



KALI: A Polar Bear's Tale

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Chapter Seven:

The cubs circled around, sniffing the air and then running off into their own corners. But Luna was brave. She circled around Kali and then pounced on the little bear. Kali fell flat on his back, but he knew that Luna was only playing. Soon the baby bears were tumbling all around their room, happy to have a polar bear playmate to wrestle with.

After that, Kali and Luna became the best of friends. The two played hard each and every day. For enrichment, Caitlyn put an empty turtle sandbox in their room. Every evening, when the keepers were headed home, Kali and Luna could be found curled up together in their sandbox, exhausted from playing, nose to nose, belly to belly, dreaming sweet polar bear dreams together.

Soon the cubs outgrew their original enclosure and were moved to a larger yard. This yard had a pool in it, where the cubs could splash and play.

Caitlyn was always surprised by the cubs' energy. Even when there was a -30-degree wind chill outside, the first thing Kali did each morning was sprint to the pool and jump right in. Caitlyn would call to him to come and get his breakfast, and in his brief run from the pool to his bedroom, his fur would freeze, covered in balls of ice. Kali didn't seem to mind, though. He was a true Alaskan polar bear, never bothered by the cold.

All too soon, though, Kali was no longer a "little" bear. When he arrived at the Buffalo Zoo, he was only 65 pounds. Two years later, he weighed in at 850 pounds! The shy baby frown in from Alaska had gained almost 800 pounds in two years! If Kali were still living with his mother in Alaska, he would be preparing to leave her at the age of two, to begin his life as a solitary, male bear.

Kali needed to leave Luna and head out on his own. He was quickly on his way to becoming a full-grown bear, and the Buffalo Zoo did not have enough room to keep both him and Luna as they grew into adulthood.

It was time for Kali to move to a new home.



Photo Credit: Buffalo Zoo



Photo Credit: Buffalo Zoo

Ask Zoo Keeper Julie

How big are polar bears?

Male polar bears can measure up to 10 feet when standing on their hind legs. Female polar bears usually only weigh about half as much as males.

Fun Fact:

Scientists believe that the polar bear evolved from a common brown bear ancestor about 200,000 years ago.

Newspaper Connections

Create a Kali and Luna cartoon or comic.

