

# Executive Director's Year in Review

Making a Difference for Wildlife  
Rescue, Compassion, and Education



---

## Hello Cat Tales Wildlife Friend and Supporter,

I know traditionally, the year-end report arrives as described at the end of the year. Timeliness on my administrative tasks has always been backseat to my everyday duties here at Cat Tales Wildlife, ensuring the animals in our care have a clean and comfortable space, quality diet and medical care, detailed health and care records maintained, and stimulating enrichment to enliven their days. *Of course, one of the best enrichments our animals enjoy is the new faces and voices of the guests visiting here each year.*

From large, guided [school field trip](#) tours to one-on-one interactions with [animal feeding adventures](#), our students and volunteers educate our guests about the fantastic wildlife that resides here. The animals engage with our guests each in their own way, from a stink-eye stare down from Jynx, our [Canada lynx](#), to a stinky spray down from one of the tigers, most likely [Bengal tiger](#), Tigger, your presence, and that human element in their world is one of the best sources of enrichment we can provide. Thank you to all who have visited and shared in those moments with the animals.

**I also wanted to share with you some of the animal stories and achievements** of the past year that you may have yet to see or be aware of during your visit to our facility or our social media pages that are cause for celebration of a successful 2023.

[We nursed three orphaned pumas back to health](#) after days on their own – helping them transition to solid foods, providing veterinary care and medication, and ensuring them the best start in life in each of their new forever homes at facilities around the country.

[Two rescued wild young raccoons](#) spent their summer here off-exhibit, growing and getting healthy before returning to the wooded wilds of their birth in September. We also provided a soft-release location for a grey squirrel from the clinic at WSU.

We celebrated the Sweet 16th Birthday of our [Siberian Tigers](#), Tuga, Koshka, and Sestra, with our guests and birthday party-themed enrichments for all the animals.

Our [wolf hybrids](#) enjoyed moving into larger spaces with new panels, den areas, and platforms. Their playful antics interacting in their new spaces have garnered attention and reciprocated play from our handsome coyote, Blue.

We launched and ran our first year of **Educational Summer Camps** for kids K-7th grades, including hands-on learning with bugs, snakes, and agricultural animal rescues, as well as a visit from WSU Raptor Club's feathered ambassador great horned owl and red tail hawk.

Our [Zookeeper Training school](#) welcomed many new students to start their journey in the world of wildlife and exotic animal care, and we established student housing to make our program more attainable for those attending our school from outside the area.

We gave tours to hundreds of school-age children in our region, were featured on local programs **CraveTV** and **American Dreams**, and provided a paparazzi-free private tour to Ben Hagerty (aka **Macklemore**) and his daughter during their visit to Spokane.

[Our discounted and FREE admission programs](#) throughout the year allowed us to welcome hundreds of income-restricted individuals in our community to share in experiencing and learning about the wildlife, many of which are native to our region, creating priceless, memorable experiences.

This year's students could apply their cumulative lessons about assessing animal body mass, diet, and nutritional needs, performing and documenting daily care and husbandry, and quality of life assessments to our work's unfortunate but natural part. After monitoring bobcat Augie's declining quality of life, we bid farewell to our dear "service animal" (yes, the previous owner who placed him here referred to him as such). As a testament to our day-to-day hard work, the students celebrated his being our only goodbye in a year of otherwise healthy and happy animals.

We established the [Cat Tales, Where the Wild Things Live endowment fund](#) to invest in the future of our animals and their care. We worked with a Deer Park native and UCLA Landscape Architect Design student (with a background in zoo facility design and development) to draw up our **Master Relocation Plan**, a lofty yet achievable concept for the

future of Cat Tales Wildlife Center, and for our region's future generations of those who will visit, learn, and be inspired by the magnificent wildlife that we care for.

**That only scratches the surface of all that we accomplished in 2023. We give it our all every day, and we could not do all that we do without all that you provide.** Your visits to our facility and online sites, your sharing our story and mission, and, most importantly, your financial support have made what we do possible for over 30 years. #SupportedByYou stands for YOU, our community of friends and supporters. Thank you for making this possible. The animals here are a testament to the support you continue to provide. Happy and healthy, as we wish you this New Year.

**Grateful for our amazing community,**

Lisa Grey  
Executive Director, Cat Tales Wildlife Center  
(509)238-4126 main line  
(808)866-2260 direct cell