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**Lions Tigers & Bears San Diego's Accredited Big Cat  
Sanctuary Responds to 'Tiger King' Docuseries**

*Netflix docuseries fails to depict the exploitation and abuse captive big cats  
endure at the hands of profiteers*

ALPINE, CA (March 31, 2020) - The Netflix docuseries, Tiger King, made its debut on March 20, 2020, and has taken the internet by storm, while rising to the ranks of the #1 series on the streaming service. However, Lions Tigers & Bears, an accredited big cat and bear sanctuary, located in Alpine, California, and home to more than 65 animals, including six tigers, and other exotic species, wants the public to know that the abuse and exploitation of captive big cats in the U.S. is a serious problem, endangering animals and the public alike.

Sanctuary Founder and Director, Bobbi Brink, states "G.W. Exotic is just one of many small, roadside zoos across our country that perpetuates the abuse of captive big cats. It is a matter of supply and demand. And as long as there is a demand for baby cubs to be held and posed with, these places are going to continue to breed, and animals are going to suffer."

Brink states "The Tiger King series does not depict the vicious cycle of abuse that is required to operate these facilities. It is an endless cycle of ongoing breeding, dumping, and suffering of animals. Cubs can be handled for up to 12 weeks, then after that, what happens? The truth is - we don't really know. Female cubs are often sold to other operators and perpetually bred, other cubs are sold off to the highest bidder. That is what this docuseries did not depict - and that is the biggest question everyone should be asking—*where are all of the tigers?*"

In order to facilitate a cub petting operation, facilities must have a constant supply of cubs available for the public to handle. The gestation period of a female tiger is an average of 100 days, giving birth to 2-3 cubs. In the wild, female tigers typically wait 18-30 months between giving birth and becoming pregnant once again. However, in captivity, through speed-breeding practices, a female tiger can be bred up to three times per year.

The practice of cross-breeding, speed-breeding, and in-breeding, often results in genetic defects and severe, chronic health problems such as deformations, metabolic disorders, hip dysplasia, vision problems, congenital diseases and more.

The welfare of tigers, and other inherently dangerous species, falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is charged with enforcing the federal Animal

Welfare Act. There is no federal law regulating the private ownership of tigers, or other big cat species in the United States. Instead, each state has imparted their own regulations. Presently, 14 states permit private ownership of exotic animals under a licensure or permit scheme and four states do not have any statutory or regulatory scheme, meaning it is perfectly legal for an individual to own or possess an exotic species, such as a tiger, in these states.

Brink states "The regulations set forth by the USDA, are not enough. There are gross infractions of animal welfare taking place at these USDA permitted facilities. Everything from poor standards of care, to animals being kept in tiny enclosures and denied basic food, water and veterinary care, to speed-breeding and dumping of animals. Their quality of life is nil to none."

Lions Tigers & Bears has worked throughout the U.S. and abroad, coordinating the rescue and relocation of big cats, bears, and other exotic animals from private ownership, roadside attractions, and defunct facilities. To date, the sanctuary has rescued more than 500 big cats and bears, providing transport and placement at reputable sanctuaries in more than a dozen states. The sanctuary offers lifetime sanctuary to 65 animals, providing them with ample room to roam in species-specific habitats, while providing specialized diets and veterinary care.

**LIONS TIGERS & BEARS** is a federally and state licensed 501(c)3 nonprofit rescue facility dedicated to providing a safe haven to abused and abandoned exotic animals while inspiring an educational forum to end the exotic animal trade. Lions Tigers & Bears is a NO KILL, NO BREED and NO SELL facility that allows the animals in its care the opportunity to live out their lives with dignity in a caring and safe environment. Lions Tigers & Bears is one of the few sanctuaries in the United States with the highest level of accreditation from the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the American Sanctuary Association.