

# Tiger

*Panthera tigris*

1. Animal Type: Mammal
2. Conservation Status: Endangered
3. Size
  - a. Male: length of 13 feet, weight of 650 pounds
  - b. Female: weight of 100 and 167 kg.
4. Social Structure: Solitary and Territorial animal
5. Reproduction:
  - a. Time of year: occur all year round, more common in November and April.
  - b. Number of young: equal number of cubs.
  - c. Rearing / Mothering: Father takes no part in rearing. Cubs leave their mother around 2 – 2 ½ years.
  - d. Special exhibit needs: breed well in captive.
6. Behavior
  - a. Nocturnal vs. Diurnal: Nocturnal
  - b. Shy vs. Curious: Curious
  - c. Jumping Ability: they may jump high as 12 feet
  - d. Land speed: speeds of 49 – 65 km per hour
  - e. Water speed: excellent swimmers
  - f. Unique Behaviors: vocal communications – moans, hisses, growls and chuffs.
7. AZA Husbandry Recommendations
  - a. Pool: Tigers use bodies of water to cool off, swim and bathe. An ideal water temperature for these purposes would be 78F. Tigers are strong swimmers but as it goes with cats, hate getting their faces wet. A depth of 1.5-3' would suffice and the area should be no smaller than a minimum cage, 300sf. An organic footprint to the pool, larger size and depth variation are preferred
  - b. Barrier:
    - i. Walls: 16' tall
    - ii. Moats: 25' wide and 15' deep
  - c. Air Temp Range: Adult tigers can tolerate a wide temperature range. They must be protected from extreme cold and heat above 85F, depending on species. Access to shade is mandatory outdoors.
  - d. Other Recommendations
    - i. Raised shelves for sleeping and resting in view of visitors; they do a lot of sleeping
    - ii. Incorporate logs into exhibit for claw sharpening
8. Enrichment
  - a. Main purpose of enrichment is to provide an outlet for the natural instinct to hunt.
    - i. Tigers spend the majority of active time stalking, killing, and eating and will travel up to 20 miles in one night in search of prey.
  - b. Zoo Approved Enrichment
    - i. Predatory stimulation
      1. Scents
      2. Anything to pounce on or attack (burlap sacks, deer hides, Boomer Balls, springs with toys attached, etc)
      3. Puzzle feeders
      4. Food on zip line
      5. Live fish
    - ii. Feeding schedule changes and fasting days
    - iii. Rotating yards with other tigers for social stimulation\
    - iv. Training

- v. Pools / Streams / Other water
- vi. Platforms and unusual resting / hiding places
- vii. Climbing trees / Logs

9. Fun Facts

- a. Tigers are the heaviest cats in the wild weighing up to 660 lbs.
- b. Tigers have canine teeth that can reach up to 4 inches in length.
- c. A group of tigers is called a streak.
- d. Tigers are strong swimmers and can swim up to 4 miles at one time.

## References:

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