

# Namuang Safari Park

**First Visit: 16th March 2017**

Our researchers arrived at the facility earlier than expected and it was not yet open. During the wait to buy tickets, they were permitted to wander around the grounds and chose to look for where the tigers would be located. Upon asking where the tigers were, staff pointed to the tiger photo area, indicating the researchers could enter.

Our researchers entered the area, which comprised of three separate rooms surrounded by bamboo, each containing a platform and a chain. At the back of this area was another door, and through there were four tigers in cages. These cages measured roughly 5x5m and were dark, cement-floored and contained no enrichment with the exception of a pile of big rocks. The area was clean, though still wet as the keeper was in the process of cleaning the cages.

A second area containing larger tigers was found up in the "zoo" section. This has similarly sized and designed cages, with the addition of a small section out front with three cages attached to it. Tigers could hide in a second adjoining room, and though there were no specific places to get away from the public, the entire block of cages was covered by a black tarpaulin, preventing a full view.

The area appeared tidy with staff currently cleaning. There were no enrichment items, and cages were left wet. The whole area was dark. This section was built as a type of house on stilts, due to the positioning on the hillside. Venturing around the back of the building revealed tigers looking down from small rooms up above - their view of the outside world was unhindered providing some minimal enrichment.

Tigers in the zoo cage area were curious and friendly when it came to non-threatening interactions. They appeared at ease with the keeper cleaning around them, though the physical appearance of the tigers was unclean.

Tigers in the photo section were generally calm until the handler was rough, and then they displayed aggression. Whilst keepers did not hit the tigers, bamboo sticks were used to move the tigers' heads in position for tourist photos and their tails were grabbed to drag them around.

### **Second Visit: 25th April 2018**

There was little change. Staff reported more tigers (though less were seen), and the zoo cage area was now hidden behind a bamboo fence. Tigers could still be seen through it, and it is unclear why the facility had now prevented the public from viewing them.

There were two cubs present in the photo area, mainly seen on video monitors outside of the area - though they were quickly viewed by one of our researchers when a door was briefly opened. This matched with the increased number of tigers in the facility. Overall standards here are low.

### **Third Visit: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

There was no change to the living conditions of any of the tigers. Once more there were cubs in the photo booth – one cub and one older tiger. Staff reported a growing number of tigers, but once again very few were seen by our researchers.

Some of the adult tigers that were seen in the cage area were limping, but no visible injuries could be seen. Cages were dirty as was the water. Most of the tigers in this area were pacing.

