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Saving Lives through Children's Literature

The Green Author Releases Second Book in Animal Helpers Series

Mt. Pleasant, SC (February 10, 2013)—Continuing to celebrate the defenders of wildlife, the second release in the *Animal Helpers* series by Jennifer Keats Curtis, *Animal Helpers: Sanctuaries* features the work of Big Cat Rescue, Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, Carolina Tiger Rescue, Safe Have Rescue Zoo, Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm and The Wildcat Sanctuary.

Baby lions, tigers and bears are so cute, and a surprising number of them are living as pets in homes across America. Unfortunately, these wild animals quickly outgrow that darling cuddly phase and rapidly become large and often predatory, with dangerous instincts. Each of the featured sanctuaries labors, with small paid staffs and as many volunteers as possible, to provide "forever homes" for these animals after their "owners" can no longer afford or manage them.

Bringing the message of the captive wildlife crisis to our youth is such an important step in changing our future, explains The Wildcat Sanctuary's Holly Henry. "So many animals are still in need of forever homes," explains Henry, "By educating our children on the work we do, we hope to inspire them to spread the message; volunteer and perhaps even choose rescue work as a career. It is also an honor to share the pages of this book with our fellow rescuers who do such amazing work for this cause."

The staff of Carolina Tiger Rescue agrees. Like the other sanctuaries, they wrestle with the expense of to rescuing and feeding large wild animals. Each tiger can eat two to four chickens a day; while smaller cats may eat one whole one. The high cost of food is only one of the many expenses that come with maintaining the health of a tiger. They are excited to share these challenges with readers. "Our hope is that young people will fall in love with wild animals and be inspired to teach others that wild animals are beautiful, dangerous, and not pets, who deserve our respect and protection," says Pam Fulk, Executive Director, Carolina Tiger Rescue, in North Carolina.

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, whose tagline is "For the *rest* of their lives", is home to a wide variety of animals all requiring different care. Lori Gagen, executive director, shares how important it is to inform children about animal ownership. "Educating kids to use common sense, especially when making decisions about sharing their lives with animals, is so important within the scope of our mission. This book sheds light in an informative, entertaining way on the real challenges of keeping exotic animals responsibly. We were ecstatic to participate!"

While Sanctuary One, a care farm, is not home to wild animals, they were included because of their passion for caring for unwanted, neglected, and abused farm and domestic animals, many of whom are quite large. “Raising two young kids of my own here at Sanctuary One, I was thrilled to have the chance to be included in a book that will help teach other children about caring for rescued animals,” explains care manager, Sansa Collins, “I hope young readers will be inspired by this book to value all living beings and to work with rescued animals when they grow up.”

Like *Animal Helpers: Wildlife Rehabilitators* this new release is a photographic journey through the daily operations of a sanctuary. Curtis narrates readers through the incredible amount of passion and work it takes to care for these large animals. Each participant is also able to utilize the books as a fundraiser, an important part of ensuring that the sanctuary is indeed a forever home to its residents.

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 Sylvan Dell, some of her other recent titles include *Osprey Adventure*, *Saving Squeak: The Otter Tale* and *Seahorses*. Curtis resides in Maryland with her family and a wide variety of pets. Visit her website at www.jenniferkeatscurtis.com or check out her Green Author Facebook page.

Visit each sanctuary's website to learn more about their programs and conservation efforts:

Big Cat Rescue - <http://bigcatrescue.org/>
Black Pine Animal Sanctuary - <http://www.blackpine.org/>
Carolina Tiger Rescue - <http://www.carolinatigerrescue.org/>
Safe Haven Rescue Zoo - <http://www.safehavenwildlife.com/>
Sanctuary One - <http://www.sanctuaryone.org/index.html>
The Wildcat Sanctuary - <http://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/>

To schedule an interview or request more information about Jennifer Keats Curtis or the *Animal Helpers Sanctuaries* please contact Heather Williams at heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com or (843) 971-6722.

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