

## Longevity record of Indian tiger, *Panthera tigris tigris*, Linn. in captivity

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'Malini', a coloured tigress (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Linn.) of White Tiger family of Alipore Zoological Garden died on 18th September, 1980. The cause of death was senility. She was born on 18th June, 1960, at Govindagarh palace of Maharaja of Rewa as a result of cross between 'Mohan', the male white tiger, caught by Maharaja of Rewa and "Radha" a coloured tigress carrying gene for white (Roychoudhury & Sankhala, 1979). 'Malini' was acquired by the Delhi Zoological Park (National Zoological Park) from Maharaja of Rewa and was given to the Alipore Zoological Garden in 1963, on exchange basis. In Alipore Zoo, 'Malini' had been mated with "Neeladri" a white tiger of this Zoo and she produced 14 cubs in 7 litters. Out of 14 cubs, 7 were white and 7 were coloured and their sexes were 8 males and 6 females (Das, 1980).

"Malini" enjoyed a longevity of 20 years 3 months which is the highest longevity of tiger ever recorded in captivity. Crandall (1964) reported that a tigress (Bengal) at Staten Island Zoo, New York, died at the age of 19 years 7 months 23 days. Schaller (1967) reported that maximum longevity of tigers under Zoo conditions is about 20 years, an age which is probably not exceeded in the wild.

### References

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