



Panthera tigris

(Linné, 1758)

Common names:

engl.:	Tiger
esp.:	Tigre
fr.:	Tigre
de.:	Tiger
ital.:	Tigre
hindi:	Bagh, Sher

Scientific synonyms:

Felis tigris
Tigris spp.

*Panthera tigris altaica*

Characteristics:

Adult:

General appearance: Unmistakable. Largest cat, unique by its striped coat.

Measurements: Head-body-length: 140-280 cm, tail: 60-110 cm, hind foot: 30-40 cm, height at shoulder: 95-110 cm.

Body-weight: 180-280 kg, females 115-185 kg.

Head: Cranium domed, muzzle relatively long. The face is framed by a ruff of longer hair. Nose pad pink sometimes with black spots.

Eyes: Iris yellow. Pupils round.

Ears: Short and rounded, backside black with a conspicuous white spot.

Legs: The fore limbs are more powerfully built than the hind limbs. Large pads.

Tail: Relatively long with stripes and rings. Tip usually black. No terminal tuft.

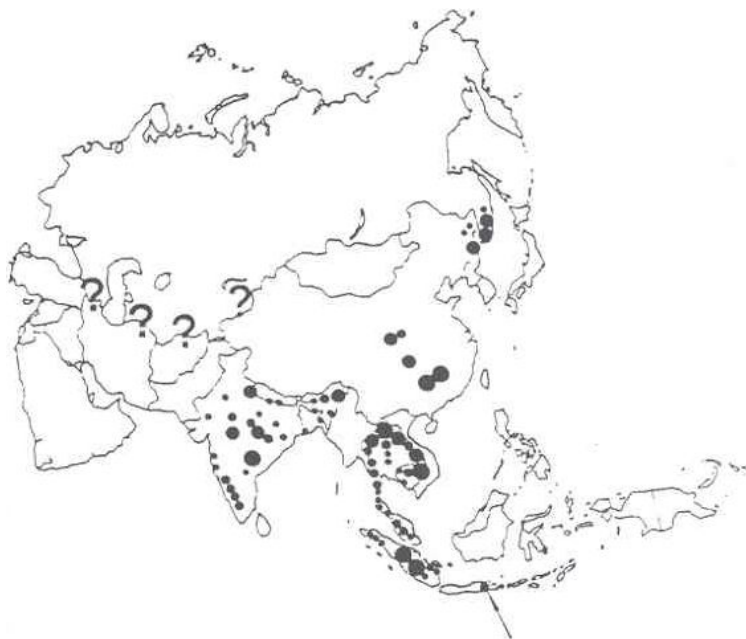
Coat: Rather coarse. Summer coat short and flat, winter coat considerably longer, tufty, especially in the N parts of the area. Frequently a short mane on the neck and shoulders. Black stripes on a light reddish yellow or ochre ground. Underparts and inner sides of the limbs almost white or with a light yellow tinge.

Sexual dimorphism: Females considerably (15-20 %) smaller and up to 50 % lighter than the males.

Juvenile: Weight at weaning (c. 4 months): c. 12-27 kg.

Distribution:

Asia:	NE China, Korea Dem. People's Rep.
<i>P.t. altaica</i> :	Korea Rep., E Russia.
<i>P.t. amoyensis</i> :	C and E China.
<i>P.t. corbetti</i> :	Burma, S China, Kampuchea Dem., Lao People's Dem. Rep., peninsular Malaysia, Thailand.
<i>P.t. sondaica</i> :	Indonesia: Java.
<i>P.t. sumatrae</i> :	Indonesia, Sumatra.
<i>P.t. tigris</i> :	Bangladesh, Bhutan, NW Burma, India, Nepal.
<i>P.t. virgate</i> :	N Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, N Iran, " Kazakhstan, W Mongolia, v Tajikistan, E Turkey, Turkmenistan. In Europe extinct (Armenia: 1948; Georgia: 1922).

**Population:**

Wild population: Endangered. 5000-7500 specimens. declining in most parts of the area. *P.t. balica* extinct, *P.t. virgate* and *P.t. sondaica* probably extinct.

Captive population: About 1087 (665.676) pure-bred Tigers were registered in studbooks in 1990. In addition, many subspecific hybrids are kept by zoos and circuses.

Trade: In 1990 CITES Parties recorded 135 live specimens. 11 skins and 2 trophies.

Intraspecific variation: 8 subspecies are generally recognized, distinguishable by body size, colour, development of mane (see under Distribution and Population). Island tigers are smaller and their coat is more colourful than in the nominate form. Siberian Tigers (*P.t. altaica*) are extremely large animals with a relatively pale coat. Caspian and Sumatran tigers (*P.t. virgate* and *P.t. sumatrae*) are characterized by a well developed mane.



P.t. sumatrae

Similar species: None.

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Veselovsky, Z. (1967) The Amur Tiger *Panthera tigris altaica* in the wild and in captivity. Int. Zoo Yearbook 7: 210-215.