

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

Breed: BENGAL TIGER

Names / Sex / Age:

Jai	Female	10
Cita	Female	10
Montrose	Male	9
Luna	Female	9
Darly	Female	7

Previous Home: Cita and Jai were born at the founder's original site before a no-breeding policy was adopted. Montrose, Luna, and Darly were rescued from squalor at a former breeding facility in southern Indiana following a DNR raid.

Native to: India, Bangladesh, Burma, and Nepal.

Weight: Usually 300-575 lbs. Luna, Cita and Jai each weigh about 400 pounds, Darly is larger, weighing about 450 pounds, and Montrose weighs around 450-500 pounds. The heaviest recorded tiger was a Siberian, weighing 1025 pounds.

Life Expectancy: 10-15 years in the wild, 15-22 in captivity.

Diet: Wild boar, monkeys, buffalo. At Black Pine - Deer, beef, pork, and poultry.

Status: Critically endangered, with estimates of 1,500 – 2,000 Bengal tigers in the wild. Some estimate as many as 20,000 live in captivity in the U.S. alone. At one time there were 8 subspecies of tigers. Today only the Bengal (most common), Indochinese, Malayan, Sumatran, and Siberian survive.

Facts:

- Tigers are the largest members of the cat family
- They are solitary and nocturnal and can run 35 mph, but only for a few seconds
- Tigers don't chase their food, they sneak up very quietly, slowly, and pounce!
- Tigers will not attack face to face
- Color of coat, and size, distinguish one subspecies from one another
- Only Bengal tigers can carry a melanistic (heterozygous) gene which can make their color lighter, or white.
- A tiger's stripes are their fingerprints, no two tigers have the same pattern
- Mating is usually in spring. Gestation is about 15 weeks, with 1-4 cubs born
- If a tiger in the wild loses their canine teeth they will starve to death
- They do not like excessive heat, and will lie in pools of water
- The roar of a Bengal tiger can be heard up to 2 miles away
- A tiger's "purr" is called a "chuff", and only occurs when breathing out
- They can consume up to 65 pounds of meat a night
- Unlike other cats, tigers will still eat meat that has begun to putrefy
- Tigers have an organ on the roof of the mouth called the Jacobson's organ. They use

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this as an olfactory sense, it allows them to taste smells

- Tigers are lions' closest relatives, without their coats, lion and tiger bodies are very similar. Only scientists can tell them apart.

Personal History:

Cita and Jai were born at Black Pine February 2, 2000. Their mother was India, who passed away from cancer in 2009, at 18 years of age. Their father was Caesar, a retired circus performer who passed away September 30, 2006, at 19 years of age. These cats were born prior to the adoption of a no-breeding policy. Many visitors will recall interacting with these cats when they were still very young. They were the last cubs born at the park.

Montrose, Darly, and Luna were rescued in October 2005 from an private, run-down breeding facility in Flat Rock, Indiana. The cats were among 37 large animals officials attempted to seize after the owner's USDA license was revoked and he was charged \$25,000 for violations against the Animal Welfare Act. Officials attempting to rescue the animals were halted by a court order. A few days later Black Pine worked directly with the owner to help as many cats as possible, and though only anticipating adopting two, three were saved from the horrific conditions they were living in.

Due to those poor conditions, the cats came to the park underweight, parasite infested and with tooth problems. The tigers adjusted well to the move and have largely recovered, though they will require dentistry work down the road. Montrose and Darly were not housed together before coming to Black Pine, but personalities and age allowed a successful introduction. Luna, however, remains more content alone. At the time of the rescue Luna was terribly traumatized. During the transport to the park she was very violent and aggressive. Within a few months she developed a trust of her new keepers and is today one of the most responsive to keepers.

Darly, Montrose and Luna are among the victims featured in the documentary film *The Tiger Next Door*, released in 2009, profiling private owner Dennis Hill and other stories of abuse and neglect of exotic animals in the U.S.