

POWERFUL PAWS - THE CELEBRATION OF OUR NEWEST TIGER ENCLOSURE September 20, 2008

A very large project in 2008 was three new tiger enclosures. Each enclosure is approximately 1/3 acre! Not only are these large enclosures difficult to physically construct but they are also a large expense. We expanded the actual refuge for these enclosures. What this means is not only did we need to construct the enclosure but we had to add exterior fencing and an access road. The exterior fence which is required by the USDA, must be at least 8 foot high and surround the entire new area. The access road is not required by law, but it is something that we need in order to check the fence line and to move large equipment for repairs or emergencies (fire trucks). We estimated that this new area will be finished at the earliest in September. Completion depends on funding, weather, and man power (in that order).

The trees were cleared, stumps removed, and ground prepared. The posts for the exterior fence, tiger fence, and barrier fence (this is the fence required to keep visitors from touching the animals) were pounded in the ground. The cost of the posts alone is already \$7,000.00. The next part of the project was bringing in loads of shale for the access road. This is a huge project but we took it one step at a time.

Work continued during April and May on the new tiger enclosures as we begin to attach the wire panels to the poles. A slight set back arose when about 15 of the posts were too far apart for the wire panels to meet. New posts need to be pounded into the ground to shorten the distance between them. Hopefully the new posts will be in place soon so that progress can continue.

After several months of working on the new tiger enclosures, we saw that the end was near. Each of the three enclosures is approximately 1/3 of an acre. These areas are much larger than where three of our existing tigers currently live. The pole pounders were back in June 2008 to correct the distances between a few of the poles that were previously pounded in March 2008. Thousands of dollars of wire was attached to the perimeter, visitor, and enclosure fences. A "work road" was made along the outside of the perimeter fence to allow large vehicles to access other areas of T&D's. Drainage pipes were placed in specific areas to allow the mountain run off to flow with ease. During July and August work continued on the dens. The cement pads were poured and the framework began. The three dens were framed and wire attached. Metal roofing was added to the sides and roof to provide more protection from the weather. Den and enclosure doors were also completed. A few trees were needed in each area to provide shade for

the tigers. We purchased 9 trees and three large pin oaks were donated by Gilbert's Garden Center in Shamokin Dam. Thank you!



"Powerful Paws", held on September 20, was the event to celebrate the opening of our newest tiger enclosure. All three tigers were moved just in time for the event. Sheena, Tyrone and Spaz each have 1/3 of an acre to roam in. These enclosures are over 4 times larger than where they were living! We were very excited to accomplish this area for these tigers. If you haven't seen this new area, be sure to visit us this coming summer. We received few donations for this project, but none the less managed to complete it.



Photo left: Powerful Paws information. Middle: Sheena in his new large enclosure. Right: Tyrone "hiding" in the grass.