



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Dear Queen Latifah,

By now, I'm sure you've seen that Netflix's *Tiger King* has taken the internet by storm. The series has drawn critical attention to the abuse and neglect endured by big cats and other wild animals exploited at roadside zoos and circuses as well as for films and TV shows. Despite our attempts to inform the producers about the suffering of big cats in the entertainment industry, it appears that a real tiger was used for your upcoming film, *The Tiger Rising*.

With production schedules in limbo because of COVID-19, we urge the *Tiger Rising* crew to use this extra time to remove any real tiger appearances in the film and use only computer-generated imagery to depict the animal. When filmmakers use real wild animals, it normalizes exploitation, supports cruel breeding and training practices, and causes major setbacks to advocates' work.

Tigers used in the entertainment industry are routinely separated from their mothers prematurely and denied the maternal care that they need for normal development, which can result in extreme physical and psychological distress. Investigations have found tigers being [viciously whipped](#) and animals being [kept in deplorable conditions](#) by animal suppliers. Wild animals are exactly that—they're wild, and no amount of training can ever completely override their natural instincts, making them extremely dangerous. They belong in their natural habitats or otherwise at reputable sanctuaries—not in animal training compounds, on film sets, or at roadside zoos.

May we please hear from you right away? We'd love to assure our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide that *The Tiger Rising* will be a film that sends only positive messages about animals—not one that contributes to their captivity and suffering.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you and yours are staying safe.

My very best,

Lauren Thomasson
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