

# THE LION KINGDOM



# The Lion Kingdom

*10x30' in 4K*

Gir National Park is home to the only population of wild lions outside of Africa. But, this last 'Lion Kingdom' is under an unprecedented siege. A deadly virus - CDV (Canine Distemper Virus) - is threatening to wipe out the entire population of 500 odd lions.

The same virus decimated more than 1000 lions when it had hit Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. Sadly, there is no known cure.



Through domestic dogs, the virus has now reached India's Gir national park. Join well-known veterinary surgeon and wildlife presenter, Steve Leonard, to witness the stories of these majestic lions as they battle for survival.



## Episodic Synopsis

### Episode 1

Steve Leonard, the renowned wildlife presenter, starts his journey, following the footsteps of the lions in India's Gir National Park. As the patron of Wildlife Vet International Steve was devastated by the news of India's lions struggling in the face of the deadly Canine Distemper Virus. Many lions have already perished. A year on, he arrives at the scene to see the aftermath.

Straight away, he gets to see the largest pride of lions in Gir, and also one of the most powerful rulers of the jungle, Straight Tail. But, with his closest ally and brother, Bhanu, having gone missing, Straight Tail is struggling. Other lions of the regions have started circling his territory. Will he be able to ward them off single-handedly? Elsewhere in Gir, trackers have found two abandoned leopard babies and need to reunite them with their mother.

### Episode 2

Straight Tail's kingdom continues to be sieged. Three young male lions, led by 'Raju', have come of age and are looking for a fight. From the other side, the 'Chota-Bada duo' are trying to make inroads into his territory.

Meanwhile, a decision is made on the leopard cubs. A temporary shelter is built and they're placed with their sedated mother... but will they still be alive when the rangers come looking for them the next day?

### Episode 3

The lonely lion, Akela, has been brought in to hospital. His body is riddled with wounds, which have become infected with maggots. Gir is the only national park in India that has a full-fledged animal hospital to boot. Meanwhile, we watch the park rangers and learn how they capture lions!

## Episodic Synopsis

### Episode 4

We follow one of the sub-groups from Straight Tail's pride, led by the lioness Collarwali ('collared one'). It is a small pride and, having just given birth to three cubs, Collarwali is at high risk of being attacked by rival male lions. As she relaxes with her family on a hill a frightening roar disturbs the peace... and she may be in for the fight of her life.

### Episode 5

Straight Tail has not been seen for a while, nor have Collarwali and her cubs. Steve joins the team of worried trackers as they search of the missing animals. Along the way, Steve learns just what a difficult job it is to be a forest guard at Gir.

### Episode 6

Collarwali suffers a traumatic loss. Elsewhere, a lioness with a serious injury in her paw needs urgent medical attention. She has two young cubs and, if she's not treated soon, she will not be able to hunt... and all three of them will starve.

### Episode 7 and Episode 8

We travel to Dhari, a range in eastern part of Gir. This is where the dreaded CDV had first struck during the monsoon of 2018. Almost a year has passed, but the park authorities in this district are still anxious. Images of sick lions dying one after the other still haunt them and they recall the horrific effects CDV had on the park.

We follow as they keep an eye on the prides and release a treated lion back to the wild.

## Episodic Synopsis

### Episode 9

Bahubali the lion, which translates to 'all-powerful', is one of the strongest males in Gir national park—true to his name. But that doesn't mean he can't fall sick or need help, just like the rest of us. He is brought to the Lion Hospital to treat several wounds and injuries which have become infected with maggots.

Meanwhile, water is overflowing everywhere in the park. And as the water spills out across Gir, it brings with it some surprising guests... Crocodiles! Rescue teams are moving in all directions to rescue and remove them from residential areas where they are threatening to cause civilian casualties.

### Episode 10

In the season finale, we witness nature's fury as roads, bridges and trees are washed away in heavy rains and storms. Steve visits the isolation ward where 23 lions have been put under quarantine in the aftermath of the CDV outbreak. And, as Steve wraps up and reflects on his time here, we finally learn about the fate of Straight Tail's brother Bhaanu.

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