

The Current Situation of Tiger Breeding and the Facing Difficulties of the Guilin Xiongsen Tigers and Bears Mountainvillage

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Preface

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Preface

The predecessor of the company was Pingnan Xionsen Wild Animals Breeding and Appreciating Corporation, which was founded in 1986 in Pingnan County. Under the supervision and support of the government of different levels and the other relative units, we had made some achievements on the wild animal' s scientific research and breeding, and we had also continuously enlarged the breeding groups of tigers. In 1997, we moved to the Liangjiang Airport Road of Guilin City, and the company was renamed in Guilin Xionsen Tigers and Bears Mountainvillage, with a total investment of 360 million RMB, and a land of over 500,000 square meters. Today the company has the Siberian tigers, the South China tigers and the Bengal tigers, 3 species, 1300 in total, 400 Black bears, and more than 200 African Lions. And the company has a team of 20 experts specialized on nutrition science, forage management, disease preventing and curing, and animal medicines. The basic idea of the company' s development is to rely on science, train talents, and to form a professional team of tigers and bears breeding and scientific research. Now, we have built cooperative base of scientific research and experiments with two universities, the Wild Life Resources Institute of China Northeast University and the Changchun Agriculture and Livestock University of the People' s Liberation Army, through which our company gives many rewards to the outstanding scientists annually. With more than 300 employees, the company provides a lot of job opportunities to the public as well.

1. The Operation of Standard Management

A) Security Measure

The Security Committee, under the direct supervision of the company' s leader, is responsible for the dated and undated security check of fire, burglary, and accident preventions. All units must cooperate under any conditions. All relative laws, regulations and the company' s rules must be followed strictly. Instruments of fire, burglary prevention and first aid must be taken care by specific persons, checked and maintained regularly, and must be reliable in case of needed.

B) Disease Preventing and Curing

A basic condition to raise the birth rate of tigers is to keep them healthy. So, together with breeding management, the disease preventing and curing is also very important, which should be done through out 5 different measures: a) Measures of Disinfections--Because the zoo is open to the public, in order to prevent the infectious diseases, each animal pen has its independent disinfecting pool, forage preparation room, and slaughterhouse. All these facilities must be disinfected once a day with specific medicines. b) Measures of Immunization--The cat distemper vaccine, and the cat rhinotracheitis vaccine, made by the Veterinarian Institute of the Changchun Agriculture and Livestock University of the People' s Liberation Army, must be used for each tiger twice a year. c) Measures of Parasite Prevention--Check the dejecta of the tigers' every month, use medicine when it is necessary. d) Measures of Medicines--Animals can be easily infected by intestine disease or flu in spring and autumn. So, feed the tigers with some relevant medicines for 3-5 days in these two seasons would be helpful. e) Measures of Quarantine--Disinfect any vehicles before entering the zoo. Use medicine bath for new coming animals and quarantine them strictly.

C) Forage preparation

Forage for the tigers should provide a scientific component of different nutrition, enough quantity and a good taste.

D) Professional management

The staff workers' knowledge of the profession would decide the business management level. All the animal keepers would receive a training of

profession skills and operations before their work. Two universities, the Changchun Agriculture and Livestock University of the People's Liberation Army, the Wild Life Resources Institute of the Haerbing Northeast Forestry University, and the Wild life Examination Center of the State Forestry Administration are providing us technological cooperation. And we have already started building the DNA Pedigree of the tigers.

2. The Breakthrough of Tiger Breeding technology

A) Reasonable match of tiger breeders

A complete pedigree data of subspecies tigers has been set up. The ear-card or tattoo numbers have been put on the tigers' bodies after the DNA test. And therefore, the incest breeding has been prevented. The breeding rate has been rising. And the animals' ability against disease has been strengthened.

B) Building complete files of individual

We had introduced 3 species of tigers into the zoo from both home and abroad. And we had also finished building 90 families' pedigree of the Siberian tigers, 43 families' pedigree of Bengal tigers, and 7 families' pedigree of the South China tigers, and now reached the F5 generation.

C) The management of animal breeding and rearing

A successful animal breeding should be followed by 5 steps: a) Preparing period--The animals should be conditioned into different physical status; male, middle+, and female, middle-. And the forage that is good to germ cell should be provided in this period. b) Mating period--Forage of full nutrition, good taste and in small cubage should be provided. c) Pregnancy period--The request of the foods' quality and quantity should reach the highest level in a year. Forage should be fresh, nutritive, easy to digest and good in variety. d) Weaning period--Mother and babies should be kept separately. More milks and eggs should be provided and the weaning room should be quiet. e) Growing period--Babies grow fast in this period, so enough food that is rich in proteins, mineral and vitamins should be provided, and the longer time of physical exercise and sunlights would be necessary for the babies.

D) The reproduction of the tigers

The Tiger Breeding Base, the Training Area for running wild, and the Tiger hill are the good places for tigers' breeding. A female tiger could possibly give two litters in 228 days. And the percentage of baby survival can reach 98%. The company now has female breeders for more than 200. Due to the shortage of capital and the animals' pens, most of those who had more than one litter before had been given birth control. In fact, it can have more than 600-800 baby tigers every year if we don't making any controlling measures.

3. The Species of Tigers and the numbers of each

The company has already come to the F5 generation of breeding tigers.

South China tigers: F1, 6; F2, 8; F3, 16; F4, 26;

Siberian tigers: F1, 78; F2, 150; F3, 323; F4, 446;

Bengal tigers: F1, 36; F2, 50; F3, 79; F4, 88.

4. The Expense of Everyday

A) Animal feeding

We have 1300 tigers in total. Every tiger would need at least 5 kg meat from cows or chicken per day. And therefore, we would need 5 tons of meat everyday. If it costs 160, 000 RMB per ton, it would cost us about 29,000,000 RMB every year.

With 200 lions, we would need 1 ton of meat everyday, about 5,800,000 RMB every year. With 400 Bears, we would need 3 tons of meat everyday, about 2,200,000 RMB every year. Therefore, we need about 37,000,000 RMB in total to feed all the animals every year.

B) The other expense

It would also cost us about 10,000,000 RMB to pay for employees' wage, water, electricity, medicines, and the other things.

C) The scientific research and diseases control

It is always a heavy burden for the company to pay for scientific research and diseases control every year. And the increasing of animals, the rising price has made more and more difficulties for the company's finance.

5. The Difficulties we are facing and the problems that we hope the government could help us

A) It has been over 20 years since the base of tiger breeding was founded.

The number of tigers has increased, which helped a lot in the wildlife protection and public awareness. However, it has also brought a heavy financial burden to the company, which made a lot of negative effects on conservation education.

B) The Breakthrough of Tiger Breeding Technology has enabled us to reproduce tigers successfully. During the past 20 years, our company has invested a lot of capitals, manpower resources, and the other resources in protecting this endangered species of animals. Now we have come to a financial obstacle. We need 50,000,000 RMB every year to run the zoo, and yet, the income from tourism was just 15,000,000 RMB. The other 35,000,000 had been the loan from the banks. Now the company has deposited everything it could with the bank. Without a fresh financial support, the 1,000 tigers would be starving. Then, it would become meaningless to talk about protections of these animals!

C) Up till now, our company has not yet received any support from any international organizations. The government doesn't allow any usage of a tiger body even after its natural death. And what the company could not understand is that after the prohibition of tiger products trade has substantially deprived of our rights of dealing with the tiger bodies, there is nothing pay back!

D) The publics requirements. Patients of rheumatism could be often seen to come to us for tiger bones, but we could give them nothing even when they get down on their knees pleading because it is not allowed. The tigers' body is protected, while the patients are left alone. Then, how could we ask these people to keep their enthusiasm on the wild life protection?

E) We could accept and would like to support the protection of wild tigers, but we also wish that the government and international organizations could be concerned about what the company has done and what difficulties we have and what the patients suffer.

F) We urgently require the government and CITES organization let us make good use of the tiger body after its natural death!

G) If it is allowed to make good use of the tiger bodies which come from captive breeding, we would be able to not only get ourselves out of

difficulty, but also provide financial supports to the international wildlife protection, and as well as the re-introduces project. If that is possible, as the consequents, the tigers in the zoo would be financially supplied easily, the pressure of wild tigers would be removed, and the wild life resources would be protected well, and the social needs would be met, and the stratagem of sustainable development could be possible, and the illegal trade could be stopped. (the end)