



Siberian Tiger (Amur Tiger)
Panthera tigris altaica

Geographical Range: There are a total of 200-300 Siberian tigers in the Amur-Ussuri region of Asia (northern Asia), northern China and Korea. Southeastern Siberia and Manchuria. There are probably nearly as many Siberian tigers in captivity as there are roaming free due to habitat loss.

Habitat: Reeds and bushes in river valleys, mountain taiga and mixed forests traversed by rivers with rock outcroppings. In summer they live at altitudes of up to 4,000 feet; in winter they move to lower altitudes.

Exhibit Location: Built in 1988, the tiger exhibit is located in the middle of the Zoo's main animal building, behind a beautiful water fountain. The exhibit may also be viewed from large windows at either end of the EcoStation Exhibit.

Physical Characteristics: Siberian tigers are the largest living feline in the world. It is a massively built animal with a rounded head, large canine teeth, muscular body, powerful limbs, especially the forearm and shoulder which enables it to overpower a prey larger than itself. The tail is usually slightly shorter than half the head and body length. Their ears are small and rounded. The males can reach as long as nine to twelve feet and three to four feet high at the shoulder, weighing as much as 700 pounds. The females are somewhat smaller. Their coloration is lighter than other tiger species which is an environmental adaptation for survival. Body fur is a reddish-fawn color with blackish-brown stripes and a white belly. Their long, thick fur enables them to withstand winter temperatures as low as -40 degrees. These tigers also develop a thick layer of fat on their belly and flanks as insulation from the cold.

Diet: A tiger consumes about 12 pounds of meat at a time and can eat as much as 60 pounds in one night. In the wild tigers usually hunt deer, wild pigs and wild cattle. When food is scarce they will eat small mammals, amphibians and domestic stock. They also enjoy porcupine meat. In captivity a commercially prepared feline diet is consumed. Siberian tigers fast once a week and are given fresh, hard bones in lieu of their daily ration.

Did you know?

- Unlike most cats, tigers love the water and are very good swimmers.
- Siberian tigers are so strong that they are capable of dragging prey that would normally take more than a dozen men to move.
- Socially, the male tiger prefers to be solitary and the female lives in family units.

Status: Endangered