

Big Cat News

Check here daily for news about big cats around the world.

[Sidebar](#)
[Home](#)

"I like when I have tigers that can go to other zoos," she said. "That provides space for me to bring in other tigers."

The safety factor

Jaunakais said she had some doubts at first when she heard the tigers she helped raise might be heading to an unstable country.

But she said the zoo is safe, and military officials are dedicated to protecting the animals.

"There's so many people involved," she said. "It's a huge global thing."

The Conservators' Center wouldn't send animals into an unsafe situation, Stinner said.

"I mean, these are our children," she said.

Stinner is convinced the zoo is out of harm's way.

"At this point, enough has been done at the zoo that this is safe," she said.

But People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals doesn't think so. PETA is asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny the permit that would allow the transfer of Hope and Riley.

"To send these animals into a war zone — it's a preposterous and reckless idea," said Lisa Wathne, a PETA captive exotic animals specialist based in Seattle. "It's certainly not in the best interest of these animals."

PETA's Web site features an online form for anyone opposed to the tigers' transfer. The forms will be sent to the government, the site says.

Stinner said PETA's concerns were understandable to an extent.

"Obviously, you give a huge amount of consideration to that," she said of circumstances in Iraq.

But she said the Baghdad Zoo should be allowed to flourish. Hope and Riley, who each weigh about 250 pounds now, could be part of something special, she said.

She doesn't know how long it will take to process the paperwork. It could be years before the tigers leave, she said.

"I feel really good about it," Jaunakais said. "I think it's a really neat project."

<http://www.salisburypost.com/Area/072808-tigers->

<http://www.bigcatrescue.org>

Posted 29th July 2008 by TigerAngel

0

Like 0



[Send feedback](#)