



Nimmo is one of eight tigers who used to live at a roadside zoo in Colorado. YOU gave him a new life at PAWS' ARK 2000 sanctuary.

Dear PAWS Friend,

There is a big cat crisis in the U.S. and it's spiraling out of control!

Unscrupulous people are breeding tigers, lions and other big cats for profit, whether it's to exploit cubs for paid photo sessions, display them in dilapidated roadside zoos, or sell them as exotic "pets" who will languish in someone's backyard. Some will be forced to perform tricks in circuses or shows at county fairs.

These people don't care about the animals or what happens to them when the animals are no longer profitable or become too dangerous to handle, **but we do. . . and we know that you do too. We know that each life is precious and that every animal has a story to tell. . .**

• **Zeus, Apollo, and Jake** – just three of our 20 tigers – had endured deplorable conditions at an exotic animal facility in Ohio.

• **Roy, Kim and Claire**, three tiger siblings, came from a roadside zoo that was constantly breeding its animals to produce cubs for other disreputable zoos and the exotic pet trade. Their future was dark and uncertain.

• In January of this year, PAWS took in eight tigers from a defunct roadside zoo in Colorado where the public paid to handle tiger cubs and have their



Apollo and Zeus are best friends.



Alexander was once cruelly chained in a family's backyard as an exotic "pet."

pictures taken with them.

- **Black leopard Alexander** was confiscated from a home where he was kept chained in a backyard as someone's "pet." **African lion Camba** had been subjected to the cruelty of a circus in Bolivia.

And then there are the remaining aging tigers from the 39 rescued by PAWS from a roadside attraction in Colton, California. The tigers were kept in some of the worst conditions I've ever seen. Many had died before the authorities stepped in to stop this atrocity. Those still alive were neglected and starving.

All of these animals are survivors. And thanks to your support, they are now safe and thriving at the ARK 2000 sanctuary.

Never again will a tiger like Wilhelm pace back and forth in a small, dreary cage or, like black leopard Alexander, struggle against a neck chain. Here at our sanctuary they have found peace in expansive natural habitats filled with trees, bushes and natural vegetation. There are places to hide for an afternoon nap, a refreshing pool to splash in, and plenty of grass to joyfully roll in and soak up the sun.

PAWS provides safe refuge for more than two dozen big and smaller wild cats, like Robert the bobcat who was once an illegal exotic pet.

As you can imagine, providing lifetime care for big cats is expensive. That's why we're asking you to make a generous donation today.

It costs more than \$1,000 per day to provide a proper diet, daily care and veterinary care for just the healthy big cats. Individualized care and medications for our geriatric tigers is even more expensive. PAWS cares for 20 tigers! This sizable expense includes medications and important supplements that support the cats' health and improve their welfare, especially for our older animals.

- Supplements to support renal health cost \$150 per month for each one of our big cats (kidney failure is a common problem for these animals).



- Big cats with arthritis receive special supplements to ease discomfort and increase mobility, at a price of \$100 per month per animal.

To the animals, **your kind contribution means safety, care, serenity and a more natural life** far away from the pain and cruelty they once endured.

At the same time PAWS is rescuing and caring for the many wild animals at our three sanctuaries,

PAWS gave sanctuary to Marin (left), who at 18 years old was still being bred to produce more cubs for photo opportunities.

Before coming to PAWS, Camba performed in a circus in Bolivia.



we are also working hard to stop the heartless people who continue to use and abuse innocent wild creatures. This is critical to ending animal suffering.

With your help, we have already won major legislative victories that are bringing about dramatic changes for wild animals in entertainment.

- Key bans on bullhooks – weapons resembling fireplace pokers with sharpened steel points that are used to inflict pain on elephants – led to the world’s largest circus shutting down forever.
- PAWS played a role in prohibiting circuses with wild animals in New York City and actively supported the Illinois ban on elephants in traveling shows.
- We led the campaign to end the use of wild animals in entertainment in Los Angeles; the ordinance for this ban is being written right now!

Currently **PAWS is actively supporting the Big Cat Public Safety Act**, which would close a loophole in



Couch was living in horrific conditions at a breeding facility and roadside attraction. Today he enjoys a spacious natural habitat at ARK 2000.

existing federal law and end the breeding of big cats for places that charge the public to pet or have a photo taken with a cub. These babies are taken from their mothers, subjected to stressful handling, and are often punched and slapped by their handlers.

These pay-to-pet operations are revolving doors of cruelty: Once the cubs are too big and unsafe for the public to handle, they are replaced with more cubs. The young cats may be sent to decrepit roadside zoos, backyard menageries, or be killed and their parts sold to the illegal wildlife trade. (**You can help!** See the box at right.)

There are so many more wild animals in need, and many more advocacy actions are necessary to halt the terrible suffering of big cats and other wild animals in circuses, zoos, the exotic pet trade and pay-to-pet operations.

That is why we need your help today. No tiger, lion, bear or other wild animal should ever be forced to live in misery or be deprived of food, safety and the ability to engage in natural behaviors that are important to them.

Your gift today of **\$250, \$100, \$75, \$25** or even **\$5** gives abused, abandoned or retired wild animals something priceless: the better future they deserve. Donate online at http://pawsweb.org/donate_online.html

Thank you for caring about the animals. **You truly make a difference for them.**

Sincerely,



Ed Stewart
President and Cofounder

P.S. Your donation dollars go far at PAWS! From rescuing captive wild animals from zoos, circuses and the exotic “pet” trade to fighting to end the exploitation of wild animals in entertainment, cub petting operations and roadside zoos, *we work to alleviate animal suffering*. Please give as generously as you can!

The Big Cat Public Safety Act: Make One Phone Call To Help Big Cats!

Introduced by Congressman Jeff Denham of California, this bill would end the rampant breeding of big cats for pay-to-pet operations. *Just follow the simple steps below:*

1. Locate your U.S. Representative. Call (202) 225-3121 or visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>.

2. Call your Representative. Tell the aide who answers the phone that you live in the Representative’s district, and provide your zip code.

3. State the reason for your call. Simply say: “I am calling to urge the Representative to cosponsor HR1818, the Big Cat Public Safety Act. This is very important to me as a constituent because I care about animal welfare and public safety. Please take action now.”

Learn more about the Big Cat Public Safety Act at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1818/text>.



PERFORMING ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

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