

HOWLETTS TIGERS KEEP COOL IN THE POOL DURING THE HEATWAVE

Photos by Dave Rolfe

Tigers at Howletts Wild Animal Park took advantage of the pools in their enclosure for a refreshing dip as temperatures reached 32° in the South East last week.

The three young Siberian tigers, two brothers Altay and Altai, and their sister Sayan, were born at the park in August 2008. Siberian tigers are endangered.

Park photographer Dave Rolfe, who was lucky enough to photograph the trio, has been photographing the animals at Howletts Wild Animal Park and its sister park Port Lympne for over 25 years.

He commented:

'This particular tiger enclosure has large glass panels that overlook the pool which make it much easier to photograph them. Tigers are one of the only cats that enjoy being in water and the Siberians often use the pools in their enclosures. On this occasion, their head Keeper Jim Vassie was throwing bits of meat over into the pool to make them work for their food a little more than usual and they were soon making a bit of a game of running in and out of the water. It has been a privilege to get to know and photograph the animals at Howletts and Port Lympne over the years, some of which are among the rarest and most endangered in the world, and moments like these still take my breath away'

To find out more about seeing tigers at Howletts: The Aspinall Wild Animal Park, the work of conservation charity The Aspinall Foundation with endangered cats or to adopt a tiger from as little as £3 per month please visit www.aspinallfoundation.org

Splashing about...

Notes to Editors:

The Aspinall Foundation's Port Lympne and Howletts Wild Animal Parks in Kent were set up by the late John Aspinall to be centres of excellence for animal husbandry within which to protect and breed threatened species, with a view to returning them to the wild wherever possible.

The Aspinall Foundation, which manages the parks, is today a world leading conservation charity dedicated to keeping John Aspinall's innovative conservation ethos alive- leading the way through education, captive breeding and reintroduction. The Aspinall Foundation has projects both in the UK and overseas, including Java, Madagascar, Congo and The Gabon. Working in conjunction with the parks, The Aspinall Foundation has so far returned to protected areas of the wild Przewalski's horses, black rhino, Cape buffalo, pythons and gorillas.

Press Information: