



What 'Tiger King' Doesn't Tell You

The Exploitation of Big Cats for Profit

The Netflix docuseries, Tiger King, has taken the internet by storm, sending shockwaves and loads of memes across the interweb, all while rising to the ranks of the #1 series on the streaming service. However, the docuseries fell short in its depiction of the reality that captive big cats endure when exploited for profit in the U.S.

Facilities like that of Joe's GW Exotic Zoo perpetuate an industry that profits on the sheer abuse and exploitation of all animals involved. The Tiger King series does not depict the vicious cycle of abuse that is required to operate these facilities. It is an endless cycle of ongoing breeding, dumping, and suffering of animals.

Female tigers are bred, cubs are pulled just hours after birth, used (handled) for up to 12 weeks, and then after they've literally outgrown their use, what happens? The truth is - we don't always know. Female cubs are often sold to other operators and used for perpetual breeding, others are sold off to the highest bidder, sentenced to languish at sub-par facilities lacking the space, funds, and ability to offer proper care, and for other cubs, they're killed.

This is the central issue, Tiger King failed to depict, and it really is the biggest question everyone should be asking—*where do all of the tigers go?* There is no way to know exactly, due to the lack of government oversight.

And these facilities that participate in this profiteering are way more prevalent than most people realize. There are dozens of privately owned roadside zoos and attractions that lure in unknowing tourists, utilizing a facade of conservation, charging top dollar for a hands on interaction with a captive tiger, all the while, profiting on a sick cycle of animal abuse.

As a non-profit, accredited, big cat and bear sanctuary, Lions Tigers & Bears wants you to know that you can make a difference and help stop this cycle of abuse.

You can make a difference for the animals!

- Pledge to never take a selfie with, or handle, a wild animal of any age.
- Don't frequent traveling shows that feature big cats including circuses, magic acts, and big cat attractions at county fairs.
- Educate yourself on what a true sanctuary is—a true sanctuary will never buy, sell, breed, trade, or allow direct contact with big cats of any age.
- Visit only those sanctuaries accredited or verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, the American Sanctuary Association, and/or those that are members of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance. Being accredited means these facilities are implementing the highest standards of care for the animals.
- [Call your legislators](#) and urge them to support the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which would end the private ownership of big cats this cycle of abuse.