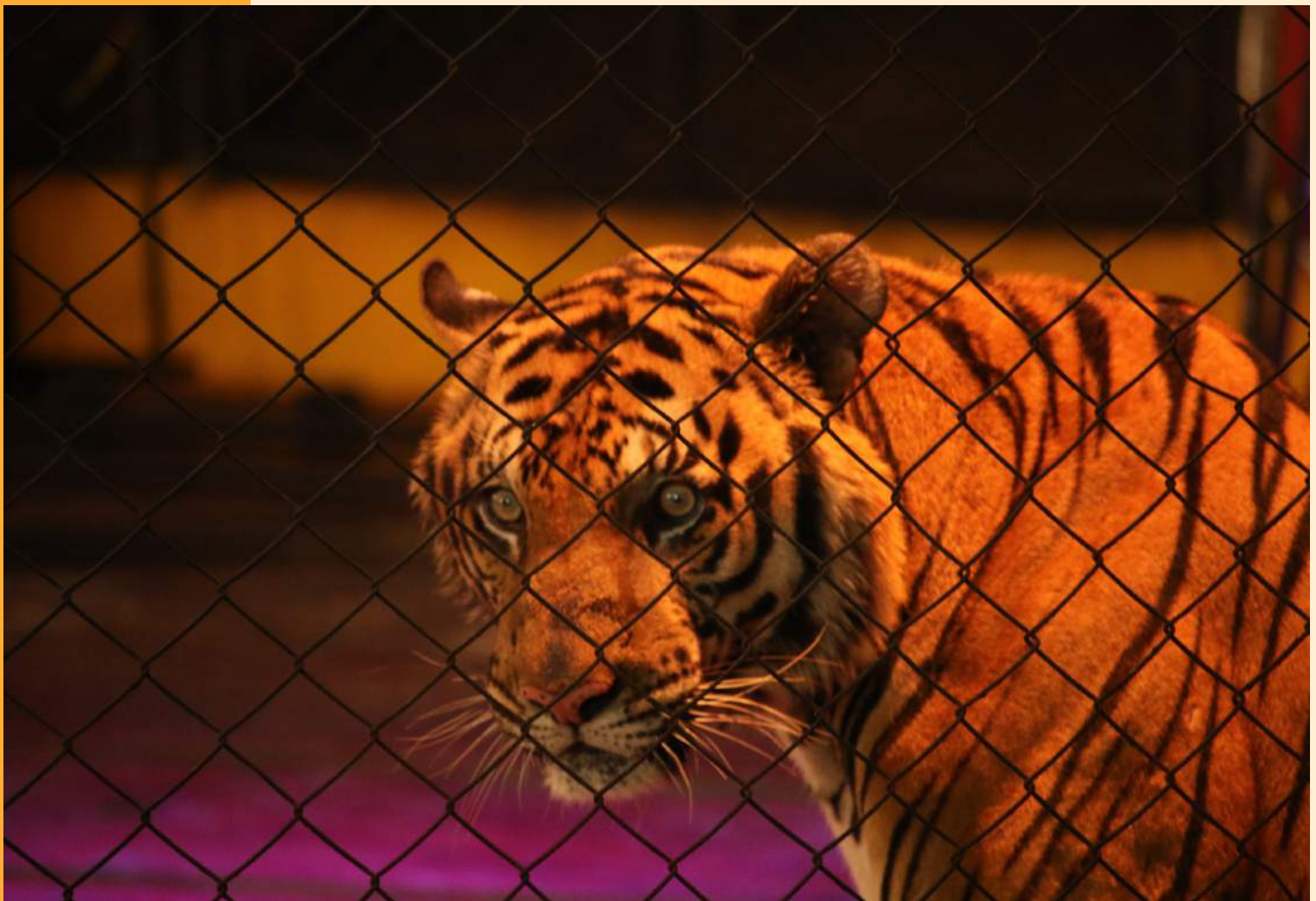


**FOR TIGERS**



**JULY 2019**

# **STALKING THAILAND'S TOURIST TIGERS**



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**A TOURIST'S GUIDE TO FINDING WELFARE-FRIENDLY  
TIGER FACILITIES IN THAILAND**







# INTRODUCTION

## TIGER TOURISM IS BOOMING

Millions of animals are used in the wildlife tourism industry worldwide [1]. Whilst some animals are taken from the wild, most are captive bred [2] and have never experienced a natural life. Many are subjected to cruel practices and suffer from poor welfare, facts often unknown to the tourists who visit these attractions [2,3].

Thailand in particular has a booming wildlife tourism industry fuelled by the 30+ million tourists that visit the country every year [4]. Though there are a number of different animal species held in captivity throughout the country, elephants, monkeys and tigers are the most commonly used animals [2]. These animals are used for a range of activities from photo props through to performances in shows.

Tigers are one of the main victims in this industry, with an estimated 2000 held in captivity across the country [5]. Charismatic animals, like tigers, are a big draw for tourists as they are cute, large and have a high entertainment factor, all traits that enhance an animal's appeal [6]. As such, different types of activities for tourists have been created that capitalise on these traits. These activities range from the fully interactive such as cub feeding and tiger photos to observational activities such as tiger shows [3,7].

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## A GROWING INDUSTRY

Thailand's wildlife tourism is on the rise due to increased demand from tourists and lucrative profits [2]. This has subsequently led to an increase in the number of facilities that offer tourist-tiger interactions. Additionally, there are an increasing number of tigers held in captivity, specifically for tourist interactions. This, coupled with the poorly worded and limited regulatory power of the Animal Welfare Act of 2014 [8], has inevitably led to increased suffering for these tigers as a result of their poor welfare and inadequate living conditions.

Tigers used in the tourism industry are bred in captivity [2], but due to a number of factors, cannot be reintroduced into the wild. Thailand is home to 180 – 200 wild Indochinese tigers; the highest number of any of the range countries for this subspecies [9] However, there are ten times more tigers held in captivity than there are in the wild raising concerns that this could negatively impact wild tiger conservation [2].

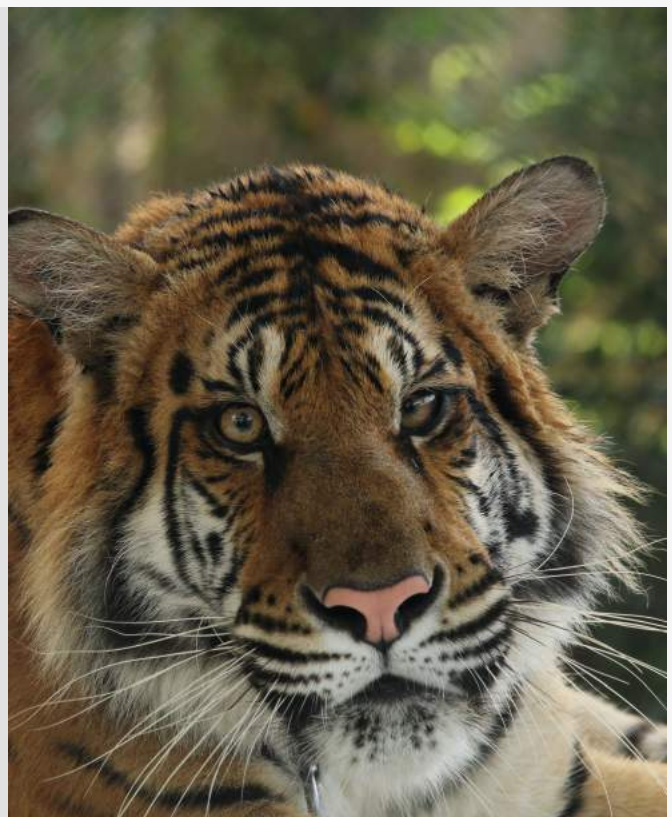
Since 2017 our researchers have visited the majority of facilities open to the public that hold tigers within Thailand. We visit these venues annually to investigate welfare levels and to count the number of tigers in each facility. In 2017, our researchers visited 32 facilities holding tigers. By April 2019 the number of facilities had increased to 36. Additionally, our researchers have seen a continual growth in captive tiger numbers with 614 tigers observed in 2017 compared to 763 in 2019.

This report offers a basic insight into the welfare standards endured by captive tigers in Thailand. It enables potential visitors to make better-informed choices as to which tiger facility is more welfare-friendly.

### OUR AIM

The aim of this report is to enable visitors to make a welfare-friendly decision when choosing which tiger venue to visit in Thailand. The basic knowledge provided in this report is designed to help visitors understand welfare issues, learn what constitutes poor welfare and even assess facilities on their own, equipping them with the welfare information so that they can make an informed choice.

However, this information is by no means complete, but rather a general analysis designed to give the visitor an indication of the scale and types of suffering endured by tigers in Thailand.



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# WHAT IS WELFARE?

In its basic form, animal welfare concerns the human-animal relationship and the duty humans have to treat animals responsibly and humanely [10]. The definition of animal welfare is often debated, but it generally covers the animal's health, mental states and the opportunities to perform natural behaviour [11]. Depending on which of these three aspects of welfare are considered more important, animal welfare can be perceived, implemented and assessed very differently. For this report we established a welfare framework that considered each of these three areas equally. We used The Five Domains model instead of The Five Freedoms (for further details see: [12]) as this approach more accurately takes into account the subjective experience of the tigers [11].

*Pacing and thirsty - a tiger in back cage*



## WHY IS GOOD WELFARE IMPORTANT?

Good welfare should address the needs of captive tigers; both their physical and mental requirements (see: [12]). However, this is often hard to achieve in a captive setting as improving welfare in some areas can actually reduce welfare in others [13]. For example, creating a completely natural outdoor enclosure can result in a greater chance of injury, though it does afford the tiger the ability to perform natural behaviours – the welfare conundrum here is to balance risk versus benefit [13]. This is where more recent welfare ideas focus on what the animal wants as well as what it needs [11].

It can also be hard to know what exactly constitutes adequate conditions for an animal. Failing to adequately provide for captive tigers can result in negative behaviour occurring. Stereotypical or abnormal repetitive behaviours such as pacing are the result of a poor environment that lacks stimulation [14]. These behaviours are mechanisms that help the tiger cope with its environment (15,16,17,18). To reduce abnormal repetitive behaviours, a complex environment should include enrichment, a variety of levels, substrates, hiding places, feeding methods and appropriate interaction with members of the same species (conspecifics) and positive human-animal relationships [19,20]. This helps recreate as natural an environment as possible, thus better meeting the tiger's physical and mental needs.

In addition to providing for the tiger's needs, good welfare is important for:

**Conservation:** populations should be healthy for both reintroduction and breeding purposes. Poor welfare can cause stress, a lowered immune system and a decrease in reproduction.

**Education:** Animals should perform natural behaviours in order to educate the public about their natural lives [21]



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# HOW WE DID IT

Our researchers assessed 36 public entertainment venues holding tigers within Thailand. Welfare assessments and tiger numbers for 5 facilities were taken from the 2018 assessment as these facilities were closed/unable to visit during the 2019 assessment. The other 31 facilities were assessed during March and April 2019. All assessment dates are listed. A 37th facility advertising itself as a zoo and resort, was closed on arrival, and though holding tigers, clearly was not meant for public visits.

A snapshot welfare assessment (assessing one moment in time) was performed using a basic assessment protocol (see below). The researchers visited the facilities as tourists and only assessed areas that were open to the public and did not visit off-limit areas.

To gather welfare information, a basic welfare assessment was created using a three-point scale [22]. The assessment was based on the principles of the Five Domains and covered Physical Health, Nutrition, Environment, Behaviour and Management.

Within each section, the scoring system created was as follows:

**0 = Poor** **1 = Neutral/Adequate** **2 = Good**

A total score of 50 was available for all sections, with the higher the score, the better welfare provided by the facility. Likewise, a low score represented a substandard facility. The number of tigers observed by our researchers was recorded, as was the number reported by staff on site.

Despite common assumptions of drugging, our researchers have seen no conclusive evidence pointing to the consistent use of drugs in tiger interactions in Thailand. Therefore, the use of drugs is not part of the welfare assessment. It is understandable why some people believe that tigers may have been drugged based on their lethargic appearance, but in reality this would be difficult to implement on a regular basis due to the cost and the medical problems this would cause. There are some natural factors contributing to this docile, photo-ready state: tigers, like other felines, sleep large portions of the day rousing at dawn and dusk to hunt [23]. However, there are other factors too, many of which contribute to poor welfare and include: malnutrition, abusive training techniques, removal from mothers at a young age and severe movement restrictions by being kept on a very short chain [16,17]. These factors **are** part of the welfare assessment and help to paint a more complete picture.





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# LIMITATIONS

There are a number of limitations to a welfare assessment of this format.

Snapshot assessments record only **one moment** in time making it hard to generalise results. As our researchers were only able to access the facility during opening hours, they were unable to assess night time living conditions. Welfare conditions may vary between these two time periods, which could result in higher or lower scores for some facilities.

Another area that can be improved upon is in the recording of animals showing abnormal repetitive behaviour, stereotypies and pain. For the purpose of this basic assessment, if one tiger was seen displaying any of these signs, a low score was awarded to the facility; following the principle that one tiger suffering was one too many. In the future, the percentage of tigers showing these behaviours should be recorded within each facility.

Researchers were only able to perform a rapid body assessment of the observable tigers as not all tigers could be seen. Results were then generalised across the facility.

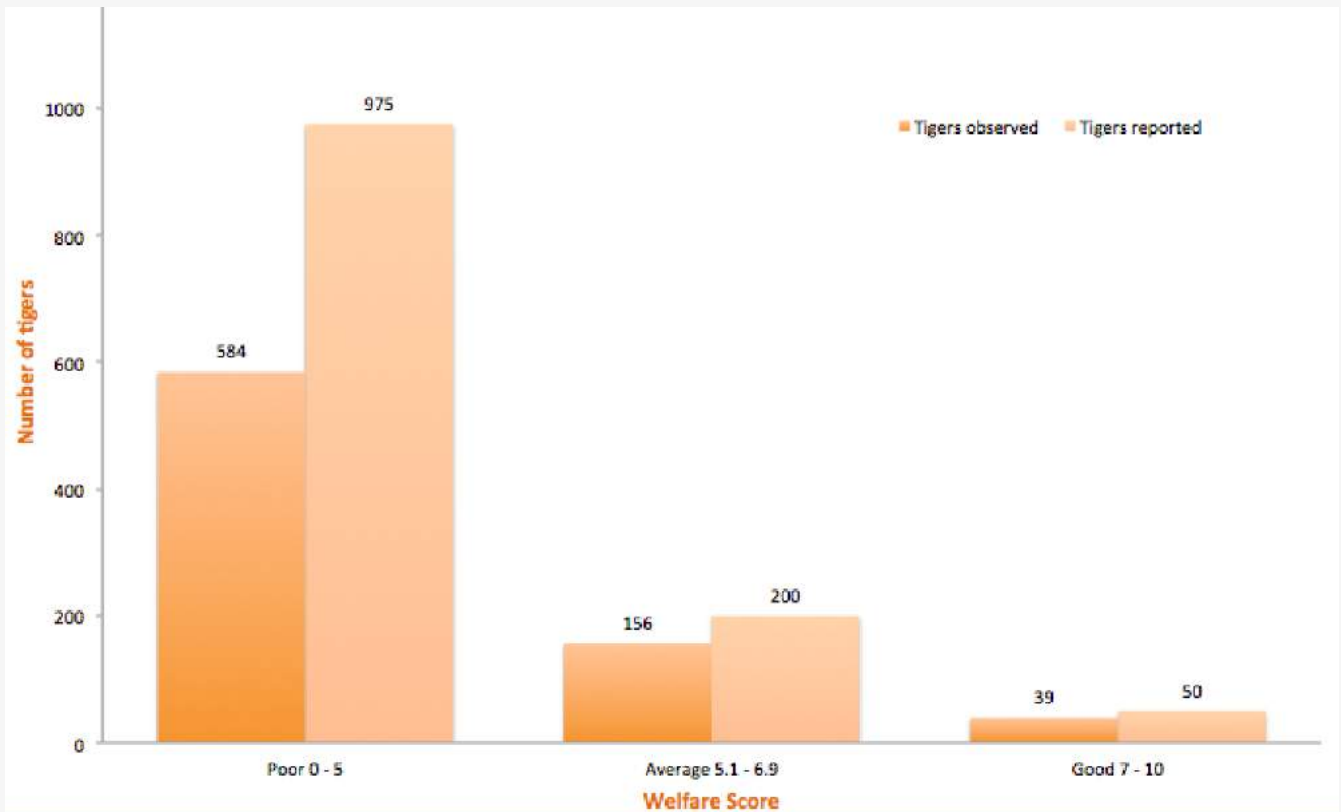
As scoring can be subjective, i.e. how much limping constitutes being in pain, the value was explained and defined to ensure that all researchers graded in a similar fashion. Two researchers separately recorded their findings and collaborated to create the final score. In cases where there were conflicting results, i.e. some tigers had access to large, natural enclosures whilst others were confined to barren cages, the worst condition was chosen, which resulted in a lower score being awarded. All observations were photographed or filmed for further evaluation.

Finally, the decision was made to not use weighting as all areas of the assessment were deemed of equal importance to the overall welfare of captive tigers. The lack of weighting has resulted in some facilities scoring higher than we might have expected, therefore, we recommend visiting facilities that score a 7 or higher.



# WELFARE SITUATION

## BREAKING DOWN THE SCORES



Through our research it is clear that the majority of captive tigers in Thailand are kept in inadequate conditions, with **584** (74%) -- out of a possible **778** -- of the **observed** tigers living in facilities that **scored 5 or less** indicative of inadequate living conditions. For the most part, tigers are kept in concrete cages with little or no enrichment. Whilst some venues did provide enclosures, these were often barren, and also devoid of enrichment. Two venues in particular, collectively holding a reported **359 tigers, had scores of 2** and below. A reported number of **200 tigers were held in facilities scoring 5.1 - 6.9**, which indicated marginally better welfare, yet these facilities still participated in a lot of tourist interactions. Seven facilities scored **7+ containing a reported 50 tigers** between them. It is important to note that these facilities did not offer any tourist interactions and only operated as a standard zoo.



*Tiger cub in medium-sized, concrete enclosure, paced continuously*



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The majority of all captive tigers observed were subjected to large volumes of visitors and high noise levels, which are often considered stressors in a zoo environment [24]. Tigers were often held in inappropriate groups – often over-crowded with minimal access to water. In fact, **58%** -- over half -- of the facilities had **no fresh water**, a basic need.

In **69%** of the facilities, the tigers had characteristics indicative of **inbreeding** including colour variants, crossed-eyes and physical deformities. However, just because characteristics of inbreeding are not seen, it doesn't mean inbreeding is not occurring, something that is particularly possible in the facilities that rely on having a lot of cubs.

In **12%** of facilities, their tigers were housed in **barren, concrete cages only**, with no access to any natural substrate, a larger area or an enrichment programme. However, **19%** of facilities did offer spacious enclosures allowing the tigers to perform a wide range of positive behaviours free from restraint or human interference. Needless to say, these facilities scored at the higher end of the welfare assessment spectrum.

Nearly a third, **28%** of the facilities, had tigers displaying human inflicted injuries such as declawing and defanging; practices that are seen as abusive and only employed to make the tigers safer for interaction purposes.

Some type of **interaction or negative show** was available to tourists at **58%** of the facilities. These interactions can be stressful resulting in reduced welfare. The hands-off tiger feeding show (or other enrichment programme) was observed in **17%** of the facilities and is not included in the above interaction percentage, as these shows aim to improve welfare by providing feeding enrichment for the tigers. The remaining **25%** offered no programme of any kind.

Of the observed **779 tigers, 28** were **chained** in order to have photos taken. Most of these animals are chained in this fashion for the majority of the day, thus restricting their ability to perform natural behaviours and often resulting in stereotypic pacing.



*Tiger cubs held in small, barren cages*

A tiger is seen through a chain-link fence, looking towards the camera. The tiger's orange and black stripes are visible, and its face is partially obscured by the diamond-shaped mesh of the fence. The background is dark, making the tiger stand out.

# EXPLAINING FACT SHEETS

The rest of this report contains a brief summary of each of the facilities open to the public. These are listed alphabetically. The most pertinent welfare factors are listed with the basic welfare assessment given as a score out of ten: 1 = poor, 10 = excellent. For the full breakdown, please see the Appendix, which contains the welfare assessment form used.

The welfare score was created from the welfare assessment in the following way: the welfare assessment score (out of 50) was multiplied by 2 and then divided by 10 to achieve the final figure as a score out of 10.

For example, if a facility scored 22 out of the possible 50;

$$22 \times 2 = 44 \quad 44 \div 10 = 4.4 = \text{final welfare score (out of 10)}.$$

To make it quick and easy to understand the standing of these scores, we have used the traffic light system: poor welfare scores are in **red**, average (but with room for improvement) are in **amber**, and those that provide good welfare are in **green**.

Each facility is broken down into the following sections:

**Tiger Number:** The number of tigers observed and reported is listed for each facility. The first number is the tiger number observed by our researchers, the number in brackets is the number reported by staff onsite.

**Entertainment:** This section lists the interactions available to tourists. Any facility that offers one or more of the interactive or more abusive options received the lowest score for entertainment level. Facilities that did not offer interaction activities or negative tiger shows resulted in the high scores in this section. Each of the options is listed in a shorter version:

**Photos** – An interaction where tourists sit with adult tigers to have a picture

**Cub/tiger feeding** – Cub feeding is a fully interactive experience where tourists bottle feed a cub that is usually under 6 months old. Tiger feeding involves feeding meat with tongs through a fence to an adult tiger.

**Tiger Show** – A show where tigers, in front of tourists, are forced to perform unnatural acts such as doing a tightrope walk or jumping through hoops of fire with the presence of a trainer.

**Enrichment show** – A non-interactive food enrichment show where tigers display natural behaviours – no hands-on trainer interaction.



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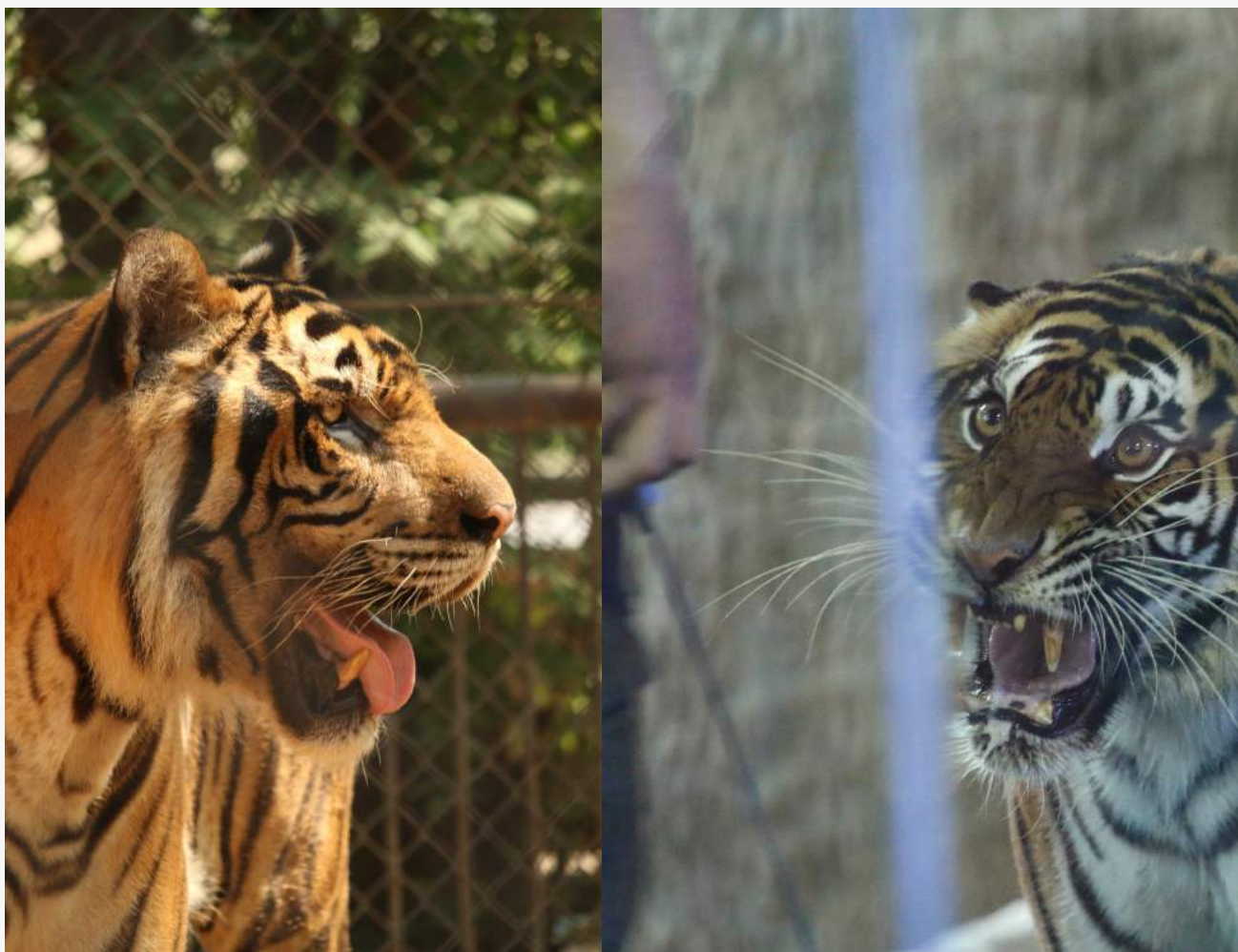
**Staff treatment:** This outlines the general demeanour of the staff towards the tigers in their care. Rough handling of any kind resulted in a low score whereas a caring attitude resulted in a high one. No observable interaction resulted in a neutral score though this could arguably be the high score as the end goal would be to have no human-tiger interaction.

**Environment:** This briefly describes the enclosure (if there is one) and the cage that the tigers live in. Each of these two options are given various descriptors in order to outline what the tigers have access to.

**Enclosure** – Grass, ponds and caves demonstrate a greater effort in providing a more natural living space for the tigers and are therefore given a higher score. Barren enclosures with a natural substrate receive a middle score as some outside space is better than none. Large sizes provides adequate space to move, whereas a small enclosure is limiting.

**Cage** – a cage only environment results in a low score. Usually these cages are small, overcrowded, barren and concrete-floored and are a very poor substitute for a natural environment.

**Water:** The provision of clean water results in a high score, lack of water or access to dirty water results in a low score. The provision of water should be considered a basic need.



*Left: A tiger pants from thirst;*

*Right: Snarling tiger eyes trainer*

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**Body condition:** Body condition was recorded for the tigers observed, with the lowest body condition observed used as the final score for the facility rating. Body condition scores were:

**Good** – the tiger was healthy, the correct weight for age/sex and a clean/good coat.

**Adequate** – the tiger was slightly under/overweight for age/sex and had an adequate coat

**Poor** – the tiger was obese/malnourished for age/sex and had dirty/poor coat

**Inbreeding:** Evidence of inbreeding can be seen in the unusual colour variations such as white/snow/golden tigers. Further inbreeding can be seen through crossed-eyes and physical deformities. Such aspects are listed under this heading and result in poor scores..

**Pain and Injury:** Signs of pain include limping and coughing. Signs of injury included wounds, sores and swellings with both new and old injuries being recorded. Any evidence of pain or injury, even in just one tiger, results in a low score. No obvious evidence of pain or injury results in a higher score.



*White tiger displaying abnormal walking behaviour due to hip issues*

**Behaviour:** Positive behaviours observed (exploring, positive interaction with con-specifics, play [25]) resulted in high scores. Negative behaviours (pacing, self-mutilation, over-grooming [16]) resulted in the lowest scores. In this section, positive, intermediate and negative are used to denote which type of behaviour was observed the most. Brief descriptions of what behaviours were observed are also outlined.

**Enrichment:** This can include hanging food, ropes for scratching, tyres, balls, barrels etc. A low score was given if no enrichment was to be seen, the highest score awarded if there was a comprehensive enrichment plan available for all tigers. Some enrichment provided resulted in a middle score. This is indicated as none, limited, good in the subsequent facilities section.

**Declawed:** This is a simple yes/no. Declawing is illegal in many countries as it negatively impacts the animal, often causing pain when walking especially in later years [26]. Declawing resulted in the lowest score for that section.



# ANACHAK CHANG ELEPHANT VILLAGE

Location: PATTAYA Date: 8/4/18

Number of tigers **7(7)**

Tiger Activities None

Staff Treatment:  
No interaction observed

Inbreeding:  
White/Golden

Environment:  
Enclosure - Medium w/  
grass pond, cave  
Cage - Concrete/barren

Pain & Injury:  
Coughing, limping &  
wounds, missing tails

Water: Dirty

Behaviour:  
Intermediate - pacing

Body Condition:  
Poor

Enrichment: None  
Declawed: No



Welfare Score

4



# AYUTTHAYA ELEPHANT VILLAGE

Location: AYUTTHAYA Date: 12/4/19

Number of tigers **2(4)**

Tiger Activities Photos

Staff Treatment:  
Aggressive/uncaring

Inbreeding:  
None observed

Environment:  
Enclosure - None  
Cage - Concrete/barren

Pain & Injury:  
None Observed

Water: None

Behaviour:  
Negative - chained

Body Condition:  
Adequate

Enrichment: None  
Declawed: No



Welfare Score

3



# BUNG CHAWAK ZOO

**Location:** SUPHANBURI **Date:** 8/4/19



Welfare Score

**3.6**

<b>Number of tigers</b>	<b>41(53)</b>	<b>Tiger Activities</b>	None
<b>Staff Treatment:</b>	Hands-off facility	<b>Inbreeding:</b>	White/Cross-eyed
<b>Environment:</b>	Enclosure - Small w/ grass, pond, cave Cage - Concrete/barren	<b>Pain &amp; Injury:</b>	Limping & wounds, missing tails
<b>Water:</b>	None	<b>Behaviour:</b>	Mostly negative - pacing
<b>Body Condition:</b>	Poor	<b>Enrichment:</b>	Limited
		<b>Declawed:</b>	No



# CHANG PUAKE CAMP

**Location:** DAMNOEN SADUAK **Date:** 5/4/19



Welfare Score

**3.6**

<b>Number of tigers</b>	<b>3(4)</b>	<b>Tiger Activities</b>	Photos
<b>Staff Treatment:</b>	Relaxed/friendly	<b>Inbreeding:</b>	White//Cross-eyed
<b>Environment:</b>	Enclosure - Small w/ grass Cage - Concrete/barren	<b>Pain &amp; Injury:</b>	None observed
<b>Water:</b>	None	<b>Behaviour:</b>	Negative - chained
<b>Body Condition:</b>	Poor	<b>Enrichment:</b>	None
		<b>Declawed:</b>	Yes





# CHANG SIAM PARK

Location: PATTAYA Date: 1/4/19

Number of tigers **8(9)**

Tiger Activities Photos

Staff Treatment:  
Disinterested

Inbreeding:  
None observed

Environment:  
Enclosure - None

Pain & Injury:  
Limping, no injuries observed

Cage - Concrete/barren

Behaviour:  
Intermediate - some pacing

Water: Clean

Enrichment: None

Body Condition:  
Adequate

Declawed: Yes



Welfare Score

**4.4**



# CHIANG MAI NIGHT SAFARI

Location: CHIANG MAI Date: 19/4/19

Number of tigers **23(57)**

Tiger Activities Tiger Show, Enrichment Show

Staff Treatment:  
Aggressive

Inbreeding:  
White/Golden/Cross-eyed

Environment:  
Enclosure - Small to large w/vegetation

Pain & Injury:  
Limping & swellings

Cage - Concrete/barren

Behaviour:  
Mostly negative - pacing

Water: Clean

Enrichment: Limited

Body Condition:  
Adequate

Declawed: No



Welfare Score

**3.6**





# CHIANG MAI ZOO

**Location:** CHIANG MAI **Date:** 19/4/19



Welfare Score

6.2

**Number of tigers** 1(1)

**Tiger Activities** None

**Staff Treatment:**

Hands-off facility

**Inbreeding:**

None observed

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Medium w/ vegetation, cave

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

Cage - Not observed

**Behaviour:**

Intermediate - pacing, scent marking

**Water:** None

**Enrichment:** Limited

**Body Condition:**

Good

**Declawed:** No



# CHOKCHAI MUSEUM

**Location:** LAM LUK KA **Date:** 4/4/18



Welfare Score

5.2

**Number of tigers** 1(1)

**Tiger Activities** None

**Staff Treatment:**

No interaction observed

**Inbreeding:**

White

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Small w/ grass

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

Cage - Not observed

**Behaviour:**

Mostly positive - relaxed

**Water:** Clean

**Enrichment:** None

**Body Condition:**

Adequate

**Declawed:** No





# DAMNOEN SADUAK TIGER WORLD

**Location:** DAMNOEN SADUAK **Date:** 5/4/19

**Number of tigers** 29(30)

**Tiger Activities** Photos, Tiger feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Caring/friendly

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Poor

**Inbreeding:**

Physical deformities/Cross-eyed

**Pain & Injury:**

Limping & seizures

**Behaviour:**

Mostly negative - pacing, some play

**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

4.8



# DUSIT ZOO

**Location:** BANGKOK **Date:** 6/4/18

**Number of tigers** 3(3)

**Tiger Activities** None

**Staff Treatment:**

Hands-off facility

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond, cave

Cage - not observed

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Good

**Inbreeding:**

White

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

**Behaviour:**

Mostly positive

**Enrichment:** Limited

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

7.4





# HUA HIN SAFARI & ADVENTURE PARK

Location: HUA HIN Date: 3/4/19

Number of tigers **36(60)**

Tiger Activities Photos, Tiger Show, Cub Feeding

Staff Treatment:

Aggressive

Environment:

Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond

Cage - Concrete/barren

Water: None

Body Condition:

Good

Inbreeding:

White/Golden/Cross-eyed

Pain & Injury:

Limping

Behaviour:

Intermediate - some pacing

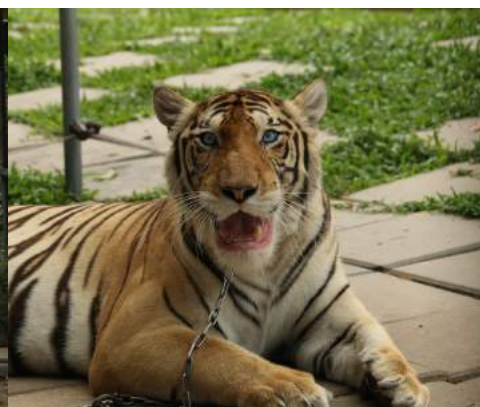
Enrichment: None

Declawed: Yes



Welfare Score

**3.6**



# KHAO KHEOW OPEN ZOO

Location: KHAO KHEOW Date: 2/4/19

Number of tigers **15(17)**

Tiger Activities Enrichment Show

Staff Treatment:

Hands-off facility

Environment:

Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond, cave

Cage - Not observed

Water: Clean

Body Condition:

Good

Inbreeding:

White

Pain & Injury:

Limping

Behaviour:

Mainly positive

Enrichment: Good

Declawed: No



Welfare Score

**8.2**





# KHAO PRATAP CHANG OPEN ZOO

**Location:** RATCHABURI **Date:** 25/4/19

**Number of tigers** 2(2)

**Tiger Activities** None

**Staff Treatment:**

Hands-off facility

**Inbreeding:**

None observed

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Large w/ grass, pond

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Behaviour:**

mostly positive - some pacing

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Good

**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

8.2



# KHON KAEN ZOO

**Location:** KHON KAEN **Date:** 15/4/19

**Number of tigers** 4(5)

**Tiger Activities** Enrichment Show

**Staff Treatment:**

Hands-off facility

**Inbreeding:**

White

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Large w/ grass, pond

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

Cage - Not observed

**Behaviour:**

Mostly positive - some pacing

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Good

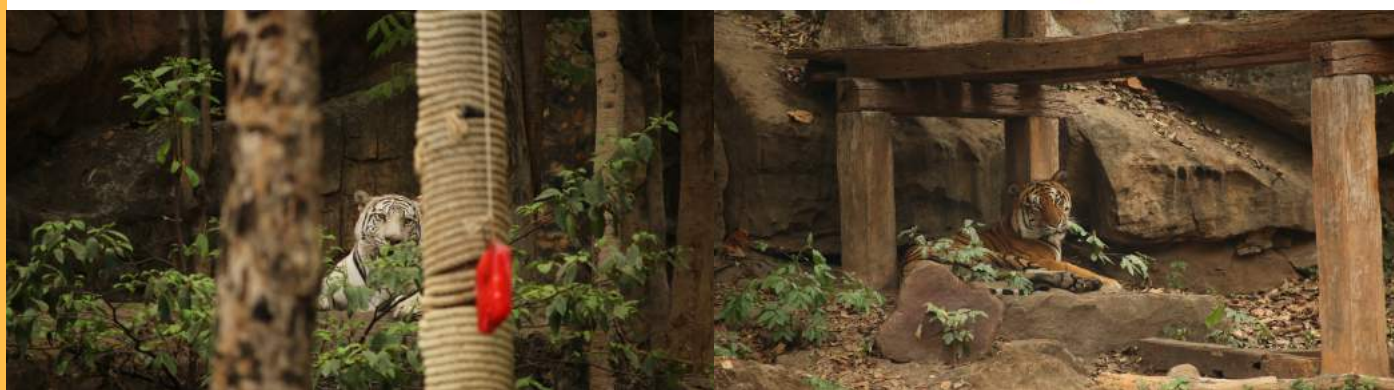
**Enrichment:** Limited

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

7.6





# KORAT/NAKHON RATCHASIMA ZOO

Location: KORAT Date: 13/4/19



Welfare Score

7.4

Number of tigers **5(10)**

Tiger Activities Enrichment Show

Staff Treatment:

Hands-off facility

Inbreeding:

White

Environment:

Enclosure - Small w/ grass, pond, cave

Pain & Injury:

None observed

Cage - Not observed

Behaviour:

Intermediate

Water: Clean

Enrichment: Limited

Body Condition:

Good

Declawed: No



# LOPBURI ZOO

Location: LOPBURI Date: 12/4/19



Welfare Score

5.4

Number of tigers **1(1)**

Tiger Activities None

Staff Treatment:

Hands-off facility

Inbreeding:

None observed

Environment:

Enclosure - None

Pain & Injury:

None observed

Cage - Concrete/pond, cave

Behaviour:

Negative - pacing

Water: Clean

Enrichment: None

Body Condition:

Good

Declawed: No





# MILLION YEARS STONE PARK

Location: PATTAYA Date: 1/4/19

Number of tigers **59(59)**

Tiger Activities

Photos

## Staff Treatment:

Aggressive

## Environment:

Enclosure - Small w/ grass, pond

Cage - Concrete/barren

Water: None

## Body Condition:

Adequate

## Inbreeding:

White/Cross-eyed

## Pain & Injury:

Limping & open wounds, worn teeth

## Behaviour:

Negative - pacing

Enrichment: None

Declawed: Yes



Welfare Score

**1.2**



# MUKDAHAN TIGER ZOO & FARM

Location: MUKDAHAN Date: 16/4/19

Number of tigers **46(60)**

Tiger Activities

None

## Staff Treatment:

No interaction observed

## Environment:

Enclosure - None

Cage - Concrete/barren

Water: Clean

## Body Condition:

Good

## Inbreeding:

None observed

## Pain & Injury:

None observed

## Behaviour:

Negative - pacing

Enrichment: None

Declawed: No



Welfare Score

**4.8**



# NAMUANG SAFARI PARK

**Location:** KOH SAMUI **Date:** 29/3/19



Welfare Score

**3.4**

**Number of tigers** **6(17)**

**Tiger Activities** Photos, Cub Feeding

**Staff Treatment:** Aggressive

**Inbreeding:** None observed

**Environment:** Enclosure - None  
Cage - Concrete/barren

**Pain & Injury:** Limping, no injuries observed

**Water:** Dirty

**Behaviour:** Negative - pacing

**Body Condition:** Adequate

**Enrichment:** None  
**Declawed:** No



# NONG NUCH TROPICAL GARDEN

**Location:** PATTAYA **Date:** 31/3/19



Welfare Score

**3.6**

**Number of tigers** **3(7)**

**Tiger Activities** Photos

**Staff Treatment:** Disinterested

**Inbreeding:** None observed

**Environment:** Enclosure - None  
Cage - Concrete/barren

**Pain & Injury:** None observed

**Water:** None

**Behaviour:** Negative - chained

**Body Condition:** Adequate

**Enrichment:** None  
**Declawed:** Yes





## OPEN ZOO & SAFARI

**Location:** KANCHANABURI **Date:** 6/4/19

**Number of tigers** 15(30)

**Tiger Activities** Cub Feeding, Tiger Feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Disinterested

**Inbreeding:**

Cross-eyed, physical deformities

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Pain & Injury:**

No signs of pain, minor wounds

**Water:** None

**Behaviour:**

Intermediate - some pacing

**Body Condition:**

Adequate

**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** Yes



Welfare Score

3.8



## PHUKET FANTASEA

**Location:** PHUKET **Date:** 30/4/18

**Number of tigers** 5(7)

**Tiger Activities** Tiger in Show, Cub Feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Aggressive

**Inbreeding:**

White

**Environment:**

Enclosure - None

Cage - Concrete/pond

**Pain & Injury:**

Limping, small wounds and sores

**Water:** Clean

**Behaviour:**

Intermediate, pacing

**Body Condition:**

Poor

**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

2.6



# PHUKET ZOO

**Location:** PHUKET **Date:** 28/3/19

**Number of tigers** **10(15)**

**Tiger Activities** Photos

**Staff Treatment:**

Disinterested

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Small w/  
concrete, cave  
Cage - Concrete/barren

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Adequate

**Inbreeding:**

Crossed-eyes, physical deformities

**Pain & Injury:**

Limping, no injuries observed

**Behaviour:**

Negative - pacing

**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

**4.2**



# SAFARI WORLD

**Location:** BANGKOK **Date:** 23/4/19

**Number of tigers** **33 (100+)**

**Tiger Activities** Cub Feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Disinterested

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Small to large w/ grass, pond  
Cage - Concrete/barren

**Water:** Dirty

**Body Condition:**

Poor

**Inbreeding:**

White/Cross-eyed

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

**Behaviour:**

Intermediate - pacing, some positive in Safari zone

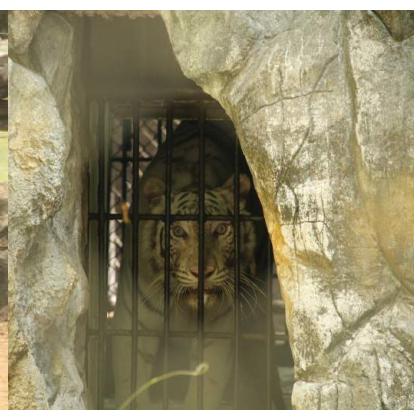
**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

**3.6**





# SAMUI AQUARIUM & TIGER ZOO

Location: KOH SAMUI Date: 29/3/19

Number of tigers **21(30)**

Tiger Activities Photos, Cub Feeding, Tiger Show

## Staff Treatment:

Aggressive

## Inbreeding:

None observed

## Environment:

Enclosure - Small w/ grass, pond

## Pain & Injury:

Limping, no injuries observed

Cage - Concrete/barren

## Behaviour:

Intermediate - pacing, some positive observed

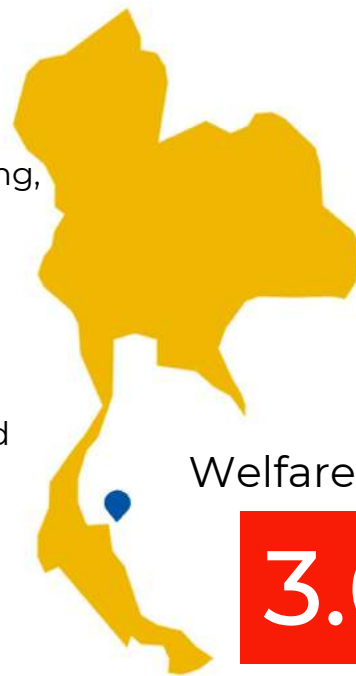
Water: Clean

## Body Condition:

Adequate

Enrichment: None

Declawed: Yes



Welfare Score

**3.6**



# SAMUT PRAKARN CROCODILE FARM

Location: BANGKOK Date: 11/4/19

Number of tigers **10(20)**

Tiger Activities Photos, Cub Feeding

## Staff Treatment:

Disinterested

## Inbreeding:

White/Golden/Cross-eyed

## Environment:

Enclosure - Small to large w/ grass, pond

## Pain & Injury:

Limping, large wounds

Cage - Concrete/barren

## Behaviour:

Intermediate - pacing, some positive play

Water: Dirty

## Body Condition:

Poor

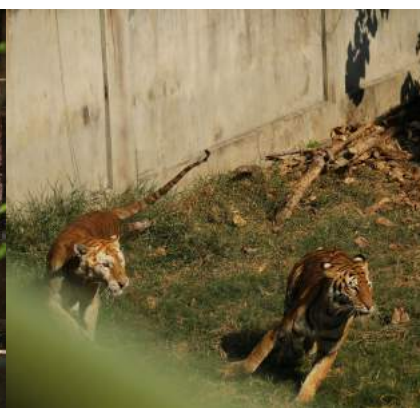
Enrichment: None

Declawed: No



Welfare Score

**2.6**





# SONGKLA ZOO

Location: SONGKLA Date: 27/3/19

Number of tigers **6(9)**

Tiger Activities Enrichment Show

Staff Treatment:

Hands-off facility

Inbreeding:

White

Environment:

Enclosure - Medium w/  
grass, pond, cave

Pain & Injury:

None observed

Cage - Not observed

Behaviour:

Positive - full range of  
behaviours

Water: Clean

Enrichment: Limited

Body Condition:

Good

Declawed: No



Welfare Score

**8.6**



# SRI RACHA TIGER ZOO

Location: PATTAYA Date: 2/4/19

Number of tigers **123(300)**

Tiger Activities Photos, Cub Feeding, Tiger Show

Staff Treatment:

Aggressive

Inbreeding:

None observed

Environment:

Enclosure - Medium w/  
concrete

Pain & Injury:

Limping, minor wounds

Cage - Concrete/barren

Behaviour:

Negative - pacing

Water: None

Enrichment: None

Body Condition:

Adequate

Declawed: Yes



Welfare Score

**2**





## STAR TIGER ZOO

**Location:** CHAIYAPHUM **Date:** 14/4/19

**Number of tigers** 7(4)

**Tiger Activities** Tiger feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Disinterested

**Inbreeding:**

White

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Small w/  
grass, pond, cave

**Pain & Injury:**

Drooling, small wounds,  
missing teeth

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Behaviour:**

Negative - pacing

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Adequate

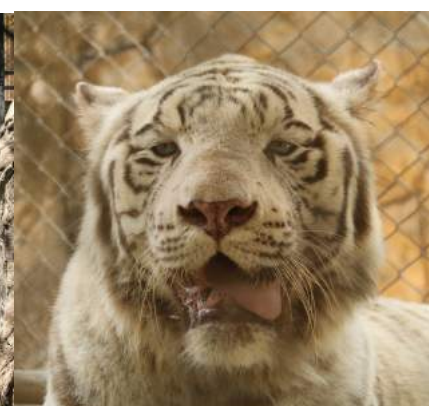
**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** Yes



Welfare Score

3.8



## THAITHONG ZOO

**Location:** PATTAYA **Date:** 1/4/19

**Number of tigers** 3(3)

**Tiger Activities** Photos

**Staff Treatment:**

Aggressive

**Inbreeding:**

White

**Environment:**

Enclosure - None

**Pain & Injury:**

Limping, sores

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Behaviour:**

Negative - chained

**Water:** None

**Body Condition:**

Poor

**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** Yes



Welfare Score

2.8





# TIGER KINGDOM CHIANG MAI

Location: CHIANG MAI Date: 22/4/19



Number of tigers **23(40)**

Tiger Activities Photos, Enrichment show

Staff Treatment: No interaction observed

Inbreeding: White/Golden

Environment: Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond  
Cage - Concrete/barren

Pain & Injury: None observed

Water: Clean

Behaviour: Intermediate - some pacing

Body Condition: Adequate

Enrichment: Limited  
Declawed: No

Welfare Score

6



# TIGER KINGDOM LEARNING CENTRE

Location: MAE TAENG Date: 22/11/18



Number of tigers **92(110)**

Tiger Activities Keeper For A Day

Staff Treatment: Hands-off facility

Inbreeding: Cross-eyed, physical deformities

Environment: Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond  
Cage - Concrete/barren

Pain & Injury: No signs of pain observed, minor injuries

Water: Clean

Behaviour: Intermediate

Body Condition: Adequate

Enrichment: Limited  
Declawed: No

Welfare Score

6.6





# TIGER KINGDOM PHUKET

Location: PHUKET Date: 28/3/19

Number of tigers **38(47)**

Tiger Activities

Photos, Cub Feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Aggressive

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Medium w/ grass, pond

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Water:** Clean

**Body Condition:**

Adequate

**Inbreeding:**

White/Cross-eyed

**Pain & Injury:**

None observed

**Behaviour:**

Intermediate - some pacing

**Enrichment:** Limited

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

**5.8**



# TIGER PARK

Location: PATTAYA Date: 31/3/19

Number of tigers **75(80)**

Tiger Activities

Photos, Cub Feeding

**Staff Treatment:**

Disinterested

**Environment:**

Enclosure - Small w/ grass, pond

Cage - Concrete/barren

**Water:** Dirty

**Body Condition:**

Adequate

**Inbreeding:**

Cross-eyed, physical deformities

**Pain & Injury:**

Limping, no injuries observed

**Behaviour:**

Negative - pacing

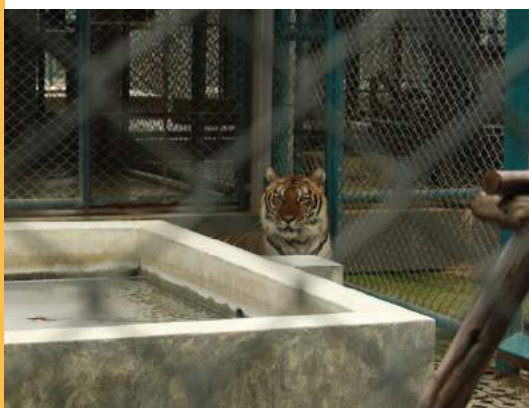
**Enrichment:** None

**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

**4.4**





# TRAKRAN TIGER ZOO

**Location:** UBON RATCHANTHANI **Date:** 17/4/19

**Number of tigers** 19(19)

**Tiger Activities** None

**Staff Treatment:**  
No interaction observed

**Inbreeding:**  
None observed

**Environment:**  
Enclosure - Small w/  
grass, pond  
Cage - Concrete/barren

**Pain & Injury:**  
No signs of pain observed,  
small injuries

**Water:** Clean

**Behaviour:**  
Negative - pacing

**Body Condition:**  
Adequate

**Enrichment:** None  
**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

5



# UBON RATCHATHANI ZOO

**Location:** UBON RATCHATHANI **Date:** 17/4/19

**Number of tigers** 4(4)

**Tiger Activities** Enrichment Show

**Staff Treatment:**  
Hands-off facility

**Inbreeding:**  
White

**Environment:**  
Enclosure - Large w/  
grass, pond, cave  
Cage - Not observed

**Pain & Injury:**  
None observed

**Water:** Clean

**Behaviour:**  
Positive - full range of  
natural behaviours

**Body Condition:**  
Good

**Enrichment:** Good  
**Declawed:** No



Welfare Score

8.8







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## CONCLUSION

Most of the facilities were low scoring, with 64% scoring 5 or under demonstrating the poor welfare standards prevalent across the country. However, there is a rising demand from tourists for better welfare, which may push for improvements helping to phase out some of the worst places.

Whilst none of the facilities offer optimal welfare for the tigers, this factual guide aims to equip visitors with clear welfare information in order to make informed choices.

Though our welfare assessment is not validated, nor in-depth, it can nevertheless be used as an indicator of the welfare situation for captive tigers in Thailand. Through this educational report, our hopes are that this will encourage tourists to think about where they visit, reducing demand for tiger interactions and potentially encouraging facilities to change in order to meet the changing demand.

# APPENDIX

<b>Date:</b>		<b>Facility:</b>			
No. tigers observed		Adult tiger photos			
No. tigers staff report		Adult tiger feeding			
No. White/Snow/Gold		Cub photos/feeding			
No. Under 1 yr old		Tiger show (unnatural)			
No. Of Ligers		Tiger show (enrich)			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>				
<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Water Provided	No	N/a	Yes		
Clean/running water	No	N/a	Yes		
Species appropriate diet provided	No variance/Not enough food/ Inappropriate i.e. Cooked	Intermediate between 0 - 2	Varied diet/ adequate amounts/ Encourages natural feeding behaviour i.e food enrichment		
<b>Physical Health</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Signs of human applied injury	Declawing/de-fanging	N/a	None observed		
Signs of inbreeding	Unnatural colour variations/ crossed eyes/ physical deformities	N/a	None observed - Tigers appear healthy		
Signs of injury	Large wounds/ swellings/sores/ missing body parts/hair loss	Minor wounds/small sores	None observed		
Signs of pain	Lameness/ diarrhoea/ coughing	Intermediate between 0 - 2	None observed		
Body Condition Score - appropriate for age/sex/weight	Underweight/obese Poor coat/skin condition	Adequate	Excellent		
<b>Behaviour</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Signs of stereotypy/ abnormal behaviours	Pacing/circling, self-mutilation, licking/chewing/ bar rubbing/over-grooming; high level of abnormal behaviours observed	Intermediate - some abnormal behaviours observed	No negative or abnormal behaviours observed		
Response to non-threatening humans	Fear/aggressive/ defensive response; snarling/growling/ hissing/lunging/ cowering/hiding	Disinterested/ no engagement /sleeping	Positive/friendly/ relaxed response; chuffing/cheek swiping/curious		



# APPENDIX

Behaviour	0	1	2	Score	Notes
Positive treatment by staff	Aggressive/ Angry/frightened	Disinterested/no engagement	Friendly/caring		
Positive behaviours observed	No positive behaviour observed	Intermediate between 0 - 2	Many positive behaviours observed throughout all living spaces		
Staff used physical force	Hand, whip, fist, bamboo, other	None observed	Hands-off facility		
Enrichment provided	None	Limited	Full programme throughout all living spaces		
Environment	0	1	2	Score	Notes
Enclosure size	Small - doesn't allow appropriate movement	Medium - Adequate range of movement	Large - Full range of movement		
Species-specific enclosure design	No enclosure/Cage only/Short Chain	Small enclosure OR Large cage; Some vegetation, one enrichment item	Natural environment and vegetation		
Pond	No	Small - no swimming possible	Large - allows swimming		
Space; Appropriate social grouping /interaction	Over-crowding; Inappropriate social grouping	Intermediate between 0 - 2; Appropriate social grouping available for some	No over-crowding; Appropriate social grouping for all tigers		
Shelter	No visible hiding space; Direct exposure to weather	Hiding spaces for some; some shelter from weather	Hiding available to all; Full protection from weather		
Cleanliness	Unhygienic - rubbish/faeces	Moderately clean	Regular cleaning		
Substrate	Unnatural, e.g. Concrete	Mix of natural and unnatural substrate	Dirt, grass, sand, wood chips, straw		
Environmental noise	Direct vicinity to traffic/crowds/PA system	Occasional traffic/no electronic noise	Small visitor groups - natural sounds		
Animal Care	0	1	2	Score	Notes
Management/ knowledge	No welfare understanding/ Commercial interest	Moderate welfare understanding, improvements being made	Strong welfare understanding/ Focus on best welfare		
Health care provided	No regular vet	Intermittent health care	On site vet		
Entertainment level	Daily show/other regular commercial use	No show but human-tiger interaction	No show/no human-tiger interaction		
Extral Info					
Visitor Education	Y	N	Admission Fee		
Additional Notes					

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