



## 2017 Annual Report

### **Statement of Goals and Purposes, Mission and Vision**

***“To animals born in captivity and fated to be ignored and abused, I’ve dedicated this organization” – Bobbi Brink, Founder/Director***

Lions, Tigers & Bears is a no contact, no breed, no sell rescue and educational organization that allows the animals in our care the opportunity to live out their lives with dignity in a caring and safe environment.

Our goal is to provide a safe haven for these rescued animals and to educate the public about the growing population of abused and abandoned exotic animals and where they come from. Our primary concerns are for the health, comfort and safety of our animals. We will protect and provide them with a lifetime home, realizing that environment, exercise and personal attention are key to their well-being. Every attempt is made to provide healthy diets, medical care, immunizations, and whatever else is necessary for the physical and psychological welfare of each animal in our care.

**Mission Statement:** 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.

### **Strategic Vision:**

- Rescue and provide 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.

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## A Message from the Founder - Bobbi Brink

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This was a heartwarming and fulfilling year for Lions, Tigers & Bears (LTB). We continued to rescue vulnerable and abused animals in a cross-country rescue. Improvements to the ranch and facilities were numerous, the most noticeable was our completion of the *Linking Love to Lives*, multi-acre, multi-animal habitat. Today, this new habitat is home to three retired entertainment lions, who prior to their release into the new habitat, had never had the chance to run free on natural landscape with trees, rocks, water features and more.

The LTB rescue team traveled more than 6,200 miles round trip through Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Louisiana and Colorado to rescue five bears and our white tiger cub, Nola, from abuse and neglect. The bears were taken to a reputable sanctuary in Colorado, and Nola came back to LTB where she now has a lifetime home with the love and care she deserves.

Our little bobcat, Diego, was returned to LTB after a failed attempt by a northern California rehabilitation center to desensitize him to people with the hope of returning him to the wild. When it became clear that Diego could not be returned to the wild, LTB was again asked to provide him with a lifetime home. He returned to LTB in December, 2017, and we have been working to raise the funds needed to build him a larger habitat that he can eventually share with other bobcats and live out his life with companionship, and with the care and enrichment he needs to keep him happy and healthy.

Additionally, LTB accepted Moka into our care. Moka, a Bengal Tiger hybrid, was confiscated as a young cub by San Diego Border Protection officers during an attempt to smuggle him into the United States in the backseat of a car. After spending months in the care of San Diego Zoo Global and their Safari Park, Moka came to LTB where he has a lifetime home, and has been paired with Nola as a companion.

We also had a successful year with our annual special events and exclusive private events at our sanctuary. What a great way to enjoy friendly company, educate visitors, and raise funds to go towards the care and keeping of our resident animals. Both membership and visitor numbers continue to grow year after year! It is rewarding to see our continuing growth. It means that more and more people get to know our cause and understand the plight behind the exotic animal trade and what they can do to stop it.

I am pleased to share some of the details of our successes below, all of which have been made possible because of the continued support of our generous donors. Thank you all for helping to make this a **good** year for so many beautiful animals.

## **Rescues**

- In December, 2017, the young bobcat we named Diego was returned to LTB after a failed attempt at a northern California rehab center to reintroduce him to life in the wild.
- The LTB rescue team traveled more than 6,200 miles across six states to rescue a white tiger cub (Nola) and five bears from abusive and neglectful circumstances.

## **Habitat Improvements**

- Completed premier *Linking Love to Lives* multi-animal habitat with pond
- Constructed new Cougar habitat with dens, ponds, and cement transfer platform
- New concrete and steel drainage for animal bedrooms at lion enclosure
- Acquired three, new fabricated keeper wagons and one new cleaning wagon
- Reconstructed LTB property gates with efficient sliding doors
- Added new feeding rails within perimeter for all animal habitats to ensure human safety
- Constructed a new ramp for Albert, our grizzly bear with a neurological condition
- Replaced door in Sugar Bear's bedroom with a new sliding door
- Added a new cement watering bowl in Maddie's bedroom
- New cement slabs under transfer cages for Liberty, Meatball and Sugar Bear
- Added a new watering hole for Meatball
- Installed new filtration system in bear pool
- New fabricated water pump wagon for black bear habitat
- New Toro Traxx den and cement transfer platform
- New backwash pumps in lion's pond that reuses recycled water for fires/provides irrigation
- Added new sundeck platform and house for Conga
- Three new houses for bobcat habitat
- Expanded small cat habitat
- Installed new plumbing in black bear habitat

## **Ranch and Facility Improvements**

- Increased property signage
- Fiber optics installed
- New water tank erected, and large floats installed in two water tanks
- Added two new sea crates for secure, dry storage
- New flag pole placed at our entry gate
- Acquired a motor home for employee housing, and added pads for 2 more housing trailers for staff and interns
- Roof repairs made to original adobe structure and volunteer area
- New security camera monitoring screen and mount for office

## **Expansion of Educational Programs**

Education is a major aspect of our mission here at LTB. Informing the public about the perils of the exotic animal trade and about the animal victims that are part of this plight is monumental to achieving our overall goal. Our accomplishments this year include:

- Added an outdoor video area, benches, and shaded area for guests
- Gift shop improvements and added merchandise
- Added four new picnic benches for guests
- Added new educational materials
- Created educational materials for internships
- Increased number of visitors over 2016

## **New Equipment Acquisitions**

LTB benefitted greatly from new equipment purchases through the generous support of grants from the County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program as well as the County of San Diego.

- Large animal anesthesia machine for veterinary hospital
- New microchipping system
- New veterinary suction machine for hospital
- Six transfer cages re-welded and repaired
- One large, custom-designed transfer cage acquired
- One large, custom-designed squeeze cage acquired

## **Volunteers**

Lions Tigers & Bears would not be able to do all it does for the animals in our care without the support of our wonderful volunteers. We made a number of investments in our efforts to retain our current volunteers and recruit new volunteers to help support the animals in our care.

- New volunteer database software
- Increased volunteer recruitment
- Added new volunteer station with cabinets, counters and coffee area

## **Staff Development**

- Added full-time volunteer coordinator position
- Added a new contract veterinarian
- Added two, new development positions
- Added two, new animal care positions
- Offered new employee health benefits
- Conducted a multiple staff training programs in animal care and safety

## **Fund Development**

- Increased onsite educational visits
- Improved donor and constituent communication with timely e-mail communications and newsletters
- Increased Facebook followers
- Improved media outreach resulting in increased print and television news coverage of LTB activities
- Converted LTB's donor database to a more secure and robust system
- Included planned giving information on LTB's website
- More attention given to utilizing social media

## **Board of Directors**

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

- **Mark Brink**, Co-Founder, President and CEO
  - **Bobbi Brink**, Founder/Director/Vice President
  - **Julie Schuettenhelm**, Treasurer
  - **Susan Burchett**, Secretary
  - **Jackie Smith**, Board Chair
  - **David Judy, DVM**, Member
  - **April Schumsky**, Member
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**Financials - (April 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017)**

**\*\*NOTE - This is a 9 month Financial Report. Organization restructured fiscal year from April 1 - March 31 to a calendar year cycle of January 1 - December 31.**

<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Contributions	\$1,012,769	\$102,355	\$1,115,124
Gifts in Kind	181,580	-	181,580
Grants	10,550	-	10,550
Memberships	39,408	-	39,408
Member Visits	353,492	-	353,492
Fundraising	245,708	-	245,708
Special Events, net of expenses \$39,988	29,082	-	29,082
Gift Shop Sales, net of expenses \$23,453	21,183	-	21,183
Interest & Dividends	396	-	396
Net Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities	2,215	-	2,215
Net assets released from restriction by payments	297,620	(287,620)	297,620
Total Support & Revenue	2,194,003	(195,265)	1,998,738
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	1,213,028	-	1,213,028
Support Services Management & General	130,326	-	130,326
Fundraising	167,597	-	167,597
Total Supporting Services	297,923	-	297,923
Total Expenses	1,510,951	-	1,510,951
Change in Net	683,052	(195,265)	487
Net Assets Beginning of year	1,858,777	309,794	2,168,571
End of year	<b>\$2,541,829</b>	<b>\$114,529</b>	<b>\$2,656,358</b>