Jessica Haffer

Mrs. Stoltenberg

English 8

November 17, 2003

Research on Siberian Tigers By Jessica Haffer

Something prowls slyly through the tall grasses. The rustic orange body looks like it's broken into pieces by the vibrant black stripes. The inside of its legs are coated with smooth, white fur which is revealed with every swift step. The powerful force of its intriguing yellow eyes and pulse-quickening growl sends fearful birds into quick flight.

The Siberian Tiger originated in Eastern Asia and is also known as Panthera tigris altaica, by scientific name.(2) This warm blooded creature is also a mammal.

These creatures are mainly located in the woodlands of Eastern Russia, North East China, and Northern North Korea.(2) They have a grassland habitat populated by mixed deciduous and coniferous forests, mainly in mountain ranges.(5)

The Siberian Tiger is a strict carnivore who has a large diet span. Tigers dine on deer, wild pigs, antelope, elephants, cattle, and young rhinoceroses.(1,2) For a quick snack, they might also munch on fish, rabbits, or hares. These animals don't have much of a chance either because these tigers are multiplying regularly. Siberians usually begin their mating season in winter.(5) Their litters can occupy up to six cubs that are raised without the help of their father. (3) They enter the world blindly and begin their instinctive hunting at eighteen months old. (5)

A Tiger of this kind is very distinct. Siberians sport red/gold

rust like coats that are beneath a pattern of solid black stripes. (3) The tiger's loose belly and white creamy underside make it a true Siberian. (5) This cat's long threatening tail is ringed from tailbone to tip. This tiger has pointy black ears with a white spot in the center that lets predators or prey know they mean business. (4) To get down and dirty, the Siberian Tiger has a rough tounge that peels skin and flesh from its prey to prepare for dinner. (5) They have longer hind limbs for jumping and swimming after food. (5) Their retractable claws also make it a threatening predator among the animal kingdom. (4)

These tigers also intimidate other animals with their large size. The male tigers can be up to nine feet long and weigh four hundred and twenty pounds. While females, are "petite" at eight feet and three hundred pounds.(1)

The Siberian has two main tasks, sleeping and hunting. These mammals are lazy and sleep at least sixteen hours a day.(1)

The life span of the Siberian Tiger is longer in captivity where they can grow to be sixteen to twenty six years old. Where in the wild, they only live approximately fifteen years. Siberian tigers are also endangered and are hunted for their lusious fur coats.(4)

As the large cat bathes n the glistening sun, it lies peacefully on the dew coated grass hedges. The tiger rolls around sleepily, awakening from its deep trance. It lowers its heard to groom the creamy, white fur on its stomach. As the tiger strokes its belly leisurely, it appears docile and harmless. Yet, in a slight footstep, those possessive green eyes could hold the reflection of your own irises, and its heart-leaping growl could echo in your ear.