

Lions Tigers & Bears Celebrates Meatball the Bear's 6th Birthday This Saturday

*Bear Famously Spotted Swimming in LA Neighborhood Pool
Receives Special Birthday Cake, Gifts and Recognition*

WHAT:

It's been six years since Meatball the bear first arrived at Lions Tigers & Bears. You may recall his epic rescue during the week of August 25, 2012 when the infamous bear dubbed Meatball (because he was found eating a bag of frozen meatballs), returned to the La Cañada Flintridge neighborhood near Los Angeles to scavenge for food. He was filmed in at least two locations and seen swimming in a homeowner's pool. This was Meatball's third strike, and once captured he would need to be placed permanently at a sanctuary or face euthanasia, which is often the fate of what Fish & Wildlife officials call a "habituated" bear, one that is not afraid to enter areas of human habitation.

Luckily, the compassionate decision was made to relocate Meatball and officials contacted Lions Tigers & Bears to find a permanent sanctuary refuge for him.

Six years later, Meatball is loving life at the sanctuary. He gets many visitors from his old "stomping grounds" that come to wish him well, and he was even the star of his very own Rose Bowl Parade Float in 2014.

During their Saturday morning visit, Lions Tigers & Bears will celebrate Meatball's birthday with special recognition, gifts and a cake. Because all of the animals of Lions Tigers & Bears are rescues, they do not always know their exact date of birth, so birthdays are celebrated on the day the animal first arrived to the sanctuary.

[Click here for a video from last year's celebration.](#)



WHY:

Meatball's story offers an important reminder of why it is so important for everyone to help keep wildlife wild. If you live in areas that share habitat with wildlife be aware of your actions - don't feed or interact with wild animals, keep your trash bins contained and indoors overnight, don't feed your pets outdoors, refrain from planting fruit trees and hanging bird feeders. These simple actions can help save a life.

WHEN:

TODAY - Saturday, August 25th during the 10 AM Educational Visit.

*Media invited to attend. Please confirm with media contact.

**The public are invited to attend but must make an appointment.

Members: FREE - Just RSVP (619) 659-8078 x 4 or

members@lionstigersandbears.org

Non- Members: \$46/Adult & \$26/Child (12 and under). Please click here to book.

WHERE:

Lions Tigers & Bears

24402 Martin Way

Alpine, CA 91901

ABOUT LIONS TIGERS & BEARS

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.