

# Rare Species Fund

## King Richard's Renaissance Faire



The Rare Species Fund and T.I.G.E.R.S. have been performing "The Tale of the Tiger", a live educational and conservation based wildlife show, at the King Richard's Renaissance Faire near Boston, MA for the past twenty seven years. This "up-close, un-caged" performance has brought the message about the importance of global biodiversity to literally millions of people. The unique interactive style between animals and handlers engages the audience's attention and allows them to remember and take home those important conservation messages. "The Tale of the Tiger" has not only been establishing a personal connection between it's audiences and wildlife for nearly three decades, funding generated by the show goes directly to help various in-situ conservation projects around the globe.



Raksha the royal white tiger grew up performing on the "Tigers Stage." She was so comfortable around live audiences that during live performances in 1995 she nursed her new born cubs on stage in front of thousands of onlookers.

Moksha Bybee and China York pose with Amar the snow white tiger during a publicity photo shoot for this year's fair. King Richard's Faire is located in Carver, MA and starts Labor Day each year, running for eight consecutive weekends.



[www.RareSpeciesFund.org](http://www.RareSpeciesFund.org)



Doc Antle and China York present "Bhajan and Mantra," a spotted and a melanistic leopard. These animals ambassadors help to demonstrate the color variations that historically occurred in the tiger, particularly the black tigers which existed in the not too distant past.

Robert Johnson feeds Bhuva the standard bengal tiger cub while hosting "The Tale of the Tiger."

"The Tale of the Tiger" has been able to introduce wildlife and the concepts of conservation to tens of thousands of people who do not visit zoos and who have minimal, if any, personal connection to the natural world.



The Rare Species Fund wildlife menagerie follows the long held tradition of bringing exotic animals from around the world to the masses. Menageries have been around starting in the eighth century, when emperor Charlemagne housed big cats, elephants, exotic birds and monkeys. There is also a long list of exotic animals kept by United States presidents in the White House, from bears to otters, even a pigmy hippopotamus. Today in the U.S. more people visit menageries than all professional sporting events combined. One thing that really leaves an impression on people is an animal outside of its cage, interacting with its trainers in a loving way.



Chris Heiden, one of the senior trainers, gives Brahman the golden tabby tiger a "shot" of milk during a performance. This demonstrates not only the tigers continued affinity for milk, but also shows that a baby bottle is a useful tool in providing a reward.



Fact: The first exotic animal on display in the U.S. was an African lion in Boston, circa 1716.



Dr. Antle shares a moment on stage with Shiva the royal white tiger, one of the regular stars of the show. The RSF has been performing "The Tale of the Tiger" for two months every fall since 1983.

Hercules the Liger stretches up to nearly 12 ft tall during the grand finale. Weighing in at more than 900 lbs, the enormous gentle giant was featured in the Guinness Book of World Records.

