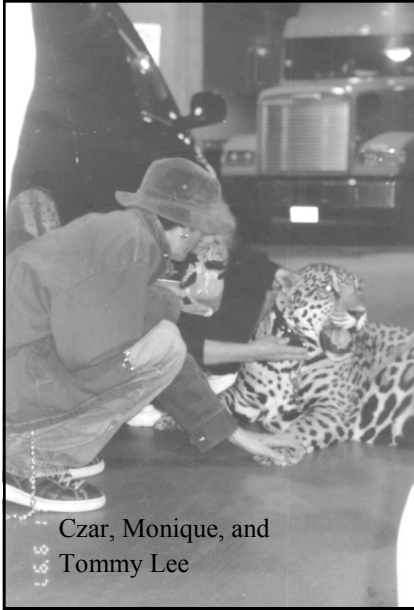


CAT PURRS

The Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage
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Volume 2 Phone: 409-423-4847

Message from the Director



Czar, Monique, and
Tommy Lee

Hello everyone,

Here it is... May already. Where have the weeks and months gone?? They sure have flown by. Everything is turning **green** with **flowers** sticking their heads out of the ground for a **peek at the sun**. The **cleaning, weeding and mowing** are a **six day a week** chore. It has been in the **80s** for the last month here. For the last week we have been having a nice breeze. (thank goodness) If we didn't have such **high humidity**, our weather would be nice.

Well I know everyone has been wanting to know about **Princess and her eyes..!** She had an **operation**

on one eye. They didn't want to do both of them at once because the length of time she would have to be under **anesthesia**. The **one eye** seems to be **doing great**. They operated on her **worse eye...** She **doesn't seem to know what to do**, since she now has **some sight** and can see everything **clearly**. She is **exploring, smelling flowers, running and playing like a normal cat** should. She no longer **runs into trees and fencing** and carries her favorite toy around in her mouth. She is definitely a very **happy cat**. Our most **heartfelt thanks** go out to all of our **readers** who made her **eye surgery possible**, may **God bless** each and every one of you.

When I see these **abused cats** it **breaks my heart**, and I know that it breaks yours also. I sometimes wonder why **God called me** to see and handle so much **heartbreak**. I know **God** gave me the life I was intended to have... a life filled with **sorrow and blessings**. Every morning I say hello to him and **give thanks** for everything. Sometimes I look in the mirror and say **who are you?** I think of my life **23 years** ago and can't believe in the **change over the years**. I've always been told **everything happens for a reason**. Over the years I **no longer question** the reasons and just accept the daily way of life.

I can never put my **gratitude** into words how much your **support over the years and now** have meant to the animals here at the **Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage**. Your **prayers and donations** have kept us going. Each animal life here depends on your **generous donations** for their food and **medical expenses**. I know its hard on everyone right now to send your **hard earned cash** and to decide which **organization** to donate to.

We aren't close to a big city or town and that makes it hard to keep **awareness** about our **needs** to people. That **makes your support** even more needed and **precious** to our animals here at the **sanctuary**.

With our **humidity** and **heat rising**, our **electric bill** is going to start **doubling**, as we turn on the big cat's fans to keep them cool. We usually have a **hard time** keeping volunteers during the summer because of our **extreme heat**. The **Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage** has now been **open to God's magnificent** animals for **22 years**.

We have more **hard times** than easy times and have made a lot of **wonderful friends** over the years. Even with all the hard work, I **wouldn't change** anything about my life here at the **sanctuary**. With summer coming on we will need your **generous support** even more to keep our animals **safe and comfortable**.

I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you. I really **enjoy** your little **notes and letters**. I don't have time to answer them personally, but **thank all of you** for caring. Hopefully one day there will be no need for sanctuaries such as the **Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage**.

It's a long, **never ending** process, passing laws in every state **forbidding** the sale of **exotic and dangerous** animals to the public. Write your **senators and congressman** expressing your objection on the sale of **exotic animals** (big cats in particular) as pets in every state. For now, we will need a place like the **Exotic Cat refuge and Wildlife Sanctuary**. **Thank you for your support**. The **animals** depend on you. I can only **take care** of them as long as I have your **support** May **God bless** each and every one of you for caring.

God Bless, until next time _____
princess on her favorite



Two Forgotten Tigers

My name is **Natasha** and my sister and best friend is **Tigger**. We were born in a **small cage** to a **woman** that **took us away** from our mother at **three days** of age. She put us on a bottle and kept us in a **small carrier**. We **had no one** to **cuddle us except** each other. We missed the **warmth** of our mother and her tongue **bathing** us. When we were six weeks old she **took us** to a man and had our **claws removed**. We **couldn't walk for several weeks** because we hurt so much. My sister, **Tigger**, got an **infection** in her **left foot** because of **unsanitary** conditions. She got very **sick** and almost **died**. They had to **cut** all but three toes off her **little foot**. I **cried** with her **day and night** as she lay **hurting** with no one to comfort **her** but me.

Eventually my feet quit **hurting** so much and so did **Tigger's**. **Tigger** will have a **permanent limp** and when it's cold her foot will **hurt** her very bad because of **nerve damage**. As we grew older we were put in **small cages on wheels** where we **lived**. We **barely** had room to **turn around**. We were let out to **exercise every few days** then put back in our **small cages**. We **dreamed** of running **free**, with **soft green grass** under our hurt feet. The grass under our feet and between our toes was an **amazing** feeling— a feeling we **longed** for, and **dreamed** about. Its **soft, wet, dry, hot and cold**, all at the same time. **Humans** take it for granted, but when you **live on cold steel**, and some hay from time to time, it's a **luxury** that can not be described.

That's how we **lived** until the **human society** found us and took us away. **We** were more **scared** than ever, because we didn't know what was going to happen to **us**. We **stayed** in our **cage** for **two weeks**, with strange people around us. They gave us some **chicken**, but we stayed **hungry** all the time. Then one day **Tigger** and **I** were loaded inside of a **big horse trailer**. We rode most of the day until we reached a place called the **Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage**. The **trailer doors** were **opened** and **two women** and **three men** were looking at us. A **lady** came **inside** the **horse trailer** and **talked** to us to tell us **not to be afraid**. The **wheels** to our cages were **broken** so they tried to fix them so we could be **moved**.

We were finally **released** into a **big new compound**, full of **beautiful grass**, lots of **trees**, and a huge **swimming pool**. I looked up and saw a **tree house** with **platforms** and **steps** that seemed to **reach** into the **clouds**. We had a **huge house** to sleep in with **toys everywhere**. **Tigger** and I couldn't **believe** our eyes. The lady told us this huge, **gorgeous** place was all **ours**. Forever. There were so many bushes to play **hide and seek** under. The **birds** in the **sky** were **singing** to **Tigger** and I. I was **sure** I was **dreaming**, but it **felt** so **real**. We heard **gentle voices**, that made us **feel** so **calm**. It had to be **heaven**, or **God** had **answered** our **prayers**.

We now had a **real home** and were **free** to roam, with plenty of **birds** to **chase**. I walked all around the **big pool deck**, then I **jumped** into the pretty, clean **water**, and my feet didn't touch the bottom it was so deep. I **swam** real fast to **shore**. The **water** felt so **good**, but **Tigger** and I had never seen so much **water** before and so deep. **Tigger** was **afraid** to **jump** in because of her foot and back but that was **okay**, I told her. I would **walk** into the **water** with her when **she** was **ready**. We **explored** our new home all day. Both **Tigger** and I **climbed** the **stairs** to the **tree house** in the **clouds**. We could see all around us. We saw **deer**, **horses**, **donkeys**, and **Tigers** next to our compound. The **three tigers** lay down next to our **fence** **watching** us. From our **tree house**, I could see **bobcats**, a lot of **tigers**, and a **home** where the **lady** lived. We **loved** our new **home**. That night **Tigger** and I had a **big bowl** each of **chicken**, **turkey**, **beef**, and **pork**. I had never had so **much** to **eat** in all my life. That night **Tigger** and I **slept** **next to each other**, not in **small**, **separate** cages. We are still getting used to our new **home**, with our **big helping** of **food** served to us **every night**, not **once** a **week**. It still **feels** like a **dream**. We still have the **gentle** voices telling us how **lucky** they are to have two **beautiful tigers** like us to **love** on every day. We want to **thank** all of you **wonderful people** who made our **dreams** come **true**. Please do not forget to help the **Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage**, so they can make more dreams come true. **Natasha and Tigger**

Please remember we need your donations so we can continue to care for our big cats.



The doctor said that **Tigger** will have to have an **operation** to transfer skin and meat over her exposed nerves so she will be able to keep walking and not become **permanently** crippled.

Mandy Gives us a Scare!

Mandy seems to **always** be in the **news**! But with a **bobcat** like her, **what else** can you expect? She is so-o-o **loving** to **Monique**, but she treats the rest of us like **we don't belong**. She's too **smart** to be a **bobcat**, but can't **walk** upright or **talk** like a **human** (yet). I keep telling her one day when **Monique** is **gone**, I'm going to put her in a **box** and **ship** her to **Siberia**. (That could be one of **Mandy's** problems) She looks at **Monique** with big **brown soft eyes**, but when she looks at us I swear her eyes turn **red with fire**. She is so **spoiled**.

I **guess** I am **harboring** things from my childhood, because I was never spoiled like she is. A few days ago it was getting **daylight** and **Mandy** wasn't in the house. She is **ALWAYS** in the **bed** before **daylight**. **Bobcats** are mainly **nocturnal**. **Monique** called her name several times and still no **Mandy**. We all went **outside** and **searched** her **compound**, outdoor **house**, and **looked** all over. Her gate was shut with no place **she** could have gotten out. **Monique** was **panicking**, to tell the truth, I **was** too. I was trying to **calm** my **mom** down, she was beginning to **cry**. This is a **bobcat** that comes at the **mention** of her **name**. If **Monique** gets up to use the bathroom or get a drink of water, **Mandy** runs inside to check on her. For the **third** time, we started our **search** of her **compound** and **house**, all over.

We **finally** spotted her **sitting** on a **ledge** at the back of her house **watching** some **skunks** scurry around. We had **never thought** to check her little **ledge** at the back of her house. **Monique** grabbed her up in her arms, **crying** and **kissing** her and letting her know how much she **scared** us. **Mandy** started **kissing** away her **tears** and **Monique** turned her around and I **thought** she was going to **whop** her, but all she did was say, "**spank, spank.**" and she **touched** **Mandy's** **hind side** with an open **palm**. **Mandy** kissed and **loved** on her some more, then, to my **disbelief**, she turned her little **butt** to **Monique** to **spank** her **again**.

Of course mom just **barely** touched her **hind side** and said, "**spank, spank**" again. I thought about when I was a kid and I **scared** her like that, I wouldn't be able to **sit down** for a **week**. Now **Mandy** makes sure **Monique** "**spank, spanks**" her every **day**. She's **spoiled** rotten. Does anyone want a **spoiled** bobcat???

Until next time, **Kim**



Yes, I want to help the big cats and other animals at the Refuge. I will send the **maximum** gift I can to:

The ECRW in the amount of \$_____. Mail to:
The Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage, CR 253 Private Drive 7925, Kirbyville, Texas 75956. Thank you for your help and generous support! Donations to the **Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage** are tax deductible for Federal Income Tax purposed, to the fullest extent of the law. To pay on the **Exotic Cat Refuge** electric bill, send to: Jasper-Newton Co-op. Account no: #65172-00, 812 Margaret Avenue, Kirbyville, Texas 75956. Phone: 409-423-2241.