

the Wild Side

WINTER 2020

Volume 2020 No. 2

Newsletter of Forest Animal Rescue (formerly known as Peace River Refuge & Ranch)



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FOREST
ANIMAL
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Still rescuing during the pandemic

It would be an understatement to say that this year has been a challenge. For everyone. We are looking forward to 2021.

At the sanctuary, our funding has dropped off as donors are afraid of what will happen next. We have had to stop our international and local volunteer programs for the protection of the people and animals. Our internship program has slowed to a crawl, as the uncertainty of travel has impacted everyone.

Still, the animals need our care, and we must always find a way to meet their needs.

During the first week of October, we received a call from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. They had a bear cub that needed our help. Just as Hurricane Delta was setting its sights on Louisiana, this little bear was orphaned. She and her mother were starving, and then her mother was hit by a car. The wildlife officials knew we

Continued on page 2

Socialize with FAR: www.ForestAnimalRescue.org



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A TRUE SANCTUARY

Forest Animal Rescue (FAR) is a nonprofit sanctuary dedicated to meeting the lifetime needs of almost 100 rescued wild animals.

At FAR's state-of-the-art, 80-acre facility in the beautiful Ocala National Forest, we are 100% committed to providing each animal with:

- a spacious, natural habitat
- a healthful, natural diet
- high-quality care by staff and volunteers
- quality veterinary care, when needed
- a firm "no breeding" policy
- socialization and enrichment appropriate to each animal's preferences, and
- protection from further victimization

FAR is an internationally recognized organization, accredited by the **American Sanctuary Association**

Forest Animal Rescue
640 NE 170th Court
Silver Springs, FL 34488
(352) 625-7377



FAR is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax deductible as allowed by the U.S.
Internal Revenue Service.

Still rescuing during the pandemic (continued)

would be up to the challenge. We took off to meet their biologist halfway and brought the little bear to the sanctuary.

We named her *Gabby*

She will live in our rehabilitation habitat, away from the sound, sight and scent of people. We need to ensure that her healthy fear of humans remains intact so she can be released back into the wild in the spring.

Gabby arrived underweight, extremely malnourished and full of parasites, but she is turning around nicely. She is gaining weight and is demonstrating her ability to forage like a wild bear as she discovers the acorns, palmetto berries and nourishing treats that we sneak into her habitat when she is locked in the other side.



Gabby loves to soak in her water tank on warm days.

What about the volunteer programs?

This year has had an unprecedented impact on the sanctuary in terms of how we care for the animals.

We have a very small staff; most of our animal care is normally done with the help of interns and local and international volunteers. Our big construction projects are completed by the same volunteers, along with various college “Alternative Break” groups from across the country.

When the pandemic hit and international travel came to a halt; the first program to stop was the **International volunteer program**. These wonderful volunteers pay in advance for their lodging and meals, then work and train alongside our interns. We teach them best practices in providing for captive wild animals while they are with us, and they take the valuable lessons they learn on back to their own country when they return home – helping animals around the world.

With colleges closed and domestic travel restricted, we were forced to suspend our **Alternative Break program**. These dedicated groups of 10-40 students come together as a united force to help us build and prepare for new rescues. We have had to do without their help this year.



We temporarily suspended our **Internship program** out of an abundance of caution, but have slowly started bringing in one intern at a time now that we have reasonable quarantine protocols in place.

Another place that has hit us hard is our inability to utilize our **local volunteers**. With every new person that comes through the gate posing a potential risk to the animals and staff, we have only had a couple of well-distanced volunteer days to bring in new local volunteers. Fortunately, we have a few dedicated local volunteers that have been helping regularly for years. Those precious individuals have helped us get through this stressful time.

At the sanctuary:

Our trained staff continues to follow the guidelines and protocols outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization (WHO)

Of course, even with the small staff lately, we are paying special attention to performing all of the additional sanitizing throughout the day.

There is still limited information available regarding the spread of COVID-19 to various animal species, we are working under the assumption that many of the animals we house would be susceptible.

Combined with our usual frequent handwashing and hand sanitizer use, hand sanitizer and surgical masks are being carried by every staff member to use throughout the day, especially during food preparation and any care related to our big cats and primates – the ones most likely to be susceptible.

PAWSITIVITY

It is difficult to keep morale up when we are shorthanded and everyone has such stress in their work and personal lives....Our creative group came up with “Pawsativity”

Our team has been filling out papers highlighting our ‘pawsitive’ moments at the sanctuary throughout the week, so that we can be reminded that even though it might have been hard work, every day is a good day and all worth it

We work with variety of amazing and happy animals every day, and we have a hardworking team who are just as passionate about animals as we are.



Regarding visitors:

Although the sanctuary has never been open to the general public, we normally give limited tours. These tours are limited to four people at a time and are only available to two groups each month.

Since the tours are given while riding in our Land Rover, they are currently suspended because there is no way to ensure proper social distancing while riding in our vehicle.

However, as soon as we have determined a safe way to resume the tours, we will post them on our website and Facebook pages. Please stay tuned....

If you have any questions, please reach out to us by phone or email through our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org

More rescues underway!

The Nationwide teamwork of qualified animal rescue facilities benefits animals – again!

With everyone being so enthralled with the *Tiger King* series on Netflix, there has been additional awareness of the issues that wild animals face in captivity.

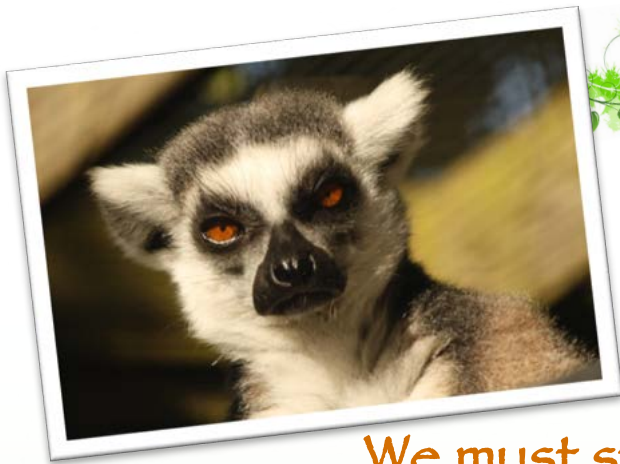
As a result, many roadside zoos and private ‘menageries’ have been closing their doors, with large numbers animals needing placement all at once.

This is fantastic news for the animals that have lived their lives facing daily exploitation and mistreatment – but it poses a challenge for the animal rescue community when we are all impacted by the pandemic.

Nonetheless, Forest Animal Rescue is still managing to rescue animals with nowhere else to go. When animals come from inappropriate captive situations, we provide them with the highest quality of lifetime care they could wish for in a true sanctuary setting.

They will never be exploited again. They will never be bred or sold and will remain with us for the rest of their lives in a natural habitat with state-of-the-art veterinary care and everything they need to live a full and happy life.

We are currently working closely with officials to rescue **five ring-tailed lemurs** that are in need of a forever home. We are not at liberty to say exactly where they are coming from, but when the legal battle is concluded, we will publish more details for you.



We must stay prepared

The story above is becoming more common. It seems like now more than ever; the general public is finally beginning to understand the issues facing wild animals in captivity.

From traveling circus acts being banned, to roadside attractions being pressured into closing, wild animals are finally beginning to get the respect they deserve.

Cub-petting operations and photo shoots are finally being seen as the tip of the iceberg, a sign of abuse that runs deeply through the wild animal trade. As the horrible places are closed down, the animals must have a place to go or they would be destroyed.

The abuse stops here...

Just as more roadside zoos and inappropriate places for animals are closing their doors, we are working to complete expansions and rescue the animals left behind. For the first time in their lives, the animals will experience a *true sanctuary*. They will be able to live out the rest of their lives in peace; knowing that the abuse and exploitation they have experienced is a thing of the past. **Will you help us?**

Will you buy the animals a cup of coffee?

One simple but meaningful way you can help the animals is to include a small amount for their care in your monthly budget. **For what you might spend on a few cups of coffee,** you can help to feed a rescued big cat, bear, monkey, bat, or wolf.



Sharing your pocket change with the animals allows us to budget for their ongoing care without sacrificing new construction and growth. Donations may be made automatically from your bank account or credit card – you can set it and forget it.

If you are one of our friends who has already signed up – *THANK YOU!*

If we continue having a few new supporters sign up for recurring gifts each month, we will stay on track with our ever-increasing cost of providing high-quality lifetime care to the animals we rescue.

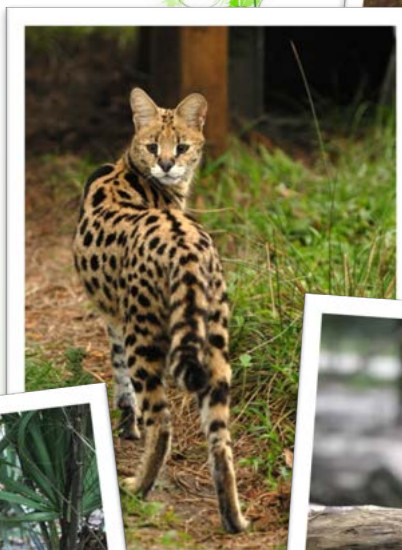
Will you help?

TO SET UP MONTHLY GIFTS ONLINE:

Simply visit our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org and give using any donate button on our site. When you check “Recurring Donation,” your gifts will be repeated automatically from your credit card, bank account. You receive an email confirmation and remain in complete control over the frequency, amount and when your recurring gifts end. We will mail you a year-end recap of your donations for tax purposes.

TO SET UP MONTHLY GIFTS BY MAIL:

Simply fill out the coupon at the end of this newsletter with your credit card information and check the box to make it a monthly gift and mail it to us. We will process it from here and send a year-end recap of your donations for tax purposes.



✦ Intern Spotlight ✦

Brannigan Hart, Animal Care intern

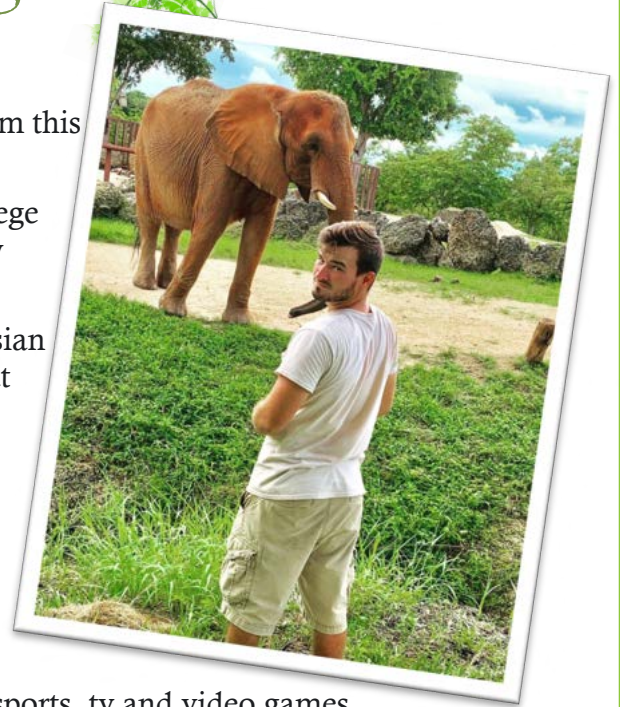
Bran began participating in our Animal care internship program this fall.

He is from Davie, Florida, attended Wisconsin Lutheran College and has a bachelor's in biology emphasizing in marine biology and zoology.

He has previously interned at Zoo Miami with African and Asian elephants (photo credit). He picked FAR because it was a great opportunity for him, he is able to get hands on experience working with exotic animals and was able to get free housing and food.

He is most excited to get experience working with the tigers and bears as well as learning about all of the different diets these animals consume.

His career goals are similar to what he's getting to do here at FAR and loves working with animals. His hobbies include sports, tv and video games.

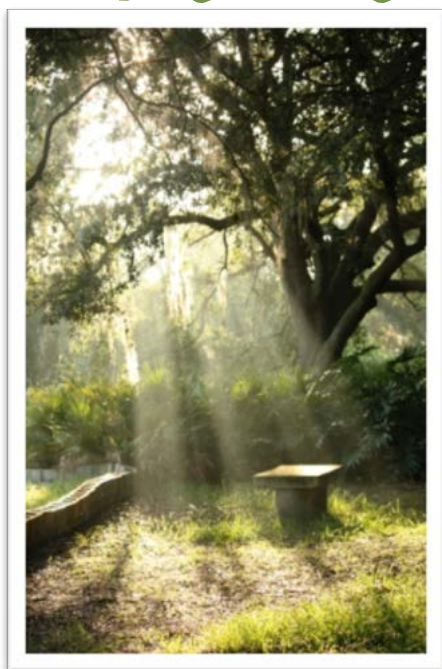


Thanks Bran for all your hard work so far, we love having you!

Want to be an intern like Bran or know someone who does?

Do you want to gain experience working with wild animals in a professional setting? If you don't qualify as an intern, you could participate in our local or residential volunteer programs! Visit our website at <http://Forestanimalrescue.org> under 'join us' to learn more and apply today!

Legacy Society



This society is created exclusively to honor and recognize people who have helped to continue our life saving work through a gift to Forest Animal Rescue in their wills, estate plans or trusts. As a Legacy Society member, you will receive a certificate of appreciation and a Legacy Society lapel pin to serve as a reminder to others of your support of our mission. Your gift can be recognized publicly, unless you prefer to remain anonymous.

If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift, please notify us so you can receive your membership perks. If you are still considering such a gift, please let us know so we can help you and your advisors complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your intention to help the animals at Forest Animal Rescue; contact us at 352-625-7377 or developent@forestanimalrescue.org

When you join the Society, you demonstrate your commitment to the prevention of cruelty to animals and help ensure the long-term strength of Forest Animal Rescue and the lifetime care of all of the animals at the sanctuary

YES - I WILL HELP!!

Winter 2020

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

! I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation to Forest Animal Rescue for \$ _____

! Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CVV Code: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Please earmark my gift: ! **General fund/Where it is needed most** ! !Animal rescue and lifetime care

! Other _____

! *Make this a recurring monthly gift, ending on (date)* _____

(One-time and recurring donations can also be made securely at ForestAnimalRescue.org)

! Please contact me to discuss a tax-deductible contribution of equipment or materials

! Please contact me regarding a planned gift to The Legacy Society

Peace River Refuge & Ranch, Inc. dba Forest Animal Rescue is a Florida nonprofit charitable corporation. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) OR www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Florida Registration CH9372. We are tax exempt under IRS 501(c)(3), EIN 65-0864695.

In a typical year,
we must raise \$300,000
to fill the gap in funding
for animal care

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Please help: ForestAnimalRescue.org

Forest Animal Rescue

640 NE 170th Ct.

Silver Springs, FL 34488



Join our email list

Make a difference



MEET THE ANIMALS

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THE WILD SIDE

www.forestanimalrescue.org

WINTER 2020

FAR Extends our deepest gratitude for support from the following
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- Shifra Shacher & Stephanie Wallace
- Gulf Coast Supply
- James Still construction
- Bev Meadows

This isn't a typical year...

2020 has been difficult for everyone, and the challenges aren't over yet.

We are thankful for our broad base of dedicated supporters. Without you, we would never be able to step up to the challenge of picking up where others leave off.

The animals still need us – we are their last hope – their last stop. With help from like-minded people, they will have *lifetime care at a true sanctuary*. Thank you so much for helping the animals!

Lisa Stoner



FAR Board of Directors:

President Kurt Stoner; Vice President Lisa Stoner, Secretary Lila Hepner, and Barry Kellogg