



Respect For All Creatures

Animal Bio Resources for teacher-led portion of Field Trip(s)



Bandit

The coati mundi [koh-ah-tee-muhn-dee] is a member of the raccoon family, and like the North American raccoon, it is an omnivore that eats both meat and vegetation. Coatis look different than raccoons, sporting a very long snout, smaller stature, smaller eyes, shorter ears, and longer hair. But they both share tails marked with dark bands. Their long nose is rich in sensory receptors, so they have a much heightened sense of smell. Muscles enable them to curl their snout and poke into crevices in search of food. When climbing, the coati can rotate his hind feet to make coming down head first from a tree easier. Coatis can run up to 15 miles per hour, for long periods, and are excellent swimmers. There are four species of coati, all living in the New World. They are found in the southwestern U.S., Mexico, Central and South America. Coatis are diurnal, which means they are active during the day. Unfortunately, the coatis' gregarious behavior makes them appealing to many interested in owning them as "pets". But, like so many animals, coatis are not domesticated and are not easily trained. Black Pine's resident coati mundi, Bandit, arrived in August 2005 after being live-trapped by the Department of Natural Resources in Carmel, Indiana, then temporarily housed at a nearby pet store. He was very likely born in captivity and sold to someone as a pet. Whether he escaped or was abandoned isn't known. What is known is that he would not have

survived winter in Indiana without a heated shelter, so he is very lucky to have a new and appropriate home at the sanctuary.



Walter

Bobcats are elusive and beautiful cats. They are members of the small cat family, and are one of only three exotic felines who call North America home. With the short, stubby tail that gave them their name, bobcats aren't terribly athletic, at least when compared to the larger mountain lion, another of North America's wild cats. Instead, bobcats rely on excellent hearing, eyesight, and camouflage to survive. Solitary by nature, bobcats are found throughout the United States in dense woods and mountainous terrain where they can hide by day, and hunt by night. These cats are found living in Indiana, in densely wooded places. Walter and O'Malley, Black Pine's resident bobcats, both were previously kept as house pets. Walter was found by officials wandering in a city park, alone, and was

captured and relocated to the sanctuary. It was clear from his behavior he was used to human contact.

O'Malley's owner willingly sought out the sanctuary's assistance because of the terrible condition of her home and belongings after allowing a bobcat to share it for more than four years. Bobcats may live to 18 years of age in captivity, well over double the number of years a "wild" bobcat would normally live. Bobcats are carnivores, so they only eat meat. In the wild they eat rabbits, rodents, birds and other small animals. At Black Pine they eat raw deer meat, beef, pork, and poultry.



O'Malley



Zimba

Caracals, also referred to as African lynx, are small cats native to the grasslands of Africa and parts of Asia. These rare cats are very sleek and powerful hunters. Caracals sport long tufts of fur at the tips of their ears, and it is the feature that gives them their lynx nickname. They benefit from this physical feature as it helps funnel sound into their ears, and helps camouflage them while hunting in the tall grass where they live. This "radar" helps them to narrow in on rodents, and birds. In fact, one of their most effective means of hunting is to catch birds in mid-flight overhead, or to pluck them off perches in low branches. Many, many years ago, natives of Africa trained caracals as hunting companions much like Cheetahs were once trained. Likely as a result of those years of human interaction caracals are still, today, sometimes kept as household pets. Even though some refer to the caracal as a "lynx" they are in fact not classified by science as lynx. Caracals are very vocal, often quick to hiss when approached even by people they know.

Likewise, when content, they will chirp and chatter to express their mood. Caracals eat a variety of small animals in the wild, mostly birds and rodents, though they can even bring down small livestock. Zimba is a former house pet who was raised in captivity from birth. She required a new home when her primary caregiver passed away and the homeowner left to care for her was forced to move into an apartment where pets were not allowed.



Cody

Once the most widely dispersed mammals in the Americas, this species of cat is known by dozens of names including mountain lion, cougar, catamount, puma, and firecat. The history and fables surrounding cougars are still told by ancestors of many of the Native American Indians throughout this continent. Although at one time cougars lived throughout the U.S., today they are most often found in only the western states. One of nature's most powerful hunters, a cougar can bring down prey that weighs nearly 10 times its own body weight. Using strong front legs and jaws, cougars pounce to kill. The most recent reports indicate the cougar population in the U.S. is higher now than since the 1800's. Cougars are the largest of the cat family that have the vocal cord structure needed to purr, as well as the largest cat that has no stripes or spots. Incredibly, cougars can jump 30 to 40 feet horizontally and can safely jump to the ground from as high as 65 feet up. Cougars are among the most commonly kept exotic animals, and unfortunately one of the most common that require refuge when removed from homes. Cody was confiscated by wildlife officials from a man's basement, where he had lived for more than eight years. His stunted growth is

evidence of the poor nutrition he received as a young cub, which is not uncommon in captive cats kept by ignorant humans.



Chui

Sometimes called a 'black panther', leopards with black coats are those that inherit a melanistic gene that accounts for the different coat coloration. They and spotted leopards might look different, but are the same species. It's a bit confusing today what, if anything, truly separates the African from the Asian leopard. Asian leopards originated in Southeast Asia, including Indochina and the island of Java. But today those populations as well as any in northern Africa are gone. The densest populations are now found in the Congo, with additional numbers living throughout Cameroon, Angola, Tanzania, and many other South African countries. Due to poaching for their beautiful coats, as well as habitat loss in some regions, leopards are protected and many live in preserves. Leopards are the only African cats that live in both rainforests and deserts. They have the widest distribution of all wild cats. Those from different regions have developed varying coat colors, including the black leopards found in the most tropical habitats. Chui and China were both born in captivity at a private breeding



China

facility then advertised for sale in the pet trade. Before they could be sold into the hands of someone who would later determine leopards don't make good pets, Black Pine stepped in and offered them a permanent home with the other animals at the refuge. Leopards are solitary and unpredictable beings that prefer not to have a lot of human contact.



Mr. Bear

This scavenger is a North American Black Bear. Although these large creatures once roamed most of the United States, today they are found primarily throughout Canada and along the Canadian border states in the U.S. Black bears are still seen in remote areas of the south and southeast, in places like the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and as far south as Florida. Black Bears are primarily vegetarian, and they'll spend hours upon hours looking for food. When Teddy Roosevelt was President, he earned yet another interesting distinction as a great hunter. It was during one of his many hunting trips that he ultimately spared the life of a young bear cub. When the toy companies heard of this story, they introduced the very first "teddy bears" to the marketplace. Many a child's favorite companion today remains the cuddly likeness of the beautiful Black Bear. Bears can run up to 30 miles per hour, are great climbers, love berries, fish, and leafy plants. In captivity, black bears can live up to 35 years of age. Though not generally considered aggressive towards people, those protecting their young or the sick or injured have

been known to attack. Mr. Bear and Isaac are retired circus performers. They are very elderly, so are not very active and prefer to rest.



Nala

On the plains of Africa, where wild lions live, females play a critical role in the extended lion family, called a pride. They not only take primary responsibility for hunting prey, often doing so in groups, they also play mom to dozens of cubs throughout their lifetime. Male lions also play an important family role. By the age of about two years, the adult cats in a pride will help push a young male out to live a lonely few months alone. That trying time helps him build the skills he'll need to survive as an adult. The strongest will move on to find another lion pride with females to whom they are not related. By challenging older, ailing males, a new young male can take his place within the pride as a father and protector. This very structured life pattern assures genetic diversity among wild lion populations, which is one of the reasons lions are considered among the strongest of the animal kingdom. Their social lifestyle is a form of teamwork that is unique among cats. Nala is a former house pet that has lived at the sanctuary for more than 13 years. She has weight problems that are associated with veterinary procedures she underwent while still a house pet. A poorly executed declawing resulted in the ends of all of her front toes being amputated. She also suffers from a hormone imbalance related to when she was spayed as a cub. Both procedures were presumably performed by someone not trained in the correct methods for big cats.



India

Luna

Darly

Montrose

Cita

Jai

Bengal tigers are native to parts of Asia and India. Although an endangered species, there are more Bengal tigers than any other kind, with a wild population of around 5,000 to 7,000. Many people feel the Bengal tiger is the most beautiful of cats because of the vibrant orange and black stripes in their coat. What many don't know is that they sport white spots on the backside of each ear which help baby tigers to see their mothers. Without the spots, which are very visible against a black background, the stripes of a mother tiger would make them almost invisible to the blurry-eyed cubs who trail behind them.

Without human efforts to save the tigers, we may see these beautiful cats become extinct in the wild within the next 10 years.

Unfortunately because of the over-breeding of Bengal tigers in captivity that has occurred while trying to produce white tigers, primarily

for profit, the quality of genetics from most captive tigers is very poor. Zoos are unable to assist with efforts to produce Bengal tigers because of the difficulties associated with the over-breeding that has occurred, so there is no "species survival plan" currently in place for Bengal tigers. Zoos now focus their efforts to breed tigers for conservation on the more rare sub-species, including Sumatran, Indo-Chinese, and Siberian tigers.

India was born to a working circus tiger that was injured and unable to care for her young. Needing special care she was adopted by Black Pine and hand-raised. Luna, Montrose and Darly (a "tabby" whose father was a "white" tiger) were all rescued from a facility that used to be an active breeding operation, supplying cats to circuses and other commercial ventures. Unfortunately, they were found living in squalor when state officials were called in to inspect following the revocation of the facility's federal license to operate. They were rescued by Black Pine in September, 2005 while dozens of other animals were taken in by other sanctuaries in Indiana and elsewhere. Cita and Jai are the offspring of India and Caesar (now deceased) and were the last tigers born at Black Pine, in 2000, before a no breeding policy was adopted by the sanctuary.



Tarzan

An adult chimpanzee weighs around 160 pounds and has the strength of 6 to 7 adult human men. With great strength and intelligence, chimps are an amazing sight to see up close and in person. Chimpanzees, native to Africa, are an endangered species. It is still common for humans to poach chimps sometimes as a source of meat, and other times babies are taken from the wild and sold as pets. Even others die from human diseases carried into the forests. By the age of 6 or 7 years, these sweet-faced apes become very strong and intimidating. There aren't many things we do that chimps can't or won't, but one is swimming. Chimps are fearful of water because their bodies have virtually no fat which means they can't float. They inherently know they would sink like a rock, so water is not a playground for them! Enrichment, enrichment, enrichment is the challenge for keeping chimps happy in captivity. Keeping primates in captivity means a constant challenge for keepers to ensure they are stimulated and challenged, and therefore fulfilled. Imagine living behind bars in captivity, and you are imagining reality for chimps and other primates in captivity. Entertainment is crucial! Tarzan and Coby are retired performers. Their careers ended when they were adolescents, about seven years old. This is typical for chimps used for commercial purposes because by that age they are far too strong and intelligent to be safely around humans. Coby and Tarzan both became performers after their mothers were shot by poachers and they were sold on the black market. They are now in their late twenties and could live 60 years or more.



Yoda

Rhesus macaques are native to Asia. An "old world" monkey, the rhesus sports food pouches in its mouth where it can store a meal, which it will eat upon reaching safety in the treetops. These very social monkeys live in groups in the wild and conform to a rather strict hierarchy where males are dominant. Though very cute when young, within just a few years these relatively small creatures can become very aggressive and can inflict dangerous bite wounds. Most commonly used in medical research, the rhesus macaque is often seen in captivity, but makes a very undesirable pet due to an inquisitive, often destructive nature, as well as a tendency to bite and pinch. They have, though, provided some of the most important medical discoveries of all primates, including the Rh factor in blood (which derives from the Rh in Rhesus). Hanna used to be someone's pet, and she joined Yoda, also a former house pet, when her owners determined she was not a suitable companion animal. Yoda was also bred to be sold as a pet, but found refuge at Black Pine while he was still an infant. Both monkeys are now adults and they could



Hannah

live to 30 or 40 years of age.



Lisa

Lion-tailed macaques are referred to in the German language as "beard apes" These small monkeys sport a tuft of black fur at the tip of their tails, giving them their common name "lion-tailed" macaque. In the wild, lion-tailed macaques are among the most rare and threatened of primates. They are endangered due to the expansion of agriculture in their native India. Lion-tailed macaques are diurnal (active during the day) and excellent climbers. They dwell primarily in the canopy of the moist evergreen trees of the rain forest and avoid humans. They are territorial and live in hierarchal groups consisting of more females than males. Their name, lion-tailed, comes from the fact that they sport both hair tufts around their face and have tufts of fur on the ends of their tails, both similar characteristics to an African lion. Male lion-tailed macaques have a more prominent tuft on their tail than females. Lisa lived in multiple private homes before coming to Black Pine. Like other monkeys, lion-tailed macaques don't bond with multiple humans, which is just one of many reasons they don't make good pets.