We hope everyone has been staying warm! It's been a decent winter here in North Texas with what seems to be recurring ice/snow storms in February. Needless to say, we think our cats prefer the warmer weather over freezing temps. A lot has happened since our last newsletter, including updates on our toy drive in December, upcoming paint auction this spring, and a new resident. However, with the exciting news comes solemn news as well.

In November, we lost PrideRock's co-founder, Gary Holliman. Not a day goes by where his presence isn't incredibly missed. It's been a hard season between the loss of Gary and the passing of Babu just a month later. We appreciate the outpouring of support and condolences as we navigate this difficult time for our team. That said, we're looking forward to a beautiful spring to come with new beginnings.
On November 24, 2022, we lost PrideRock's founder, Gary Holliman. In 1998, he and his wife, Carol, co-founded PrideRock Wildlife Refuge and he truly found happiness in helping the ones that needed the most help. Gary took great pride in the daily operations as well as raising awareness about the endangered and precious animals that came into PrideRock's care. Gary will be greatly missed and never forgotten as his family, and extended family, carry on his legacy of unconditional love and service to all, no matter the circumstances.

Gary would've wanted others to help the organization that was so close to his heart by donating to PrideRock Wildlife Refuge. We have created a fundraiser in Gary’s name, which can be found here.
We’d also like to share with you a note written by Corey Alison, PrideRock’s Lead Keeper and close friend.

To the best friend who was no-one’s buddy:

Mr. Gary Holliman lived an incredible adventure of a life from humble beginnings farming on his grandparent’s farm, to high school football star. From there he took some time and learned to be and worked as a jet aircraft mechanic. It was here that Gary was able to “stack his bread” and pay his tuition through Baylor law school to go on to become a very successful attorney, which funded yet another one of his passions: diving and free diving in the Cayman Islands with his wife, Carol Holliman.

And when it came time to settle down, Gary being the epic overachiever that he was did that in grand fashion as well and decided to do so with lions, tigers, cougars and wolves that he rescued from all around the U.S. His sanctuary was their sanctuary which we all know and love as PrideRock Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Holliman, you will be loved, cherished, and missed until we meet again in the place where enclosures don’t exist.

To read Gary’s full obituary, click here.
We’d like to introduce you to our newest resident, Wednesday! She’s a 17-year-old African Serval that had been living with her owner in Beaumont, TX for years. Recently, her owner fell into a circumstance in which they were no longer able to take care of her so he contacted PrideRock. We were happy to take her off his hands to give her the best life for the remainder of her years.

African Servals are known to be quite the vocal cats that hiss when they are excited and/or upset and she definitely let us know how she was feeling during her adjustment period.

After a few months of living at PrideRock, she has let down her guard and we’ve seen more of her sweet nature. Wednesday can be summed up as a sassy, yet sweet cat and is typically found snuggled up in a ball of hay in her house or playing with one of her new toys.

Stay tuned for more updates on Wednesday!
IN MEMORIAM : BABU

If you’ve been following us for a while, you know that Babu was our first bobcat. At the beginning of December 2022, we lost our sweet girl. Babu was approaching her third birthday, so needless to say, this loss was shocking and heartbreaking.

Sadly, we had recently learned that Babu was born with reproductive issues which had taken a turn for the worse. That said, Babu became very sick and her time to cross the rainbow bridge came all too quickly.

She came to us a small kitten, so this hasn’t been easy on our staff. Babu was playful, sweet, social – everything in which you’d imagine a young bobcat.

You could count on the pitter patter of her paws following close behind you when you walked past her enclosure because she truly loved her caretakers. Rest in paradise sweet girl.

Our organization earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency! If you’re curious to dig deeper into PrideRock, GuideStar will let you dive in and see our strategy, metrics, and achievements.
Looking to get to know the ins and outs of what it is like to run a wildlife sanctuary? Now is your chance to apply for our summer internship! Our internship duration is three months and is a non-paid position. We are always looking for enthusiastic individuals who are dedicated to educating themselves about big cats while maintaining very strict safety protocols.

We strive to help interns gain experience and knowledge about big cats in captivity. We have tigers, lions, and cougars and some of the job duties will include daily care and diet preparation, cleaning, light maintenance, and some behavioral target training.

Here are some of the requirements:

- Minimum 18 years of age
- At least 2 years of college study in a related field such as zoology, biology, wildlife management, or related field, -or- at least 1 year of job experience in a related field, such as a zoo, vet clinic, or another sanctuary.
- Able to follow detailed instructions.
- Good physical condition and health, and able to lift at least 50 lbs
- You must be drug-free
- Hard-working, able to take initiative, motivated, and dedicated

Our Summer Intern applications are now available! To learn more information or to apply, please visit our website.
Our “Santa Paws” Toy Drive was an absolute success. Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to supply our residents with several large indestructible balls, bear bells, and various enrichment toys.

All in which retailed for more than $5,000. These toys are what allows for us to keep our animals physically fit in both mind and body and keep them tapping into their natural instincts. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!

Thank you again!

DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP

As Amazon Smile fizzles out, we want to let you know that there are still ways to donate to your favorite charity while you shop. That's right, you can easily donate while making purchases by using our “round up” program.

By linking your debit or credit card through our donation software, you can opt-in to rounding up your purchases to the nearest dollar. For example, if you spend $10.59 at Walmart, your purchase will be rounded up to $11 and $0.41 will be donated to PrideRock! It's that simple!

We would appreciate your help by adding this step in the process, as you may know, a little goes a long way.
It’s that time of year again and we hope you’ve slated a place on your wall for some new animal artwork. Our residents have been letting their creative wheels turn and can’t wait to lay paw to the canvas and create new masterpieces.

That said, please mark **April 12th- April 16th** on your calendar and watch out for future emails with more details. As always, all of the proceeds that are raised from our upcoming online auction will go straight to the care and well-being of our residents.