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ENDANGERED MALAYAN TIGER CUB BERANI REJOINS ‘STEP BROTHER’ DUMAI ON EXHIBIT
Veterinarians are pleased with 6-month-old cub’s recovery from critical illness last week

TACOMA, WASH. – Endangered Malayan tiger cub Berani and his “foster brother,” Sumatran tiger cub Dumai, reunited on exhibit at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium this morning. It’s the first time the two cubs have been together on exhibit since Berani’s critical illness last week.



Dumai, left, Berani, right, out for some playtime this morning.

The cubs will be on exhibit all weekend.

Zoo hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The cubs went into one of the zoo’s Asian Forest Sanctuary exhibits shortly after 11 a.m. under the watchful eyes of senior staff biologist Paul Povey, who is one of their primary caretakers.

They immediately loped towards one another, then grabbed heads and began to wrestle.

They body slammed and put paws around bellies and tumbled over and over with each other. Berani at one point made a beeline for a waterfall, taking a drink and then jumping into the little stream in the exhibit, immersing himself in the water.

News and still photographers clicked and filmed away. Zoo guests oohed and ahed, little ones pressing their noses against the indoor glass, watching the cubs outside.

Berani was released from the zoo's Animal Health Care clinic a week ago, following an illness that required emergency surgery and several days of intensive care.

Dr. Karen Wolf, the zoo's head veterinarian, said she is pleased with his recovery.

"We still are investigating the cause of his illness," she said. "He did have evidence of sepsis and that



likely contributed to development of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

" ARDS is an illness that's often fatal in domestic animals and people. He was on life support. He was a pretty sick little guy. His recovery is truly amazing."

Berani

The 6 ½-month-old cubs have been hand-reared together since October and are learning tiger behaviors from each other.

The team of three Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium veterinarians and several zookeepers worked around the clock for four days to bring the sick cub back to health last week. Outside consultants provided assistance.

A healthy and robust Berani, who came to Point Defiance from The Tulsa Zoo last fall, now weighs 79 pounds. Dumai weighed in at 78 pounds this morning. They will each weigh around 300 pounds when fully grown.

Both Berani and Dumai are members of endangered species. There are only about 500 Malayan tigers worldwide; roughly 300 Sumatran tigers remain in the wild.

"Berani's recovery is a testament to the expertise of our team of veterinarians, led by Dr. Karen Wolf, and to the extraordinary dedication and vigilance of our animal care staff," zoo deputy director John Houck said. "We are fortunate to have a remarkable group of committed veterinarians and zookeepers who know their jobs well and take exceptional care of our animals every day."

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).

Photo credit: Jesse Michener/Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium