

Khao Pratap Chang Open Zoo

First Visit: 23rd February 2017

The single cage containing the tigers was along similar lines to those found within the breeding facilities. It was fully enclosed, including a roof, so the tigers could roam around it at will. The front section was the "natural" enclosure area and had a sandy, dirt-based substrate on the floor measuring roughly 3x8 metres. There were logs and pieces of wood placed about the enclosure, some looking as though at one point they had held a platform. There was also a large pond in one corner. At the time of the visit, this was empty, but it appeared that staff had just finished cleaning the area and were filling this up. There were three small sleeping rooms, roughly 4x4 metres leading on to the main area. The two tigers cohabitated and seemed to be well-adjusted to their life. They were interactive and friendly with both staff and the researchers. However, one was displaying the same harsh breathing problems as seen in the Tiger Temple tigers at both the government facilities.

For the most part, the cage was very basic, lacking enrichment and not catering to the needs of the tigers in terms of welfare.

Subsequent attempts to visit failed due to the zoo being closed, possibly because of the disease/breathing issue of the tigers. However, DNP staff still report two tigers residing there.

Second Visit: November 2018

Our researchers visited and were pleasantly surprised to find that the tigers now have access to a relatively large enclosure. The two tigers are now able to go in and out from their cage to this area. Here there is a large natural pond as well as rocks from the natural hilly geography of the area. The enclosure was lush and the tigers were very relaxed, friendly and displaying mostly positive behaviours – though some pacing was noted.

The cages still remain barren with a concrete floor. There was no additional enrichment items used.

Third Visit: 25th April 2019

No change from the year before.

