



CARE News

Center for Animal
Research & Education

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Our Military Men and Women Don't Have to be Oceans Away to be Heroes

CARE recently had the pleasure of welcoming approximately 50 members of the Air Force community, who spent the entire day helping with our magnificent animals. The members of the 80th Operations Support Squadron, under the command of the 80th Flying Training Wing, are based out of Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX, and are led by Captain Tomas Wolfe and Master Sergeant Gil De La Cerda. The 80th FTW is home of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) Program. The ENJJPT is the world's only multi-nationally manned and managed flying training program chartered to produce combat pilots for NATO.

This exceptional group of airmen provided much-needed elbow grease and muscle to complete some of the larger maintenance projects. Activities included: habitat repair, construction, landscaping and cleaning, as well as facility improvements. One critical project was laying tons of sod and soil in the enclosure of one of CARE's most exotic tenants, a rare snow leopard named Arctic. The Texas heat creates a significant challenge for Arctic, but the sod will keep his habitat much cooler.

The squadron hosted a "Burger Burn" fundraiser and donated the proceeds to CARE. "The surprise donation is wonderful and will help offset the incredible cost of housing the 54 big cats who call CARE their home," said Heidi Berry, Executive Director of CARE, who thanked the men and women for all of their hard work. They continue to make a difference wherever they go. This special group of men and women has repeatedly taken on challenges in the local community. Other projects include Christmas in Action, Special Olympics, and Relay for Life.



Habitats Get Much Needed Improvements

With the help of our volunteers, CARE has embarked on a mission to improve existing enclosures. With the help of local businesses, who donate out-of-use natural gas tanks and dirt, CARE is able to improve existing enclosures at no extra cost! These tanks, when cut in half, serve as both a shelter from the weather and the heat, and as enrichment, since the cats can climb and jump on top. CARE is very excited about this crucial undertaking. Not only are the improvements cost-free, but they don't require the upkeep that the wooden boxes do. The extreme climate shift during the seasons here in Texas, coupled with the dry heat and humidity, work the wooden boxes to their limit! This new mission is a great one, and it couldn't be done without the help of our wonderful volunteers!



This picture shows a habitat that is currently under construction in the lower compound at CARE's facility.

Not Your Normal Trip to the Dentist



Many of the friends and visitors to CARE already know and love Sampson. Sammy is CARE's only male lion. He greets everyone that comes to CARE's facility with his sweet face and child-like disposition. Sammy has had a history of pain in the left side of his face and sometimes sores would even arise. CARE's volunteers and staff have often seen him favoring the right side of his mouth when eating. Although the majority of the time Sampson was asymptomatic, the pain he did experience concerned CARE's staff enough to take a closer look. So, with a lot of man power and the assistance of a unique transport cage (loaned to CARE courtesy of the International Exotic Feline Sanctuary in Boyd, TX), Sammy had a smooth trip to Dr. Bill's office.

Dr. William McGee, with the assistance of CARE's volunteers and interns, managed to position Sammy for the big exam. Although his teeth looked great from the outside, a deeper look with a series of x-rays, found an abscess near the root of his upper left canine. During the visit, a complete exam was performed and his claws, ears and teeth were cleaned. Additionally, an endoscope procedure was performed to make sure there were no abnormalities in his throat. Everything else was found to be a-ok.

Sammy is now recovering at home. He will be given a series of strong antibiotics for the next month and we are hoping for an easy cure. If the antibiotics don't work, an additional sedation and root canal will be the next step. That would not be a good day for any one, especially for a sweetie like Sammy! So, please keep Sammy in your thoughts and prayers for a quick and easy recovery. We will keep you updated!



Open Wide!

Spring Birthdays

April Birthdays:

- Allucia 4/1/06
- Luca 4/1/06
- JP 4/1/06
- Jakey 4/1/06
- Lily 4/4/2002
- Cassie 4/6/2002
- Donya 4/9/2001
- Alley 4/12/2002
- Archie 4/12/2002
- Kira 4/13/1994
- Calamity 4/21/1994
- Flash 4/22/2002

May Birthdays:

- Rascal 5/1/2001
- Zeus 5/6/1997
- Kannapalli 5/16/1999
- Lacy 5/19/1991
- Whitey 5/21/1994
- Rasa 5/24/2003
- Chika 5/30/1998
- Consuela 5/30/1998

June Birthdays:

- Fire 6/6/2005
- Tess 6/6/2000
- Serena 6/24/1996

“Wild at Heart” Retreats

Interested in spending time with some amazing animals? Come and see us for a “Wild at Heart” Retreat. Check our website www.bigcatcare.org for more information or email Sheena at sheena.keliher@bigcatcare.org.

Spotlight Adoption

Chompers is CARE's "Gentle Giant". He is one of the largest Big Cats at the sanctuary. His weight in the winter tops out at nearly 700 pounds. His gigantic teeth and dark black stripes are intimidating, but he has the spirit of a butterfly. Although he is reaching middle age for a Big Cat he continues to act like a cub. He hops around his enclosure with not a care in the world. He gets along well with others, animal and human. Although it is forbidden at CARE, it is easy to develop an overwhelming desire to walk in the enclosure and rub his belly or cuddle up with him and go to sleep.



Thank you everyone who has participated in the Texas Rangers Baseball fundraiser. The proceeds helped repair and buy new swimming pools the cats. A special thanks to Shannon Tetens.

A big thanks to local businesses, Pat's Trucking and Devon Energy, for the donation of materials that made the big cat habitat improvements possible.

Happy Birthday Babies!!!

It's hard to believe that it has already been a year! But, the day has finally come, and our resident foursome of trouble are now one year old! It seems like just yesterday when we got an interesting April Fool's joke, four cute and cuddly little cubs by the names of Luca, JP, Jakey, and Allucia. Happy Birthday boys and little girl!

Run of Spring Storms Brings Greener Days to CARE

2007 has served to be a very wet year so far for CARE. To date in 2007, we have received over 30 inches torrential of rain! North Texas has recorded the highest precipitation total for Spring (March-May) since 1957. The rain has been a relief to a very long drought that our region has been suffering from., but it also brought some problems along with it. CARE's facility has experienced persistent rain since the beginning of March, causing troublesome mud holes and flooded pens. Yet, our volunteer family has pulled us through. With the added help we have been able to level out problem pens and paths. The rain has finally let up a little bit, and as the temperatures start to rise, the facility is finally beginning to dry out. One thing is for sure, the cats have beautiful green grass to romp through! Thanks again to all of our volunteer family, for helping us get through a slippery and wet Spring!



Calamity enjoying the shade and a blanket of fresh, green grass.



Are you a Wild Heart?

Are you the type of person who walks on the wild side? Here's your big chance. You and your significant other will indulge yourselves in the mystical, magical world of CARE. This unique experience surrounds you with romance, with a touch untamed nature. The amorous ambience of soft music, wine and candles is surrounded by the roars and purrs of all of the great cats of our world.

This evening celebrating the heart of CARE will take place Saturday August 28th. A special sunset tour of the CARE facility will be provided for you and your special someone. If you have been looking for an exciting and memorable date out of the norm Wild Hearts is it.

Tickets and more details of the night's events will be available soon via the websites. If you have any questions or would like to go ahead and get on the tickets list please con-

tact Danielle Aguillard at dani.bigcatstaff@gmail.com.



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