



NATIONAL TIGER SANCTUARY

Preservation through Education
November 2011 Newsletter

Greetings Friends!

So much has happened since we last wrote. We have a lot to be thankful for and we wanted to share it with all of you! I am sure everyone heard about the horrible incident in Ohio last month. It broke our hearts to see all those innocent animals killed. This just reaffirms the reason we need stricter laws in this state and why we fought to pass the Large Carnivore Act. This law requires anyone who owns, breeds, possesses, or transports a large carnivore on or after January 1, 2012, to obtain a permit from the Missouri Department of Agriculture and to maintain a minimum of \$250,000 in liability insurance. These animals deserve so much more than we could ever give them. All we can do is try to make the ones that end up here, with your support, as comfortable as possible. They need a voice and caring, loving homes to live out their lives. After all it is human greed that has put them in the situations they are in and it can only be human compassion that will help them survive.

We had to sell the tiger jeep out of necessity, but luckily it went to a sweet couple who will get many double takes like we did when we had it on the road. Money is getting tighter, especially since we have had to buy their food these past few months, and it will only get tougher heading into winter when tours slow down.

Merlin now has a heated floor in his house thanks to Watts Radiant! They took time out of their busy schedules to make sure Merlin has a warm place to stay this winter. Thank you Nathan Floyd: Director of Business,



Nicole Glunt & Brent Thuston

Product Development and Sales, Lucas Hann: Product Application and Support Specialist/Outside Sales, Kellie Tinnon: Product Application and Support, Specialist, Jonathan Schrader: Product Application and Support Specialist. After all, it will be his first winter outside! A big thank you goes out to Steve Wiczor for donating the concrete mixer and to Jerry Spude for helping lay the concrete. Merlin will be moving in there very shortly. The two tigers coming from the Lowery Park Zoo to make room for the Species Survival Program, are due to arrive on Nov. 22 and we still need money for fencing to finish their enclosure!





Thank you to all who made the Ribbon Cutting and our Grand Opening a huge success. Here are the founders of this incredible establishment, Keith Kinkade (holding scissors) and his wife Judy McGee (on his right) with the wonderful and supportive people from the Branson Chamber of Commerce surrounding them.

The weather for the Grand Opening couldn't have been any better. It was cool enough for the kids to be active and for the people to enjoy themselves.



Above: Founder Keith (in orange shirt) explains what is going on with our native animals like Banshee the cougar (right).

Below: Dana has everyone's attention while explaining the plight of the tiger in the wild.

Below: Vincent seems to be having a "splashing" good time!

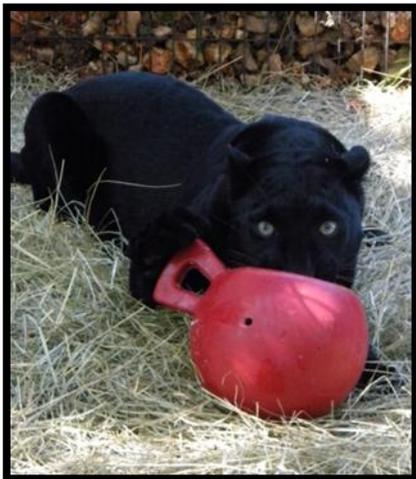




We had so many wonderful friends, old and new visit. The “kids” even had their pumpkins ready for the festivities!



Merlin expressing how much fun he was having!



Midnight and Tina playing with their new toys! Thanks Uncle Randy and Aunt Candy!!!



We want to say a special thank you to all of those who have adopted this past month: Quinby Family- T.J.; Candy and Randy Chestnut- Tina and Midnight; Tim & Sara Lucas-Max, Paul, Dee, Sierra and Midnight; Puja Puttagunta-Max; Joanne Titchen- Sierra; Jean Dillard- T.J. ; Rose Nielsen-Max; Susan Blakey- Sierra; Sydney Hirsch-Max; Susie Moody-Dee and Katie and Abbie West- Sierra. THANK YOU!!!!!!!



The next cat of the month is “VINCENT”, the gentle giant!

Did everyone see the beautiful fall colors? The Ozarks are known for their beauty, but this was truly breath taking! Vincent is taking an early evening stroll while T.J. is enjoying the cooler weather and the background.



Meet Richard:

As many of you know we have helped take care of the sanctuary where the five siblings parents were taken to after they were confiscated from a circus breeder. We have always hoped to be able to combine the two sanctuaries to ease the burden of having two places to take care of. With your help and support the process has begun. The first tiger we brought home is Richard. Richard, whom Keith and Judy helped save his life when he was a very sick cub, is now 13 years old and beautiful. Richard was born with PRAA (Persistent Right Aortic Arch) which is a developmental abnormality which affects the esophagus. The esophagus gets

trapped between the right aortic arch ligature and the heart. This prevents the function of the esophagus, restricting food passage to the stomach. Keith and Judy became his caretakers at the end of January 1999. They had the difficult task of getting Richard's strength and body weight up for surgery at Kansas State to correct this problem or he would have never survived. They had to feed him every ½ hour, an ounce or so at each feeding, slowly increasing his amount as months went by. His food had to be ground up like hamburger so that he could swallow it. By April the vets agreed he was ready for surgery. The surgery was successful thankfully and it fixed the problem but he still needed to be watched for any complications. The aftercare was just as grueling as the pre op care. Richard still had to eat smaller pieces of food, but not as often. Day by day he was getting stronger and stronger. Finally he was strong enough to go back to the sanctuary to live out his life with the hopes of him coming back to us one day. Richard is slowly acclimating to his new world and is adjusting wonderfully. He greets us with a chuff every morning and he has started wondering why the other guys are having visitors. Occasionally we catch him peeking over the hill to see what is going on.

Our endeavor is not easy. We need funding for enclosures. Without the help of our wonderful supporters like you, raising funds is very difficult. Our goal is to build comfortable, safe and stimulating homes for them. Where they have grass under their feet, a warm and cozy house which can also act as a tornado shelter. Enclosures big enough for them to roam if they choose, places to hide in and pools to cool off in during the hot summers. This isn't impossible. We have the will and the heart to make this happen and with your generous help, as always in the past, the dream will come true.

We also lost a dear friend of the tigers recently Lovell Gibson. Lovell came to our facility a few years back with her cousin Dorothy Durbin. An avid tiger lover and supporter of many sanctuaries, Lovell fell in love with our tigers and we fell in love with her. Lovell lived in Illinois and had to have her cousin drive her in to Missouri. We thank you Dorothy, for assisting her. We all wish she could have seen the new facility and meet the new kids, because she would have truly enjoyed it. Lovell was an amazing, eccentric, caring soul who comes around once in a life time. We were honored to have known her and we know she will be watching over her beloved cats.

During this holiday season, please take the time to think of the joy these animals have given you and adopt your favorite big cat, all donations are tax deductible as we are a not for profit facility. Show the tiger lover in your life how much you care by donating in their name or bring them out for a visit they will never forget. We would also like to announce that Veterans visits are free, we can never properly repay them for what they have given up and for what they went through but we can try.

Don't forget to check out and like us on Facebook!



**To all of our wonderful friends and supporters we
would like to give thanks for all you do for us.**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE