

About the Founder

Monday, 26 May 2008

Last Updated Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Tamara

Schmitt, founder of Lakota Wildlife Center, has always worked with animal rescue. Born in NC, her family relocated to San Jose, CA when she was 3. She was constantly bringing home kittens or strays she had found, placing them in appropriate homes with the help of her Mother.

Her interest in wildlife grew as she spent her spare time in the woods, learning about local snakes and animals. At the age of 10, her family again moved back to the Carolinas. Deciding at an early age to work with animals as a life's goal, she pursued an education at the University of South Carolina, majoring in, what else…Biology.

While volunteering at a local vet's office, she created a business, "Shades of Grey Aviary" raising African Gray Parrots and Umbrella Cockatoos. She wrote a booklet on the care of these birds and designed and built large acrylic cages in an attempt to improve education and care of captive birds. Many well meaning owners bought from her aviary, but the business of selling birds for captive housing soon compelled her to close her aviary and refocus on the betterment of wildlife in its native surroundings. Wildlife rescue became a primary focus, and opportunities to rescue big cats, bear and raccoons soon took precedence.

Hobbies include horseback riding, pottery and painting, but have always centered around a great appreciation for and an enjoyment of working with animals. Leaving the sales force and banking industry as a mortgage loan officer, she has now come full circle and is focused on building Lakota Wildlife Center into a resource for giving aid and sanctuary to wildlife in need. (See Staff Bios for more.)