



ADI Welcomes Lei-ah & Elsa!

On January 8, a **devastating wildfire destroyed much of the Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary** in South Africa. The tragedy damaged key enclosures, infrastructure, and sadly took the life of Rays -- the sanctuary's beloved tiger. Other injured animals, some in critical condition, are receiving around-the-clock care. Panthera still needs help.

Animal Defenders International is taking action. We've successfully transported and welcomed a pair of nine-year-old white lions, Lei-ah and Elsa, to the ADI Wildlife Sanctuary. See how we did it.

[Read the full story](#)

Lei-ah and Elsa's Journey to ADI

Rescue Timeline

- Jan. 8 ○ A **devastating wildfire breaks** out at the Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary in Western Cape, South Africa. **Animal evacuations begin.**
- Jan. 9 ○ **Veterinarian Dr. Peter Caldwell and ADI members arrive** at Panthera. Permits are requested to move animals from the Western Cape to the Free State.
- Jan. 10, Morning ○ **Dr. Caldwell examines the sanctuary's two white lions, Lei-ah and Elsa.** He gives them fluid drips to increase their hydration.
- Jan. 10, Afternoon ○ **Lei-ah and Elsa are moved** into vehicles for a 15-hour journey to the ADI Wildlife Sanctuary (ADIWS).
- Jan. 11 ○ At 4 a.m., **the lions arrive at ADIWS.** They are housed in the quarantine facility.
- Jan. 12 ○ **Lei-ah and Elsa venture out** and explore their new home.



We Need Your Help

Rescue efforts are made possible by you.

Unfortunately, our new guests bring new expenses. Your donations go directly to costs like veterinary, food, care, and building a long-term space for these magnificent animals.

Take Action