

SAVE THE WHITE TIGER

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King Rex and King Zulu have reigned over Audubon Zoo for decades. Their undeniable beauty seems connected to their socialized and loveable interactions with humans, which have been characterized as “spiritual.” Zabu was an extraordinarily beautiful white tigress living in an animal sanctuary in Tampa, Florida. Hollywood is a star living in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. White tigers may “inhabit less than 6% of their historic range.” Evidence of captive white tiger reproduction suggests that wild white tigers likely continue to proliferate. “Only three subspecies of tigers are being managed in the [United States]. The white tiger is not one of them.” Captivity has saved white tigers because they proliferate in captivity, and it may be the most viable habitat option for many of these white tigers. Continued appreciation by zoo patrons for their undeniable beauty and specialness reinforces that white tigers will continue to be bred in captivity and exhibited. Section II discusses captivity and advocacy. Section III describes reintroduction of white tigers into the woods of India to demonstrate that white

tigers belong in captivity (e.g., American zoos) for now. Section IV explains animal welfare arguments and the merits of public prevention of physically interacting with white tigers, particularly when these tigers are young cubs. Section V concludes that activists' efforts are best invested when they focus on caring for white tigers and funding comfortable enclosures for them.