

Amur Tiger

Panthera tigris altaica



Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Carnivora*

Family: *Felidae*

Characteristics: Amur tigers are the largest living feline species. They can measure up to 12 feet in length and weigh up to 900 pounds. The average Amur tiger is around 600 pounds and 9 feet long. Tigers are very well known for their orange coat with vertical black stripes. The belly, chest, throat, some areas of the eyes and cheeks, and underside of the limbs are all white. Tigers have short, thick necks, broad shoulders, massive forelimbs, and long retractable claws. These make the tiger a very powerful animal. They have a very strong bite due to their enlarged sagittal crest, where the jaw muscles attach ([Animal Diversity](#)).

Behavior: Amur tigers are generally solitary animals, preferring to live alone except to breed. They maintain very large territories using scat marking ([National Geographic](#)). These tigers hunt mostly at night and stalk their prey from behind dense cover. These large cats are amazing runners, climbers, and swimmers ([Lincoln Park Zoo](#)).

Reproduction: Solitary males will seek out females in estrus and may need to compete with other males for access. The gestation period for the Amur tiger is 103 days ([Pittsburgh Zoo](#)). The female gives birth to 1-7 cubs, 2 or 3 on average, in a den. Females raise the cubs with little or no help from the male ([National Geographic](#)). Newborn cubs are blind and helpless. The eyes and ears open from 6-14 days after birth. The cubs are weaned at 90-100 days old, but cannot hunt on their own until they are about 18 months old. The cubs will stay with the mother until they are 1.5-3 years old ([Animal Diversity](#)).

Diet: Wild: various large ungulates and other mammals including; deer, elk, water buffalo, elephants, sloth bears, birds, leopards, crocodiles, fish, and rarely humans ([Animal Diversity](#)).

Zoo: meat and bones.

Conservation: The Amur tiger is listed as endangered according to [IUCN](#). In the 1930s the population was as low as 20-30 Amur tigers. The population has now bounced back to around 400 individuals in the wild and is considered to be stable. Poaching of Tigers as well as their wild prey species is considered to be driving the decline. The genetic variability of this species is also very low and the population could be susceptible to diseases. Idaho Falls Zoo participates in the SSP for Amur tigers.

FYI: Just like fingerprints of humans, a tiger's stripes are individual to each animal ([Pittsburgh Zoo](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Amur tigers inhabit mixed deciduous and coniferous forests in mountain areas. They are found mostly in eastern Russia in the Amur River basin.



Lifespan: up to 25 years in captivity, 8-10 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Amur tigers have a rough tongue to peel off the skin of prey animals. It is also helpful in peeling flesh from bone.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Endangered

