

Tiger Tour Hours

Thurs-Fri: 11:00am-3:00pm

Sat-Sun: 11:00am-4:00pm

Tours every hour on the hour

Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary

19620 State Route B

Sainte Genevieve MO 63670

Program Coordinator:

Jeri Meeker

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Visit us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/tigersanctuary>

Visit us on Pinterest:

<http://pinterest.com/crtigers/>

FREE Day

July 7th is our annual FREE Day festival from 11am to 3pm. This is the only day that everyone can visit the sanctuary for free! There will be lots of games, activities, food, tiger tours, crafts and more. All the tigers will receive new enrichment items to play with and show off for the day. Enjoy a tiger tour to learn about each of our rescue cats. Check out some fun games and activities around the sanctuary. If you're hungry we will be selling food, Fizzy Izzy Root Beer floats, and snow cones in the Education center. Don't forget to visit our observation deck to get a bird's eye view of the tigers!

Upcoming Events

6/23- Feeding Tour at 1pm- Help prepare diets and feed the tigers. *Must have reservations* \$35 per person; Participants must be at least 13 years old.

7/7 FREE Day Festival 11am-3pm - Everyone receives Free admission to the sanctuary

7/14 & 15- Anyone wearing a tiger shirt receives half off admission for a general tiger tour

7/28- Feeding Tour at 1pm- Help prepare diets and feed the tigers. *Must have reservations* \$35 per person

8/4 Kid Enrichment Day- Kids help create enrichment items to be given to the tigers that day! \$10 per child or \$6 per child for groups of 3+. Ages 5-15 only

8/11 & 12- All educators receive half off admission for a general tiger tour

8/25- Feeding Tour at 1pm- Help prepare diets and feed the tigers. *Must have reservations* \$35 per person

Pugmarks

Earth Day

The sanctuary's first event of the year, Earth Day, went extremely well! We had 124 guests and made around \$650! During our event we had a small memorial for Mohan, our white tiger that passed away in December. To honor him we have placed a bird bath with his name inscribed on it in our "Paw Patch" garden. We also played a slide show of pictures with a song inspired by Mohan written by David Voss. Kids played games, made crafts, planted flowers in our garden, and enjoyed Fizzy Izzy floats. Everyone had a great time, including the tigers who snoozed the next day away. Thank you for all of our supporters who came to help us celebrate Earth Day.





Pugmarks

New Staff

We are very excited to welcome back Caroline Aldenderfer, an intern from last summer, as an official CRTS staff member! Caroline completed an internship with the sanctuary last summer, graduated college, and will now be a wonderful addition to our team. As a staff of only four people, we must work together closely, communicate, and trust each member of our team. Each staff member is committed to the safety of the animals, staff, and guests along with the betterment of the sanctuary. With only four people to run a sanctuary, our jobs vary from day to day. On any given day we could be doing tours, cleaning, preparing diets, processing meat, ground maintenance, running the Welcome Center, creating enrichment for the cats, events, Educational tours, public outreach and much more! With all of these different tasks it helps that each staff member comes from a different background.

Jeri Meeker – Program Coordinator

Jeri has a Bachelor's degree in Zoology and a minor in English. She has about 12 years of animal keeping experience that she has gained from several places such as the Denver Zoo and the North Carolina Zoo. Jeri came to the sanctuary in 2009 and has since expanded our program tremendously. Lions, tigers, chimps, giraffes, and wild dogs are just a few of the animals she has worked with.

Valerie Conaway

Valerie graduated from Truman State University with a Psychology degree and Biology minor. Since she can remember, Valerie has always wanted to work with big cats especially tigers. After visiting the sanctuary she became a volunteer and eventually an intern. Once Valerie completed her internship, she stayed on as a volunteer until she was hired January 1st of 2011. Now she updates the sanctuary's Facebook page, adds Youtube videos, writes Pugmarks, among other sanctuary duties.

Lynn Molden

Lynn has a degree in Education and taught elementary for several years. Her educational background has helped us construct a great Educational program for all ages. She has also helped us construct Educational activities for children of all ages. Lynn has worked at the sanctuary since 2009 and has helped the program grow to be what it is today.

Caroline Aldenderfer

Caroline earned a degree in Biology with a minor in Captive Wild Animal Management. She started off as a summer intern in 2011 and was thrilled to be offered a full-time keeper position in May of 2012. She has also interned at the Saint Louis Zoo, Dickerson Park Zoo and the Wolf Center. "This job is perfect for me! I get to work closely with the animals and really build a personal relationship with them."

Interns

Kaitlin Gebel

Degree: Biology emphasis in Zoology with a minor Environmental Science

Kaitlin is interested in rehabilitation of wildlife and would work with any type of animal.

Her favorite part of this internship is the hands on experience at the facility and the rescue aspect.

Abigail Lewis

Degree: Environmental Science and Biology and minor in Math

Abby is interested big cat conservation and rehabilitation.

Her favorite part of the internship is trying new things such as processing a cow. She also enjoys comparing her experience at the sanctuary to her experience as an intern at the Belize zoo. Abby also likes getting to know the cats to establish a bond.

Trisha Bianchno

Degree: Prevet and Biology major

Trisha wants to be a veterinarian but not sure what type of animal.

She enjoys getting to know each cat's personality and interacting with each cat. Trisha's favorite cat to interact with is Alexis because she is so playful.

Pugmarks

Pool Party

Unlike most cats, tigers LOVE to swim and our tigers are no exception. Izzy absolutely loves to play in the water, even when it's the middle of winter. Most of the time you will see the cats lounging in their pool with their front paws hanging over the edge. Sometimes though, these guys go a little wild. On one of our tours Izzy couldn't help but jump in and out of his pool to make HUGE splashes. He would jump out of the pool, lunge at his barrel and then jump back into the pool. He even tried making a whirl pool by running around the pool in circles. On another warm day, Thor also enjoyed a romp in her pool. As we were cleaning the yard next door, Thor jumped in her pool and completely soaked us! After that it was game on! She continued splashing in her pool and jumping in and out to soak us even more. Nothing like having a pool party with a tiger! Check out our Youtube page for a video of Thor in her pool.

Wild tigers also love to swim, whether it's a lake, river, or streams. Swimming helps keep the cats cool in the summer even after they're out of the water. Their webbed feet help wild tigers swim up to 20 miles in one day! If you have ever seen one of our tigers swim, you probably noticed that they climb in backwards. Tigers generally do not like to get water in their eyes, so our cats and wild tigers will back into the water to prevent their face from getting wet. Some tigers will submerge themselves in water for up to an hour to stay cool. So when you visit us this summer watch for any swimming tigers!



Pugmarks

Jolly Orange Photography

Leslie Brinkman of Jolly Orange Photography has kindly donated pictures of the tigers. She has volunteered at the sanctuary numerous times and taken many photos of our cats. Below are some sample pictures she has taken. You may even find some of her photos for sale in the gift shop. If you like her photos please like her Facebook page. A super big thank you for her time and help!



Pugmarks

Circus

Many of us visit the circus to be in awe of the animals and amazed at how well “trained” they are. This year, before going to the circus consider the lives these animals live. Training with animals can be rewarding for the trainer and animal when done with respect to the animal. At the sanctuary, we use operant conditioning which involves rewards and positive reinforcement. We always try to keep our sessions fun and base the length of the session on the animal’s reaction. Training helps us perform veterinary care without adding any stress the animal. Many of the animals enjoy the attention and it keeps them mentally and physically active.

Numerous circuses use scare tactics, beatings, starvation and punishment as ways to coerce wild animals to perform on cue day after day. Animals are forced to perform unnatural behaviors such as tigers hopping on their hind quarters or jumping through hoops of fire. These animals are stressed and scared and could very likely attack.

In 2011 The Ringling Brothers were given a settlement of \$270,000—for alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) dating back to 2007. This is the largest animal abuse settlement in history. Some of the charges included a lame elephant forced to perform, a baby elephant who died during a training session, and the death of a lion.

Not only are the performing and training conditions terrible but so are their living conditions. Circuses only stay in town for a few days at a time which means a lot of travel time for the animals. The USDA only requires an enclosure to be big enough for the animal to stand up and turn around but even less is required for travel. Once the animals are in cages the handlers are only required to let them out once every 60 days! Performing or being moved to a different area for even a few minutes is enough to start the 60 days over again.

White tigers are also a big attraction in circuses. Many claim they have “Royal White Bengals” or “Snow Tigers” but in reality it’s just more abuse taking place. White tigers are inbred to achieve the white coloration. A white tiger is simply a Bengal tiger with a recessive gene not a “Royal” or “Snow” tiger. Of course with inbreeding there are a lot of health issues that follow. Most white tigers are crossed eyed, have physical disabilities or physical deformities. Parading white tigers around the circus is just fueling the untrue myth of white tigers.

Despite all the abuse taking place, circuses are still as present as ever. The United States is still one of the few countries left that allow animals to perform. Circuses can provide non-abusive entertainment by continuing their human acts and by taking the animals out of the show. So this summer when you see all the flyers around town, please think twice about what these shows are.





Pugmarks

Adopt A Cat Supporters

Thank you to all of our new Adopt A Cat members! Your support helps give these cats the best lives possible!

Terry Hough
Megan Wallace
Amy & Geoff
Tammy Paneitz
Taylor Mateyka
Heena Tamakuwala
Kathryn Renshaw
Justyna Dobrowolska
Courtney Riley
Lauren Lyerla
Alan Reuter
Theresa Parker
Isaiah
Garagnani Family
Kylie McFarland
William Thomas
Mark Santamaria
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Allison Akers
Paige Wills
Alyssa Helton
Girl Scout Troop 223
Mike Burns
David McFarland
Jack Bonifant
Emily Bonifant
Christian Simmons
Colin Simmons
Logan Simmons
Adrianna Minard

Thank you!