

Tony The Tiger Has Passed

Grosse Tete, LA – The Tiger Truck Stop's beloved tiger mascot Tony passed away today, Oct. 16, 2017

Tony was six months of age when he came to live with his new family at Tiger Truck Stop in January of 2001, and lived to be 17.5 years of age in his own 3,200 square foot facility, celebrated as one of the finest free zoo exhibits in the entire country.

Recently, Tony, who was approaching his life expectancy, began to exhibit typical signs that death was imminent. To prevent Tony from suffering, on the evening of October 16, 2017 at his long-time home, with his veterinarians, family, and longtime caregivers at his side, Tony peacefully passed away. It is a sad day for his owner Michael Sandlin and the entire TTS family.



Tony knew many of the regular visitors to his Grosse Tete home and was known for rubbing against the bars of his enclosure and 'chuffing' to those he liked.

Tony was at one time the most photographed tiger on Earth, coming under media attention when animal "rights" activists tried to take Tony from his home and send him to a different enclosure in another state, despite an exemplary record of care, pristine handling, and his own dedicated veterinarian. Michael Sandlin, who always treated Tony like a member of his family, was forced to fight legal battles to keep Tony at his home at Tiger Truck Stop.

Tony was the subject of an award-winning feature documentary called "How To Not Kill A Tiger," which illustrated to lawmakers the world-class conditions in which Tony spent his days. Tony had the best diet and veterinary care possible. His living space was four times larger than the recommended size for an animal of his type, and it was recognized that his environment was better than most zoos and live exhibits in the United States. Tony's zoo was free for everyone.

Following an autopsy to benefit future tiger care, Tony will be preserved through taxidermy in remembrance of the wonderful memories and enjoyment he provided to children of all ages at his free zoo in Grosse Tete. Visit TigerTruckStop.com for more information about Tony's incredible life.