

Tiger Tales for Week Ending November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Greetings Tiger Fans!

Here in the Ozarks the weather can change radically from day to day, especially in the fall. This past week included cold rain, sunny warm days, and very windy days. The cats were active and lucky for us so were the visitors. As you know we survive on tours and donations. Our advertising is expanding and our brochures are placed in more tourist spots. More folks are saying The National Tiger Sanctuary is the highlight of their trip. We even had Honeymooners make a special trip to see us.

Remember last week we got a new Tiger, Richard? I showed him to you resting in his house and said that is all we may see of him for a while?

Here is a reminder;



He's in there, honest. Well, this past week he started feeling better and more secure so he was out and checking out his new temporary housing. What do you think?

Now we have TJ and Richard. Large White Tigers that always get a double take from our guests with admiration and awe. There is something about them that is just breath taking. As we slowly introduce Richard to his new home and surroundings there is surely going to be some big cat rivalry between our Alpha TJ and Richard. If you recall we had to build a fence between TJ and Merlin the Lion. They obsessed over each other. Tigers can see in color so TJ will know that Richard is white too.



They have a subtle difference in the head. Body size is similar, but see what you think on facial features;



To me, TJ (on the right) looks rather sweet and huggable, like a plush toy. Richard (on the left) looks like he's eyeing you up for a main course. They both have the pale blue eyes of a true white Tiger.

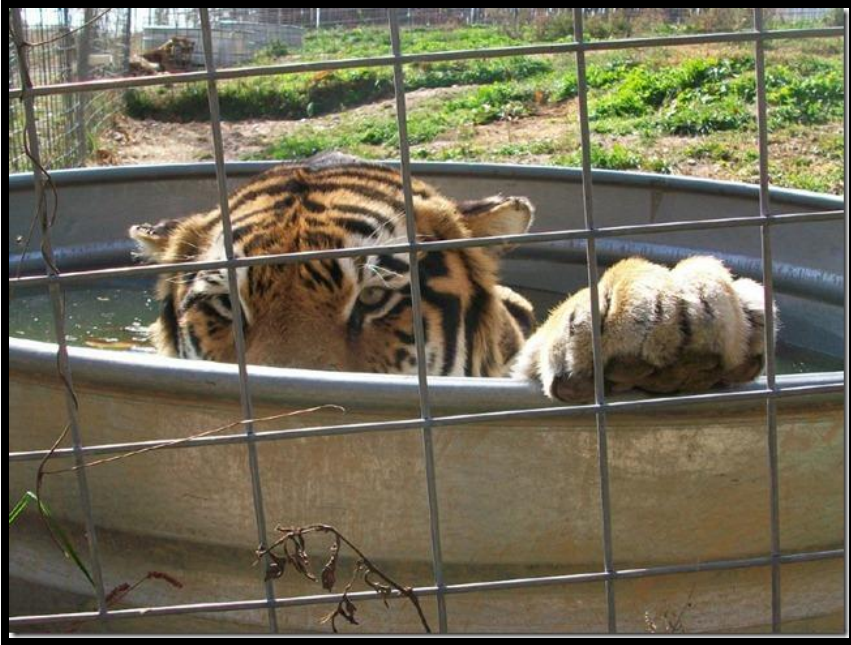
How about we talk about paws? Did you know that Tigers have 5 toes in front and 4 in the rear? Actually the fifth front toe is a dew claw. ( Some references say dewclaw and some say dew claw.) While many animals have a dew claw none use it so perfectly as a Tiger. If we compare dew claw placement on dogs and cats, the Tiger dew claw is just about where you and I have a thumb on our hand. Take a look at Paul's paw.



You see the dew claw next to his cute pink tongue? It is positioned just about the base of his first toe (finger). Now look at your hand. Amazing isn't it? And don't forget there is a 2" razor sharp hooked claw in that thumb (dew claw) that he can use just like we do.

I tried to get a picture of one of the Tigers holding up their bowling ball. They can do that because of the dew claw.

When Paul is in his pool he always has one paw out because he is afraid of drowning, believe it or not. True.. take a look;



Back to the five toe Tiger. The extra toe and claw in their front paws helps grab and hold prey. We have an extraordinary picture of TJ and Vince rough housing like brothers do sometimes. You really get to see the five toes in use.

That White Tiger, T.J. is about ten feet up and smacking his brother Max, upside the head! If you can expand the picture you make out his claws that are held back because they are just playing.

When Tigers expand their toes they expose the claw sheath that is centered in the toe. If you look up at Paul's paw you can just make out the slit in the fur where the claw is just waiting to be used. So do Tigers have paws or hands? I think they have paws.

More next week Tiger fans!  
Hope you stay well.  
Best to you,  
Your Tiger friend,  
Steve

[www.nationaltigersanctuary.org](http://www.nationaltigersanctuary.org)

