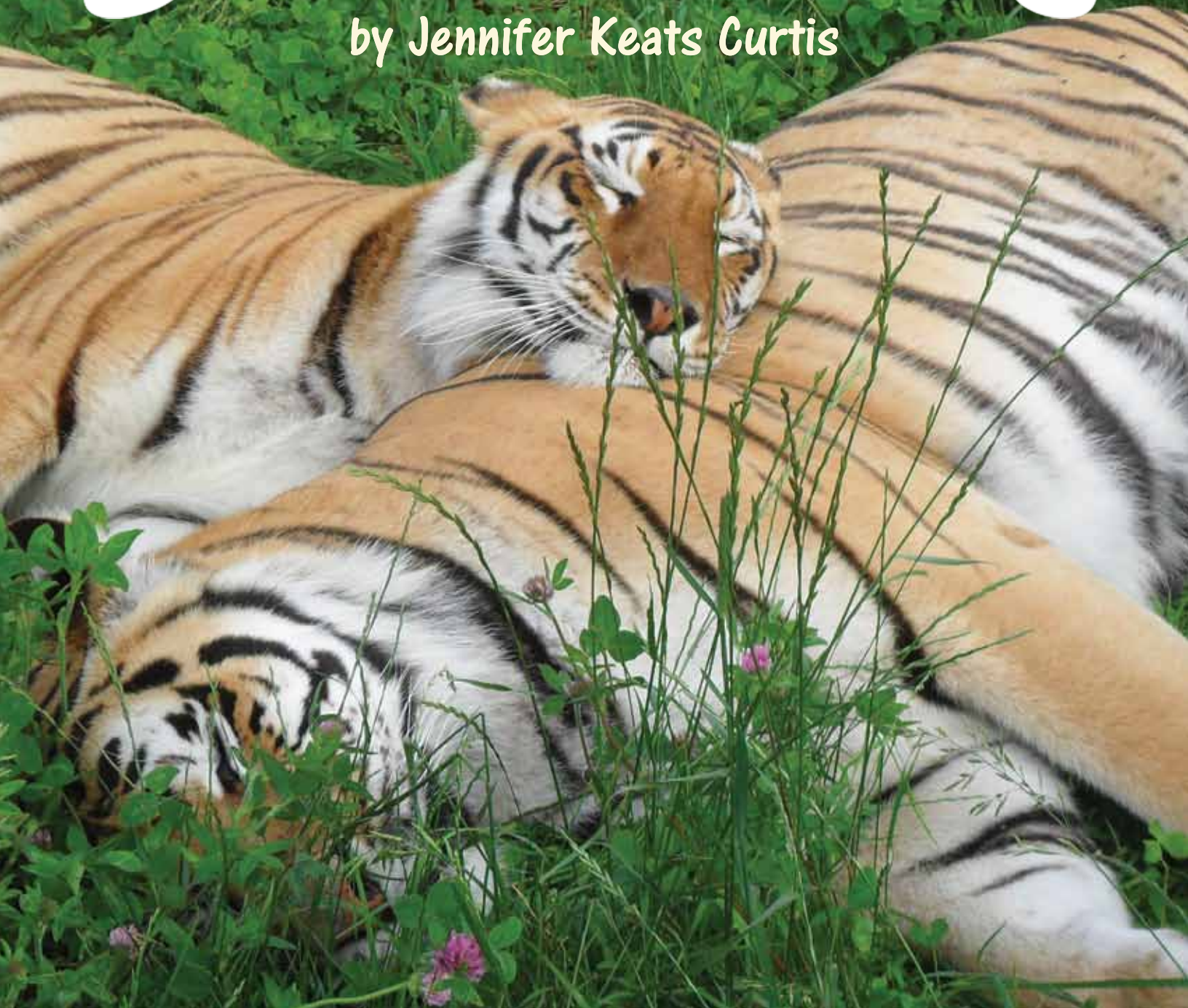


Animal Helpers Sanctuaries

by Jennifer Keats Curtis



Animal Helpers Sanctuaries

Just as tiny kittens and puppies grow into bigger cats and dogs, wild animal babies grow into adults too. These full-grown animals may no longer be cute and cuddly. Their wild instincts may kick in. They can become very large, even dangerous. What happens to these exotic pets when owners realize they can no longer care for them but they can't be returned to the wild? And what about big predators that get hurt or sick? This photographic journal takes readers "behind the scenes" at five nonprofit sanctuaries and rescue zoos, and one care farm, that have opened their doors and their hearts to desperate animals in need.

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. Whether read at home or in a classroom, we encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives. Free online resources and support at ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
 - Domestic Pet, Exotic Animal, or Farm Animal?
 - Behind the Scenes
 - Animal Enrichment
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
 - Reading Questions
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Math
 - Geography
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State and Core Standards
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Award-winning nature author **Jennifer Keats Curtis** is frequently found among students and teachers, talking about literacy and conservation. In addition to the *Animal Helpers* series, *Baby Owl's Rescue*, and *Turtles In My Sandbox* for Arbordale, some of her other recent titles include *Osprey Adventure*, *Saving Squeak: The Otter Tale* and *Seahorses*. Jennifer resides in Maryland with her family and a wide variety of pets. Visit her website at www.jenniferkeatscurtis.com.

Thanks to the following wildlife sanctuaries and nonprofits for their stories, photographs, and knowledge:

- Big Cat Rescue
- Black Pine Animal Sanctuary
- Carolina Tiger Rescue
- Safe Haven Rescue Zoo
- Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm
- The Wildcat Sanctuary

Books in this series include:

- Animal Helpers: Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Animal Helpers: Sanctuaries
- Animal Helpers: Zoos (future title)
- Animal Helpers: Aquariums (future title)
- Animal Helpers: Raptor Centers (future title)

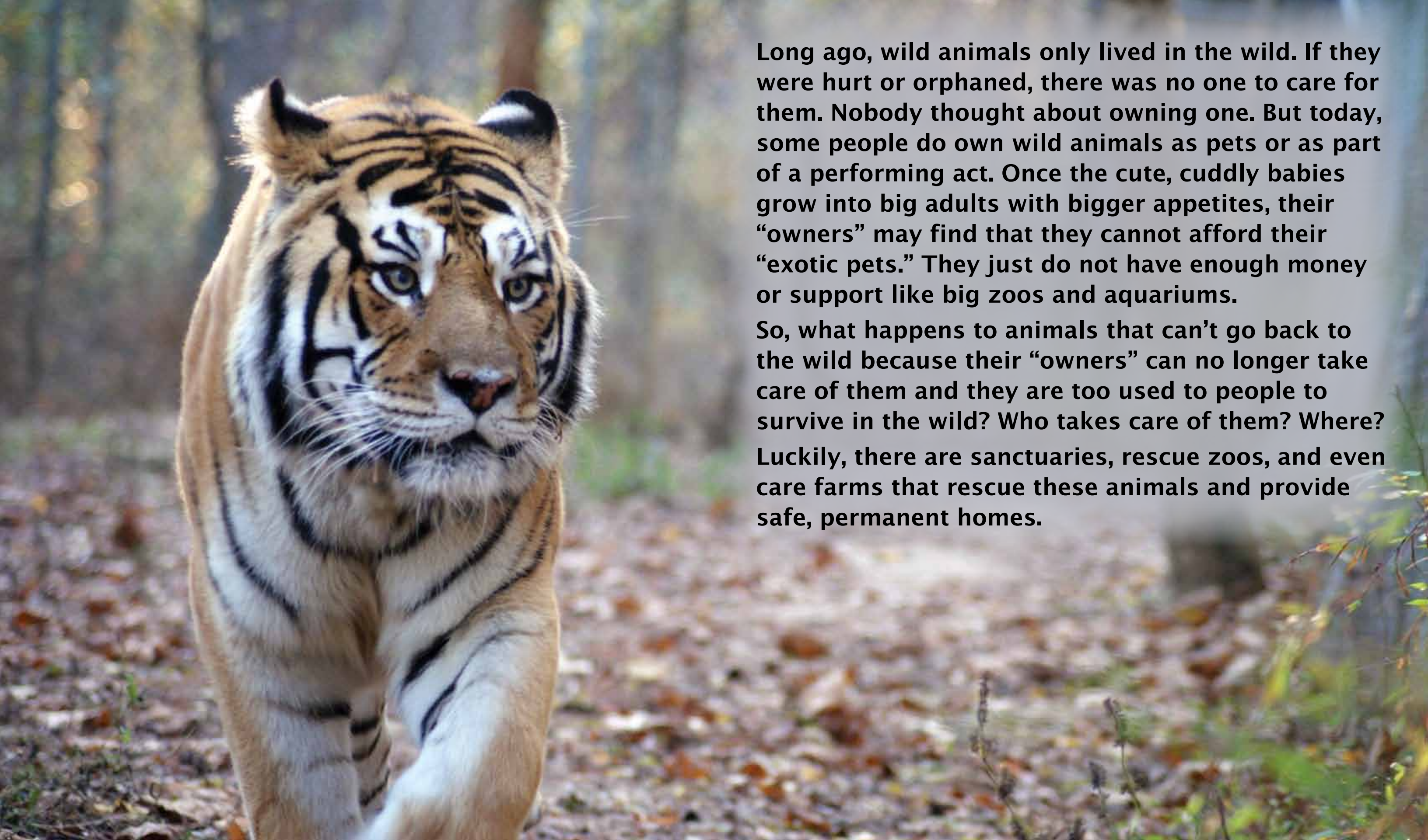


Jennifer Keats Curtis

Animal Helpers Sanctuaries

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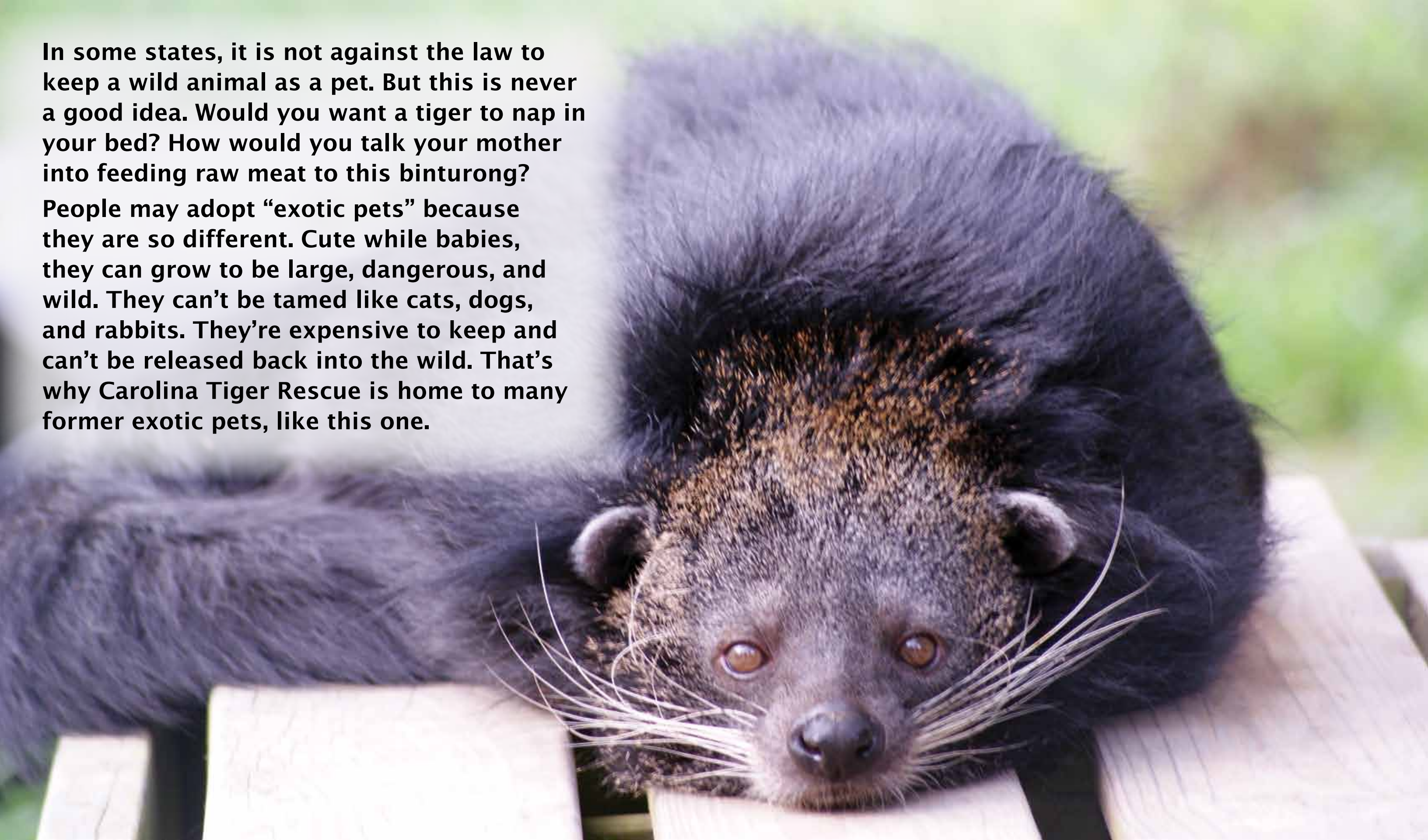


Long ago, wild animals only lived in the wild. If they were hurt or orphaned, there was no one to care for them. Nobody thought about owning one. But today, some people do own wild animals as pets or as part of a performing act. Once the cute, cuddly babies grow into big adults with bigger appetites, their “owners” may find that they cannot afford their “exotic pets.” They just do not have enough money or support like big zoos and aquariums.

So, what happens to animals that can’t go back to the wild because their “owners” can no longer take care of them and they are too used to people to survive in the wild? Who takes care of them? Where? Luckily, there are sanctuaries, rescue zoos, and even care farms that rescue these animals and provide safe, permanent homes.

In some states, it is not against the law to keep a wild animal as a pet. But this is never a good idea. Would you want a tiger to nap in your bed? How would you talk your mother into feeding raw meat to this binturong?

People may adopt “exotic pets” because they are so different. Cute while babies, they can grow to be large, dangerous, and wild. They can’t be tamed like cats, dogs, and rabbits. They’re expensive to keep and can’t be released back into the wild. That’s why Carolina Tiger Rescue is home to many former exotic pets, like this one.



Once sick and starving, tigers Lilly and Titan were rescued by The Wildcat Sanctuary. There, it seems, they fell in love. Today, the happy pair enjoys life together.





Canadian lynx Kiki no longer has claws. Her teeth are not sharp because they were filed down. Fortunately, when her “owner” became too old to care for her, she found her forever home at Safe Haven Rescue Zoo.

For Creative Minds

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Domestic Pet, Exotic Animal, or Farm Animal?

Pets are tame. They are companion animals and live with people in houses and on farms. Cats and dogs are well-known pets. Sometimes people keep exotic animals as pets. Even if people keep “exotic animals” from a young age, they still have wild instincts.

Farm animals are raised to produce food (milk, eggs, or meat) or fiber (wool) for humans.

Which animals are pets, exotic animals, or farm animals (livestock)?



Answers: Domestic Pets: cat, dog. Exotic: arctic fox, binturong, Canadian lynx, kinkajou, tiger, wolf. Farm: cow, goat, llama, pig.

Sanctuaries



Animal sanctuaries are “forever homes.” They are safe places for animals to live for the rest of their lives. The animals will be cared for and fed but will have enough room to roam so they stay healthy. But how and why do animals get there?

Animals can get hurt or orphaned. They might be hit by cars or they can be injured projecting themselves from predators. Wild animals that are unable to be returned to their native environment may live in rescue zoos, sanctuaries, or education centers.

People who adopt exotic pets don't always realize how big the animals will get or how much they will eat. Even exotic pets that are raised from babies have wild instincts. Those instincts can be dangerous to humans. By the time people realize that they can't care for adult exotic pets, the animals can no longer be released to the wild. These animals often end up at sanctuaries.

Some animals that live in sanctuaries were abused or neglected by their owners.

Circus animals and other “working” animals that can no longer do their jobs are often retired to sanctuaries.



It is expensive to rescue, transport, house, feed, and care for animals, especially big, dangerous animals. Some centers and wild animal orphanages have run out of money. There are only a few places that have the room and can afford to care for these animals.

Centers often cooperate to save money. For example, Safe Haven Recue Zoo, Big Cat Rescue, and the Wildcat Sanctuary have worked together on several rescues, saving lynx, bobcats, lions, and tigers from roadside exhibits, bankrupt wild animal orphanages, and backyard zoos.

Behind the Scenes



Many helpers are needed to care for animals that live in rescue zoos, sanctuaries, or on farms. Veterinarians, caretakers, and volunteers:

- Prepare meals, feed and water animals.
- Treat and prevent sickness and wounds.
- Clean, build, and fix enclosures and cages.
- Net, crate, and move animals as needed.
- Train animals and record health and behavior.
- Enrich animals' lives by offering different activities and foods.

Six animal helper organizations shared their stories. Can you find them on the map? Are any of these places close to where you live?

- Big Cat Rescue (Tampa, FL)
- Black Pine Animal Sanctuary (Albion, IN)
- Carolina Tiger Rescue (Pittsboro, NC)
- Safe Haven Rescue Zoo (Imlay, NV)
- Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm (Jacksonville, OR)
- The Wildcat Sanctuary (Sandstone, MN)



Animal Enrichment

Wild animals are busy animals. They can't drive to the store to buy food. They have to find their own so they ferret out which plants to eat. Or, they hunt other animals. And, they have to avoid predators who would like to eat them. They need to find safe places to rest and to sleep. But what happens to captive animals, those that live in sanctuaries or on farms? Can they become bored? To keep captive animals' minds and bodies active and healthy, animal helpers provide enrichment. Which of the following do you think might enrich the animals' lives?



Do you like to play ball? So do animals! They chase, kick, and roll on special "Boomer Balls." Big cats' noses are 14 times "better" than ours are. Campers and volunteers place spices into cardboard boxes and paper bags. They toss these to the cats who will bat them around. Sometimes the cats even kick them like a soccer ball!

Animals like playing with stuffed animals, just as you do.

Do you like to finger paint? Many animals seem to enjoy "paw painting." This tiger seems tired after painting.



Just like domestic cats, big cats like to climb and sit high so they can see what's going on. Most big cat enclosures include tall perches for cats to sit and watch the world go by. Lots of trees make it easy for the big cats to climb.

Sanctuaries provide living areas similar to animals' native environments. Much as he would in the wild, this serval has come out of hiding to pounce on his prey.

Tigers love water; they'll even take bubble baths! This makes it hard to discipline them sometimes. When big cats fight, keepers might spray them in the face with water to separate them. But that doesn't work with tigers because they like it!

Animals are sometimes housed together to keep each other company.

Thanks to the following nonprofit organizations for sharing their love of animals with us:

Big Cat Rescue, Tampa, FL: www.bigcatrescue.org
Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, Albion, IN: www.blackpine.org
Carolina Tiger Rescue, Pittsboro, NC: www.carolinatigerrescue.org
Safe Haven Rescue Zoo, Imlay, NV: www.safehavenwildlife.com
Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm, Jacksonville, OR: www.sanctuaryone.org
The Wildcat Sanctuary, Sandstone, MN: www.wildcatsanctuary.org (cover photo credit)

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