



NOTE: The following opinion was sent to NEWSWEEK's magazine editor on August 7, 2010, but was not published.

AMERICAN TIGERS FACTS

Regarding sensationalized propaganda articles published on July 28, 2010:

"Inside America's Tiger-Breeding Farms"

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/27/inside-america-s-tiger-breeding-farms.html>

"The Trouble With Tigers"

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/27/the-american-tiger.html>

Dear Editor.

I would like to expose you to few facts regarding your recent poorly researched articles "Inside America's Tiger-Breeding Farms" and "The Trouble With Tigers".

Here are few facts: since 1990, on average 0.7 people get killed each year in the USA by captive tigers, majority are owners and trainers themselves, aka occupational/hobby hazard, NOT a public safety issue. This includes all tigers, from pets to major zoos. To bring it in perspective, about 125 people get killed in USA in traffic accidents EACH DAY.

<http://www.rexano.org//Education.htm>

<http://www.rexano.org/Statistics/REXANOAZATABLE.pdf>

Regarding the deformed white tiger, that is NOT a norm, if it was common to have so many deformed white tigers, there would be more than that one isolated picture being circulated and used ad nauseam all over again.

Birth deformities happen in humans and animals, and have nothing to do with colors. But we don't see any movement trying to ban

breeding of humans or dogs just because few individuals are born deformed!

The white tiger photo you published is the extremely rare case of deformity used by hypocritical sanctuaries to try to get sympathy and money out of public. Using mostly eccentric celebrities as the typical tiger owner is akin to present Michael Vick as the typical American dog owner. You failed to present the good responsible side of the tiger ownership, the people who don't make bad news.

Nobody knows how many tigers really are in the USA, but whether it is 5000 or 7000, it is a good thing. Wild tigers will be extinct in the wild pretty soon, as their main threat is the habitat loss due to human encroachment. Major zoos in the USA manage only 3 tiger subspecies, and have around 200-300 tigers set aside for breeding. That is very few individuals to guarantee that they will not be inbreeding and produce deformed tigers in the next few years. Imagine how inbred humans would be with so few individuals. The American zoo's tigers will never be released back to the wild anytime soon if ever.

American private self supporting sector is needed with our thousands of tigers to guarantee the tiger's future survival. Private sector does it for much less money than donation depended major zoos and hypocritical sanctuaries, who get millions in donations, while the wild tiger is going extinct. By making private ownership of tigers illegal, these short sighted 'Neanderthal Ignoramus Hypocriticus' are sentencing tigers to a total extinction, in the wild as well as in captivity.

Sincerely

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