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## **TIGER “BROTHERS” BERANI AND DUMAI TO SEPARATE AS MALAYAN TIGER BERANI MOVES ON TO ANOTHER ZOO THROUGH A MANAGED BREEDING PROGRAM**

*But the “Tiger Boys” will be on exhibit this weekend with special enrichments and keeper talks, so visitors to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will have a last chance to see them together*

**TACOMA, Wash.** - He was just a little guy when he arrived in Tacoma, a 6-week-old, orange-and-black ball of fluff who came from Tulsa to be raised with another young tiger, recently born at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.



Malayan tiger Berani (pronounced burr-rawni) flew into Tacoma Narrows Airport and met Sumatran tiger Dumai (doo-mai) on a gray October day in 2012.

The two tigers – both single-cub litters rebuffed by their mothers – were to grow up together, learn tiger behavior from one another and eventually race around forested and grassy exhibit spaces. Chasing. Wrestling. Splashing.

As they’ve matured into adults, they’ve continued to spend a lot of time together, but they’ve also been growing apart – each tiger needing more alone time.



And next week, the two now adult tigers will part ways. Berani is moving to another zoo through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan® managed breeding program for Malayan tigers. He will be paired with a female of his own subspecies.

Visitors to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will have a chance to see Berani and Dumai together one last time this weekend.



They will make appearances in the zoo's main tiger exhibit space on Saturday and Sunday, and staff biologists will talk about their history, provide information on managed breeding programs, and, yes, give the tiger twosome some special treats. The keeper talks are at 12:30 p.m. each day.

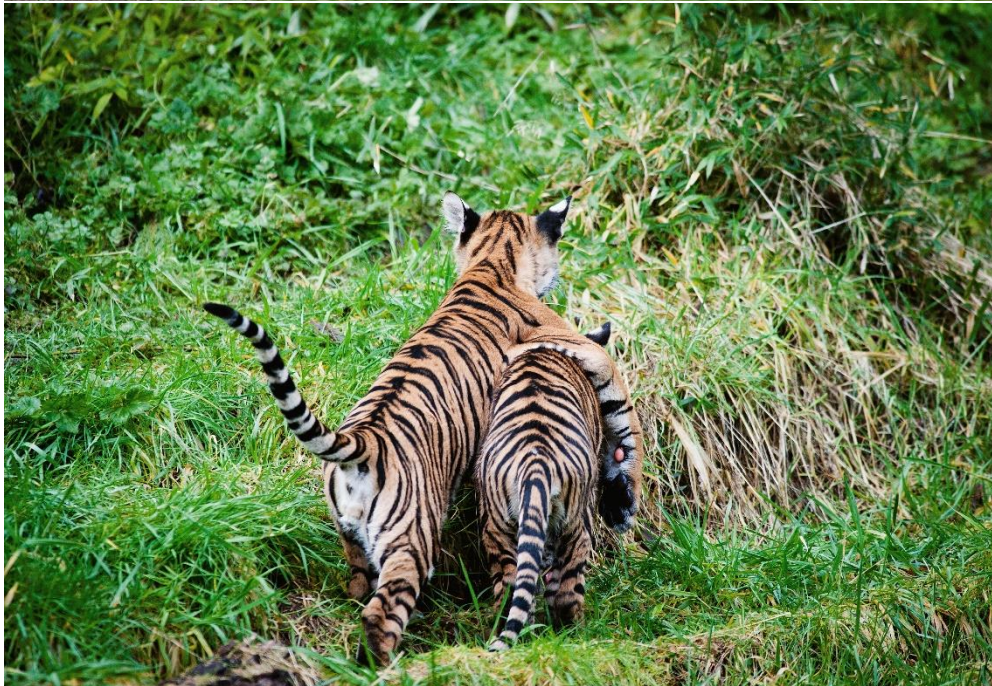


The “adoptive” brothers from different subspecies became affectionately known as the “Tiger Boys” to staff members and visitors at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

But they are boys no longer. At three-and-a-half years old, each weighs about 280 pounds. Tigers are by nature solitary animals in the wild, and as these two reached sexual maturity, it became time for one to move on.

There's no question they've been fun to watch, racing around the zoo's large Waterfall Exhibit, diving after toys and treats in a water feature and posing regally on a large rock as tiger kings in their particular jungle.

But their presence together has gone far beyond providing an entertaining outing for zoo



visitors. It was a rare pairing. Though they can be compatibly raised together, tigers from different subspecies aren't often reared jointly in zoos.

“Berani and Dumai are wonderful ambassadors for their critically endangered wild counterparts,” said Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium General Curator Karen Goodrowe Beck. “Many visitors came to the zoo specifically to see the two together. And while here, they learned about the perils facing tigers in the wild and gained information about actions people can take here at home to help tiger conservation.”

During the fall and winter of 2012-13, Point Defiance Zoo launched the Tiger 5k: The Race to Save Tigers. Only instead of a footrace, it was a fund-raiser designed to provide money for tiger conservation programs. With the

help of zoo visitors and The Zoo Society, the effort brought in more than \$10,000 to help fund work at home and abroad.

In the last several years, The Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund has awarded more than \$41,450 to Sumatran tiger research and conservation programs. Donations from Tacoma help partners like the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Tiger Conservation Campaign fund efforts to capture, prosecute and jail poachers, study and mitigate human-tiger conflict and advance critical habitat protection.

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Wildlife Crimes Unit is instrumental in the arrests of traffickers in tiger pelts, stuffed tigers, tiger heads and articles from other endangered animals in South Asia.

Berani and Dumai, along with the zoo's other tigers, also have played key roles in special Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium events dedicated to tiger conservation and wild cats over the last three years. Many visitors who come to the zoo to watch the tigers, walk away with a great deal of knowledge about how products containing palm oil contribute to the deforestation that is robbing tigers and other species of their native habitat in Southeast Asia.

Fewer than 3,500 tigers of all subspecies remain in the wild today, according to the Tiger Conservation Campaign. The numbers of Sumatran tigers who still live on their native Indonesian island of Sumatra and the numbers of Malayan tigers surviving on the Malay Peninsula make up relatively small percentages of that number.

' "I simply cannot imagine a world in which tigers do not exist. Our legacy to our children and grandchildren should be to ensure that that never happens." Goodrowe Beck said.

In addition to Berani and Dumai, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium currently is home to five other Sumatran tigers. Jaya is the matriarch of the family. She is the mother of Dumai; Kali, now almost 3; and 15-month-old tiger triplets Dari, Indah and Kirana.

To learn more about tigers and tiger conservation or to donate in support of tigers, go to [www.pdza.org/save-tigers](http://www.pdza.org/save-tigers).

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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). The zoo is more than a century old, tracing its earliest beginnings in Point Defiance Park all the way back to 1891.*

**Top photo:** Malayan tiger Berani, left, and Sumatran tiger Dumai, meet for the first time as weeks-old cubs at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium on Oct. 11, 2012.

**Photo 2:** Sumatran tiger Dumai, left, and Malayan tiger Berani, right, appear all grown up in this December 2014 portrait, though they were just over two years old at the time.

**Photo 3:** Sumatran tiger Dumai, left, and Malayan tiger Berani venture out together for a bit of play in one of the grassy exhibit spaces in March 2013. The cubs are wet in this photo from having played together in a water feature.

**Photo 4:** The tiger "brothers" on exhibit together at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in January 2013.