

Cat Tales

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CATS OF TRAGEDY JAGGER

He's Been a Rolling Stone

Jagger, a nine-year-old male tiger that had killed one of his trainers in Las Vegas is one of our newest arrivals at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center.

The facts of Jagger's past are a bit unclear, but one of the things we do know is that a little over two years ago Jagger attacked one of his trainers during a grooming session. Witnesses claim they don't know what triggered the attack. He put his paw on the trainer's shoulder, pushed him to the ground and bit him in the neck. The owner pried with his arm to get Jagger to let go of the trainer then told Jagger to go lay down. It was a lethal bite, and before the owner could get medical help the loss of blood from the neck wound proved fatal.

We aren't sure where Jagger has been for the past two years. We do know that after the accident, Jagger and his owner left the Las Vegas site, and may have been traveling around in the interim. We got a call from Minnesota asking if we could take him. We were told that he had been deserted for 6 to 8 weeks and the owner of the facility was afraid of him. She was able to feed him but unable to do any cleaning.

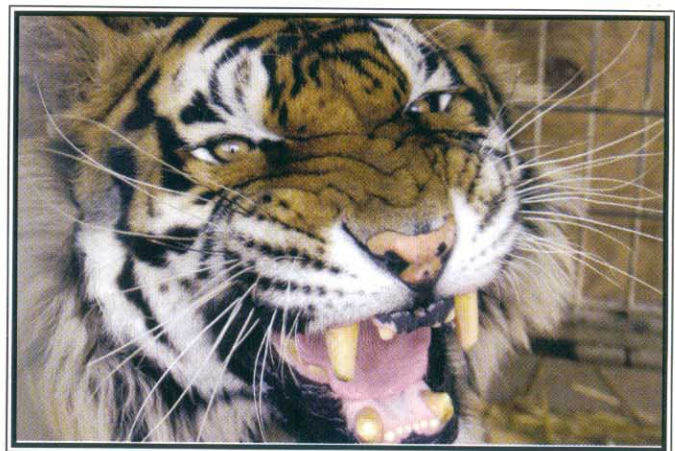
When we picked him up we found him in a small temporary cage in filth (the facility owner had no way to clean him after Jagger's owner left). He was underweight, he had drainage from one ear, he had broken teeth, his coat was dull looking, he had exposed vertebrae at the end of his tail and he had a very bad attitude, especially with men.

Within a few days we were on our way to the University of Illinois for a complete medical evaluation.

The ear was treated and abnormalities in his blood chemistry could be corrected with a good diet. The big problems causing pain were his teeth and tail. He had five broken teeth, all four canines and one incisor. He had one root canal that day and was scheduled back in two weeks for another root canal and possible amputation of the tail. After the second root canal was finished Dr. Manfra told us we could take our time on the other three. While they still need to be treated in a timely manner they were not causing him pain. The tail was beginning to heal on its own and amputation was not necessary.

Within several hours another Jagger began to emerge. Free from pain, in a temporary enclosure with a water tank his attitude has taken a turn for the better. While no one will ever go on the same side of the fence with him he no longer growls and hisses.

The outlook for Jagger is excellent. The cost for veterinary care and transportation so far has been about \$1,800.00 with three more teeth to do. While he is in a temporary area with a water tank he needs a permanent enclosure that will be bigger and allow for a more enriched environment.



Jagger showing off some of his dental work

Gabby II & Tony II

(Two more homeless cats because of tragedy)

Gabby II and Tony II came to us as a result of an unfortunate accident when their owner was killed by another tiger living in the same facility.

Accurate facts are often hard to come by when tragedy occurs. We do know that the owner had gone into the cage of two tigers for some reason. While he was tending to one the other tiger grabbed him. When authorities arrived they had to kill the two tigers in order to retrieve the body. His death left three other cats homeless with no one of experience to care for them. We agreed to take in the lioness, Gabby, and the tiger, Tony. The cougar went to another facility.

Anna

A fifth-grade boy had scratches and bite marks and was falling asleep in class. School officials couldn't believe the reason he gave: the tiger that slept in his bedroom was keeping him up at night.

When the police searched the home, officers found a malnourished 35-pound tiger cub, whom the boy called Anna. Tiger feces, urine and raw chicken were found covering most of the floors in the home. The veterinarian found sores and scars on the tiger's neck because her collar was too tight. She had a dull and dry coat, a sign of poor or inadequate diet, and borderline anemia.

The father had bought the cub legally for \$2,500.00 in Minnesota, a state with no laws regulating the sale and care of exotic animals. Even though she was purchased legally, she was housed illegally in the owner's home which was within city limits in a residential neighborhood requiring a permit for exotic animals. Also, the father had been barred from having any pets by the court in 2001 as a penalty for a cruelty-to-animals conviction.

Once confiscated, she was housed at the Humane Society until arrangements could be made for her transfer to The Wildcat Sanctuary. There Tammy Quist began the search for a permanent home for the little tiger. Upon arrival at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, Anna was introduced to three other young tigers.

Unfortunately, Anna's litter mate, named Nakita, was confiscated from Tiger Zone after biting a pregnant woman who had visited the facility. The Wildcat

Sanctuary contacted us and we agreed to take in this little tiger cub.

Ironically, the state of Minnesota has no regulations on buying, breeding, selling or caring for exotic cats, but they have one of the strictest laws if one bites – the law states that the animal must be euthanized and tested for rabies. It is our belief, along with other organizations that the animal should not have been considered for destruction. This was an animal that was born in captivity and had lived all of its life in captivity. We understand that research indicates that there have been no cases of rabies diagnosed in tigers born in captivity over the past 50 years. Further, the animal had been in quarantine for well over a month and showed no signs of rabies, and we had agreed to take it to be reintroduced to her sister, Anna.

All efforts to save Nakita were in vein. She was euthanized.



Anna

DIRECTIONS:

FROM I-70:

4 1/2 miles south of I-70, exit 23 (Brazil/Linton) on State Road 59. Turn left at the Ashboro Church and go 2 1/2 miles east on Ashboro Road.

FROM BLOOMINGTON:

Take State Road 46 west about 35 miles. Three miles past Bowling Green turn right onto 200 E. Go 1/2 mile and turn right onto Ashboro Road.

Since Last Time

NEW RESCUES:

- Madyson (serval)
- Anna (tiger)
- Jagger (tiger)
- Tony II (tiger)
- Gabby II (lioness)

MEDICAL PROCEDURES:

- Herman (tiger) neuter
- Casey (tiger) neuter
- Anna (tiger) spay
- Joey (tiger) spay
- Sumara (tiger) spay
- Jagger (tiger) complete evaluation and dental surgery – two root canals

ENCLOSURES:

- Jagger (tiger) temporary enclosure
- Tony II (tiger) temporary enclosure
- Gabby II (lioness) temporary enclosure
- Tres, Bro, Hanna, Tigger girl (tigers)

As this goes to press we are putting finishing touches on our biggest and finest enclosure yet. Besides giving these four tigers a beautiful new area it will allow nine other cats to be upgraded to better areas.

New Building

Two years ago two of our supporters bought 81 acres of land adjoining our current property for the center. This kind of donation is rare and outside our budget for normal income and expenditures. This spring another supporter and board member, Mr. Marc Robinson, has gone the extra mile and arranged for the building of a multi-purpose structure. This building will provide a veterinary clinic, office space, a break room for employees and volunteers, housing, and a room to rent to visitors.

Clinic

Having the clinic will not necessarily reduce veterinary expenses, but it will increase the quality of care for all of the cats. To do this successfully we need to equip it to accommodate our adult lions and tigers. One of the most urgent items is an anesthesia machine for large animals. Anyone interested in donating medical equipment for the clinic should contact us.

ROOM FOR RENT

Call for reservations

Come stay at the EFRC. Listen to lions roar, coyotes howl, look for wild turkeys and deer. Experience the center after hours.

The guest quarters will be equipped to house two ADULTS (no children or pets allowed for overnight stays). Two all day passes to the center and touring after hours when the cats are more active are included. There will be a microwave, small refrigerator and coffee pot for your convenience. Available mid-August.

We want to assure all of our supporters that we do not share our mailing list including membership/sponsorship information with any other organizations.

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who has given time, material, and money to help care for these deserving cats. Without your help it would not be possible.

A special thank you goes to:

Mr. Leo LaGrotte for donating a large box truck.

Volunteers Linda Clabo and Debbie Butler for helping to raise \$9,451.00 by having garage sales and arranging other fundraiser events in the Louisville area.

John Neuenschwander at John's Dental Lab in Terre Haute and Imaging Systems, Inc. for arranging for the two x-ray machines for the new clinic.

TRUCK NEEDED!

We feed 2,000 pounds of meat every day. If we bought prepared carnivore diet it would cost \$1.00 per pound. Most of our meat comes from local farmers. We pick up dead livestock from a wide area and process it ourselves for the cats. Our current truck is on its last leg. It has become very unreliable. We desperately need a reliable full size pick up truck to continue picking up livestock to feed.