

# Songkla Zoo

## **First visit: 14th March 2017**

There were two large enclosures, one with four tigers, the other with two. Each were large, clean and spacious estimated at 400sqm. Each enclosure had natural vegetation including grass, bushes and trees, enabling the tigers to be able to hide completely from the public. This was complimented by a series of platforms for climbing, caves for sleeping and/or hiding, and logs for scratching. Further enrichment items included hanging objects, roped trees and tyres.

In the early afternoon there was a feeding show where the four tigers in the larger enclosure demonstrated their climbing, jumping and swimming abilities through a carefully planned enrichment routine using raw chicken and beef attached to a pulley system.

There appeared to be no hands-on interaction with any of the tigers. The tigers were all relaxed in the presence of humans, for the most part being disinterested with occasions of being alert when something caught their eye. Each of the tiger groups seemed to coexist well with each other, generally showing friendly behaviour, though during the feeding show, a couple of the tigresses had a little fight over food.

In general though, welfare of the tigers was good and definitely kept as a priority.

## **Second visit: 24th April 2018**

There was no change in the physical and mental welfare of the tigers. All appeared to be behaving in the same calm, relaxed and interested manner as on the previous visit. Our researchers arrived at opening and were able to watch the tigers being let out into the enclosures, observing that the tigers instantly scent marked and patrolled their territory, much as they would in the wild.

The only differences to note was that one less female tiger was out in the larger feeding show enclosure. Staff also reported a lower number of tigers.

Enrichment items were still available and had been varied from last time to include small balls as well as the similar style hanging toys and tyres.

**Third visit: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

There was no change in the physical and mental welfare of the tigers, or the general setup of the tigers in each area. The only change was that one of the areas that used to house lions now held a pair of tigers. It is believed that this pair are the two tigers originally housed in Dusit Zoo.

Tigers generally had good body condition scores, no signs of injury or pain were observed and the tigers demonstrated a range of positive behaviours. There was enrichment provided though it was limited. A downside is that there is an enrichment show, which in itself is great, but it is accompanied by very loud music.

This is one of the better facilities in the country.

