

Amur Tiger

Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris altaica*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae



Also known as the Siberian Tiger, the Amur Tiger has a head and body length 9 to 12 feet; tail length 3 to 4 feet; weight: males are 400 to 675 pounds and females are 220 to 370 pounds. Tigers are the only striped cat. The coat varies from dark orange to reddish ochre with the belly, neck, throat, and insides of the limbs being a creamy white. The vertical stripes may be black or dark brown. Amur (Siberian) tigers are the lightest -- as well as being the largest -- of the tigers, and have longer coats than do their southern-ranging relatives.

Range

Amur River Valley in the Soviet Far East

Habitat

Deciduous and evergreen forests

Gestation

104 to 106 days usually; possible 93 to 111 days

Litter

2-3 usual, 1 to 6 possible

Behavior

Females' territories may either be exclusive or overlapping, with range size being dependent on the density of the prey species. Males' ranges are larger and usually overlap the ranges of several females. They are active chiefly at night. They can leap distances of 16 to 20 feet, and 6 feet high. Tigers are not unsocial, even though they usually hunt alone and, in fact, often come together to share a kill. Tigers are tolerant of a wide range of climates and habitats, only requiring adequate cover, water, and prey. They depend primarily on sight and hearing for hunting and kill by strangulation or a bite to the back of the neck. They will bury the remains of a carcass and may return to feed from it for several days. They can endure intense frost, but when travelling in deep snow they tire rapidly, and must rest often. Vocalizations include woofs, roars, rasping grunts, purring, soft grunts or puffing sounds called "prusten".

Reproduction

Tigers may mate at any time during the year, but most frequently from November to April. Births are usually spaced by 2 to 2½ years, although occasionally by as much as 3 or 4 years. If the entire litter is lost, they may produce another litter in 5 months. The young nurse until they are about 6 months old, and males grow more rapidly than females. The young usually leave their natal range when they are 2 years old and their mother has another litter. The mother teaches them to hunt, and they are usually capable hunters by the end of their first year. Sexual maturity is reached by females at 3 to 4 years, and by males at 4 to 5 years. About half of all cubs die in the first 2 years of life.

Wild Diet

Red deer, wild pigs, serow. In summer they eat grass, cedar nuts, fruits and berries.