



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 26, 2016

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**TIGER TRIPLETS TO APPEAR TOGETHER AND GET SPECIAL ENRICHMENTS AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM THIS WEEKEND AS ONE OF THEM PREPARES TO LEAVE TACOMA FOR A NEW HOME IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

*One of the “tiger girls,” Indah, will soon leave for the Los Angeles Zoo, where she eventually will be paired with a male tiger through the Species Survival Plan® managed breeding program for Sumatran tigers*

**TACOMA, Wash.** – For 20 months, visitors to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium had the rare privilege of watching three young Sumatran tigers grow from small bundles of orange and black fluff to maturing, 200-pound adolescents.



**Sisters Kirana, Dari and Indah at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.**

**Tiger Triplets’ together for a last weekend of fun**

**What:** Special enrichments and tiger talk with Indah, Dari and Kirana.

**When:** 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 28; 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 29, and 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 30.

**Where:** At the Waterfall Exhibit in the Asian Forest Sanctuary at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, 5400 N. Pearl St., Tacoma.

Besides being visitor favorites, tiger triplets Indah, Dari and Kirana are wonderful ambassadors for their wild counterparts. Since their births on Oct. 8, 2014, the young tigers thrilled hundreds of thousands of zoo visitors. They also helped zookeepers talk about the plight of tigers on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and stress actions individuals can take to help endangered animals in the wild.

Now, one of the “tiger girls,” Indah, is ready to move on to the next phase of her life. She will leave Tacoma next month for a new home at the Los Angeles Zoo, where she eventually will be mated with a male through the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) managed breeding program for Sumatran tigers.

So Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is inviting visitors to a special Memorial Day Weekend celebration of these three magnificent animals. Zookeepers in the Asian Forest Sanctuary will provide special enrichment toys or treats for the three sisters at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Waterfall Exhibit in the Asian Forest Sanctuary area of the zoo. The enrichments will be accompanied by a talk about these three Tacoma-born tigers, as well as Sumatran tigers in general and the perils that face them in the wild.



“Tigers are naturally solitary animals, who come together specifically for breeding,” Asian Forest Sanctuary Senior Staff Biologist Telena Welsh said. “Although the triplets have formed a close bond growing up together, they’re also reaching the point in adolescence where each is showing signs of wanting her own space. It’s natural for them to begin growing apart.”

“Sumatran tigers are a critically endangered and rapidly vanishing species in the wild,” said Zoo General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck, who also is vice chair of the Sumatran Tiger SSP. “We believe that fewer than 300 of them remain on their native island of Sumatra.”

The Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan® aims to ensure that a genetically diverse population of these majestic animals remains on earth Goodrowe Beck added.

**Indah explores the bamboo forest in the Waterfall Exhibit in the Asian Forest Sanctuary at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.**

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is a recognized leader in the SSP’s efforts to conserve the Sumatran tiger subspecies.

In addition to Indah and her two sisters, the zoo is home to two other Sumatran tigers, both of whom were born here as part of the SSP.

Dumai is now nearly 4 years old, and sister Kali is 3.

In the last several years, The Zoo Society’s Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund has awarded more than \$50,000 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.

The tiger triplets, along with their siblings, have played key roles in special Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium events dedicated to tiger conservation and wild cats. 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.

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, practices and 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).*