

Media download link for photos:

<https://zoo.resourcespace.com/?c=3629&k=ab2ebec9c0>
password: bumi12

Celebrate tiger Bumi's birthday with action to save iconic species

SEATTLE—Happy Birthday to Woodland Park Zoo's Malayan tiger, Bumi (boo-mee), who turns 12 today! Bumi's birthday is extra special because 2022 is the Year of the Tiger, which as the Chinese zodiac suggests, those born in the Year of the Tiger are courageous, competitive and confident.



Bumi celebrated his birthday with a tiered-box cake sprayed with Hot Thrills cologne and topped with a chunk of meat and bone fit for a tiger.

The zoo's only male tiger, Bumi is laid back and loves to relax, especially on a sunny day. According to the animal keepers who care for him daily, Bumi loves boxes and large paper bags to tear and shred. He also loves perfume that the keepers spray occasionally in the exhibit to stimulate his olfactory sense—the smellier, the better!

"When Bumi likes a perfume's fragrance, he'll rub his face and body all over it and chuff constantly," said Woodland Park Zoo animal keeper Katie Graves. He also loves to participate in training with his keepers such as voluntary blood draws and routine vaccinations, all while getting his favorite treats. "Bumi enjoys his habitat and visitors can often find him napping in front of the viewing window of the Banyan Wilds' Field House."

The other Malayan tiger living at the zoo is Azul, a 6-year-old female. She and Bumi have a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' Malayan Tiger [Species Survival Plan](#). Because tigers are solitary animals (except for mating and mom and cubs), visitors can see Azul and Bumi on a rotational schedule in Banyan Wilds.

"Bumi is quite enamored of Azul and loves to admire her and chuff in her direction on a regular basis," said Woodland Park Zoo mammal curator Martin Ramirez. "Our plan is to provide Bumi and Azul the opportunity to breed later this year as part of the Malayan Tiger Species Survival Plan in hopes that their lineage will continue to inspire people to help save tigers in their natural habitat."

The Malayan Tiger Species Survival Plan is a cooperative, conservation breeding program across accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of tigers.

Tigers are an auspicious symbol in many East Asian cultures, and Bumi's birthday is a powerful reminder to harness some positive energy into protecting this iconic species. In 2012, Woodland Park Zoo partnered with Panthera and Rimba to start the Malayan Tiger Conservation Program. This program has been hugely successful at protecting the critically endangered Malayan tiger and its habitat—the largest core area for tigers in the country. The program has also helped to create Kenyir State Park, protecting important forest tiger habitat from agricultural development, especially from oil palm plantations.

Wai Yee Lam runs the anti-poaching and tiger monitoring work for the Malayan Tiger Conservation Program. She and her well-trained team spend multiple days in the deep forest, checking camera traps and looking for evidence of poachers. Lam's training and years of experience have made her a global leader in tiger conservation. However, Lam said, "Conservation isn't just for biologists or people trained in conservation science. Each individual that has the passion for conservation is unique, you always have something in you that you can offer. Just be you."

How You Can Help Protect Tigers

- *Be a savvy traveler!* When looking for souvenirs abroad, be aware that some of the jewelry and trinkets might be made from illegally poached animal parts. Don't be afraid to ask what the product is made of and where it came from. By making informed choices, you can avoid having your souvenir confiscated and you'll support wildlife conservation around the world.
- *Be smart about sustainable palm oil.* Many confections include palm oil, the bulk of which is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia. To produce palm oil (the most widely used vegetable oil on the planet), tropical rain forest and peat swamps are being converted to agricultural land, confining the animals that live in these areas to much smaller habitat patches and making them susceptible to poaching and hunting, not to mention competition with other animals for limited resources. For Easter and other sweet occasions, use this [treat shopping guide](#) that will delight your loved ones and save forests and wildlife a world away.
- Adopt a tiger. Show your love for tigers with a Malayan Tiger Adoption Special for \$69 through April 30. The [ZooParent](#) program supports the zoo's animal care, education, and wildlife conservation efforts in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

About Tigers

Only six subspecies of tigers survive today: Malayan, Amur (or Siberian), Indian (or Bengal), South China, Indo-Chinese and Sumatran. All are endangered or critically endangered. The Malayan tiger lives only on the Malay Peninsula and the southern tip of Thailand. The population for Malayan tigers is dangerously low, with fewer than 250 living in their home range. They face tremendous pressure from poaching for the illegal wildlife trade and other threats including habitat loss due to residential and commercial development, logging and other human developments.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Visit [zoo.org](#) for information. Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily through April 30.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](#) or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###