

the Wild Side

WINTER 2021

Volume 2021 No. 1

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



Gabby has been released!

These past two years have been a real experience for all of us. We apologize for our silence, but due to being short-handed and limiting some of our projects, we haven't printed a newsletter this year – until now.

At the sanctuary, our funding has dropped off as donors are afraid of what will happen next. We have had to stop our international and local volunteer programs for the protection of the humans and animals at the sanctuary. Our internship program has slowed to a crawl, but things are slowly improving.

Still, the animals need our care, and we must always find a way to meet their needs.

In October 2020, we received a call from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. They had a bear cub that needed our help. Just as Hurricane Delta was setting its sights on Louisiana, this little bear was orphaned. She and her mother were starving, and then her mother was hit by a

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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.

Socialize with FAR: www.ForestAnimalRescue.org



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forestanimalrescue](https://www.instagram.com/forestanimalrescue)



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[Youtube.com/
Forestanimal
rescueOrg](https://www.youtube.com/ForestanimalrescueOrg)

Gabby has been released (continued)

car. The wildlife officials knew we would be up to the challenge. We met their biologist halfway and brought the little bear to our sanctuary.

We named her *Gabby*. She was underweight, extremely malnourished and full of parasites, but she regained her strength and was successfully released back in Louisiana in April, 2021.

We have been receiving regular GPS collar Tracking information from the biologists in Louisiana, and she has settled into a beautiful, wild area of great black bear habitat.

A little good news goes a long way lately, right?



Five Lemurs Rescued from a Closed Attraction

The Nationwide teamwork of qualified animal rescue facilities benefits animals – again!

We are happy to announce the arrival **five ring-tailed lemurs** that needed a forever home. The facility where they were living has been closed and they will now receive excellent care for the rest of their lives at Forest Animal Rescue.

With everyone being so enthralled with the *Tiger King* series on Netflix, there has been additional awareness of the issues that wild animals face in captivity.

As a result, many roadside zoos and private ‘menageries’ have been closing their doors, with large numbers of animals needing placement all at once.

This is fantastic news for the animals that have lived their lives facing daily exploitation and mistreatment – but it poses a challenge for the animal rescue community when we are all impacted by the pandemic.

Nonetheless, Forest Animal Rescue is still managing to rescue animals that have nowhere else to go. When animals come from inappropriate captive situations, we provide them with the highest quality of lifetime care they could wish for in a true sanctuary setting.

They will never be exploited again. They will never be bred or sold and will remain with us for the rest of their lives in a natural habitat with state-of-the-art veterinary care and everything they need to live a full and happy life.

The lemurs didn’t have names because they had no records when they arrived. We are estimating their ages through veterinary exams, and our supporters voted on names for them. The first pair are “Smokey and Bandit” – The second pair are “Maddie and Max” – and the solitary female is “Sunny.” Soon they will all be spayed and neutered and introduced to our other resident lemurs in their large habitat.



These lucky lemurs will never be bred or exploited again. No more being held for photoshoots. No more breeding to have their babies taken away and sold as pets. They will stay in their family group at our sanctuary and will receive the highest quality of care for the rest of their lives.



We must be prepared

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.

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?**

“Tiger Queens” Celebrates True Saviors for Captive Felines and Highlights the Dangers of Big Cat Pseudo-Sanctuaries

More tigers are held in captivity across the US than remain in the wild globally, estimates suggest. The Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) is a coalition of wildlife rescuers, reputable sanctuaries, and animal advocates working to eliminate the trade in “pet” wildcats and the commercial exploitation of exotic felines nationwide. Seeking to raise awareness about the plight of captive big cats held in inhumane conditions, the BCSA released a new video titled *Tiger Queens*.

Tiger Queens features an in-depth discussion among incredible women who have dedicated their lives and livelihoods to operating legitimate, fully accredited sanctuaries that provide lifetime care to rescued tigers, lions, leopards and other wild felids that have been saved from cruel conditions.



WATCH IT: <https://youtu.be/ZGOgHMa7MFs>

Regarding visitors:

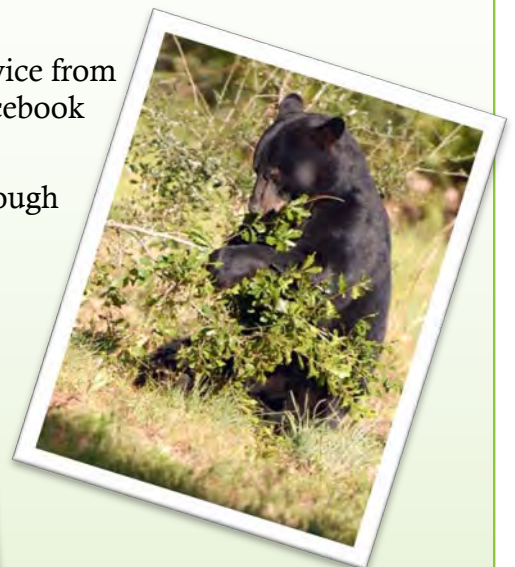
Although the sanctuary has never been open to the general public, we normally give limited tours. These tours are limited to six people at a time and are only available to two groups each month.

We had suspended tours for safety reasons during the pandemic. However, we believe we have found a safe way to resume them.

Since the tours are given while riding in our Land Rover, we have modified our policy to include only ONE FAMILY UNIT in each of our two tours.

We are starting out slowly and watching any new developments and advice from health officials. We will post the dates available on our website and Facebook pages as they are made available. Please stay tuned....

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



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.

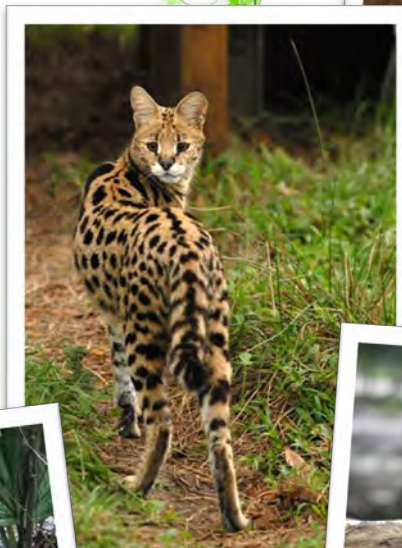
Will you help?

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 or 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 ✧

Matthew Ostfeld, Animal Care intern

Matt is an Animal Care intern from Las Vegas, Nevada. He went to the University of Nevada, Reno and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a minor in Biology.

Q: What other internships, experiences, etc. have you had previously?

A: I have worked in a wildlife sanctuary in Namibia, Africa called N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary. I have also worked at a few research sites throughout Namibia, Africa working with African Wild Dogs, elephants, and cheetahs. Along with Namibia, I have worked at a non-slaughter dairy farm and other organic farms throughout the years.

Q: Why did you pick FAR? And what are you most excited about doing here, or something cool you've already done here?

A: I picked FAR because I loved how it was a sanctuary that really focuses on the welfare of the animals. I like how FAR has large carnivores that are extremely amazing to work with and care for. I am most excited about working with all the animals (especially the large carnivores) in an effort to make their lives more comfortable.

Q: What are your career goals (what you'd like to be, accomplish, what you want to work with, etc.)?

A: My career goal is to work within conservation and wildlife. I am going to pursue becoming a forest ranger, conservation manager, or something within the conservation field that helps wildlife and the environment.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I like to do outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, and kayaking. I am also a big fan of movies and cooking.

Q: What is your favorite animal (if you have one)?

A: My favorite animal would be the African Elephant!

Thank you Matt for the awesome work you've been doing - we love having you!



Want to be an intern like Matt or know someone who does?

Do you want to gain experience working with wild animals in a professional setting? If you don't qualify as an intern, you could participate in our local or residential volunteer programs! Visit our website at <http://Forestanimalrescue.org> under 'Internships' or 'Volunteer' to learn more and apply today!

We hope to resume our volunteer programs very soon, by signing up now, you will be among the first to know when we have space available.

YES - I WILL HELP!!

Winter 2021

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.

In a typical year,
we must raise \$300,000
to fill the gap in funding
for animal care



This isn't a typical year.
Please help: ForestAnimalRescue.org

Forest Animal Rescue
640 NE 170th Ct.
Silver Springs, FL 34488



Join our email list ☐

Make a difference



MEET THE ANIMALS

Scan this with your smart phone

THE WILD SIDE

www.forestanimalrescue.org

WINTER 2021

The Abuse Stops Here...

This pandemic has been hard on everyone, but things are getting better. We are still able to rescue animals in need and we have more animals coming...

We are grateful for our broad base of dedicated supporters. Without you, we would never be able to step up to the challenge of picking up where others leave off.

The animals still need us – we are their last hope – their last stop. With help from like-minded people, they will have *lifetime care at a true sanctuary*. Thank you so much for being our friend!

Lisa Stoner



FAR Board of Directors:

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