



Annual Report

Fiscal Year

April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015



Mission:

Lions, Tigers & Bears is dedicated to providing a safe haven to abused and abandoned exotic animals while inspiring an educational forum to end the exotic animal trade.

Purpose:

- 🐾 Rescue and provide a lifetime home to a responsible number of exotic animals that have been abused, confiscated, or are in danger of being destroyed for lack of a suitable home.
- 🐾 Ensure an enriching habitat, nutritious diet and quality veterinary care utilizing the highest safety standards.
- 🐾 Collaborate with others to promote legislation to stop the exploitation and unnecessary breeding of captive exotic animals.
- 🐾 Provide educational opportunities to raise awareness and inspire change to stop the exploitation, trade and abuse of captive exotic animals.



Who We Are:

Lions, Tigers & Bears (LTB) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exotic animal sanctuary and educational facility. We are committed to providing a safe haven to abused and abandoned exotic animals while inspiring an educational forum for the public to learn about the plight of the exotic animal trade and the ways to help end the exotic animal trade once and for all.

Established in 2002, by Founder and Director, Bobbi Brink, LTB is a no breed, no kill, no sell rescue facility. As one of few exotic animal sanctuaries in the United States accredited by both the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the American Sanctuary Association, we abide by the strict standards of care set forth by these accrediting bodies, ensuring all animals in our charge are provided with the utmost care, compassion and attention. Since our humble beginnings thirteen years ago, we have grown into a model sanctuary home to over 60 animals, 19 species in total including: lions, tigers, American black bears, Himalayan black bears, grizzly bears, a mountain lion, a leopard, an African serval, bobcats and dozens of rescued ranch animals.

A Message From the Founder:

This was a landmark year for Lions, Tigers & Bears (LTB) and it would not have been possible without the support of our generous members and supporters. The year was shaped by many successes and more innocent lives being saved. Here are some of the major accomplishments from this year:

- Provided 21,060 pounds of raw meat to our cats
- Provided 52,200 pounds of fresh fruit, nuts and vegetables to our bears
- Ensured each animal at Lions, Tigers & Bears received routine veterinary care throughout the year
- Directly saved 16 innocent lives from the perils of captivity
- Assisted in the coordination and completion of 6 separate cross-country rescues, providing full medical and transportation to the animals lifetime homes
- Saved a captive tiger from a failing zoo in Greece, making this our first international rescue in Lions, Tigers & Bears' history
- Completed our newest bear habitat and the Toro Big Cat Traxx exercise area

We were the recipient of a grant that directly resulted in saving the lives of four captive-bred bears being kept in a North Carolina back yard. In May we packed the rescue hauler and headed east, to provide medical care to these bears and bring them back home to our sanctuary. Within hours of arriving home, we received a call about six more bears that were scheduled to be euthanized - this time in upstate New York. Through collaboration and quick efforts, we were able to send the rescued hauler cross country once again to save these six animals, and three others that were being seized by New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials.

This year proved to be a successful year in fundraising. We completed our capital campaign to finish construction on our newest bear habitat. We also finished making necessary renovations near our big cat habitats, which resulted in a new area to house more lions and tigers in need of rescue.

Educational visits to the ranch increased dramatically over the course of the year, meaning more and more people are becoming aware and interested in learning ways to end the exotic animal trade once and for all.

The support of the community and our "LTB family" has been, and continues to be, the backbone of our fight to save animals from the grips of abuse and abandonment from captive situations across this country and the world. For that, we give thanks with the promise to honor that support.



Sincerely,

Bobbi

Bobbi Brink, Founder/Director
Lions Tigers & Bears

A Year of Rescues & Saving Lives

At the heart of Lions Tigers & Bears' mission is saving lives. With tens of thousands of exotic animals being kept in captivity across the United States, there is a great need to have accredited sanctuaries like ours, to open up their doors and provide lifetime homes to these animals in need.

This year we were able to save many more imperiled animals from across the United States: 16 innocent lives were directly saved through our efforts. This year also marked our sanctuary's first (and certainly not our last) international rescue in our twelve year history.



A Year of Rescues & Saving Lives contin'd:



· In April 2014, we rescued a juvenile tiger seized from a celebrity in California for not having the proper license. The tiger, who we named Maverick, became the center of a court case in which his future was being determined. The courts sided in the best interest of the tiger, and deemed him a permanent resident of LTB.

· In May 2014, we rescued Albert, Cherry Bomb, Teddy and Baloo - four captive-bred bears from a North Carolina backyard. The bears became permanent residents of LTB.

· In June 2014, we coordinated the rescue and relocation of six black bears from a backyard menagerie in upstate New York. The bears were scheduled to be euthanized in early June. Through quick action and collaboration, we were able to secure a grant and raise funds to bring these bears to safety. They spent the summer in medical quarantine at LTB, while their permanent habitat was being constructed at another sanctuary in Colorado.

· In June 2014, while in New York rescuing the aforementioned six black bears, New York state officials requested our assistance in rescuing and relocating one black bear, one mountain lion and one serval from a private owner in New York. These animals were transported to safety to a sanctuary in Colorado, who offered to provide them with a lifetime home.

· December 2014, marked LTB's first (and certainly not our last) international rescue, in which we saved a tiger living at a failing zoo from Greece. The economic situation in Greece made this rescue an urgent matter, as the tiger, named Phevos, was not receiving the specialized care he required.

Habitat & Sanctuary Grounds Improvements

We made several improvements to our sanctuary grounds and finished construction on our Himalayan black bear and grizzly bear habitats. Improvements include:

- Completed grizzly bear habitat for our two rescued Grizzlies - Albert and Cherry Bomb. The bears absolutely love their new habitat.
- Completed construction on our Himalayan black bear habitat, home to Teddy & Baloo.



Albert & Cherry Bomb (below) playing in their pool.
Teddy & Baloo (left,right) enjoying their new home.



Habitat & Sanctuary Grounds Improvements

· This year we began renovations on our big cat exercise area, The McGrath Family Tiger Trails, with an addition named Toro Big Cat Traxx. This exercise area is an open air space that will allow our tiger and lion residents an additional habitat to rotate in and out of each day. The ability to rotate from habitat to habitat each day allows our animals to experience new sites, smells and enrichments unique to each habitat.



(Above) Toro Big Cat Traxx before.

(Right top & bottom) Toro Big Cat Traxx after.

Habitat & Sanctuary Grounds Improvements

- Our herd of livestock were moved to another area on the property to allow them more room to graze. We also built a night house to keep the herd safe throughout the night.



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- We've continued to make progress on installing a completed property line fence that goes around our 93-acre sanctuary.
- In order to accommodate more animals in need of rescue we created a new quarantine area. Any incoming animals are required to undergo a minimum six (6) week quarantine period to ensure no communicable diseases or parasites are passed on to our current rescued residents.
- We were fortunate to have electricity hookups installed on our Educational Kiosk.
- Renovations were completed to create a new office and conference call area.

Expansion of Educational Programs

Education is a major aspect of our mission here at LTB. Through education and action we are inspiring change. Informing the public about the perils of the exotic animal trade is crucial to achieving our over-all goal of ending the exotic animal trade once and for all.

This year we continued hosting Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops to the sanctuary. The Scouts were all eager to learn about our rescued animals, why they are here, their individual stories, and how they can help make a difference.

Along with hosting Scout troops, LTB also hosted philanthropic organizations, professional groups, senior groups, school groups and more.

Memberships to the sanctuary increased steadily throughout the year along with overall visitor numbers.

LTB also participated in many community outreach initiatives throughout the year. We are proud partners of the following organizations:

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), SoCal Combined Federal Campaign, Arizona Combined Federal Campaign, San Diego Chamber of Commerce, East San Diego County Chamber of Commerce, Alpine Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce and the Alpine Business Network.



(Left) Meatball our mascot attending a CFC event in Long Beach, CA. (Above) Day Trippers of San Diego during a visit at LTB.

Major Grants

Thank you to our partners and sponsors who generously allocated monies to LTB throughout the year to help the animals.

- \$12,000 from the San Diego County Community Enhancement Program for a new web-site and printing/mailing of educational newsletter
- \$13,000 for materials to build the Toro Big Cat Traxx
- \$3,000 IFAW materials to build the Toro Big Cat Traxx
- \$10,000 Ark Antiques materials to build the Toro Big Cat Traxx
- \$26,500 to build custom animal transport cages
- \$29,265 from the ASPCA for an emergency grant to save the lives of animals living in a backyard menagerie in upstate New York
- \$5,000 to purchase a one trip sea crate to be used for storage for animal supplies and enrichment
- \$43,000 for a two-in-one welder generator and trailer, industrial power washer and tools



Photos from the rescue sites in New York state in June 2014. This rescue was made possible through an emergency grant from the ASPCA.



(Above) one of the six bears undergoing a full physical exam, under sedation at the rescue site in New York state last June.

New Equipment Acquisitions

This year LTB was fortunate to obtain several new acquisitions that will keep us going strong well into the future. These acquisitions include the following:

- The Zoe K. McCrea 2000 Trust granted LTB funds to purchase a commercial restroom trailer. These restrooms will save us from having to rent restrooms for busy visit days and special events, as our property has only one restroom.
- Toro granted us a Toro Dingo with trencher and auger attachments. This versatile piece of equipment has helped build and maintain our animal habitats.
- A new night house for our herd of rescued livestock.
- Fully stocked our rescue hauler with tools, capture equipment and medical supplies/first aid for both humans and animals. Tools are necessary to have at our disposal on the ground at rescue sites to build cages to get the animals of unsafe places/situations.
- Two anesthesia machines, one for our surgery room and the other for our rescue hauler.
- T.S. & K.D. Glide Foundation granted LTB funds to purchase a 40' Sea Crate. This crate will be used as a much needed storage space for supplies, food and enrichment for our animals.



Advocacy

This year LTB continued our efforts to work on legislation issues both on the state and national level.

Ohio Senate Bill 310 went into full effect on January 1, 2014. Since this time, the state of Ohio has been working to enforce this necessary new legislation.

Many owners in the state chose to relinquish their animals because they were unable or unwilling to meet the new regulations. This has resulted in a plethora of animals needing new, permanent homes. Some of these animals remain in the custody of the Ohio Dept of Agriculture, awaiting rescue, or, in some cases, awaiting court verdicts in cases where the owners have challenged the new law. In either event, LTB has offered support in finding new homes for these animals as needed and when requested.

As other states consider similar legislation, we anticipate the need for safe, permanent homes in accredited sanctuaries will continue to grow.



Maddie, was rescued from Ohio back in 2013 and is now a happy resident of our sanctuary. There are an estimated tens of thousands of exotic animals being kept in captivity in the state of Ohio alone. Ohio SB 310 was enacted to regulate the private ownership of exotic animals within the state, requiring owners of these inherently dangerous animals to register their animals with the state, obtain a permit and insurance and meet minimum standards of care to ensure the well being of the animals and the safety of the public.

Fundraising

LTB had a successful year of fundraising. In addition to memberships, private donations, and our annual Wild in the Country fundraiser, we hosted numerous private events throughout the year.

- Wild in the Country 2014
- Wildlife Photography Workshop hosted by internationally published wildlife photographer, Kathleen Reeder.
- Spooky Campover 2014 was a spooktacular success, with a turnout of 40 adults and children who spent the night under the stars this fall season
- LTB was a beneficiary of an ongoing tax fundraiser by Brent Hoag, CPA, who matches up to \$5,000 in tax-filing services from new clients mention they would like their tax preparation fees to go to LTB.



(Top) Oz characters were the entertainment at our biggest fundraiser of the year, Wild in the Country on May 8, 2014). (Top Left) Happy guests enjoying Wild in the Country, (Right) Attendees from our Wildlife Photography Workshop, September 2014)



Lions Tigers & Bears - Financial Summary

FY April 1 2014 - March 31 2015

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total 2015</u>	<u>Total 2014</u>
Public Support & Revenues				
Contributions	\$ 449,835	\$ 92,256	\$ 542,091	\$ 368,339
Contributed Services & Materials	338,164		338,164	475,027
Gift Shop Sales	37,263		37,263	28,165
Fundraising	183,660		183,660	147,142
Memberships	116,803		116,803	98,632
Member Visits	66,927		66,927	76,825
Grant Income	189,097	59,405	248,502	216,400
Special Event Revenue	45,036		45,036	62,584
Special Event Expenses	-8801		-8,801	-12,851
Special Event Expenses - GIK*	<u>-1,525</u>		<u>-1,525</u>	<u>-2,610</u>
Net Special Events	<u>36,235</u>		<u>36,235</u>	<u>49,733</u>
	\$ 1,416,458		\$ 151,661	\$ 1,457,653
Revenue				
Dividends and interest	28		28	20
Released from Restriction				
Restrictions satisfied by payments	<u>239,191</u>	<u>-239,191</u>		
Total Public Support & Revenue	<u>1,655,677</u>	<u>-87,530</u>	<u>1,568,147</u>	<u>1,457,673</u>
Expenses				
Program Costs	1,012,223		1,012,223	820,512
Fundraising	124,007		124,007	115,630
Administration	183,386		183,386	150,487
Gift Shop Sales	21,447		21,447	14,604
Total Expenses	1,341,062		1,341,062	1,101,233
Change in Net Assets	314,615	-87,530	227,085	356,440
Net Assets Beginning	1,227,344	308,577	1,535,921	1,179,481
Net Assets Ending	\$ 1,541,959	\$ 221,047	\$ 1,763,006	\$ 1,535,921

Board of Directors

Along with a dedicated staff of volunteers, the mission of Lions Tigers & Bears is carried out by the following team:

- Mark Brink, President
- Bobbi Brink, Vice President
- Julie Schuettenhelm, Treasurer
- Susan Burchett, Secretary
- April Jones, Member
- Jackie Smith, Member
- Dr. David Judy, Member