



Two of Berapi's Cubs Staying Close to Mom

Berapi & Her Cubs

By Dr. Stephanie Allard, Curator of Research and Animal Welfare - Our tiger triplets are adorable. At six weeks of age, the little girl is very vocal, making sure the world knows she has arrived. The two boys are rambunctious, climbing over each other as they explore their surroundings. Dotting mom *Berapi* is sitting a few feet away from her brood and proud dad *Rimba* can be seen peeking in to catch a glimpse of everyone and sending affectionate noises in their direction. I make a note of everything, ensuring this family scene is recorded. As the zoo's Curator of Research and Animal Welfare, part of my job is to monitor the behavior of the animals in the collection, and I am very fortunate to be able to do that with our newest additions, the Malayan tiger cubs that joined our zoo family on May 12th and 13th of this year. I have always been fascinated by animals and their interactions with each other and their environment, and each day here at the zoo is a new learning experience for me.



I began observing the zoo's tigers when our two brothers, *Mata* and *Rimba*, were on exhibit. When *Berapi*, the female, arrived last fall, I started observing her as well. I was there when she met her intended, *Mata*, and I was there when she chose his inquisitive and more reserved brother *Rimba*. I watched their courtship and kept track of *Berapi's* estrus behaviors to help decide when she would be introduced to *Rimba*. I monitored her closely when we began to suspect she was pregnant and coordinated the process that allowed us to confirm that pregnancy. I worked with our team to have cameras installed in the tiger

night house that allowed me to watch *Berapi* without disturbing her, and at 10:48pm on May 12th, I watched her bring the first of her triplets into the world. The gentle way in which this fierce creature carried her newborn and the two that followed over the next few hours kept me riveted to my computer screen. The mother-offspring bond was strong and clear from the first moment.

Since that day, I have been observing *Berapi* and her cubs daily, keeping track of the behaviors she exhibits towards the cubs as well as when she moves away from them for a bit of quality alone time. One of the things that was immediately evident, and has not changed, is that no matter where she is *Berapi* always keeps an eye on her three little ones. In the weeks that have passed since their birth, the cubs have opened their eyes and they have begun to crawl and then walk, and are now showing us the beginnings of their individual personalities. One of the many important roles of zoological institutions is to provide information about animal behavior, especially for those species that are difficult to observe in the wild. Little is known about the behavior of female Malayan tigers caring for cubs and even less is known about the development of those cubs. The ongoing monitoring we are doing here at the Palm Beach Zoo will help to inform others about this endangered species and will ensure that we continue to provide the best possible care for our tigers for generations to come.

Celebrate Tiger Cubs with a Baby Shower

We're calling all Big Cats to host a cub baby shower for our three newest additions! Invite everyone you know to help raise funds necessary for the care and feeding of these endangered animals. You can host it at your own home or preferred location and we'll take care of the rest. Please call Melissa Martinez at (561) 533-0887, Ext. 238 or mmartinez@palmbeachzoo.org to set up your Baby Shower events.

Save the Date - 2011 Conservation Leadership Lecture

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Conservation Leadership Lecturer featuring Dr. Howard Quigley of Panthera. Dr. Quigley is an internationally recognized expert on jaguars and Florida panthers.



Dr. Quigley

The lecture will be held at The Breakers on Thursday, November 17th at 6 P.M. By invitation only: Call 561.533.0887, Ext. 285 if you would like to attend.

For more information on Panthera visit <http://www.panthera.org/>.

Big Cat Conservation Lecture

Dr. Michele Miller, Director of Conservation Medicine, will be returning from her field research in Africa to deliver the first annual Big Cat Conservation Lecture on Saturday, July 30th at 6 P.M. The lecture, entitled "Conservation Outside the Gates - How a Little Zoo can Make a Difference in a Big World,"



will take place in the Tropics Café. Light refreshments and beverages will be served.



Field researchers test a leopard for tuberculosis

Please RSVP to Melissa Martinez at (561) 533-0887, Ext. 238 or mmartinez@palmbeachzoo.org. Limited seating is available so please reply as soon as possible.

Dr. Miller's work in Africa includes a study on tuberculosis in large felids including the African lion, another of the "big cats." It is suspected that these animals become infected by eating diseased prey such as Cape buffalo. When their infection becomes advanced, the magnificent cats become too weak to hunt and often resort to entering human communities or attacking smaller animals like porcupines. Research to develop tests that can diagnose infection through blood and skin tests is being performed in Kruger National Park, South Africa. A new technology, thermal imaging, is being tried to determine if the skin tests can be read remotely so that the animals don't have to undergo a second anesthesia. Thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. Sandra Rooney, this remarkable piece of equipment is helping big cats both at the zoo and in the wild. [Read More »](#)

Dr. Terry Maple To Speak On Animal Welfare

The Detroit Zoo Center for Zoo Animal Welfare has invited Dr. Terry Maple, Palm Beach Zoo President and CEO, to deliver a keynote address at its conference on zoo animal welfare and policies. For three decades, Dr. Maple has been recognized as a national leader in zoo animal welfare. The Center for Zoo Animal Welfare (CZAW), launched in 2009, is dedicated to focusing attention and resources on zoo animal welfare science and policy.



Dr. Terry Maple with EO the Anteater

TIGER TALES is delivered periodically to Palm Beach Zoo Big Cat Society Members and special friends from the office of President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Terry L. Maple

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