals

In January, Forest Animal Rescue received a phone call from PETA, asking for assistance to load two white tigers that were being transported from Florida to a fellow accredited sanctuary in Arkansas, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR).

The white tigers, Luna and Remington, were originally held captive by Dade City's Wild Things (DCWT), where they were forced to participate in DCWT's "swim-with-the-tigers" and cub-encounter programs.

In 2016, PETA filed a lawsuit against DCWT alleging the exploitative organization federally violated the Endangered Species Act by prematurely separating tiger cubs from their mothers and warehousing them in small cages. Two and a half years ago, DCWT illegally transferred all tigers out of their facility to avoid PETA's court-ordered site inspection.

Luna and Remington, as well as two other tigers, Rory and Raja, were scheduled to move to TCWR once the legal battle concluded. Tragically, before they could be rescued, Rory and Raja escaped their enclosures at the Florida facility where they were illegally held and were subsequently shot and killed.

Finally, after years of waiting, Luna and Remington were officially granted their freedom. The team from Forest Animal Rescue met the others from PETA and TCWR at the facility where the tigers had been illegally held; together, they successfully loaded the cats into their transport cages for their trip to Arkansas.

The teamwork of true sanctuaries working together benefits animals everywhere.

Soon there will be more "team rescues"



We are preparing for a number of animals needing urgent rescue

The story above is becoming more common. It seems like now more than ever; the general public is finally beginning to understand the issues facing wild animals in captivity.

From traveling circus acts being banned, to roadside attractions being pressured into closing, wild animals are finally beginning to get the respect they deserve.

Cub-petting operations and photo shoots are finally being seen as the tip of the iceberg, a sign of abuse that runs deeply through the wild animal trade. As the horrible places are closed down, the animals must have a place to go or they would be destroyed.

We strive to rescue as many animals as possible; but since we moved to our new location in 2013, we have been steadily building to ensure we have capacity to handle lifetime care for the animals we currently have before accepting more. **We are gearing up for a very busy year of rescues!**

The abuse stops here...

Just as more roadside zoos and inappropriate places for animals are closing their doors, we are working to complete expansions and rescue the animals left behind. For the first time in their lives, the animals will experience a *true sanctuary*. They will be able to live out the rest of their lives in peace; knowing that the abuse and exploitation they have experienced is a thing of the past. **Will you help us?**

Will you buy the animals a cup of coffee?



One simple but meaningful way you can help the animals is to include a small amount for their care in your monthly budget. **For what you might spend on a few cups of coffee,** you can help to feed a rescued big cat, bear, monkey, bat, or wolf.

Sharing your pocket change with the animals allows us to budget for their ongoing care without sacrificing new construction and growth. Donations may be made automatically from your bank account or credit card – you can set it and forget it.

If you are one of our friends who has already signed up – *THANK YOU!*

If we continue having a few new supporters sign up for recurring gifts each month, we will stay on track with our ever-increasing cost of providing high-quality lifetime care to the animals we rescue.

Will you help?

TO SET UP MONTHLY GIFTS ONLINE:

Simply visit our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org and give using any donate button on our site. When you check “Recurring Donation,” your gifts will be repeated automatically from your credit card, bank account. You receive an email confirmation and remain in complete control over the frequency, amount and when your recurring gifts end. We will mail you a year-end recap of your donations for tax purposes.

TO SET UP MONTHLY GIFTS BY MAIL:

Simply fill out the coupon at the end of this newsletter with your credit card information and check the box to make it a monthly gift and mail it to us. We will process it from here and send a year-end recap of your donations for tax purposes.



Intern Spotlight

Nathan Meyers, Animal Care intern

Where are you from?

I am from Wildwood Florida

What school did you attend and what did you study?

I graduated from Harding University in Arkansas and I studied Cognitive Neuroscience

What previous internships or work experiences have you done?

This is my first internship/experience working with wildlife.

What would you like to do for a career and what would you like to accomplish?

I want to work towards getting my PhD studying Zoology and either do conservation research or behavioral research as well as go into wildlife photography.

Where did your interest in animals start?

I have loved animals my whole life. Ever since I was young my parents and grandma would teach us about native wildlife here in Florida, especially marine life and so I grew to not only care for and respect animals but to become so fascinated with them and passionate about their conservation.

Did you grow up with any pets/ do have any currently?

We always had dogs and cats growing up, as well as a bird, rabbits and mice. I currently have a yellow lab and a cat back home.

What drew you to FAR?

I knew I wanted to work with animals and when I found out about this place, I knew it was meant to be. I really wanted to dive in full time working with animals and learn as much as I can, and I love that FAR is a true sanctuary for these rescued animals.

Who is your favorite animal and why?

I would have to say it's between Eva and Oatmeal. Eva is so sweet and cute but also can be so stubborn and full of personality and so is Oatmeal. She is so cute but also a drama queen

What memory do you think will stick with you from your experiences (so far) at FAR?

I think what will stick with me the most is the friendships in have made here and how quickly you fall in love with these animals. Everyone is so kind and has a good attitude and it's great to get up and work at a place like this.

What have you learned so far from interning here that you'll apply to your daily life?

What I have learned from this job is better time management and critical thinking. You have a lot of tasks to do in a day and you have to be able to give yourself enough time to complete them but also not do a poor job. Also, the animals can't tell us what's wrong, so we have to anticipate their needs and figure out what's wrong without them telling us.

What's your favorite part of your day?

My favorite part of the day is when I am able to interact with the animals. Whether that's feeding them or just talking to them in the morning or doing something like grooming the horses

What are your hobbies?

Hiking, kayaking, painting, photography and singing musicals and Disney songs all the time.



Want to be an intern like Nathan? Visit our website to see how you could be a part of our team!

YES - I WILL HELP!!

Spring 2020

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** Animal rescue and lifetime care

Other _____

Make this a recurring monthly gift, ending on (date) _____

(One-time and recurring 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

Peace River Refuge & Ranch, Inc. dba Forest Animal Rescue is a Florida nonprofit charitable corporation. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) OR www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Florida Registration CH9372. We are tax exempt under IRS 501(c)(3), EIN 65-0864695.

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 developent@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

Forest Animal Rescue

640 NE 170th Ct.
Silver Springs, FL 34488



THE WILD SIDE

www.forestanimalrescue.org

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

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- Bev Meadows

The abuse stops here!

2020 is already very busy year. The general public is finally beginning to recognize the abuse and exploitation that wild animals endure at too many roadside attractions. Terrible facilities are being closed down in several states as we speak.

We are gearing up to be ready to rescue as many of the animals left behind as we can properly care for; they will have *lifetime care at a true sanctuary.*

Thank you so much for helping the animals!

Lisa Stoner



FAR Board of Directors:

President Kurt Stoner; Vice President Lisa Stoner, Secretary Lila Hepner, and Barry Kellogg