



CARE News

Center for Animal
Research & Education, Inc.

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The Mountain Lions Have Arrived!

The Mountain Lion Project is complete and the cats have moved in! CARE is now home to four new cougars named Taz, Majanna, Beauty and Beast. The cats came from the Fejervary Zoo in Iowa that recently closed. After two long months of building, and many generous donations, the enclosure is finished, and just in time for the cats' arrival at CARE. The mountain lions are adjusting very well to their new home, and Taz even has a new adoptive parent!

The new enclosure has many platforms to climb on, cement houses providing protection and warmth for cold nights, and even a wooden bridge. They are adjusting to living outdoors full-time because at their previous home they slept inside at night. Most often Taz is perched up on the highest platform waiting to squeak at the nearest passerby. Majanna and Beast can be found curled up together in one of the small cement houses, especially after cold nights. Beauty likes her space and prefers to have an house of her own. Majanna is still getting used to the two axis deer that roam the facility and frequently stalks them through the fence. All four of the cats are chicken fanatics, but are slowly adjusting to eating other meat, also.



Thanks to all who donated, and provided their time for the completion of this project! Without your time and support it would not have become a reality. Thanks to all your efforts, Taz, Majanna, Beauty and Beast have been provided with a new home and will live out their lives at CARE.

Two win the Kid's CARE Heroes of the Year



Zoe Albert, Kids CARE Hero

That's a lot of sandals!!!!!!!!!!!!

Every year CARE recognizes outstanding efforts made by today's youth. These individuals have donated their time and efforts, and have stood out and shined above all others. They have been chosen due to their extraordinary dedication, not only as a champion of CARE, but as a champion to other worthwhile animal causes as well. As a reward for all they have done, CARE presented these young heroes with a one-year sponsorship of their favorite CARE cat and other fun stuff.

This year the decision was very difficult, so two heroes were chosen. Zoe Albert and Joe Kirkham have been awarded 2008 **Kid's CARE Heroes** of the Year.

(continued on page 2)



Joe Kirkham, Kids CARE Hero with Tinkerbell

The New Interns Have Arrived

Rachel Harris and Jami Pawlowski are CARE's newest spring interns. Rachel and Jami both graduated from Michigan State University, and have been a real blessing to CARE since January. Unfortunately, they have been forced into their positions quickly. They have gone from...hello, welcome to CARE to everyone is sick, you're on your own. Although this has been an unusual internship, it has been one of quick learning. CARE is very lucky to have such maturity and responsibility in both of the girls. They have quickly learned what a huge responsibility it is in being a caretaker in a big cat sanctuary. Rachel and Jami have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their beginning months at CARE. Come meet the interns at CARE or learn more about them on the intern part of our website at www.bigcatcare.org.

Who am I?



I am a resident of CARE. Notice my big huge black spots. I have blue eyes and a fuzzy belly. I already like to climb in trees. I have razor like claws. See the answer on Page 5.

Kid's CARE Heros.....Continued from page 1

The first 2008 **Kid's CARE Hero** winner is long time donor and CARE friend, 14 year old Zoe Albert. Zoe has hand made sandals for the past several years, raising thousands of dollars for CARE. Zoe obtains grants for materials and then makes the sandals. Zoe then sells the sandals on CARE and her own www.fauxpaws.biz websites, at the CARE sanctuary, and in boutiques in the DFW area. All of the proceeds from her sales go to CARE and other animal advocacy groups.

Our second **Kid's CARE Hero** is Joe Kirkham. This 10 year old young man of Ft. Worth, held a Fundraising event on December 23, 2008, where he raised over a \$1,000 for the Big Cats of CARE. Joe sold small specialty items such as tiger-striped balloons and leopard-spotted mini-notepads in return for small donations. Joe also went door to door pleading for corporate sponsors. Last year Joe's fundraiser raised funds for World Wildlife Fund. A special thanks must be made to Joe's cousins who helped him with his event, Daniel Metroka and Claire Metroka.

The CARE Kids are our future. We are so proud of each and every one of you who have put their best foot forward, putting others before yourselves. A special thanks also goes out to the parents and role models who have guided these young miracles in their passion to help. You are all heroes in the eyes of CARE.

CARE's Furry Friends Raise Thousands for our Kitties

Furry Fiesta was held at Crown Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas on February 20th-22nd. This generous group raised nearly \$3,000 in private donations, proceeds from a poker tournament and proceeds from their silent auction. CARE was fortunate to be chosen as the Furry Fiesta charity for 2009. Thank you new friends for making a difference at CARE.



♥ CARE Adoption Competition ♥

CARE announces a special opportunity for one lucky North Central Texan: become the “adoptive parent” of a Bengal Tiger living at the Center for Animal Research and Education (CARE) in Bridgeport, Texas. “Our tigers love having regular visitors, and they get to know you and greet you with chuffing noises,” says CARE’s director, Heidi Berry. Carol Harney, long-distance friend and supporter of CARE, has agreed to sponsor a local adoptive parent for Tess, an eight-year-old tiger who needs extra TLC. “Tess needs a friend who will come visit her often and let her know she is loved,” says Harney, a resident of Virginia. Harney is covering the “adoption” fees of \$1,200 personally. The winner of the competition will enjoy all of the benefits of being an Adoptive Parent to one of CARE’s tigers, including visiting Tess any time CARE is open. To apply to adopt Tess, please see the rules below.



* ♥ * Rules and Regulations * ♥ *

- The applicant must be 18 years or older.
- The applicant must be close enough to CARE to visit Tess approximately once a week.
 - The applicant must be able to give Tess the love she deserves.
 - All adoption fees will be covered by Mrs. Harney.
- The applicant is asked to send an occasional letter to Mrs. Harney, giving her an update on Tess's condition.

• * ♥ * How to Win * ♥ *

Submit an essay on what makes you the best suitable parent for Tess. Please send the essay to heidi@bigcatcare.org or via post to:
CARE Adoption Competition
245 County Road 3422
Bridgeport, Texas 76426

*** Deadline for Entries is 4/1/09 ***

Old Friends Get New Homes



Beautiful Bonnie



Alley and Archie await the big day!



Clyde says wow this is big!

When the babies moved to their new enclosure last October it opened up space for some of our other furry friends to get new homes. Allie and Archie moved into the babies old pen, after it received a much needed facelift. Their new, cosier home sports brand new cement brick houses, an in-ground wading pool, and a closer view of the babies in their new home. The couple warmed up to their new home immediately, and they can frequently be found curled up together in one of their houses, or looking out over the CARE compound atop one of their three platforms.

Bonnie, Clyde, Levi, and Solano, the four white tigers who used to live in the back corner of the compound, were moved up to the large front enclosure vacated by Allie and Archie.

Here they will have much more space to roam and not get in each other's way! The move took some getting used to, and there was definitely an adjustment period, but the four are doing well and loving their new home. All four of the cats can be seen perched on top of the largest house in the center, but Clyde seems to enjoy the view the best.



Levi very happy



Solano plays with his old friend....and must sleep....turn off the lights



New Cement Houses Soon to Come Thanks to Hanson Pre-cast concrete of Grand Prairie

We have been writing you all for months about the deterioration of some of the big cats' homes. We have remedied the situation by replacing housing with giant metal towers, donated by Devon Energy, and even had guests from Arizona's "Triple B Builders" come and replace some housing with concrete block housing. Unfortunately this did not cover all of the 55 cats' homes needing new shelters.

CARE was very fortunate to have been blessed with a new corporate sponsor, Hanson. This company makes a wide selection of pre-cast concrete products. It happens they have allowed CARE representatives to chose as many shelters as we need out of their 1,000's of giant structures. Heidi Berry, Executive Director of CARE said, "It was like being a kid in a candy store, everything we have been needing for so long was right in front of us".

All that is left to take care of is the trucking of these giant new homes (some weighing as much as 10 tons). CARE is presently looking for help. Please contact Heidi Berry at heidi@bigcatcare.org if you are willing to lend a hand in transport.

Thanks again Hanson, and welcome to the CARE family. We will keep everybody updated on the progress and arrival dates.

Spring Birthdays

Shila	02-21-1998
Sydney	03-17-2003
Roscoe	03-24-1992
Allucia	04-01-2006
JP	04-01-2006
Jakey	04-01-2006
Luca	04-01-2006
Cassie	04-06-2002
Donya	04-09-2001
Alley	04-12-2002
Archie	04-12-2002
Kira	04-13-1994
Calamity	04-21-1994
Flash	04-22-2002



The answer to the "Who Am I" is Tawney...

Cougars (aka, Mountain lions or Puma) have beautiful giant black spots (much bigger than leopards) when they are born. These spots slowly fade as the cat gets older. By the time a cougar is about 2 years old there is little sign they ever had spots. All baby big cats have a blue tint to their eyes, but none are more velvety deep blue than a cougar's. Cougars also are climbers. They have dagger sharp claws that help them climb to the highest of plateaus. By the way, congratulations to Paul and Sienna Hier for their recent adoption of Tawney.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____
(Required for Credit Card Donations)

Phone: _____

I wish to give a gift in the amount of \$ _____ to the Big Cats of CARE. All contributions are tax deductible. CARE is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization (ID # 03-0520301) Your donation will be put to immediate use directly to the care of 53 exotic big cats who call CARE their home. All information provided on this form will be kept safe & confidential.

In advance, thank you from all the big cats of CARE!

Enclosed is a Check in the Amount of: \$ _____

Please charge my gift to:
 Visa American Express Master Card
 Card# _____ exp _____
 3 Digit Security Code: _____ (required)
 Signature _____ date _____
 Please charge my onetime gift now.
 Please charge my account in 12 equal monthly Payments.

If you would like your funding to be allocated in a specific area of animal care please state here _____

Many thanks to those who have made a commitment to C.A.R.E.!

The Center for Animal Research & Education gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and corporations for their generous support of the Big Cats of CARE January and February 2009

Abdi Taslimi	International Caravan	Memory of Sharon Hactor
Abre Rachiel Gagnon	James and Connie Harris	Michael and Diedra Smith
Alan Ayo	Jason Ramier	Microsoft
Alexander DeMarzo	JD & Lisa Thompson	Mid American Energy
Allison Nichols	Jeffrey and Amanda Reuter	Mr and Mrs Dostal
Amanda Alvarez	Jeffrey Patton	Nicole Huking
American Unerwater Services	Jessica Lee	Patricia Nemish
Andrew and Katherine Rector	Judith Wilson	Paul and Seina Hier
Angela Sessom	Karen Bayha	Paul Gatlin and Shanda Catalano
Anthony DiAulio	Kari Kirkham	Rick and Cindy Beauregard
B D	Kathy Miller	Sandi Holzgraefe
Blythe Holzgraefe	Kathy Ward	Sean and Carol O'connor
Bryson Maryott	Kay Deli	Shawn Barr
Carol Harney	Kevin Keane	Shawn Thekkeker
Christa Leckliter	Kim Rippy	Shellie Metroka
Cristen Fowler	Lisa M.Bollinger	Sophia Montenegro
Daniel and Audrey Metroka	Little Lotus Hearts	Susan King
Derek Blakley	Lucas and Carly Altoe	The Artful Bead
Donald and Melissa Lederer	Marlene Taylor	The Resultants, Inc
Emily Merola	Marsha Little	Todd and Julie Layman
Frank and Cynthia Pawlowski	Melanie Klien	Triple B Builders
Hanson Pre-cast	Melanie Piccolo	Furry Fiesta
Houshang Banani	Memory of Sharon Hactor	Verizon



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Address correction requested