

Few days ago REXANO published an editorial:

**“Why Is The Discovery Channel Producing and Airing *Jerry Springer-Like* Animal Shows on TV?”**

The Untold Story Behind the “Wild Animal Repo”, WAR, “Six Tigers” Episode.”

[http://www.rexano.org/REPO\\_Tigers.htm](http://www.rexano.org/REPO_Tigers.htm)

One of the people mentioned was Vicky Keahey, of In-Sync Exotics in Wylie, Texas. Her uncensored corrections/comments sent to REXANO are in **red print**, and posted below. Her version confirms what REXANO wrote: Scott Lope did NOT rescue six Leona, TX, tigers. The tiger owners and Vicky made the arrangements long BEFORE Scott Lope and WAR crew even became involved. WAR was just filming, while Vicky and her In-Sync crew provided the labor and equipment to get the six tigers to a new home.

Note: The Discovery WAR blog was removed before we had a chance to post this there as well.  
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**Message from Vicky Keahey, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011:**

Z,

**Fell free to post the real untold story on the blog. I tried and it told me that it could not except my data**

**Background: The Untold Story**

In May 1998, a pet cougar named Ranger bit a 4-year old boy in Wylie, Texas (Collin County). Multiple newspapers reported that the owner of the pet cougar was Vicky Marshall (now Vicky Keahey). The boy was treated in the hospital for several puncture wounds. **Ureale, the boys name had 3 wounds on his ankle where Ranger bit once trying to get the boys shoes. Ranger had only 3 canines, the fourth had been broken off. Ureale had been kicking at the fence trying to get his fathers attention. The boys shoes had red flashing lights on them making them appealing to the cougar. As ureale's father exited the cage the boy tried to come to his father. Ranger stuck his head around the gate the grab the shoes.** As required by law, cougar Roger was quarantined for 30 days 45-days at the local animal shelter as a precaution to ensure he didn't have rabies.

Animal control officers tried to impound Marshall's second pet cougar, Tahoe, as a precaution, since Tahoe and **Ranger** Roger had nose-to-nose contact, and by law, should have been quarantined for rabies as well. To prevent Tahoe being quarantined, Marshall took her pet cougar to her friends' **FLO was not and is not a friend. I had never heard of her before this incident. I came in contact with Flo through my vet who had a client that knew of her. That client got me in touch with Flo.** USDA licensed exotic

animal facility in Leona, TX. FYI when I took Tahoe to Flo's I had to scrub and bleach the cage for 3 hours before I would let Tahoe stay there. Tahoe was only there for one week.

At the time, Collin County authorities allowed residents to keep exotic pets only if they had a Federal USDA permit. Vicky Marshall supposedly didn't have the required permit and was therefore in violation of County law. Marshall was given a misdemeanor citation for this violation. I was charged \$50.00 by the same judge that awarded me custody of Ranger when he was confiscated by parks and wildlife. And the same judge that gave me permission to bring my two cougars home without the required permits.

When Marshall eventually secured her USDA exhibitor permit, so as to legally keep her pets, she was not only reunited with her pet cougars, but she also started buying pet tiger cubs as well. Marshall's first white tiger was Kiro, bought in September 1999, from the same friend in Leona, TX, that cared for her cougar during Marshall's time of need, as she sought the required USDA license. Back then, the going purchase rate for white tigers was around \$10,000. So with just two pet cougars and at least one pet tiger cub, non-profit 'In-Sync Exotic Wildlife Rescue and Education Center' was born. It was around this time Vicky Marshall got married and became Vicky Keahey. After Tahoe spent one week at Flo's I took Tahoe to another facility where Ranger eventually joined her. I left \$200.00 and 80 pounds of chicken to care for my two cats for 10 days. After those 10 days I was able to visit my cats and discovered they had not been taken care of. From the point on I drove to Bastroph every other day for the next ten days. During my visits the owners of the facility, Noah's Land had a tiger cub that clearly need vet attention. They complained that no one would buy her because she was so ugly. I purchased Kenya for \$1,200.00 brought her home and spent a few thousand dollars getting her well. This was on June 24<sup>th</sup> 1998. In September 1999 16 months after the incident with Ranger I heard from my vets client that Flo had a litter of white tiger cubs. My son and I contacted Flo for the first time since the first meeting to see if we come visit the cubs. During that visit I convinced Flo to let me bring KIRO home with me. Kiro stayed with me for 13 months before Flo contacted me ask for money for him. There was absolutely no contact with her during these 13 months. Of course I took \$10,000 from my 401-K drove to Arlington and gave Flo the money for Kiro. It was after I brought Kenya home that In-Sync Exotics was born. Knowing that I could do a better job caring for exotic cats than anyone I had seen so far. It was also Because of people like Flo and the owners of Noah's Land that I was made aware of the need for rescuing and sanctuaries.

## Recent Events

The Leona woman, who temporarily cared for Vicky's cougar Tahoe, was diagnosed with cancer, and her life-saving treatments took a toll on her physical health, making it

difficult for her to care for her six big cats. In the 10 years that I knew of Flo she never once took care of her cats. She had a paid grounds keeper that did all the work for the cats with some help from her husband. In 2010, she actually wanted to get rid of them starting in 2008 in her own words she voluntarily decided, because she no longer wanted to be bothered with the cats and the complaints from the community for the health and well-being of her animals, this must be why the cats were drinking from tubs filled with feces to transfer her six tigers to Vicky Keahey's "In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue and Education Center" in Wylie, Texas. In-Sync actually received an email through HUSU that the granddaughter wrote begging someone to step up and come get the cats. At first we turned away from the six tigers knowing that we didn't have room for them. It wasn't until I read the email again and noticed it was signed by someone with the same last name as Flo. I called the granddaughter to make sure that this was in fact Flo's cats and received Flo's phone number at that time. This was the first time I had any contact with Flo since the Arlington meeting in 2000. Since Kiro's Father, Brooks was still alive and his Mother had been poisoned and the other cats consisted of Kiro's brothers, I felt I owed it to them to RESCUE them for a more healthy, happy life. The elderly woman's Federal USDA inspection reports show no animal welfare violations just prior to the re-homing of her beloved tigers. The following USDA inspection report clearly stated she was voluntarily giving up her cats—they were not confiscated. Upon that first conversation with Flo we made an appointment to come see the cats. When we arrived the cats were all cleaned up, they all had clean water and no feces was laying on the ground anywhere. One week later we made another trip that was only announced that morning. This time when we arrived the cats looked like they hadn't been cleaned in a week. All the tubs were half full and so contaminated with urine and feces that you could smell the disgust from the water. I don't think anyone said they were confiscated. Nowhere on our web site does it say this.

This was supposed to be an easy, late summer transfer of her animals from one USDA facility to another. Since the women knew each other and their animals for over a decade, it was supposed to be a quick, humane, 'load up the tigers and drive away' situation. There was no rescue, no repossession, no confiscation, of these six tigers—just a simple, already pre-arranged, re-homing of the animals. I guess if you call not communicating with each other for 10 years "friends"??? I do however call it a RESCUE. One of the tigers had over grown claws so bad that he couldn't even walk. He had to be sedated and taken to Texas A & M for immediate surgery. Not only did the claws grow into the pads, but they had grown so much that they had curled around, poked through the top of toe pad splitting it into. 3 of the cats were underweight and Flo didn't even know which one of the cats was her beloved Brooks. Flo didn't know names of 3 of the cats, when they were born, how old any of them were, or that Harley had broken bones in his two front feet.

Prior to the actual "move date", In-Sync was approached by the WAR filming crew. In exchange for filming the RESCUE re-homing, In-Sync was allegedly offered several

tens of thousands of dollars to be applied towards the care of the six tigers. **In-Sync was never offered any money AT ALL from any crew member or discovery. I did however ask if they would be willing to donate money to help build the enclosure for the new cats. We received a check for \$4,000.00. The rescue and vet bills alone cost us \$5,600.00. A far cry from tens of thousands of dollars.**

On Thursday, April 28th, 2011, **In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue and Educational Center's Facebook page** responded to a query from one of its "friends" regarding Lope's participation in the tigers' so-called "rescue:"

*"I'm afraid we can't comment on Scott Lope, but I do believe he is still a large part of the show. Unfortunately, had absolutely no input on the content of the show, we simply allowed them to come along and film our rescue of the 6 tigers, so we really don't know what the show will look like until we see it!"*

In In-Sync's own words, they simply allowed Scott Lope to film the animals' trip from one USDA facility to another. Lope was NOT a rescuer; he was just "playing" one on TV. **It wasn't presented to me until the day before the rescue that I was supposed to let Scott be portrayed as the "RESCUER" We made all the plans and arrangements for the rescue which Scott had nothing to do with. We spent 2 weeks getting equipment and transport ready with no involvement from Scott or the crew**

### **The WAR Crew 'Rescue'**

In 2010, the staged tiger 'reality' filming happened on a 100 degree hot and humid August day. The transfer of animals was supposed to begin around 7AM so as to protect the animals from the searing Texas heat. According to our sources, the WAR crew supposedly didn't show up until after 9AM, **Now I would be the last person to defend Scott or the crew, but they were there on time at 7:00 am. It was our vets and transport driver that didn't arrive until late.** and did not conclude it's filming until the early evening hours, mostly spending time filming footage of Lope posing and talking to the camera for hours on end, **Yes Scott did do this but all while In-Sync continued loading up the cats.** while animals were stuck sedated in transport cages, and overheating. **3 cats were sedated and looked at by our vet. We took blood and did a full exam. Two of the cats were then given a reversal and woke up. The third went straight to A & M. We palce the cats in an area we had designed with a tarp to provide shade and had two very large fans on all the cats. The situation was no different than the cats being in their cages except for the fact that we had fans on them.**

Veterinarians were present, but still, one older tiger supposedly almost died from over sedation and heat exposure. **Not any of the cats were over sedated and not one of the**

“almost died” all 3 cats that were sedated handled the anesthesia very well. Eventually, ice was brought in and applied to the animals. Don't know where you got this information because it didn't happen. The only ice that was around any of the cats was for Harley. As he was waking up from his sedation we offered him a few ice cubes to lick because he would have dumped a water bowl and possibly try to eat the bowl. It is still not clear to us why two Sheriff Deputies were on the scene at taxpayers' expense. I guess we will have to wait and see for the explanation when the episode airs this week. I was just as surprised at this as anyone else would be. My only guess is that Scott and the crew only wanted to make the whole thing more dramatic than it really was. The whole rescue would have gone a lot smoother had Scott and his crew not been there. Since they were there we were denied our right to take any pictures or video of the cats or rescue.

## Conclusion

While we have only seen WAR's promo of the supposed “tiger” rescue, which was originally aired in January of this year and not the entire show; we can only hope the elderly dying woman and her facility will be portrayed in an ethical, honest and dignified manner on the soon-to-be aired WAR episode. Anything other than the truth could worsen her health condition, as well as cause a possible public relations and legal nightmare for the Discovery Channel. I will tell you as I told Scott and the crew. I will not be a part of anything that does not portray the truth. If in fact the show says anything to hurt Flo or show her in a negative light, there will be a law suit. I do not consider Flo as a friend but I will not allow purposely hurting people in any manner.

Scott Lope is NOT an animal “repo man.” He is just an “actor” and he did NOT “rescue” any of the tigers featured in the upcoming WAR episode. Plans to relocate the featured animals to new homes were made long before Lope showed up on the scene. Lope was simply along for the ride, nothing more, nothing less. To claim otherwise, not only discredits Lope and the Discovery Channel, but it also portrays real animal rescuers in a negative light. If Lope truly cared about the animals, he would have been honest about why the animals were re-homed from USDA facilities to other USDA-licensed facilities. We can only speculate that money and the promise of fame motivated Lope to grossly exaggerate the so-called animal “rescues” in the first place. I guess we will know for sure after viewing WAR's season première this week. I agree with everything you have said here, except for the fact that I will always stand by the fact that these cats were RESCUES. If you take the time to look at our web site you will see that in some cases we have taken in cats that have been simply “RE-HOMED” and we state that as being the case. I believe that people learn from their experiences in life. It is what you do with those experiences that make you the person you turn out to be. I am not ashamed of how I became to be a “RESCUER” only that there is a need for me.

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