Live animal cams for kids: 246 zoo and wildlife webcams by animal

Peabody blog · Science · updated 2026-11-04

Live animal cams for kids: 246 real webcams from zoos, aquariums and wildlife groups, sorted by animal, 182 to watch right here. Pandas, tigers, penguins, otters, eagles.

Peabody's live cams page has 246 webcams from zoos, aquariums, national parks and wildlife groups, sorted by animal, and 182 of them play right on the page. A parent suggested it, because few things hold a child's eyes like a real panda eating bamboo right now. Tap play and the stream starts; for the rest, a grown-up can open the zoo's own page. This post is what's there, what to watch for, and how to get the most out of a camera pointed at a sleeping animal.

Why a live cam, not a video

A video is a story someone already told. A live cam is a window: nobody knows what will happen next, and that is the fun. A child who watches an otter for ten minutes sees it eat, groom, swim and nap, and starts to ask the questions a scientist asks: Does it always do that after eating? Where is the baby? Why is everyone in the shade?

That is also what scientists do. Counting what an animal does in a set time is called an ethogram, and Peabody's zoo cam bingo turns it into a printable card and a tap tally that becomes a bar graph.

The cams, by animal

Each of these was checked on 4 November 2026: the streams were live and allowed to be played on another site, and the zoo pages answered. The number is how many cams are on that animal's page.

- Giant pandas (5)
- Tigers (7)
- Lions (3)
- Elephants (9)
- Giraffes (9)
- Rhinos and hippos (3)
- Gorillas, apes and monkeys (6)
- Penguins (21)
- Otters (9)
- Seals and sea lions (2)
- Sharks, jellies and fish (26)

- Whales, dolphins and manatees (8)
- Polar bears (7)
- Bears (3)
- Wolves (4)
- Eagles and hawks (12)
- Owls (3)
- Birds at nests and feeders (42)
- Koalas and kangaroos (2)
- Reptiles (2)
- Wild places and waterholes (31)
- Farm animals and horses (9)
- Puppies and kittens (6)
- More animals (17)

Good ones to start with

- Pandas. The giant panda cam at the Smithsonian's National Zoo shows Bao Li and Qing Bao, two young pandas that turn five in 2026. It runs 7 am to 7 pm Eastern, then replays the last hours. Peabody links to it; the live panda stream that plays on the page is from Chengdu in China.
- Otters. Monterey Bay Aquarium's sea otter cam runs in the daytime Pacific, and an "After Hours" stream takes over at night. A group of sea otters resting together on the water is called a raft.
- Penguins. The California Academy of Sciences has three penguin views, including one underwater, and Argentina's Isla Tova has a wild Magellanic penguin colony.
- Tigers. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas has a cam for each of several tigers, and the Safari Park's tiger cam is on the zoo's own page.
- Sharks. The Shark Lagoon cam at the Aquarium of the Pacific is carried courtesy of explore.org, and Monterey's shark cam shows sevengill and leopard sharks, bat rays and a sturgeon.
- African waterholes. Many streams from Africam and explore.org watch a waterhole day and night. Wait, and see who comes to drink; at night the picture goes dark.
- Bears. Fat Bear Week is an annual public vote among the Katmai bears that gained the most weight for hibernation, and the 2026 vote ran 22 to 29 September. The Brooks Falls cams run from about late June to early October, so they are resting until summer. The Katmai cams page points to the park's own page.

Watching with a child

- Sit still for five minutes. Many animals sleep most of the day, and a sleeping tiger is a real tiger. Ask what it looks like when an animal is deeply asleep (breathing, twitching, ears).
- Pick one animal and one question. "How many times does it get up?" "Who does it sit next to?" A tally on paper beats a hundred glances.
- Check the time at the zoo. A cam in Houston at 7 am Central is 8 am in New York and 5 am in San Diego. A cam in South Africa is in the middle of its night when you eat breakfast. That is a good time-zone lesson.
- Expect empty yards. Cams go dark at night, in storms and for repairs, and the animal may be indoors. That is not broken; it is wildlife.

What to know first

Peabody does not make or control these cameras. They belong to the zoos, aquariums and parks that run them, and most of the ones that play on the page are streams those hosts put on YouTube. Nothing from YouTube loads until your child taps play, and then it comes from YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. Peabody adds no ads, but YouTube can show its own on some streams, and a grown-up should watch one first.

Links to the zoos' own pages show only after a grown-up holds a button for two seconds, because those pages can carry things Peabody's own pages never do: shop and hotel promotions, sign-up forms, sponsor names. We left out cams that ask for an email address, cams sponsored by a brand we would not put in front of children, and cams we could not check. We also left out river-crossing and safari-drive streams, because a live cam can show an animal being hunted, and the youngest viewers should not meet that by surprise. Waterholes and nests are real nature too, so a grown-up should still look first.

Cams for a classroom

A cam on the board is a good way to start a science morning. Pick an animal, set a timer for ten minutes (Peabody has free timers), and have each child tally one behavior. Then compare the bars. Our animal of the day pairs well with it: look up the animal's size and speed first, then see it move.

Questions parents ask

Are the animals really live?

Yes, within each cam's hours. Several zoos play a replay or pre-recorded video outside those hours, and the page says so. Some cams are seasonal; the bear cam, for instance, is a summer and early autumn cam.

Why is the cam showing an empty yard or a dark picture?

Animals choose where to be. They may be indoors, asleep out of view or at a keeper talk, and a cam in another time zone may be in the middle of its night. Try another time of day, or another cam from the list.

What if a stream stops working?

Hosts sometimes restart a stream, and then its address changes. We re-check the list, and a cam that no longer works is removed. If one is blank, try another from the same animal's page.

Why are there not more puppy cams?

The puppy and kitten cams here are from rescues and service-dog groups. The one other puppy cam we found had ended, and it was sponsored by a pet-medicine company.

Does a cam cost anything?

None of the ones listed asked for an email address on its page when we read it. Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, with no ads of its own. When the cam is done, the library has animal stories for the rest of the morning.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/live-animal-cams-for-kids