

# Khon Kaen Zoo

## **First Visit: 10th March 2017**

There were two enclosures for the tigers, one housing three Indo-Chinese tigers and the other housing a single white tiger. Each of the enclosures was large, in excess of 400sqm, and filled with natural vegetation as well as rocks, enrichment, platforms and ponds. There were plenty of places for the tigers to hide from the public; in fact, the white tiger was barely visible during our visit.

The tigers showed general curiosity of the public and behaved in either disinterested, aggressive or social manners with their conspecifics. Interaction with staff appeared limited to the feeding show, where staff attached meat to a pulley system encouraging the tigers to climb on platforms, leap for, or scale feeding poles in order to get the food. Unfortunately, our researchers missed this feeding programme so cannot fully comment on its efficacy in providing enrichment.

## **Second Visit: 19th April 2018**

There was no change in the setup of the enclosures. The tigers were in the same locations with similar enrichment items. This time, our researchers were able to see the feeding programme, which engaged a number of the big cats. Of the tigers, only the white tiger was part of the programme. He ventured out and was an active participant in the feeding, jumping and lunging for the pieces of meat held at the top of the feeding pole.

Once again, there were no stereotypies noticed with tigers behaving socially towards one another. Overall, they demonstrated better welfare than most.

## **Third Visit: 15th April 2019**

There was no change to the setup of enclosures with the tigers in the same areas. It does appear that the white tiger enclosure rotates between a male and female though as this year a white tigress was out rather than a male.

No abnormal repetitive behaviours were noted. And the zoo has better welfare than most in the country.

