

# BEYOND TIGER KING: ENDING THE CUB PETTING CRISIS

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# WHAT IS CUB PETTING?



# WHY IS CUB PETTING PROBLEMATIC?

CUB PETTING IS AN INDUSTRY THAT PROFITS FROM ENDANGERING AND ABUSING CUBS.



Humane Society of the United States investigation



# WHY IS CUB PETTING PROBLEMATIC?

CUB PETTING IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE.



“Cub petting fuels the rapid and vicious cycle of breeding and dumping cubs after they outgrow their usefulness.”

– Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. Congressman

# Why Cub Petting?

- Cycle of cruelty from birth to death
- Cause of captive tiger overpopulation crisis
- Encourages wildlife trafficking
- Creates public misimpression that tigers, lions not endangered
- Enriches worst of worst breeders/exhibitors

**1** The industry forces mother tigers to churn out cubs.

**2** They tear the babies away from their mothers.

**3** Some are forced to breed to continue the cycle. Others are killed.

**3** Roadside zoos charge the public to hold & take photos with them.

# The cycle of big-cat cub-petting

PETA

Up to 20 years

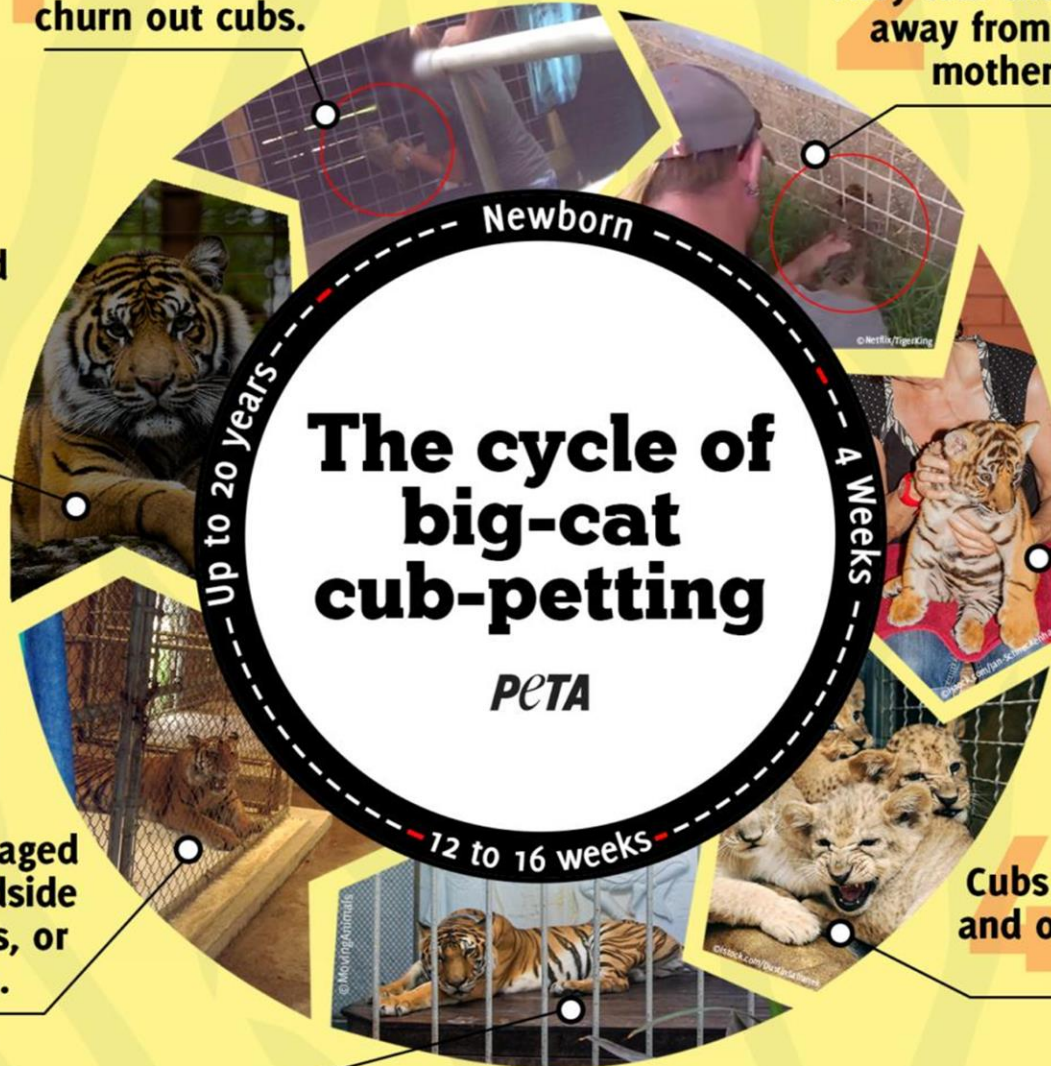
4 Weeks

12 to 16 weeks

**4** The cats are caged for life in roadside zoos, circuses, or backyards.

**4** Cubs are kept in cages and often denied basic, vital care.

**5** In mere weeks, cubs grow too large and dangerous for public contact.



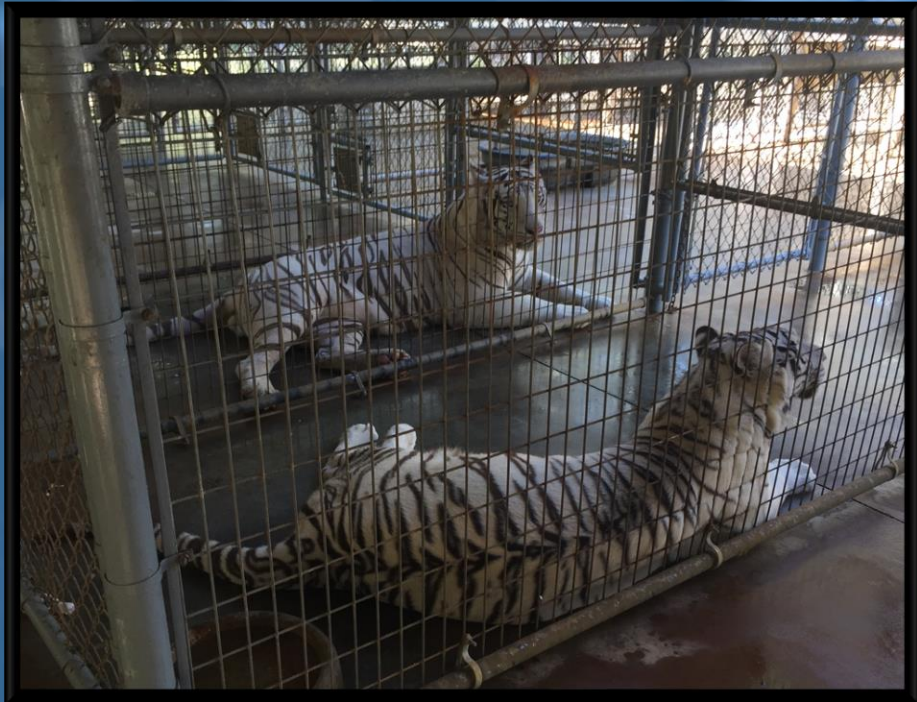
# USFWS/Endangered Species Act

- Vague regulations for welfare issues short of killing
- Chronic under-enforcement
- Small sub-set of animals protected
- Citizen suit provision tho

**“The term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” 16 U.S.C.A. § 1532**

# Dade City's Wild Things





# Tim Stark/Wildlife In Need



# Tiger King Park/Jeff Lowe



PEPA





IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

Case No. 20-cv-423-JFH

JEFFREY LOWE,

LAUREN LOWE,

GREATER WYNNEWOOD EXOTIC ANIMAL  
PARK, LLC, and

TIGER KING, LLC,

*Defendants.*

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiff, United States of America, by authority of the Attorney General of the United States and through its undersigned attorneys, files this Complaint and alleges as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This is a civil action against Jeffrey Lowe, Lauren Lowe, Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park, LLC (“GWEAP LLC”), and Tiger King, LLC (together “Defendants”) for violations of section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”), 16 U.S.C. § 1538(a)(1), (g), and violations of the Animal Welfare Act (“AWA”), 7 U.S.C. §§ 2134, 2159.

**Tampa Bay Times**

**Dade City's Wild Things must pay PETA \$399,000, judge rules**

**courier journal**

**Federal judge orders Wildlife in Need's Tim Stark to pay PETA over \$750,000 in legal fees**

# DECLINE IN NUMBER OF FACILITIES OFFERING BIG-CAT CUB-PETTING



# BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

## H.R. 263

- Sponsors: Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) & Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
- 242 co-sponsors

## S. 1210

- Sponsor: Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- 43 co-sponsors

Prohibits facilities from allowing individuals to come into “direct physical contact with a prohibited wildlife species.”



# BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT



# CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT



## **H.R. 3135**

- Sponsor:  
Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
- 69 co-sponsors

## **S. 1588**

- Sponsor: Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
- 13 co-sponsors



# Thank you!

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# Thank you!

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Photo taken at  
The Wild Animal  
Sanctuary