



# KALI: A Polar Bear's Tale

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## Chapter Five:

A few days later, Kali was put on a plane for the second time in his short life. He was headed for the Alaska Zoo. When Kali arrived at the Alaska Zoo he was greeted by zookeepers, who knew just what a baby polar bear needed. The keepers created a space for Kali, complete with a big, fluffy pile of straw where he could stay cozy and warm, and a box full of toys and blankets so that he would have something to play with in his new home. The keepers fell in love with the bright-eyed baby, but they knew Kali would not be staying forever. The Alaska Zoo already had two full grown polar bears living there, and did not have enough room for a third. Still, they all looked forward to the task of raising the cub for a little while and felt lucky to play an important role in Kali's life.

Raising a baby polar bear means much more than getting him to eat. The keeper team at the Alaska Zoo would become Kali's surrogate mothers. They not only had to provide food for him every few hours, but they also had to be sure he was getting enough water, gaining enough weight, and learning the "bear" necessities.

Like any young animal, Kali learned through play. The keepers would take Kali out into his snowy yard and give him balls or stuffed toys. They gave him a big tub of water so that he could learn how to swim. Boxes were placed to encourage him to climb in and out of things, building strength in his legs. With so much play time, Kali took lots of naps. Solid foods like salmon and bear chow, a kibble made specifically for bears, were added to his diet. He grew bigger, stronger, and more confident

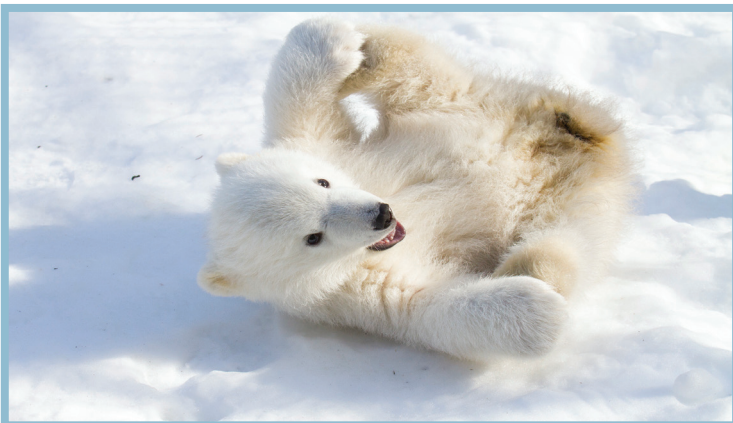


Photo Credit: John Gomes, Alaska Zoo

every day.

The keepers treasured their play sessions with the cub but knew it could not last forever. Soon, Kali would be too big and powerful to share a space with people. And there's only so much a polar bear cub can learn from humans. It is best to learn how to be a polar bear from another polar bear.

Three months after his arrival at the Alaska Zoo, Kali prepared for another journey. This time, he'd go even farther from his original home in the village of Point Lay.

## Ask Zoo Keeper Julie

### How fast are polar bears?

They can swim at speeds up to 6 mph and run up to 25 mph.

### Fun Fact:

The polar bear was the mascot for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada.

## Newspaper Connections

There are many stories about Kali in newspapers and from television stations across the country. Research, then read and watch several of each and answer the following questions.

**What are the key similarities and differences between print and television journalism?**

**Does either have an apparent advantage or disadvantage when giving the news?**

