



Living with Tigers Transcript

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwidefc2wpc>

0'00

They're one of the most dangerous animals in the world, yet one family show no fear when it comes to their pet tigers. They play and swim with them and even allow their children to ride on their backs.

0'17

(Translation) I was never worried about my daughters co-existing with these animals.

0'22

But not everyone is happy and there's fears something will go wrong sooner or later.

0'26

(Translation) I think her interaction with the animals is dangerous.

0'37

Here in Maringa, Brazil, Ary Borges and his family have not one but seven tigers. Together with his three daughters, Deusanira, Uyara and Nayara, Ary and the family eat, live and even swim with the giant cats. Despite having no experience with tigers, Ary rescued two of the big cats from a circus eight years ago, after he found them living in bad conditions. He decided to build an enclosure and welcomed them into the family.

1'10

(Translation) I was never worried about having my daughters coexisting with these animals. You have to show the animals respect and love, that's how you get it back from them.

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And it wasn't long before Ary's daughter, Uyara, began feeding, petting and walking the tigers on leads.

1'29

(Translation) Ever since the tigers were born, we have taken care of them, feeding them, so their instincts became dormant.

1'38

Twenty year-old Nayara has formed a special bond with one of the tigers, Tom, and regularly swims with him.

1'45

(Translation) I get in the pool and swim with Tom three times a week to keep his training, because he's a little heavy. Today, he'd rarely get in the pool without me. He associates the pool with me.

1'59

But not all members of the family are so happy about having tigers around. Uyara's husband Rafael is terrified of big cats.

2'06

(Translation) I think her interaction with the animals is dangerous.

2'10

And Uyara's decision to allow her young daughter to interact with the tigers is not going down well.

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(Translation) In my personal opinion, I'd prefer her to be a little more distant from the, you know? Even with all the safety precautions taken, I'd prefer that she'd be a little more like me and not get involved with the animals, like they do.

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Now Ary has plans to open a 40-acre eco-park in Maringa, where his beloved animals can roam free.

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(Translation) For us it's natural to have them around all the time, you know?

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But until that time, Ary and his family will continue their intimate but controversial relationship with their feline pets.

2'52

(Translation) We believe the work we're doing to help the animals is a noble cause. It will happen, unless God doesn't want it to.