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## The Life Cycle of a Tiger: How Tigers Reproduce



Tigers are remarkable creatures, and their way of bringing new tigers into the world is just as fascinating. Like all animals, tigers have unique mating and parenting behaviors that help ensure the survival of their species.

Tigers usually mate during specific times of the year, though this can vary based on where they live. When a female tiger is ready to mate, she marks her territory with

a special scent to attract males. Male tigers may compete with each other to win her attention, often through roaring or displaying their strength. Once a pair forms, they stay together for only a few days before parting ways.

After mating, the female tiger carries her cubs for about 3 to 3.5 months, or roughly 90 to 105 days. This period is called the gestation period. When the time comes, the mother tiger finds a safe and hidden spot, such as a cave or thick bushes, to give birth. Tigers usually have 2 to 4 cubs at a time, but sometimes they can have as many as 6!

Tiger cubs are born blind and rely entirely on their mother for survival. For the first few months, the mother nurses them with her milk and keeps them safe from predators. As they grow, the cubs begin to explore their surroundings and play with each other. Playtime is important because it helps them practice hunting skills.

The mother tiger teaches her cubs how to hunt by showing them how to stalk and catch prey. Cubs stay with their mother for about two years before becoming independent. At this point, they leave to find their own territory.

Tigers are very protective of their young, but raising cubs is not easy. Many tiger cubs do not survive their first year due to predators or lack of food. This is why every surviving cub is so important to the future of tigers as a species.

By understanding how tigers reproduce and care for their young, we can better appreciate the challenges these amazing animals face in the wild.