

AMUR TIGER

updated March 2017



! Status: endangered

Range	Mainly the Amur-Ussuri region of Siberia along the coast of Russia; have been spotted recently (2002) in northernmost China where they had previously been considered extirpated
Habitat	Mountainous coniferous, scrub oak, and birch forests of up to 3,000 feet in elevation
Diet (wild)	Hoof stock, predominantly deer, elk, and wild boar
Diet (captivity)	Carnivore diet (raw, moist meat), fasted one day a week
Description	Length: 8–11 feet (including tail); weight: 350–660 pounds. The world's largest cat. Amur tigers are paler than other tigers and stripes are brown rather than black and more widely spaced than other tigers.
Lifespan	Wild: 10–15 years. Captivity: 16–20 years
Reproduction	After a gestation period of 103 days, the female gives birth to 2–3 blind, helpless cubs weighing 2–3 pounds each. The cubs nurse for 6–8 weeks, then the mother begins to take them to kills. By six months, they begin to hunt for themselves. By age two, cubs can kill large prey but generally do not leave their mothers until between ages three and five. Amur tigers may mate any time of year. A female tiger becomes sexually mature at about three years old and will give birth every 2–3 years for the next 12+ years of her life. The female is only receptive for 3–7 days, during which time a pair will mate repeatedly. Males then leave to mate with another females. Females stay closer to the mother's range than males.
Behavior	Except for a mother with cubs, Amur tigers are solitary, nocturnal hunters. They stalk their prey by sneaking up within 65 feet and covering the remaining distance in a few bounds. Larger prey may take as long as three days to consume; smaller prey may be consumed in one meal. Amur tigers live in specific territories and mark their territories mainly by scent marking on trees, bushes, and the ground along the borders. They also mark trees by scratching with their claws. Male home ranges are large, sometimes 400 square miles (1,036 square kilometers). Female home ranges are much smaller and a number of females will live within one male's home range.
Our animals	1 female, 1 male. Born: 03/26/2005 (male, Sivaki); 09/13/2011 (female, Ameliya). Birth place: both born at PPZ and hand-raised due to illness at birth
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSP at PPZ. By the 1940s, hunting had driven the Amur tiger to the brink of extinction with no more than 40 individuals remaining in the wild. The subspecies was saved when Russia became the first country in the world to grant the tiger full protection. It is estimated that there are 400–500 remaining in the wild as poaching and habitat destruction have taken their toll. The most immediate threat to the survival of Amur tigers is the demand for tiger parts on the black market. There were once eight tiger subspecies, but three became extinct in the 20th century. • The heaviest recorded tiger was a 1,025 pound Amur male. • Tigers are good swimmers and enjoy taking baths. Tigers have been known to cross a width of 18 miles in the water. • Tigers are successful predators, but only one out of 10 to 20 attacks result in a successful kill. • Tigers have no natural predators, except for humans. • For more than 3,000 years, traditional Chinese medicine has used tiger parts to treat sickness and injury. The humerus (upper leg bone), for example, has been prescribed to treat rheumatism even though there is no evidence that it has any affect on the disease. • Most of the wild cats, from servals to tigers, share an external mark—a white spot behind each ear. A common speculation is that the spots function as “follow me” signals to kittens. However, this idea is weakened because the spots occur in both sexes and male cats have almost nothing to do with their offspring. Perhaps the spots are a coverable badge, to be flashed as a signal of aggression. Or perhaps they appear like eyes on the back of the head to an enemy creeping up behind the cat. If so, this principle is borrowed by people in India's Sundarban Forest who wear facial masks on the backs of their heads to prevent tigers from stalking them.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
CarnivoraFamily
FelidaeGenus
Pantheraspecies
P. tigris altaica