

International Tiger Day: Facts and Actions

On July 29, the world will be recognizing **International Tiger Day** to raise awareness of tiger conservation.

Did you know that:

- Tigers are the largest of the big cats, and they are on the brink of extinction, with fewer than 4,000 living in less than four percent of their former range. Only 100 years ago, 100,000 tigers roamed across Asia.
- Poaching for the illegal wildlife trade, overhunting of prey species by local people, habitat loss and fragmentation, and human-tiger conflict are driving the disastrous decline of the tiger population.
- There are 5,000-10,000 tigers held captive in U.S. backyards, zoos, petting zoos, and roadside attractions - more than the number of tigers in the wild!
- An estimated 5,000-6,000 captive tigers are "farmed" in China for their skins, bones and body parts, which are sold as status symbols and in medicinal markets. There may be as many as 8,000 tigers on farms across Asia and Southeast Asia. Tiger farms are also found in South Africa.
- Domestic and international trade in tiger parts has grown, despite a 2007 international agreement that tigers should not be bred for this purpose.

Actions you can take for International Tiger Day (and every day!) include:

- Support the Big Cat Public Safety Act, H.R.1818 / S.2990, that would end cub petting, ban most private ownership, and greatly restrict the breeding of big cats. Make a call to your elected federal officials by clicking [here](#).
- Avoid visiting roadside zoos.
- Never have your photo taken with a tiger cub.
- When traveling to Asia, avoid attractions that allow you to pet adult or young tigers, or force tigers to perform tricks.
- Do not attend circuses with wild animals.
- Never buy any product derived from tigers.
- Share what you've learned about tigers with friends, family and colleagues, through word of mouth and social media.
- Support an organization that fights to conserve and protect wild tigers.
- [Make a donation to PAWS!](#)

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