

# END PHOTO GAME FARMS.

## SUPPORT RESPONSIBLY SOURCED PHOTOGRAPHS

### WHAT IS A PHOTOGRAPHY GAME FARM?

They are captive facilities that house genetically wild animals in cramped cages except when performing for paying photographers, filmmakers, and illustrators.

### WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- Game farm captives live an inhumane, unnatural life in substandard conditions.
- Game farms breed animals incessantly to profit in three ways;
  1. Selling select baby animals to the exotic animal market.
  2. Promoting popular "Baby Animal" workshops.
  3. Selling the babies when they "age out" to whoever will have them, from roadside zoos to fur farms.
- It's bad for business! As more people become aware of game farms, there's a movement to shun the images that come out of them.
- Game farms dishonestly claim their work aids in conservation. None belong to the Species Survival Plan, the only program credentialed to propagate threatened/endangered species in captivity.
- Game farms give a false impression of the reality for animals in the wild.



Credit: Anonymous Contributor



Credit: Roy Dunn, HumansToHummingbirds.com



Credit: iStock.com/GarysFRP

### HOW CAN I TELL IF A PHOTO IS POSSIBLY FROM A GAME FARM? Too Good to Believe? Possibly. Nature is messy, wild animals are elusive and cautious.

- A spectacular shot of an elusive predator has little to no explanation. It may be leaping between rocks, running right at the camera, or posed perfectly between tree trunks.
- Super Market! It can be "one-stop shopping" for photographers "bagging" several species in a day's shoot. Typical species include wolves, cougars, bears, lynxes, tigers, snow leopards, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, badgers, skunks, and raccoons.
- Does it look like a movie set with pretty flowers or pristine snow? Baby animals are in the open in perfect clean conditions frequently without mom.
- Animal makeup artist? The animal actor is pristine, lacking scars, nicks, wounds, or dirt in a perfect, well-lit location.
- Sometimes location and conditions will be stated, but don't depend on it. Keywords for the photo may include "Captive" or "Controlled Conditions." Snow leopards in Montana—I don't think so! The location given is often Montana, Rocky Mountains, Minnesota, or Utah.

### WHERE CAN I PURCHASE ETHICAL IMAGES?

- ASK questions of your stock agents and photographers. For example: "Is this animal captive? If so, at what facility?"
- Look at a photographer's body of work. It will usually give you more of an idea of their ethics.
- For more helpful info, including a list of ethical photographers, check out [www.trulywildphotos.com](http://www.trulywildphotos.com)