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What wild animal are you buzzfeed

Some 25,000 wild animals live in captivity outside U.S. zoos, which have been horribly abused. Pat Craig crouched down and stared at the tiger. The big cat locked in the green amber eyes on Craig and his shoulders hugged. Craig flattened his palms against a chain-link fence and leaned closer as the 700-pound tiger approached. The tiger brought his face inches from Craig and blew three puffs back. In tiger language, they just say hello. After this ritual, called chuffing, Craig strokes the cat's pink nose and soft forehead and moans the tiger as if his biggest itch was scratched. Hi, Ricky. Craig's voice has climbed out of the Octagon, you're a good kid, Ricky lives in a wildlife sanctuary in Keeneburg, Colorado, with 73 tigers, but the sanctuary isn't their first stop. Many of these cats live in squalid conditions while having been kept in roadside zoos, vertical studios or county fairs. Others act as breeding machines, their children are often sent out in boxes before weaning, and some are owned by private citizens who abandon them when they freak out the cute kitten steps. Bobcat named Sally, one of Pat Craig's newest tenants, was found abandoned in the parking lot of a truck stop. Tigers aren't alone at sanctuary as well: African lions, mountain lions, leopards, wolves, black bears and grizzlies, servals, bobcats, coati-mundis (they look like crosses between raccoons and opossum) — Oh and emu and camels — roaming these gentle hills. Thanks to a man, Pat Craig, who imagined getting funded and built from scratch, this 160-acre compound for unwanted exotic plants, they ate a balanced diet and received stellar veterinary care. By conservative estimates, 25,000 wild animals live in captivity outside the U.S. zoo, many of them in inhumane conditions. Owners who use their novelty for commercial reasons may have a proper legal license. And although there are laws against the sale of exotic wildlife across the state in many states, there are no prohibitions on owning, say, grizzly bears or African lions. Ricky the Tiger is among those horribly abused. He and his current pen partner Savannah were bought as cubs and then deported to a horse trailer for five years by their Oklahoma owners when they became a handful. Never with the permission of the outside, both live in their own waste. Local police confirmed that the owner removed the wildlife one way or the other. Earlier, he revealed Craig, who quickly discovered that Ricky and Savannah were malnourished and suffering from rickets-like symptoms. They also look like lions. Their hairs turn brown from all the faeces. Craig takes months to grow out. After coming to Colorado, both tigers acted like they'd killed what approached them, however. After watching the staff feed on other wild animals, the tiger began to poke its nose outside the pen. Eventually they stepped outside, they didn't want to go back in the house. We never rescue any creature with a distorted view of the world. Craig, it's crazy what people do with wildlife. Craig's concern for unwanted and abused wildlife began when he was 19, his father died two years ago, and Craig was opening a family farm outside Boulder. While visiting a friend who works in a South Carolina zoo, he learned about Surplus population - I decided that someone needed to do something about it. Craig said, and he did. He converted part of his farm into a licensed wildlife refuge with space for about ten pets. He then wrote to all the zoos in the country offering places for wildlife that no longer needed or were dying. He thought he would get a few phone calls. He received more than 300 responses within a few weeks. I feel like I opened the Pandora's Box. Then a woman working at a South Carolina zoo called him sobbing, the zoo had a seriously ill jaguar cub, but no pet care experience. He flew east and brought the baby home in a pet carrier. The freckles, which were hand-raised with milk substitutes, became founding members of the sanctuary and lived with a ripe age of 24 years. When Craig asked his girlfriend Shelley to marry him, his offer was a big condition. - Pledge to love, honor and support both him and his pet. Their two sons, Casey and Kelly, have never known life without wild reptiles. In elementary school, they tell a great story about lions and tigers and their bears. Their teachers were amazed by their imagination, Craig said. When they attended first and second grade, we decided that we had to tell the teacher that these pets were real. Over the past 27 years, Craig has responded to more than 800 requests from private citizens and government agencies to help wildlife from across the country, including Mexico. At one point, Craig took a mountain lion whose owner had broken his skull with a baseball bat. But there was no distractions more disturbing than the raid in Colton, California, in 2003, when a tiger rescue claimed to have been a retired wildlife actor from showbiz, but when state officials arrived they found 58 dead scouts in the freezer, the remains of 30 adult tigers, a mountain lion and 11 leopard cubs in the attic and 100 wild animals starving and malnourished. During the seizure, officers heard scratches in the ceiling and discovered two leopard cubs stuffed in air-conditioned pipes. They will die if they do not hear them. Craig said. With two rare black leopards, 19 tigers and a mountain lion, because the cat is so thin, Craig doesn't realize one black leopard, Gina, is pregnant. Her son Eddie came to live in Craig's house when he was one day old. Craig fears that the abused mother will not know how to raise her newborn and that Sam's father will hurt him. In no time, Eddie cements his place in family life, gets a sink every day and showers, rough with Craigs's pet bulldogs and snuggling with children at night. Gradually, he introduced leopard cubs to the outdoors, and when he was one year old, he joined eight more leopards in their three-pen compound. Now, when the 150-pound cat sees Craig, he greets him like a boring son rolling on his back and jumping up to sniff Pat's hair. While Craig earns the respect and affection of the animal, he has a close line. One of his 800-pound black bears was annoyed when Craig took a brush to his side hair, biting him through his arm and leaving him around like a tripe doll. The man sank his teeth into Craig, leaving four holes in his chest and arms. Luckily, Craig is fully recovered from both incidents, it's frustrating that Craig at his sanctuary - and 12 other refugees in the U.S. who use large mammals - can't take care of all the exotic things they need at home. One important reason: Running a wildlife sanctuary is not cheap, Craig spends between \$4,000 and \$8,000 a year to board one boat. The weekly meat cost of the sanctuary is \$6,000, all together, the annual operating budget is \$1.2 million, a staggering amount for a place that doesn't receive a little money from the government. and there's no corporate endowment or foundation for 18 years that Craig spent all his high school teaching salaries plus money from construction work in sacred sites. His wife's part-time job as an account manager paid the family bill. Finally, with the help of regular contributors and donations in kind (the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons factory gave him five miles of chain-link fencing when it closed), the company was able to find a way to make it work. Craig's sole focus became a sanctuary, 2005 was particularly crippled when relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina and Indonesia tsunami dried up, donating regularly. They started selling donated goods, brought more volunteers, encouraged people to support each pet and opened a sanctuary to the public (visitors can see wildlife from the vantage point). Their efforts stopped the financial bloodshed - in short, with 151 starving wildlife, the future of the nonprofit was always a problem. The problem is that they take them to a sanctuary. He and his staff spend about half of their time educating everyone to hear about captive wildlife. The crisis can be solved, Craig thinks, simply by making the public aware of the suffering of these tolerant animals. If people treat their owners inappropriately like outcasts, then fewer wildlife must be sacred places like ours. The happiest day of my life was the day I left business.

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