

PRESS RELEASE
6th January 2010

Snow Tigers

Usually staff at the Isle of Wight Zoo insist that there is no such animal as a 'snow tiger', but this week's weather temporarily made liars of them. While Sandown was hit less heavily than some parts of the island, there was certainly enough snow to confuse the big cats and keep their carers on their toes.

While many of the animals had the sense to stay in the warm, some of the more adventurous came out to see what all the fuss was about. White tiger Zena found the frozen stream in her enclosure most confusing, and didn't seem impressed with the taste of ice, but she didn't seem to mind the snow too much. She and her sister Zia periodically came out to say hello and show off their warm winter coats to the chilly staff keeping an eye on them.

Indian tiger Rajiv spent most of his life in the Southern US, so snow is probably something of a mystery to him. He was one of the most active animals during the bad weather, however, still patrolling his territory and making sure he could keep an eye on the female tigers.

The zoo has been a busy place over the winter with some major building work going on in preparation for reopening in February. The snow brought with it a welcome period of tranquillity for humans and animals alike as all agreed that the priorities of the day were staying warm and having a bit of fun.

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Notes to editors:

Isle of Wight Zoo aims to promote the survival of endangered species through first class educational and recreational experiences, exemplary animal management, conservation and research. The Zoo is best known for its work with exotic cats. As a centre for surplus or rescued big cats, all have come to the Zoo at different stages of their lives and from a variety of backgrounds. The Zoo strives to encourage the social development and natural behaviour of each cat in their care. Every species of big cat residing at the Zoo is currently under considerable threat in its natural habitat. Isle of Wight Zoo is currently home to 12 tigers, 3 lions and 2 jaguars.