

Amur Tiger - Biology



Description: Amur tigers are one of the larger tiger sub-species. Average weight for males is 160-190 kg, while females are smaller, at 110-130 kg. Males, females and cubs can be distinguished by their tracks: a male's paw pad measures 10.5 – 14.5 cm across, a female's 8.5 – 9.5. cm, and a cub's – from 5.5 – 10 cm. (Male cubs, after one year, usually have paw measurements already larger than their mothers').

Amur tiger coat colour is a lighter orange than other tiger sub-species and becomes even more so in winter. Their coat is longer and thicker than other sub-species because of the colder climate with a thick mane around the neck and extra fur on their paws, to protect them against the sub-freezing conditions.

Breeding: Sexual maturity is reached around 4 years, but varies with gender and is earlier in zoo tigers. When a female is ready to mate she will signal by leaving scratch marks and urine deposits to attract males.

Longevity: In the wild a healthy tiger can live between 15 - 20 years, but in captivity they could easily reach 20 years or older.

