



Care For Us

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

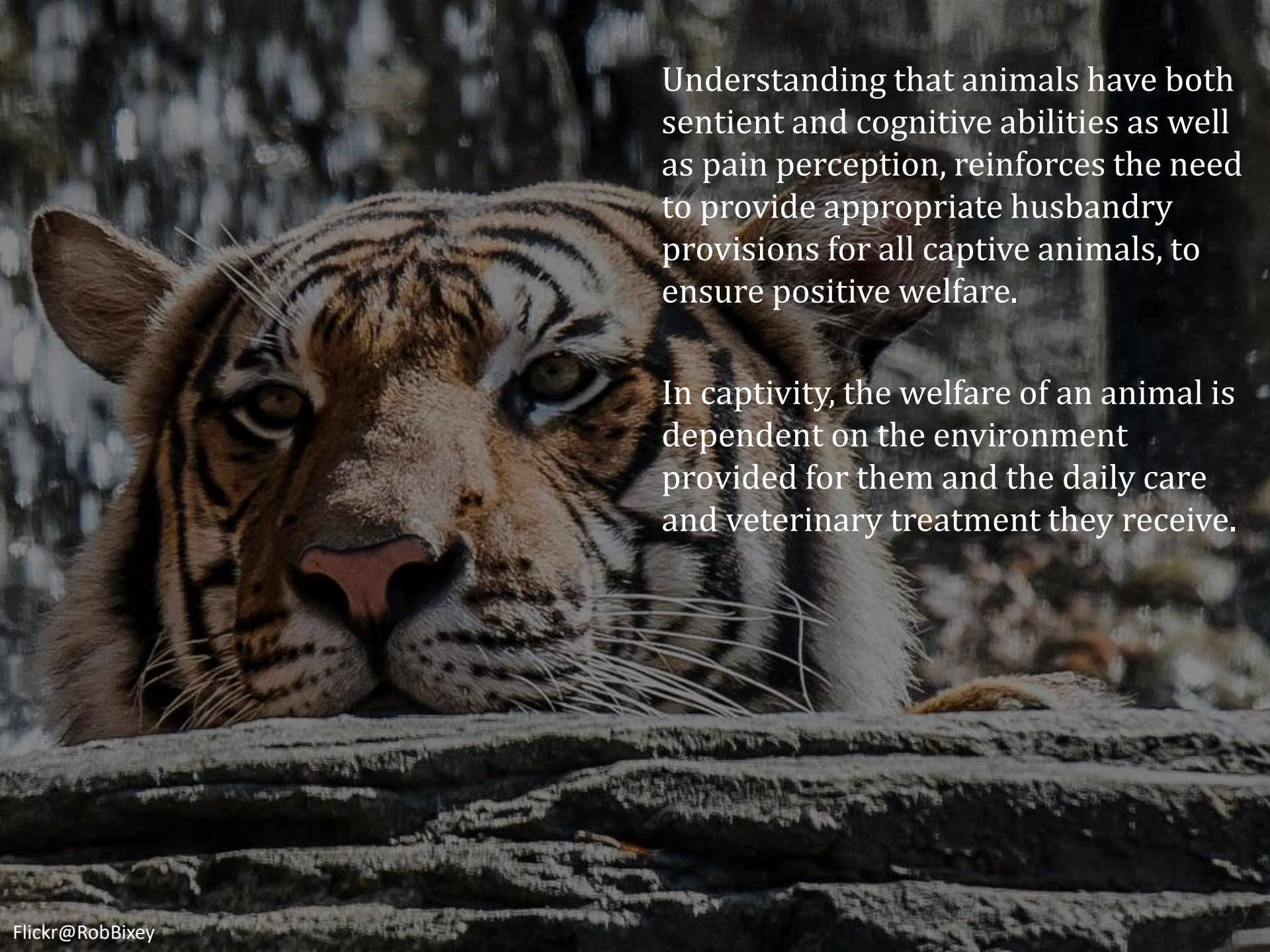
Animal Welfare

Animal welfare refers to an animal's state or feelings. An animal's welfare state can be positive, neutral or negative.

An animal's welfare has the potential to differ on a daily basis. When an animal's needs - nutritional, behavioural, health and environmental - are met, they will have positive welfare.

A good life in captivity might be one where animals can consistently experience good welfare - throughout their entire life.





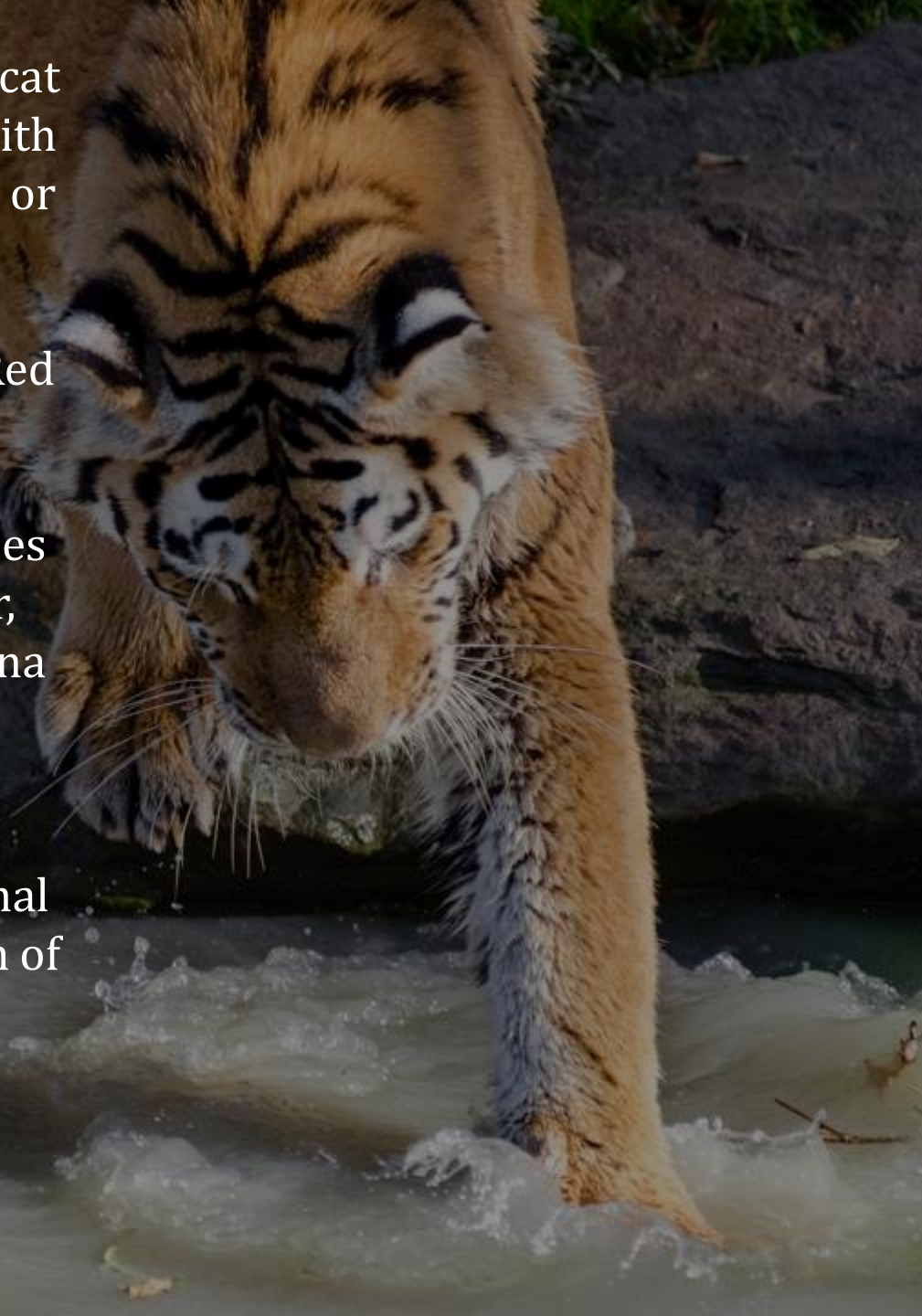
Understanding that animals have both sentient and cognitive abilities as well as pain perception, reinforces the need to provide appropriate husbandry provisions for all captive animals, to ensure positive welfare.

In captivity, the welfare of an animal is dependent on the environment provided for them and the daily care and veterinary treatment they receive.

The tiger is the largest member of the cat family. They have distinct colouring, with reddish coats covered in narrow black or brown stripes.

The tiger is Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Today, an estimated total of only around 3,000-4,500 tigers exist in the wild. Subspecies of the tiger include the Sumatran Tiger, Siberian Tiger, Bengal Tiger, South China Tiger, Malayan Tiger and Indochinese Tiger.

The demand for tiger parts in traditional medicine, hunting, and the destruction of habitats means that many of the subspecies are either endangered or already extinct.

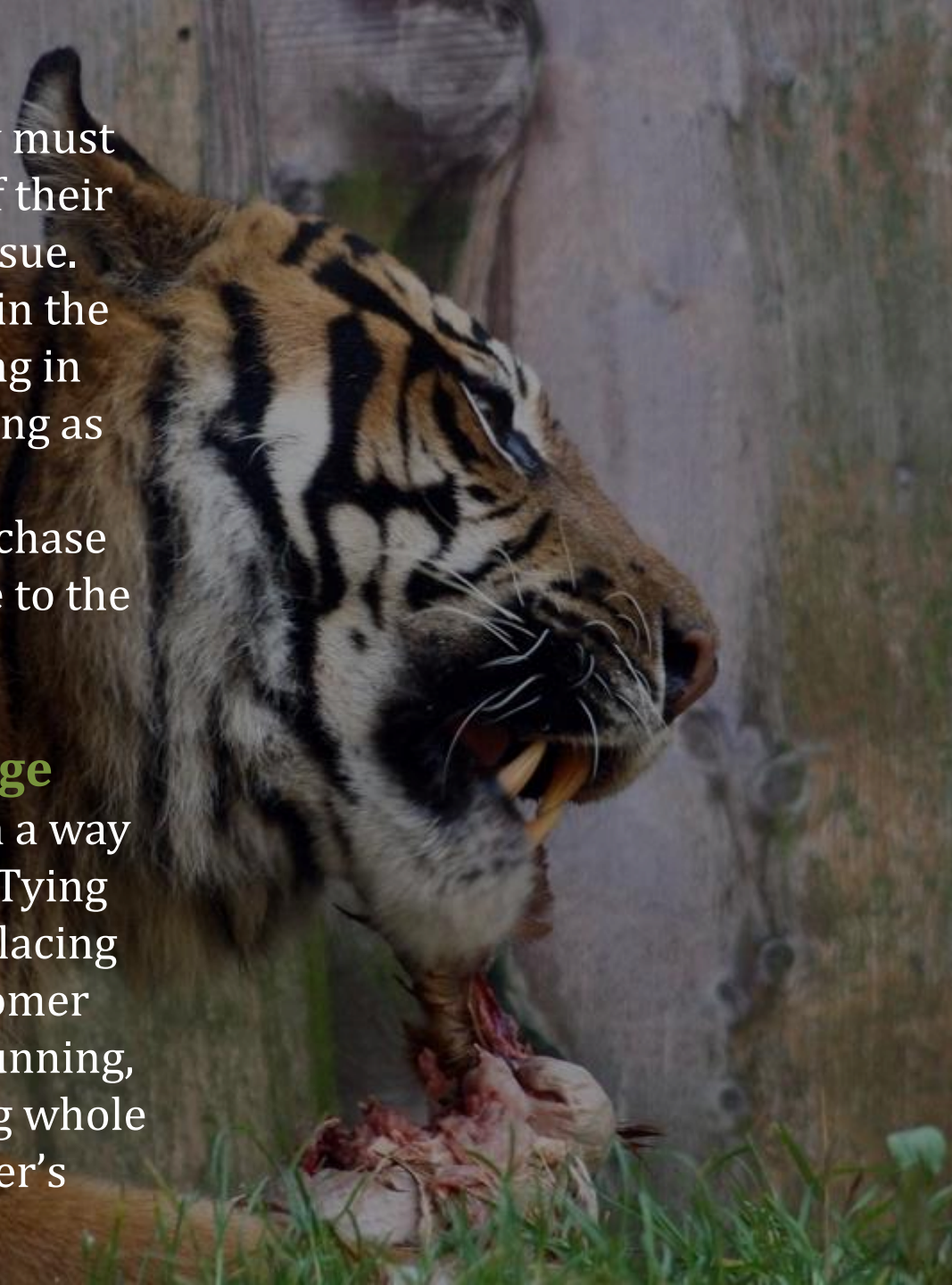


Tigers Like to Hunt

Tigers are obligate carnivores – they must eat meat because they derive most of their energy and nutrients from animal tissue. They eat many different species and in the wild, tigers will stalk their prey, hiding in high grass using their striped colouring as camouflage. They chase over short distances and can attack in water or chase their prey up trees, killing with a bite to the neck.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

In captivity, food should be offered in a way that encourages natural behaviours. Tying chunks of meat to the top of a pole, placing food in a sack, or hiding food in a boomer ball all work well. This encourages running, stalking, chasing and tearing. Feeding whole carcasses encourages the use of a tiger's powerful muscles and teeth.



A tiger is lying down in a grassy area with green foliage in the background. A large, dark metal barrel is positioned in the foreground, partially obscuring the tiger's head and front legs. The tiger's head is resting on the barrel, and its eyes are partially closed. The background shows a dense thicket of green leaves and branches.

Tigers are Strong

Tigers can jump up to five metres in height and more than six metres in length. Their extremely powerful leg muscles and large size mean they are incredibly strong.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Provide an interesting and dynamic environment for tigers to allow them to demonstrate their strength. Placing durable ropes, barrels, climbing structures and poles in an enclosure will encourage a tiger to use its powerful body to stay healthy and strong.

A tiger with orange fur and black stripes is standing on a large, weathered log. The tiger is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The background is a dense forest with green foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

Tigers Like to Climb

Tigers use their extremely powerful leg muscles and strong claws to climb trees. Tigers like to rest high up and will also use the height to spot possible prey.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Encourage active climbing behaviours by providing multiple and different level climbing opportunities. Platforms for resting and sleeping and natural trees or logs will allow tigers to move both vertically and horizontally around their enclosure.

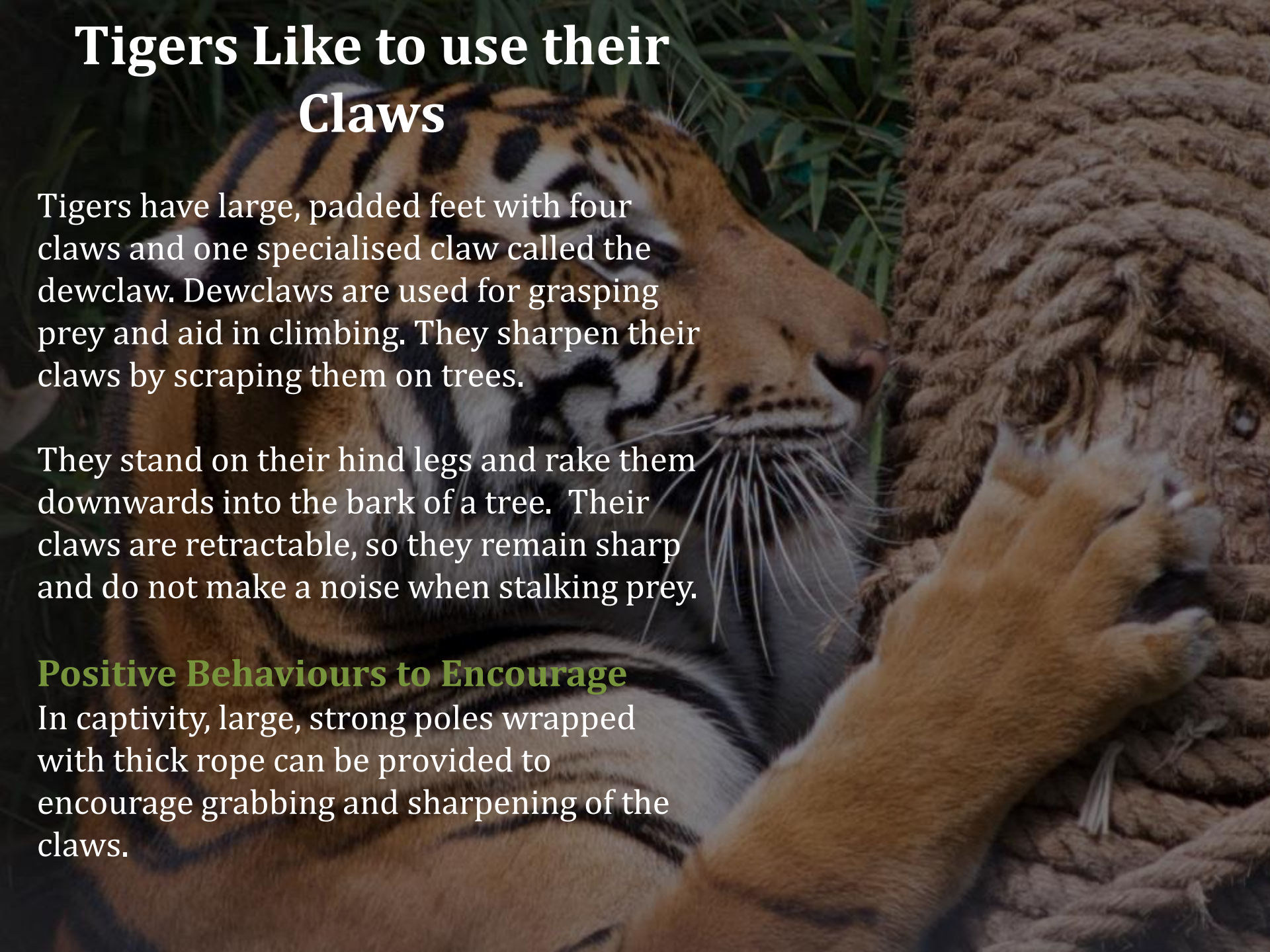
Tigers Like to use their Claws

Tigers have large, padded feet with four claws and one specialised claw called the dewclaw. Dewclaws are used for grasping prey and aid in climbing. They sharpen their claws by scraping them on trees.

They stand on their hind legs and rake them downwards into the bark of a tree. Their claws are retractable, so they remain sharp and do not make a noise when stalking prey.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

In captivity, large, strong poles wrapped with thick rope can be provided to encourage grabbing and sharpening of the claws.



A tiger with orange fur and black stripes is standing in a shallow pool of water. The tiger is looking directly at the camera with yellow eyes. The background is filled with tall green grass and other foliage. The water is slightly rippled.

Tigers Like to Swim

Tigers like water. They are good swimmers and even chase prey while in the water. They will seek out water to cool off during hot weather and can even dive and swim under water if necessary.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

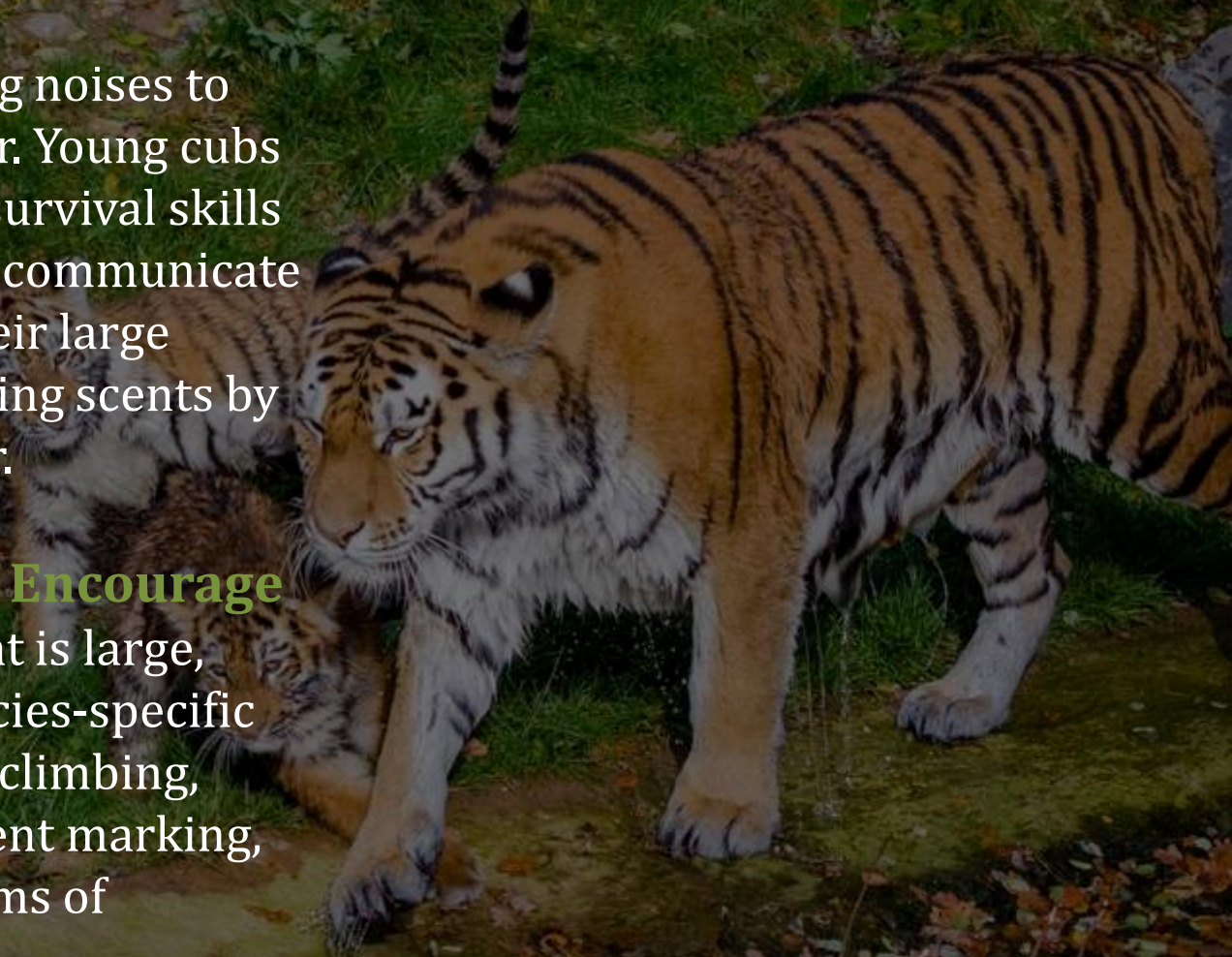
Providing a deep pool and water mister within their enclosure will encourage swimming and enable tigers to cool off in hot weather. Throwing durable, scented toys into the water will encourage play behaviours. Tigers also enjoy natural running water to drink from, such as a fountain or waterfall.

Tigers Like to Communicate

Tigers will use soft chuffing noises to communicate to each other. Young cubs play in order to learn key survival skills for later in life. Tigers also communicate through scent, marking their large home territory or exchanging scents by rubbing against each other.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Providing an enclosure that is large, natural and allows for species-specific activities such as running, climbing, playing, swimming and scent marking, will encourage natural forms of communication.



Tigers Enjoy...

Playing, forming close bonds with their young, cooling off when hot, swimming, and eating different and interesting foods.

In captivity we should always try and replicate their natural and normal behaviours so they are happy and healthy throughout their lives.

More Tiger Care Information
[HERE](#)

