



# WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

www.washoecounty.us

CM/ACM	<u>✓</u>
Finance	<u>N/A</u>
DA	<u>✓</u>
Risk Mgt.	<u>N/A</u>
HR	<u>N/A</u>
Clerk	<u>—</u>

## STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: June 28, 2016

**DATE:** June 6, 2016

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Robert Smith, Manager  
Regional Animal Services, 353-8945, [rasmith@washoecounty.us](mailto:rasmith@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Shyanne Schull, Animal Services Director

**SUBJECT:** A presentation and discussion on exotic animal codes; request for the Board of County Commissioners to provide policy direction regarding exotic animal requirements and restrictions within Washoe County; and make recommendations to staff to maintain or modify the current Washoe County code provisions pertaining to exotic animals. (All Commission Districts)

### SUMMARY

A presentation on exotic animals to the Board of County Commissioners, and a request for direction on the requirements and restrictions of private ownership of exotic animals in Washoe County.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

### PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

On April 22, 2014, the Board approved the creation of a new stand-alone Regional Animal Services department.

On June 17, 2014, the Board authorized initiation of proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapters 5 and 55) related to the creation of the Department of Regional Animal Services.

On July 14, 2014, the Board accepted an update on the Regional Animal Services department, discussed the public input process for making amendments to Washoe County Code Chapter 55, and discussed various proposed code changes.

On December 9, 2014, the Board confirmed the appointment of Shyanne Schull as the Director of Washoe County Regional Animal Services.

## **BACKGROUND**

On June 17, 2014, the Board directed the Clerk to submit a request to the District Attorney to initiate proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapters 5 and 55) related to the creation of the Department of Regional Animal Services.

### **Public Input Process:**

The County Manager's Office and Washoe County Regional Animal Services ("WCRAS") initially met with OnStrategy to plan the public input process for the proposed code amendments. As a first step in the public input process, WCRAS shared proposed revisions with key stakeholder groups, including the Cities of Reno and Sparks, as well as major animal groups in our area, which included the SPCA, NHS and Pet Network. Through individual meetings with staff, input was received from these groups regarding the proposed code amendments.

An online comment process called "Open Washoe" was utilized from July 7, 2014 through August 18, 2014 to establish priorities for ordinance workshops, raise awareness of the code issues, and obtain a broad range of input on topics important to the public. This community engagement tool allowed visitors to read all the comments posted by their fellow citizens, as well as the ability to agree or disagree.

During the public input process, there were numerous media releases and targeted email notifications encouraging the public to provide input on the code amendments. There were also several news stories, print articles and radio shows discussing the proposed code changes, which encouraged the public to provide input and which resulted in additional public comments from phone calls and emails.

At key points during the public input process, new questions regarding the code revisions were posted on "Open Washoe" for citizen review. In addition, the proposed code amendments were edited based upon public input and these changes were then posted on "Open Washoe".

Links to "Open Washoe" were added to the Regional Animal Services web page, and an email account ([animalcode@washoecounty.us](mailto:animalcode@washoecounty.us)) was created for the public to communicate comments and concerns specific to the proposed code changes.

Public workshops were held at the Wilbur D. May Museum in the summer of 2014 to discuss Washoe County Code Chapter 55, which gave the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide further input on the proposed amendments. During this workshop,



staff had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with many citizens and address concerns as well as receive valuable input.

Two informational meetings also took place at the request of Commissioner Herman, one in 2015 and one in 2016. During these meetings, owners of exotic animals and other interested parties had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their concerns with staff regarding the exotic animal code sections. The exotic animal owners identified some key areas of concern in the proposed exotic animal code revision, such as public health and safety, animal welfare, animals that require permits, congested area restrictions, hybrids and liability insurance for exotics.

Therefore, staff has prepared a presentation to review current code and proposed code amendments related to exotic animals. This presentation includes informational exhibits covering WCRAS's proposal for certain exotic animals to be allowed throughout Washoe County without a permit; certain exotic animals to be only allowed in animal congested areas with a permit; certain exotic animals to be completely prohibited in animal congested areas; and certain exotic animals to be only allowed in uncongested areas with a permit. Regional Animal Services is interested in obtaining policy direction from the Board on WCRAS's recommendations about the private ownership of exotic animals within Washoe County, and hold a discussion centered around the following policy questions:

### **Exhibits**

- A – Examples of animals allowed without a permit
- B – Examples of animals allowed with a permit in the congested area
- C – Examples of animals to be prohibited in the congested areas
- D – Examples of hybrids
- E – Package from HSUS (letter dated April 21, 2016)
- F – Congested area map
- G – Photo Credits

### **POLICY DIRECTION**

The following areas have been identified as topics of discussion that warrant policy direction from the Board before Regional Animal Services presents the Board with proposed WCC amendments on exotic animals.

- Size requirements to trigger a permit for constrictors
  - What should the size requirement be that would trigger a permit for constrictors?
- Spay or Neuter requirement
  - Should there be a spay/neuter requirement for exotic animals that are not part of a nationally or internationally recognized endangered species breeding program?
- Prohibited in the congested areas list

- Should there be a list of prohibited exotic species in the congested areas of Washoe County?
- Hybrids
  - Should we allow first generation domestic/wild hybrids without a permit?
- Liability insurance
  - Should we require owners of exotic animals to purchase liability insurance? If so, what is sufficient coverage?
- Maintain current Washoe County chapter 55, as written
  - Should we maintain the current exotic code provisions, which require exotic animal owners to apply and hold a permit in order to maintain the animal within Washoe County, as they are currently written?

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact from this action.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners hold a discussion on exotic animal codes; provide policy direction regarding exotic animal requirements and restrictions within Washoe County; and make recommendations to staff to maintain or modify the current Washoe County code provisions related to exotic animals.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:  
"Move to provide policy direction to staff regarding exotic animal codes; provide policy direction regarding exotic animal requirements and restrictions within Washoe County; and make recommendations to staff to maintain or modify the current Washoe County code provisions related to exotic animals.

Examples of animals recommended to be allowed without a  
permit



**Iguana** (/iˈɡwɑːnə/<sup>[1][2]</sup> Spanish: [iˈɣwana]) is a genus of herbivorous lizards native to tropical areas of Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.



The **sugar glider** (*Petaurus breviceps*) is a small, omnivorous, arboreal, and nocturnal gliding possum belonging to the marsupial infraclass.



The **corn snake** (*Pantherophis guttatus*) is a North American species of rat snake that subdues its small prey by constriction<sup>1</sup>



**Kingsnakes** are colubrid snakes, members of the genus ***Lampropeltis***, which include milk snakes and four other species. Among these, there are approximately 45 recognized subspecies



Examples of animals recommended to be allowed with a permit  
within the congested areas



Squirrel monkeys are New World monkeys of the genus *Saimiri*.



The tamarins are squirrel-sized New World monkeys from the family Callitrichidae in the genus *Saguinus*.

BCC Presentation Requesting Direction Regarding Exotic Animals In  
Washoe County – June 28, 2016

Exhibit B



The **marmosets** ([/ˈmɑːrməzets, -sets/](#)<sup>[3][4]</sup>) are 22 New World monkey species of the genera *Callithrix*, *Cebuella*, *Callibella*, and *Mico*. All four genera are part of the biological family Callitrichidae.



The **capuchin monkeys** ([/ˈkæpjʊtɪn/](#) or [/ˈkæpjʊfɪn/](#)) are New World monkeys of the subfamily **Cebinae**.





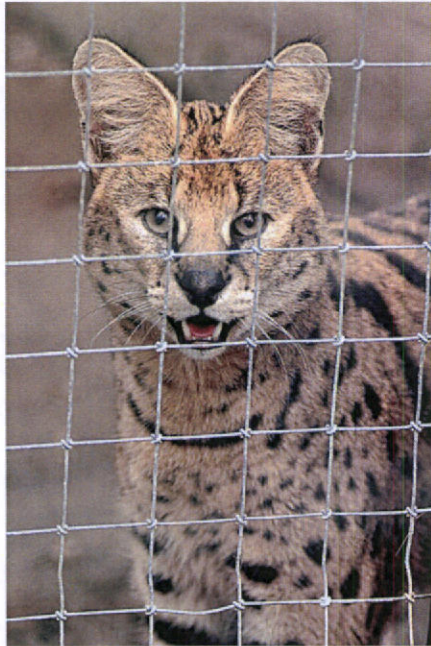
The **Burmese python** (*Python bivittatus*) is one of the five largest species of snakes in the world (about the third-largest as measured either by length or weight).



The **boa constrictor** (*Boa constrictor*), also called **red-tailed boa**, is a species of large, heavy-bodied snake



Examples of animals recommended to be prohibited in the  
congested areas



The serval [/ˈsɜːrvəl/](#) (*Leptailurus serval*) is a medium-sized [African](#) wild [cat](#) native to [sub-Saharan Africa](#).



**Lynx** ([/ˈlɪŋks/](#),<sup>[2]</sup> plural **lynx** or **lynxes**<sup>[3]</sup>) is any of the four species within the *Lynx* genus of medium-sized wild cats.





The **tiger** (*Panthera tigris*) is the largest cat species, reaching a total body length of up to 3.38 m (11.1 ft) over curves and exceptionally weighing up to 388.7 kg (857 lb) in the wild



The **cougar** (*Puma concolor*), also commonly known as the **mountain lion**, **puma**, **panther**, or **catamount**, is a large felid of the subfamily Felinae native to the Americas





Spider monkeys of the genus *Ateles* are New World monkeys in the subfamily Atelinae, family Atelidae.



The **Hominidae** (/hɒˈmɪnɪdiː/), also known as **great apes**

BCC Presentation Requesting Direction Regarding Exotic Animals In  
Washoe County – June 28, 2016

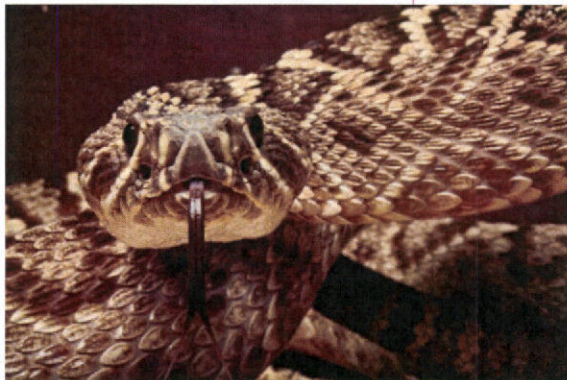
Exhibit C



Gibbons ([/ˈɡɪbənz/](#)<sup>[3]</sup>) are apes in the family Hylobatidae



The rhesus macaque (*Macaca mu(atta)*) is one of the best-known species of Old World monkeys.

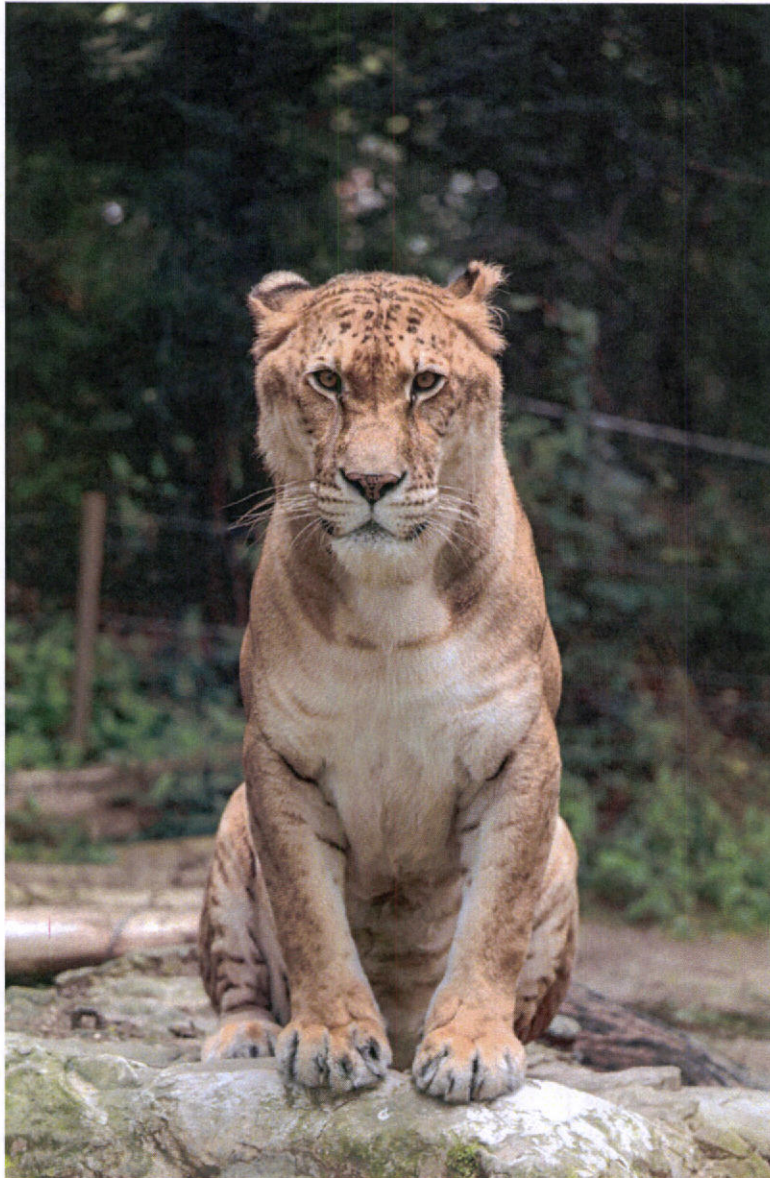


Rattlesnakes are a group of venomous snakes of the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*<sup>[1]</sup> of the subfamily Crotalinae (the pit vipers).



## Examples of Hybrids

### Wild to Wild



The **liger** is a hybrid cross between a male lion (*Panthera leo*) and a female tiger, a tigress (*Panthera tigris*).



Wild to Domestic



A **wolfdog** (also called a **wolf-dog hybrid** or **wolf hybrid**) is a canid hybrid resulting from the hybridization of a domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) to one of four other Canis species, the gray (*Canis lupus*), eastern timber (*Canis lycaon*), red (*Canis rufus*), and Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*).



The **Savannah** is a hybrid cat breed. It is a cross between a serval and a domestic cat

# Exhibit E

April 21, 2016

John Slaughter  
Shane Schull

**Re: proposed updates to Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code that relate to the private possession of exotic animals**

Dear Mr. Slaughter and Schull:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) supports restricting the private possession of exotic animals in Washoe County. We offer the following comments regarding the proposed changes to Chapter 55 of the county code and urge adoption of additional provisions to ensure public safety and animal welfare:

## Definitions

### **1. Classify giant constrictor snakes as prohibited exotic animals**

The proposal designates constrictor snakes greater than 10 feet in length and weighing more than 30 pounds as exotic animals, and therefore legal to possess with a permit.

We urge you to classify as prohibited exotic animals the 8 species of constrictor snakes – 4 pythons and 4 anacondas - that have been classified as injurious by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 2012 and 2015, USFWS adopted regulations prohibiting the importation and interstate sale in Indian pythons, Northern and Southern African pythons, Reticulated pythons, Yellow anacondas, Green anacondas, DeSchauensee's anacondas, and Beni anacondas for the pet trade, therefore it is reasonable to also prohibit the sale, trade, and future ownership of these species in Washoe County.

USFWS' action was based on information from a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report that identified the snakes as posing a high risk to native ecosystems.<sup>1</sup> These species are problematic when they invade native ecosystems because they are voracious, efficient predators, which is why they also pose a risk to human safety. Constrictor snakes such as pythons and anacondas are powerful wild animals capable of killing an adult human. These animals are not suitable pets or hobbies and have no place in anyone's home.

### **2. Remove the size restrictions for constrictor snakes from the definition of exotic animal**

The current restriction that classifies only constrictors that are greater than 10 feet and 30 pounds as exotic animals is insufficient. One third of the constrictor snake-related deaths in the U.S. were caused by snakes under 10 feet in length, and two deaths were caused by snakes who were reported to be 10 feet long. According to the USGS report, "some herpetoculturists consider any snake that can exceed 8 feet as being potentially dangerous."<sup>ii</sup>

### **3. Classify all big cat hybrids as Prohibited Exotic Animals**

The ordinance proposes to designate all big cat species (such as tigers, leopards, lions, etc.), and all *first generation hybrids* thereof, as prohibited exotic animals. Ligers, tigons, and other such hybrids are increasingly popular in the exotic animal trade and pose the same public safety and animal welfare concerns as the big cat species they are derived from. Successive breeding of big cat hybrids does not reduce or eliminate the wild instincts and potential danger posed by these animals. A second, third, fourth, etc., generation hybrid big cat is as wild – and as dangerous - as any other big cat.

### **55.650 Exotic animals, application for permit to keep**

#### **1. Prohibit the private possession of all prohibited exotic animals**

The proposal allows the possession, with a permit, of species classified as prohibited exotic animals in areas that are not congested. This concept is problematic for numerous reasons, including the fact that the term “congested” is not defined. In addition, such a designation fails to take into account the fact that many rural communities are rapidly developing and the presence of dangerous wild animals is likely to significantly negatively impact that growth. For example, in one New York community, a developer was unable to sell expensive homes due to the presence of three tigers and two leopards at a nearby residence. In addition, examples abound of people in rural locales who object to the presence of dangerous wild animals in the area despite the fact that their communities are not congested.

Primates, carnivores, and venomous and constricting snakes are inherently dangerous animals whose presence is problematic and inappropriate no matter the density of the area where they are located. *Their classification as prohibited exotic animals should disallow the possession of these species altogether.*

#### **Primates**

The private possession of primates is inhumane, poses unacceptable physical and zoonotic disease risks to the community and emergency responders, and is detrimental to true wildlife conservation efforts. Experts, including renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), oppose the private ownership of primates. The private possession of primates should be banned.<sup>iii,iv,v</sup> Please see attached Exhibit A.

#### **Carnivores**

Big cats, bears, and hyenas have exploded in popularity in the exotic pet trade. There are an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 tigers in the United States, but fewer than 400 of them are in zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Private ownership of tigers, lions, cougars, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, bears, and hyenas threatens the public, the animals, and legitimate conservation efforts. The private possession of these species should be banned. Please see attached Exhibit B.

#### **Large constrictor snakes**

Large constrictor snakes such as pythons and anacondas are powerful wild animals capable of killing an

adult human yet they are commonly and legally kept as "pets". The private possession of these dangerous reptiles threatens public safety, environmental health, and the welfare of the animals themselves. The private possession of these species should be banned. Please see attached Exhibit C.

**2. Include a grandfather clause for existing prohibited exotic animals.**

Similar legislation across the country typically contains a grandfather clause to allow anyone who already possesses species that will be banned by the legislation, but who is not exempt from the legislation, to keep the animals they have for the remainder of the animals' life, although breeding and acquisition of additional prohibited exotic animals is not allowed. Such a provision ensures that passage of the legislation will not result in animals being displaced but, through attrition, private possession of prohibited exotic animals will ultimately be limited to legitimate facilities that have the resources and expertise to properly and safely care for them.

**3. Only facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) or the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) should be exempt from the provisions of the ordinance**

Specifically, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensees and the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) should not be exempted from the proposed ordinance since doing so severely weakens any law that is intended to restrict the private possession of dangerous wild animals to qualified facilities.

USDA licenses are easy to acquire and the standards of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) are limited and inadequate which means that licensees can (and often do) keep animals in inhumane and unsafe conditions. In addition, even the federal government acknowledges that state laws that exempt USDA licensees provide a loophole for pet owners, and agency audits confirm that the USDA is unable to effectively enforce the AWA and fails to recognize safety-related violations.<sup>vi, vii, viii</sup>

The deceptively-named Zoological Association of America (ZAA) - which should not be confused with the highly respected Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) - has weak standards, accredits poorly run roadside zoos and private menageries, promotes the private ownership of exotic pets and the commercialization of wildlife, and engages in unsafe practices such as allowing the public to handle 90-pound bears, tiger and lion cubs, and primates. Further, ZAA has no requirement that facilities demonstrate fiscal responsibility and counts among its facilities and members individuals who have been convicted of felonies, wildlife trafficking, and cruelty to animals. In contrast, accreditation by the AZA ensures that highly qualified, knowledgeable, and experienced professionals provide care for animals in a safe and secure environment. Any facility that operates in a responsible and professional manner and abides by widely accepted industry standards of animal husbandry should be eager to attain AZA accreditation.

GFAS is recognized globally as the leading accrediting organization for wildlife sanctuaries. All accredited and verified sanctuaries must meet high standards that ensure humane animal care and sound management practices.



**55.660 Approval, disapproval of application to keep exotic animal; issuance of permits; appeals**

**1. Establish a time frame for reporting animal escapes or dispositions**

We recommend that 55.660 13. be changed from:

*"Any person permitted to own or possess an exotic animal or prohibited exotic animal shall notify the permitting agency of the animal's death, relocation, or escape. ...."*

to:

*"Any person permitted to own or possess an exotic animal or prohibited exotic animal shall immediately notify the permitting agency of the animal's escape, and notify the agency within 30 days of the animal's death or relocation. ...."*

**55.680 Enclosures for primates; minimum structural requirements**

**1. Require elevated resting platforms and apparatus to encourage natural locomotion in primate enclosures**

We recommend including a requirement that all enclosures for primates include elevated resting platforms as well as objects – such as ropes, hammocks, swings, beams, etc. – that allow primates to climb, hang, swing, and brachiate, all of which are integral primate behaviors.

**55.690 Enclosures for felines; minimum structural requirements**

**1. Eliminate the restriction of one lion per enclosure**

55.690 (4) mandates that no more than one lion may be housed in each enclosure. We recommend eliminating this restriction. Lions are extremely social animals who naturally live in groups (prides). Living with conspecifics is especially important for captive lions and can help individuals cope with the challenges of captivity. If this change is made, then the minimum enclosure size should be 2,400 cubic feet *per lion*. In addition, there must be separate areas, of sufficient distance from each other, where each lion can be enclosed while eating, with doors closed and locked.

**2. Eliminate the restriction of one tiger per enclosure**

55.690 (5) mandates that no more than one tiger may be housed in each enclosure. We recommend eliminating this restriction. Although tigers are generally solitary by nature, in captivity they often enjoy living in pairs and the opportunity to play, groom one another, etc., can help individuals cope with the challenges of captivity. If this change is made, then the minimum enclosure size should be 3,000 cubic feet *per tiger*. In addition, there must be separate areas, of sufficient distance from each other, where each tiger can be enclosed while eating, with doors closed and locked.

**3. Eliminate the requirement for floors of feline enclosures to be made of concrete or wood**

55.690 (6). *"... The floor of all enclosures for felines shall consist of concrete or wood. Gravel or dirt flooring may be used if the enclosure is properly secured against escape by such felines through digging. ..."*

We recommend eliminating the requirement for floors of feline enclosures to be made of concrete or

wood. Even treated or sealed wood, when exposed to cat urine, scent markings, and clawing is likely to quickly deteriorate to the point that it cannot be properly sanitized and will not be impervious to moisture. Concrete is also problematic. Although it is easier to clean and disinfect, concrete can cause injuries to bony areas of the body (hips, shoulders, etc.) when animals are resting and sleeping, worn, cracked, and ulcerated to footpads (especially in animals who pace excessively and when the concrete is wet after cleaning), and joint trauma when animals jump down from resting platforms. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Lion Care Manual recommends that, "The use of hard, artificial substrates (e.g., cement) should be minimized in outdoor enclosures, as these have been associated with footpad injuries and early symptoms of arthritis (Law, 2003)," and suggests that natural substrates, such as grass, dirt, sand, wood chips, and mulch be utilized for outdoor enclosures.<sup>ix</sup>

#### **4. Require elevated resting platforms in feline enclosures**

We recommend including a requirement that all enclosures for felines include at least one elevated resting platform per feline. Elevated resting platforms are critical to allowing the expression of natural feline behaviors (jumping and resting off the ground) and provide cats a semi-private place within the enclosure.

#### **55.710 Enclosures for reptiles; minimum structural requirements**

##### **1. Increase the floor space requirements for snakes and lizards**

The enclosure sizes proposed in 55.710 2(a) and 2(b) are inadequate "to ensure that the reptile obtains necessary exercise", as is required by current ordinance. No animal can sufficiently exercise or thrive in an enclosure that is the same length as its body (snakes) or only 1.5 x the length of its body (lizards).

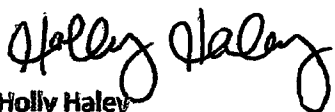
##### **2. Require water for soaking and bathing for aquatic and semi-aquatic species**

We recommend including a requirement that additional water be provided for species who naturally spend a significant portion of their time in water. This water should be of sufficient depth to allow the reptile to completely submerge and turn around underwater.

Since Nevada is one of only five states that have virtually no laws regarding the private possession of animals such as tigers and chimpanzees, we applaud Washoe County for tackling this issue in its own jurisdiction.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Holly Haley

Nevada State Director

---

<sup>i</sup> Reed, R.N., and Rodda, G.H., 2009, Giant constrictors: biological and management profiles and an establishment risk assessment for nine large species of pythons, anacondas, and the boa constrictor: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2009-1202, 302 p.

<sup>ii</sup> Reed, R.N., and Rodda, G.H., 2009, Giant constrictors: biological and management profiles and an establishment risk assessment for nine large species of pythons, anacondas, and the boa constrictor: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2009-1202, 302 p.; p. 131

<sup>iii</sup> Testimony of Dr. Jane Goodall before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, March 11, 2008.

<sup>iv</sup> Association of Zoos & Aquariums, White Paper, Personal Possession of Non-Human Primates, July 21, 2015.

<sup>v</sup> National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (SCTE), Position Statement on the Maintenance of Non-Human Primates as Pets.

<sup>vi</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Controls Over APHIS Licensing of Animal Exhibitors, Audit Report 33601-10-Ch, June 2010.

<sup>vii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Care Program, Inspections of Problematic Dealers, Audit Report 33002-4-SF, May 2010.

<sup>viii</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Western Region, APHIS Animal Care Program, Inspection and Enforcement Activities, Audit Report 33002-3-SF, September 2005.

<sup>ix</sup> AZA Lion Species Survival Plan (2012). Lion Care Manual. Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Silver Spring, MD, pages 15, 22, and 70.

**The Humane Society of the United States re: proposed updates to Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code, relating to the private possession of exotic animals**

**EXHIBIT A – Ban the Private Possession of Primates**

**Non-human primates pose a risk to public safety**

Non-human primates are inherently wild and unpredictable; even the smallest monkey species are incredibly strong and can inflict serious injuries with their teeth or nails, including puncture wounds, severe lacerations, and infections. Purchased as cute and manageable infants, non-human primates inevitably become aggressive, unpredictable, and territorial as they mature, often attacking their owners or other people, escaping cages, and causing damage to household items and property. The July 2012 escape of two chimpanzees from a backyard cage in Clark County should serve as a drastic reminder to all localities of the inherent danger posed by wild animals. The chimpanzees ran amok, climbing into cars, pounding on vehicles, and banging on windows of homes and the fiasco ended with police shooting one of the animals dead in the street.

Although it is likely that most incidents go unreported, records show that since 1990, more than 300 people— including 97 children—have been injured by captive primates in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Some of these attacks have caused permanent disability and disfigurement. Children have been attacked and injured by pet primates while riding their bikes, playing outdoors, visiting local parks, walking their dogs, and shopping at malls and grocery stores. Traumatized youngsters have been bitten by macaques who tested positive for the deadly Herpes B virus, subjected to painful rabies-protection injections, sent to the hospital to be tested for a variety of frightening diseases, suffered bite wounds that penetrated to the bone, and lost fingers. A list of dangerous incidents involving primates is attached.

**Non-human primates pose a public health risk**

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), an organization of local and state professionals who regularly consult with physicians, emergency rooms, legislators, local officials, schools, health departments, and the general public on preventing exposure to and controlling diseases that humans can get from animals and animal products, recommends legislation prohibiting private ownership of primates “due to the potential for highly fatal and rare zoonoses, severe injuries, and serious wound related infections.”<sup>ii</sup>

Non-human primates can spread deadly viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections

that pose serious health risks to humans, such as tuberculosis, shigellosis, campylobacter, klebsiella, Herpes B, Simian Immunodeficiency Virus, and poxviruses.<sup>iii, iv</sup> In fact, more than a hundred zoonotic diseases (infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans) have been identified in primates.<sup>v</sup> While contracting some infectious diseases from non-human primates may be rare, the consequences may be death or permanent disability. Infants, young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are especially vulnerable.

Up to 90 percent of adult macaque monkeys—which are popular in the pet trade—are infected with the Herpes B virus. Infected monkeys are often asymptomatic, yet human exposure through monkey bites or bodily fluids can result in fatal meningoencephalitis.<sup>vi</sup> Macaques living in households with children have tested positive for Herpes B.<sup>vii</sup> Macaques are not the only species who may harbor Herpes B virus infection. The virus was confirmed in a colony of captive capuchin monkeys who showed no symptoms of infection and put lab workers who were unaware of their infectious status at risk.<sup>viii</sup>

In 2009, an incident at the California National Primate Research Center in Davis revealed that there might be more pathogens than previously thought with species-jumping potential when an adenovirus was transferred from titi monkeys to workers at the Center, sickening three people.<sup>ix</sup>

In 2006, Health Canada instructed the Canadian Blood Services to start rejecting potential blood donors who cared for or handled monkeys or the animals' body fluids in a current or past job. People in Canada who work with monkeys can no longer donate blood because of fears they may spread Simian foamy virus (SFV), a retrovirus similar to HIV. Between 70 to 90 percent of captive-born primates have the antibody that indicates the presence of SFV.<sup>x</sup> Lab workers and zoo personnel who are occupationally exposed to primates such as monkeys, chimpanzees, and baboons have become infected not only with SFV, but also with simian immunodeficiency virus and simian type D retrovirus.<sup>xi</sup>

Zoo professionals and lab workers understand zoonotic disease risks and wear protective gear including goggles, face masks, lab coats, and shoe covers while working around certain non-human primate species, yet people who keep the same primate species as pets fail to take any precautions and often put others at risk by taking their pets out in public and showing them off to visitors at home.

Officials should also be aware that rabies vaccines are not legally approved for use in

exotic and wild animals. While an exotic animal such as a capuchin monkey may have received rabies vaccinations, there are no trials or studies to demonstrate how protective or statistically effective these vaccines actually are in many exotic species.

**The private possession of non-human primates adversely impacts animal welfare**

Non-human primates are extremely intelligent and have complex social, physical, and psychological needs. All primate species lead busy, active, stimulating lives. Most are highly social and naturally live in pairs or family groups with whom they travel, groom, play, build nests, sleep, and raise their offspring. Many primates spend up to 70 percent of their waking hours in foraging-related activities. They have excellent climbing abilities and many are arboreal. In private hands, however, primates are typically denied mental stimulation, sufficient exercise, proper diets, interaction with others of their kind, and the ability to express natural behaviors.

Captive infant monkeys are typically forcibly removed from their mothers within just hours or days of birth—a practice that is inhumane and traumatic for both the mothers and the babies. Such early separation may deprive the infant of adequate nutrition and immunities against diseases as well as interfere with the infant's normal development. Premature separation of mothers and their offspring often results in poor health and behavioral abnormalities in the infants, some of which can persist throughout a hand-reared infant's lifetime. For example, hand-reared non-human primates almost always develop dysfunctional and neurotic behaviors such as circling, rocking, spinning, body clasp, self-biting, over-grooming, and hair plucking that results in bald patches.

Private owners, in a futile attempt to make the animals less dangerous, often mutilate non-human primates by having their teeth removed—a painful procedure that may result in chronic health problems and does not prevent the animals from inflicting harm. Ultimately, weary of attacks on people and destruction to the home, pet monkeys are often relegated to a life of increasing isolation, loneliness, frustration, and neglect.

**Non-human primates are no longer federally recognized as service animals**

In 2010, the federal government revised its definition of service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and non-human primates are no longer recognized as service animals under the ADA.<sup>xii</sup> The American Veterinary Medical Association does not support the use of non-human primates as assistance animals because of animal welfare concerns, the potential for serious injury to people, and risks that non-human primates may transfer dangerous diseases to humans.<sup>xiii</sup> With such

widespread agreement that the use of primates as service animals is ill advised, it stands to reason that they are also unsuitable as pets.

---

<sup>i</sup> According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 52 people reported being bitten by macaque monkeys between 1990 and 1997. The CDC noted, however, that “owners of pet macaques are often reluctant to report bite injuries from their pets, even to their medical care providers” for fear that their animal would be confiscated and possibly killed.

<sup>ii</sup> National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (SCTE), Position Statement on the Maintenance of Non-Human Primates as Pets.

<sup>iii</sup> Gail Golab, PhD, DVM, Congressional Testimony of Dr. Gail Golab, Director of the Animal Welfare Division of the American Veterinary Medical Association, on the Captive Primate Safety Act, March 11, 2008, <<https://www.avma.org/News/PressRoom/Pages/Testimony-golab-080311.aspx>>.

<sup>iv</sup> David M. Renquist, D.V.M., M.A. and Robert A. Whitney, Jr., D.V.M., M.S., “Zoonoses Acquired From Pet Primates,” *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 17 (1) 219-240, 1987.

<sup>v</sup> Sarah Cleaveland, M.K. Laurenson, L.H. Taylor, “Diseases of humans and their domestic mammals: pathogen characteristics, host range and the risk of emergency,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.*, 356 (1411), 991-999, 2001.

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/herpesvirus/signs-symptoms.html>

<sup>vii</sup> Ostrowski SR, Leslie MJ, Parrott T, Abelt S, Piercy PE. B-virus from Pet Macaque Monkeys: An Emerging Threat in the United States? *Emerg Infect Dis* [serial on the Internet]. Volume 4, Number 1 - 1998, March. Available from <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/4/1/98-0117.htm>

<sup>viii</sup> Coulibaly C, Hack R, Seidl J, Chudy M, Itter G, & Plesker R. A natural asymptomatic infection in a colony of laboratory brown capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*). *Lab Anim.* 2004 Oct;38(4):432-8.

<sup>ix</sup> Michael Price, “New virus jumps from monkeys to lab worker,” *Science*, July 14, 2011.

<sup>x</sup> “Monkey handlers can’t give blood,” *Edmonton Journal*, December 23, 2006.

<sup>xi</sup> William M. Switzer, “Frequent Simian Foamy Virus Infection in Persons Occupationally Exposed to Nonhuman Primates,” *Journal of Virology*, March 2004, p. 2780–2789.

<sup>xii</sup> “Highlights of the Final Rule to Amend the Department of Justice’s Regulation Implementing Title II of the ADA” factsheet, Available at:

[http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/factsheets/title2\\_factsheet.html](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/factsheets/title2_factsheet.html). Accessed June 21, 2013.

<sup>xiii</sup> American Veterinary Medical Association. Nonhuman primates as assistance animals. Available at: [http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/nonhuman\\_primates.asp](http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/nonhuman_primates.asp). Accessed June 21, 2013.

## **The Humane Society of the United States re: proposed updates to Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code, relating to the private possession of exotic animals**

### **EXHIBIT B – Ban the Private Possession of Dangerous Carnivores**

#### **Carnivores pose a risk to public safety**

Tigers, lions, cougars, and other big cats, as well as bears and hyenas, are efficient predators who have no place in our communities. Even when born in captivity and hand-raised, these species retain their predatory instincts. They can (and do) injure and kill people, as evidenced by the hundreds of attacks in the U.S. in the last two decades alone.

Tigers are 360 to 720 times more likely to be involved in a fatal attack than dogs.<sup>i</sup> Since 1990, more than 300 dangerous incidents involving big cats have occurred in 44 states. Four children lost their lives and at least 66 others lost limbs, suffered paralysis, were left permanently blind, or suffered other injuries. Sixteen adults have been killed, and scores have been mauled. The animals involved are victims, too—more than 100 have been killed following attacks and escapes.

Washoe County has had its share of dangerous incidents: two black leopards were found on the roof of a private home after they apparently jumped a 12-foot fence while the owners were out of town; a volunteer at the Sierra Safari Zoo needed more than 15 stitches after she was bitten by a leopard; and a Reno illusionist – a presumed “expert” big cat handler – was attacked by a 250-pound tiger being used in a performance and sustained “bone-deep” bite wounds to his leg and arm.<sup>ii,iii,iv</sup>

#### **The private possession of carnivores adversely impacts animal welfare**

In the wild, big cats and other carnivores spend their time traveling vast distances to hunt, seek mates, and stake out territory. In captivity, they suffer immensely from being confined to cages that are magnitudes smaller than the vast distances they typically roam in the wild. According to research conducted by University of Oxford zoologists, “Among the carnivores, naturally wide-ranging species show the most evidence of stress and/or psychological dysfunction in captivity” because they are unable to satisfy their instinct to roam.<sup>v</sup> Captive predators, unable to meet their instinctual needs, typically exhibit neurotic behaviors such as pacing, tail-chewing, toe-sucking, or excessive grooming.

Captive big cats and other carnivores are typically prematurely removed from their



mothers—often within just days of birth—which often denies them proper nutrition and the natural socialization process required for normal development. The cubs very quickly mature to the point where their great strength and wild instincts make them impossible to control, and they are then, more often than not, relegated to live the remainder of their long lives caged in backyards, basements, garages, and substandard zoos.

#### **The private possession of carnivores adversely impacts conservation efforts**

As recognized by conservation experts around the world, captive breeding of big cats and other endangered species must be carefully managed to preserve heredity. Only zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) manage endangered species through Species Survival Plans (SSP), which are developed based on the best available science to manage captive populations to maintain genetic integrity as a hedge against extinction.<sup>vi</sup>

The random breeding, display, and/or private ownership of carnivores significantly undermine legitimate conservation efforts. Of special concern is the breeding of different color variations of tigers, including white tigers, which are not a distinct subspecies of tiger, but merely an aberrant color variation that is produced through inbreeding and is done solely for its amusement and commercial profit. All captive white tigers are inbred, and this has led to serious congenital defects including cleft palates, cataracts, club feet, and near-crippling hip dysplasia.<sup>vii</sup>

Similarly, the interspecies breeding of big cats to produce hybrids - ligers, tigons, etc. - serves no conservation purpose since these hybrids would never naturally occur in the wild.

---

<sup>i</sup> P.J. Nyhus, R.L. Tilson, and J.L. Tomlinson, "Dangerous Animals in Captivity: Ex Situ Tiger Conflict and Implications for Private Ownership of Exotic Animals," *Zoo Biology* 22:(2003) 573-586.

<sup>ii</sup> Steve Timko, "2 leopards seized from home's roof," *Reno Gazette-Journal*, August 20, 2008.

<sup>iii</sup> Don Cox, "Sierra Safari volunteer will return to work when wounds heal," *Reno Gazette-Journal*, March 16, 2004.

<sup>iv</sup> "Tiger attacks illusionist in Reno," *Las Vegas Sun*, September 28, 1992.

<sup>v</sup> R. Clubb and G. Mason, "Captivity effects on wide-ranging carnivores," *Journal: Nature*, vol. 425, no. 6957, pp. 473-474, 2003.

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.aza.org/species-survival-plan-program>

<sup>vii</sup> Association of Zoos and Aquariums Whitepaper, *White tigers, lions, and king cheetahs: welfare and conservation implications of intentional breeding for the expression of rare recessive alleles*

---

(July 2011), *available at*

[https://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/About\\_Us/AZA%20White%20Paper%20Inbreeding%20for%20Rare%20Alleles%2018%20Jan%202012.pdf](https://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/About_Us/AZA%20White%20Paper%20Inbreeding%20for%20Rare%20Alleles%2018%20Jan%202012.pdf)

**The Humane Society of the United States re: proposed updates to Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code, relating to the private possession of exotic animals**

**EXHIBIT C - Classify All Large Constricting Snakes as Prohibited Exotic Animals**

**Constrictor snakes pose a risk to public safety**

Large constrictor snakes such as pythons and anacondas are powerful wild animals capable of killing an adult human.

Since 1978, 17 people have died from constrictor snake-related incidents in the United States and scores of adults and children have been seriously injured during attacks by these deadly predators. In Washoe County, a 21-month-old boy was killed in his crib by an 8-foot reticulated python.<sup>1</sup> In Las Vegas, a 13-year-old girl was attacked by her father's pet Burmese python while she was sleeping and it took six police officers, an animal control officer and the mother, who stabbed the snake with a kitchen knife, to free a 3-year-old boy who was bitten and squeezed to the point of unconsciousness by an 18-foot reticulated python.<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup>

Constrictor snakes can attack suddenly and with deadly force, preying on experienced reptile handlers, children living in households where these snakes are kept, or unsuspecting people who encounter someone else's escaped or released snake. Released or escaped pet pythons, boa constrictors, and anacondas have been found all over the country, where they endanger communities, threaten ecosystems, and in many cases suffer tragic deaths.

**Risks to people from known—and unknown—pathogens and parasites**

Dangers associated with salmonella infections from pet reptiles and amphibians have been well documented. For instance, boa constrictors have been the source of several Salmonella infections resulting in a 3-month-old baby being rushed to an emergency room and the death of an Oklahoma woman after she received a blood transfusion from a donor who had been infected by a pet boa.<sup>7,8</sup>

In addition, these animals carry other zoonotic diseases that pose a risk to people. For example, studies have found boa constrictors and pythons can carry a bacterium called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, including antibiotic-resistant strains. The bacterium has also been found in owners of the snakes.<sup>9</sup> One study concluded, "Humans could acquire saprophytic and pathogenic flora by direct contact, but also by bite wounds or scratches."<sup>10</sup> According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, multidrug-

resistant *Pseudomonas* is categorized as a serious threat and causes roughly 400 deaths annually.

Scientists are discovering new threats on a regular basis. Research led by scientists at the University of California, San Francisco studying Inclusion Body Disease, an always-fatal illness that afflicts captive pythons and boa constrictors, discovered it shares qualities with viruses that can jump from animals to humans and cause diseases such as Lassa fever and Ebola. Snakes infected with the virus tie themselves in knots, projectile vomit, and exhibit “stargazing” behavior. When asked if it was possible whether the snake virus could be passed to humans, the researcher responded, “I don’t know.”<sup>11</sup>

**The private possession of large constrictor snakes adversely impacts animal welfare** Requiring specialized expertise and care that most people cannot provide or are simply unaware of, many captive constrictor snakes suffer greatly from neglect, and there have been numerous cases of extreme cruelty to these snakes.

Burmese pythons, reticulated pythons, African rock pythons, and semi-aquatic anacondas can reach lengths of 10 to 29 feet and weights from 77 to 400 pounds. Their home ranges can be large - a python outfitted with a monitoring device traveled 22 miles in 75 days - yet most snake cages severely restrict or entirely eliminate normal movement and exercise. Most captive snakes are confined to barren, undersized tanks that prevent normal behaviors and movements, including stretching out to their full body length, and breeding operations typically keep snakes in warehouse-type conditions, often inside exceptionally small, stacked plastic containers no larger than shoe or sweater boxes.

Constrictor snakes may suffer illness, injury and disease, including starvation, dehydration, parasites, respiratory infections, mouth rot, Inclusion Body Disease, as well as injuries and stress-related illnesses caused by mishandling, poor transport conditions, and frustration of natural movements and behaviors. Abnormal behaviors, such as constant pushing against and climbing up transparent boundaries (e.g., glass), fear-related escape activities, and a broad range of other aberrant behaviors, are common in overly restrictive and exposed environments.

Although they can live 20 - 30 years in captivity, the majority of reptile owners have the animals for less than one year. Some animals die due to poor care, while others may be intentionally released outdoors or escape from improperly secured cages.

## **The private possession of large constrictor snakes adversely impacts conservation efforts**

Large constrictor snakes have become established in parts of Florida and are consuming native wildlife, including endangered and threatened species. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey concluded that all large constrictor snakes present a “high” or “medium” risk of becoming invasive.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> McCarty, V.O., Cox, R.A., and Haglund, B., “Death Caused by a Constricting Snake – An Infant Death,” *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, JFSCA, Vol. 34, No. 1, Jan. 1989, pp. 239-243.

<sup>2</sup> “Local girl recovering after being attacked by her own pet,” KVBC, September 1, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Greg Jordan, “Local teen shares her horrific story of python attack,” *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, October 11, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Mary Manning, “In Las Vegas, python vs. angry mom with a knife,” *Las Vegas Sun*, January 22, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Lawrence Mower, “Parents charged in python attack on 3-year-old son,” *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, February 11, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Cara McCoy, “Parents of boy attacked by python to enter plea,” *Las Vegas Sun*, March 12, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> “Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis — Selected States, 1998–2002,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 52(49);1206-1209, December 12, 2003.

<sup>8</sup> Mehrdad Jafari, M.D., et al., “Salmonella Sepsis Caused by a Platelet Transfusion from a Donor with a Pet Snake,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 347, No. 14, October 3, 2002.

<sup>9</sup> Céline Colignon, Dominique Jocktane, Elisabeth Brothier, Gian Maria Rossolini, Benoit Cournoyer, and Sylvie Nazaret, “Genetic analyses of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolated from healthy captive snakes: evidence of high inter- and intrasite dissemination and occurrence of antibiotic resistance genes,” *Environmental Microbiology*, 12(3), 716–729, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Maria Foti, Cristina Giacobello, Vittorio Fisichella, and Giuseppe Latella, “Multi Drug-Resistant *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* Isolates From Captive Reptiles,” *Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine*, 22, pp270–274, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Andrea Mustain, “New, Deadly Virus Related to Ebola ID’ed in Snakes,” *LiveScience*, August 14, 2012.

<sup>12</sup> Reed, R.N., and Rodda, G.H., 2009, Giant constrictors: biological and management profiles and an establishment risk assessment for nine large species of pythons, anacondas, and the boa constrictor: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2009–1202, 302 p.

**Dangerous Incidents Resulting in Death or Injury**  
**Bears, Big Cats, Primates, Large Constrictor Snakes, Venomous Snakes**  
**2013 to present**

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>May 3, 2016/Chapel Hill, North Carolina:</b> A 21-year-old man was hospitalized in critical condition after being bitten by his pet king cobra. Investigators found more than 20 snakes in his home, including puff adders, vipers, several types of cobras, and reticulated pythons.</p>	<p>Tammy Grubb and Mark Schultz, "King cobra bite leaves Orange County man in critical condition," News &amp; Observer, May 3, 2016.  "Chapel Hill man bitten by cobra now faces multiple charges," WNCN, May 25, 2016.</p>
<p><b>April 26, 2016/St. Francis, Wisconsin:</b> A man was hospitalized after he was bitten by his pet water moccasin. Police and animal control were alerted by the hospital and removed venomous snakes, alligators and iguanas from the man's home. More than two dozen reptiles were previously removed from the man's home in 2011 and in 2014.</p>	<p>Ben Hutchison, "Snakes, gators removed from St. Francis home after man bitten," WISN, April 27, 2016.</p>
<p><b>March 20, 2016/Mayfair, Pennsylvania:</b> A man was taken by paramedics to the hospital after he was bitten by his pet horned rattlesnake, also called a sidewinder. Officials said his arm may have to be amputated. Animal control removed the snake.</p>	<p>"Man bitten by rattlesnake in NE Philadelphia," Philadelphia Inquirer, March 21, 2016.  "Snake Owner Bitten By Pet in Mayfair, May Lose Arm," CBS news, March 20, 2016.</p>
<p><b>February 21, 2016/Greenville, Wisconsin:</b> An employee at Special Memories Zoo required stitches after she was bitten on her hand by a black bear. In an attempt to lure a bear out of a den with some food, the woman stuck her hand inside the cage not realizing another bear was already out of the den and she was injured when the bear went for the food she was holding.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Special Memories Zoo, 35-B-0198, February 25, 2016.</p>
<p><b>November 18, 2015/Harlingen, Texas:</b> A pet vervet monkey who escaped from a backyard cage ran into a nearby home and ended up attacking and biting three people before he was captured by police. One of the victims was an 84-year-old woman who was taken by ambulance to a hospital. The monkey was killed so he could be tested for diseases.</p>	<p>"Several injured when monkey escapes in TX," KGBT, November 19, 2015.  Kayleigh Sommer, "Monkey escapes, bites three: Illegally kept wild animal euthanized," Valley Morning Star, November 19, 2015.</p>
<p><b>October 9, 2015/Perry County, Georgia:</b> A lemur being exhibited by Eudora Farms at a county fair escaped from a cage when an employee failed to secure a door, "creating mayhem," and biting two bystanders.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Eudora Farms, #56-C-0118, October 16, 2015.</p>
<p><b>October 5, 2015/Newport, Kentucky:</b> Terry Wilkins, the owner of a reptile pet shop, was attacked by a 20-foot, 125-pound reticulated python while cleaning the snake's cage. According to the police chief, the snake grabbed Wilkins by the arm, then coiled around his body and neck. It took two police officers to remove the snake. Wilkins was unconscious when officers arrived, but was later revived and hospitalized. Wilkins used the python for breeding.</p>	<p>Jesse Folk, John Genovese, Evan Millward, "20-foot python attacks Newport reptile shop owner," WCPO, October 5, 2015.  Tobias Salinger, "Python bites Cincinnati reptile shop owner, coils itself around him in bloody scene: police," New York Daily News, October 7, 2015.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>September 28, 2015/Winter Park, Florida:</b> A 71-year-old man was bitten on the hand by his pet Gaboon viper. The incident happened when the man dropped the snake while attempting to handle it with some tongs as he cleaned the animal's cage. The victim, who owned numerous snakes, including multiple vipers, was expected to be hospitalized for more than a week. The Central Florida Zoo provided the hospital with the antivenin needed to save the man's life.</p>	<p>"Winter Park man bitten by venomous pet Gaboon viper," WFTV, September 24, 2015.  "Winter Park man recovering after bite from pet viper," WOFL, September 25, 2015.</p>
<p><b>September 7, 2015/Bremerton, Washington:</b> An employee at The Bremerton Bug Museum was attacked by a 10-foot Burmese python as she attempted to feed the animal. The snake bit the woman's leg and then coiled around it. In an attempt to get the snake to release its hold, other workers at the facility placed the woman's leg into a bucket of water but when firefighters arrived, the snake was still firmly latched onto the leg. As the woman was moved to an ambulance, the snake released its jaws and firefighters grabbed the animal's head, slammed it against the edge of the bucket, and unraveled its body from the woman's leg. The woman said the snake's bites felt like they had penetrated to the bone.</p>	<p>"Python attacks employee at Bremerton Bug Museum in Washington State," WPTV, September 8, 2015.  Rachel Anne Seymour, "Python latches onto bug museum employee," <i>Kitsap Sun</i>, September 7, 2015.</p>
<p><b>September 6, 2015/League City, Texas:</b> A 4-year-old boy was bitten on the leg by a capuchin monkey at Ms. Monkey's Emporium, a gourmet popcorn shop that displays three monkeys and allows them to interact with the public. The boy's leg was bruised and all three monkeys were quarantined for 30 days.</p>	<p>"Community supports owner of monkeys quarantined after child bitten at shop," KPRC, September 17, 2015.</p>
<p><b>September 2015/Lowndes County, Mississippi:</b> A woman who had been hospitalized after being bitten and scratched on the head by her pet monkey was re-hospitalized several weeks later and then airlifted to another hospital when she began showing symptoms of a simian-related virus. Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disinfected the containment area of the first hospital, suggesting that the woman was likely infected with Herpes B virus. The monkey was confiscated and euthanized.</p>	<p>"Lowndes woman infected after alleged monkey bite," <i>The Packet</i>, October 20, 2015.</p>
<p><b>August 21, 2015/Grand Rapids, Michigan:</b> A man was bitten by his pet African Bush Viper. Since there is no specific antivenin for bush vipers, doctors had to use antivenin for another species of viper and had to wait for it to be flown in from a facility in Kentucky that is one of just a few places in the country that has it.</p>	<p>"Anti-venom flown out of Kentucky to help Michigan snake bite victim," WKYT, August 22, 2015.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>August 18, 2015/Prescott, Arizona:</b> A four-day-old baby was attacked by his/her grandmother's pet marmoset monkey when the animal ran from its cage, across the house, and jumped up to the baby, who was being held by his/her father. The marmoset scratched and bit the infant's face, leaving scratches on the forehead and at least one bite that split open one of the baby's nostrils. The infant was taken to a hospital and then flown to Phoenix Children's Hospital. Animal control took the marmoset to a roadside zoo to be quarantined and tested for diseases. At the zoo, the marmoset bit an employee who attempted to put the animal in a carrier to take it to a veterinarian. The marmoset ran up the man's arm and bit him in the ear. The employee sought medical attention for the bite and the marmoset was subjected to an additional 14-day quarantine.</p>	<p>The State of Arizona, Game and Fish Department, "Response to records request for primate incidents; Results of the investigation/narrative," February 5, 2016.</p>
<p><b>August 8, 2015/Bryant, Arkansas:</b> A Target employee was bitten by a pet marmoset whose owner brought the animal to the store's Back to School Blitz. Social media helped Animal Control to locate the owner and sheriff's deputies were sent to contact her. The marmoset was impounded and quarantined.</p>	<p>"Monkey quarantined after biting worker at Bryant Target," KTHV, August 12, 2015.</p>
<p><b>July 23, 2015/East Providence, Rhode Island:</b> A man was bitten by a copperhead snake as he tried to capture the reptile, who he thought might be a neighbor's pet, in his backyard. The man described the pain of the bite as excruciating and said that even with pain medication, his hand felt like it was on fire. His entire arm swelled and he was hospitalized for four days to receive antivenin, antibiotics and other treatments. State officials took custody of the snake, confirmed that it was a copperhead and, since copperheads are not native to Rhode Island, surmised that it could have been an escaped pet.</p>	<p>Rachel Salit, "East Providence man says hand 'felt like it was on fire' after venomous snake bite," <i>Providence Journal</i>, July 27, 2015.</p>
<p><b>July 14, 2015/Austin, Texas:</b> Police and EMTs found an 18-year-old boy who was unresponsive, in cardiac arrest, and had 35 puncture wounds on his wrist in the parking lot of a Lowe's. The teen, who was an employee of a local pet shop, was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. Police discovered several containers in the teen's car, one of which held a live snake, and a search of the boy's home revealed that a monocled cobra was missing from its cage. Two days later, a 4-foot monocled cobra was found dead on a service road that was just a few feet from the Lowe's where the victim was found.</p>	<p>Samantha Matsumoto, "Austin police searching for cobra believed to have killed man," <i>American-Statesman</i>, July 15, 2015. Nicole Chavez, "Medical examiner to analyze cobra linked to man's death in North Austin," <i>American-Statesman</i>, July 17, 2015.</p>
<p><b>July 3, 2015/Adams, Wisconsin:</b> Melanie Nawrot who operates a business called Monkey Mommy was cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for failure to have a ring-tailed lemur under control after the lemur bit a person while being exhibited on public property in Wisconsin.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Melanie Nawrot, 35-B-0206, July 14, 2015.</p>



Incident Details	Source
<p><b>June 25, 2015/Elkhart, Texas:</b> A woman visiting a consignment shop was bitten on the arm by the business owner's pet lemur when the primate apparently escaped from a back room in the shop. After he bit her, the lemur bounced around the store until the owner's daughter was able to recapture him. The victim had trouble stopping the bleeding from the wound, which was approximately three inches long and deep enough that the ER doctor could insert a finger into it. While driving to the hospital with the victim, the lemur's owner told her that the animal had recently bitten her son-in-law. The lemur had also previously attacked a mail carrier (see December 4, 2012/Houston County, Texas), causing the owner to move shortly thereafter.</p>	<p>Pennylynn Webb, "Ouch! Elkhart lemur goes on biting spree," <i>Palestine Herald-Press</i>, June 29, 2015. Erika Bazaldua, "Woman attacked by pet lemur at Elkhart antique shop," KLTU, July 22, 2015.</p>
<p><b>April 22, 2015/Dexter, Iowa:</b> A 10-year-old girl was bitten by a friend's pet capuchin monkey who broke out of his cage in the garage and attacked her. The girl received eight stitches for bites on both ankles, as well as a tetanus shot.</p>	<p>Kim St. Onge, "Pet monkey suspected of biting 10-year-old girl," KCCI, April 24, 2015.</p>
<p><b>April 18, 2015/Wimauma, Florida:</b> An 18-year-old was bitten on the lip by his pet water moccasin when he he tried to kiss the animal, who he kept in a pillowcase under his bed. The teen was hospitalized in critical condition. Wildlife officials said he was lucky to be alive.</p>	<p>Doyle Murphy, "Snake-kissing Florida teen hospitalized when water moccasin bites lip," <i>New York Daily News</i>, April 22, 2015. "Teen bitten on face while trying to kiss deadly snake," WESH, April 22, 2015.</p>
<p><b>March 25, 2015/Charlotte, North Carolina:</b> A hospital security guard was bitten by a pet macaque monkey who escaped from a car in the visitor's parking lot when he tried to grab the animal and put him in a bin. The monkey ran to a nearby wooded area and was captured 30 hours later when he returned to the hospital grounds. The guard underwent treatment for rabies, as well as a series of three blood tests to determine if he became infected with the Herpes B virus. The monkey was quarantined for 30 days to check for rabies and was also subjected to the same blood tests for Herpes B virus. Investigators stated that there had been previous run-ins with the monkey's owner.</p>	<p>"Hospital employee bitten by monkey in University City," WBTV, March 26, 2015. "Escaped monkey, hospital employee tested for herpes after monkey bite," WBTV, March 26, 2015.</p>
<p><b>February 10, 2015/Panama City Beach, Florida:</b> An 8-year-old boy was scratched and bitten by a lemur who jumped onto him during a "hands on" program at Zooworld. The boy sustained two approximately 1-inch-long scratches on the back of his neck and a bite to his ear lobe.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspection Report, Zooworld, 58-C-0460, February 10, 2015.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>January 30, 2015/Slade, Kentucky:</b> A South American rattlesnake bit Jim Harrison, owner of the Kentucky Reptile Zoo, as he was milking the snake for its venom. Harrison began the ride to the hospital in an employee's car, during which time he lost his ability to speak and pitched forward. He was taken the rest of the way by ambulance and woke up seven hours later when a breathing tube was being removed. Harrison spent two days in the hospital. It was his ninth snake bite.</p>	<p>Cheryl Truman, "Snakes on a farm: Despite the bites, Kentucky Reptile Zoo owners offer tours, sell medicinal venom," <i>Lexington Herald-Leader</i>, February 16, 2015.</p>
<p><b>January 23, 2015/Dade City, Florida:</b> A woman was bitten and mauled by a 400-pound black bear at private menagerie called Wildlife Haven when she reached into the bear's cage to try to pet the animal. The woman was airlifted to a hospital where she received treatment for severe injuries to her arm.</p>	<p>"400-pound bear bites woman in Pasco," WFLA, January 23, 2015. Sarah Hagen, "Woman bitten trying to feed pet bear," WTSP, January 26, 2015.</p>
<p><b>January 2015/San Antonio, Texas:</b> A female bank teller was hospitalized after being bit on the face by an unrestrained juvenile macaque. A man brought the macaque into the bank and fled with the monkey following the attack. Authorities located the owner and seized the monkey. The owner claimed the monkey was a service animal. The male macaque, less than a year old, was quarantined and will be tested for rabies and Herpes B.</p>	<p>R.J. Marquez, "Illegal pet monkey bites woman at bank, seized by ACS," KSAT, January 30, 2015. Vincent T. Davis, "Pet monkey allegedly bites bank employee," <i>San Antonio Express-News</i>, January 30, 2015. "Bank Employee Bit in Face by Illegal Monkey," WOAI, January 30, 2015.</p>
<p><b>October 22, 2014/Gentry, Arkansas:</b> A 14-week-old lion cub bit a woman during a "play session" at Wild Wilderness Safari. The woman sought medical attention and received antibiotics for the injury.</p>	<p>Arkansas Incident Report, Benton County Sheriffs Office, Incident Number 14-10-0579, October 22, 2014. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Wild Wilderness Safari, 71-C-0151, April 8, 2015.</p>
<p><b>October 6, 2014/Jupiter, Florida:</b> A construction worker at the Zoological Wildlife Foundation had his thumb bitten off by a tiger when he stuck his hand into the animal's cage. Emergency responders rushed the man to a hospital for treatment.</p>	<p>Snujana Farberov, "Construction worker has his thumb bitten off after putting hand inside tiger cage," <i>The Daily Mail</i>, October 6, 2014.</p>
<p><b>October 1, 2014/Roundup, Montana:</b> A lemur at Animal Edventures injured a member of the public when he/she stuck a hand into the animal's enclosure.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Animal Edventures, 81-C-0046, October 1, 2014.</p>
<p><b>September 19, 2014/Roanoke County, Virginia:</b> A woman out shopping was bitten several times on each arm by an escaped pet monkey in the parking lot of a busy shopping center. The monkey apparently escaped while the owner was trying to change the animal's diaper, bit the shopper, then ran across highway traffic. The owner caught the monkey and drove away before authorities arrived at the scene.</p>	<p>Jordan Fifer, "Monkey on the lam captured after brief stir at Roanoke County shopping center," <i>The Roanoke Times</i>, September 19, 2014.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>September 2014/Coryell County, Texas:</b> A bonnet macaque being kept as a pet escaped and reportedly attacked a man and his dogs. A sheriff's deputy captured the macaque in a net, but the animal escaped again when it was returned to the owners and was not recaptured until two days later.</p>	<p>Paul J. Gately, "Monkey found dead was local family's pet; second one missing," KWTX, December 11, 2014.</p>
<p><b>August 23, 2014/Inglewood, California:</b> A backup dancer rehearsing with singer Nicki Minaj was bitten by a 6-foot boa constrictor who was being used as a performance prop. The dancer was treated at a hospital.</p>	<p>Michael West, "Nicki Minaj's backup dancer bitten by 6-foot boa constrictor," ContactMusic.com, August 23, 2014.</p>
<p><b>August 19, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:</b> Numerous people were scratched or bitten while interacting with two tiger cubs (said to be 14 weeks of age and approximately 25-30 lbs) during a "Tiger Playtime" at Tim Stark's Wildlife in Need. A young boy was approached from behind by one of the tigers who "grabbed both sides of his head at the ears and mouthed the top of his head"; an approximately 10-year-old boy was bitten on his thigh, causing the boy to yell out and crawl away rubbing his leg; a woman was pawed and mouthed in the face; a tiger chewed and pulled on the hair of a woman while lying across the back of another woman; and a USDA inspector was bitten on the back, which resulted in broken skin and bleeding. In addition, the tigers leapt on top of people who were lying down and jumped onto the hips and lower backs of people who were standing.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspection Report, Wildlife in Need, 32-C-0204, August 20, 2014.</p>
<p><b>August 3, 2014/Beaumont, California:</b> A capuchin monkey bit a woman when she stepped outside a restaurant to make a phone call and encountered a woman who had three primates with her. The victim had to get stitches and undergo rabies injections. The capuchin was turned over to animal control officers for a six-month quarantine, and the other two primates—another capuchin and a tamarin—were confiscated because the woman did not have permits to own them.</p>	<p>Brian Rokos, "Woman surrenders monkeys after one bites restaurant guest," The Press Enterprise, August 5, 2014.</p>
<p><b>July 29, 2014/Fort Myers, Florida:</b> A man was taken to the hospital after being bitten by a coral snake that he was keeping as a pet.</p>	<p>"Ft. Myers man bitten by coral snake he kept as a pet," WINK, July 29, 2014.</p>
<p><b>July 26, 2014/Tawas City, Michigan:</b> An African lion at Sunrise Side Animal Park bit off the tip of a visitor's middle finger when the woman reached into the animal's cage.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Sunrise Side Animal Park, 34-C-0166, July 31, 2014.</p>
<p><b>July 2014/Sebastian, Florida:</b> A member of the public was bitten by a marmoset at Laporte Farms when a keeper allowed the person to enter the cage to take photographs of the animal.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Laporte Farms, 58-C-1072, July 28, 2014.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>June 26, 2014/Loxahatchee, Florida:</b> Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Anti-Venom Unit responded to a call when one of the owners of McCarthy Wildlife Sanctuary was bitten by a spectacled cobra while cleaning the animal's cage. The woman was convulsing, vomiting, and the side of her face became distorted. She was rushed to the hospital in critical condition and had to wait for antivenin to be flown in from Miami.</p>	<p>Adam Sacasa, "Woman hospitalized after cobra bite at Loxahatchee animal sanctuary," <i>Sun Sentinel</i>, June 26, 2014.  Terri Parker, "Loxahatchee cobra bite victim starting to improve after antivenin flown from Miami," WPBF, June 27, 2014.</p>
<p><b>June 18, 2014/Houston, Texas:</b> The Houston SPCA and Harris County authorities rescued 15 snakes from a woman's cluttered Heights home. The various boa constrictors and pythons, including at least one reticulated python, were cruelly confined in small containers in two back bedrooms. Some of the snakes were malnourished and one had a broken back. One official was bit by a smaller python. At least two of the pythons were more than 18-feet long. The woman acquired the snakes years earlier because her then-boyfriend said she could make money by breeding them.</p>	<p>Craig Hlavaty, "Boas, pythons, 1 lucky cat seized from Heights 'snake room'," <i>Houston Chronicle</i>, June 18, 2014.  Phil Archer and Matt Aufdenspring, "Huge python, more than dozen underfed snakes found at Heights home," Click2Houston.com, June 18, 2014.  Doug Miller, "Woman in the Heights whose snakes were seized: 'They mean everything to me'," KHOU 11 News, June 24, 2014.</p>
<p><b>June 16, 2014/Oshtemo Township, Michigan:</b> A 4-year-old boy was bitten on both arms by an 11-month-old pet capuchin monkey while visiting the residence where the monkey lived. The boy was treated at a hospital.</p>	<p>Rob Wetterholt Jr., "Pet monkey bites boy, 4, in both arms near Kalamazoo," mlive.com, June 19, 2014.</p>
<p><b>May 23, 2014/Maiden, North Carolina:</b> A recently acquired male rhesus macaque at Buffalo Beal's Animal Park escaped through a hole left in a cage when an employee removed a water bowl. The employee did not realize the macaque had escaped until he was found outside the enclosure where he bit a 3-year-old child on both legs and one arm. Days earlier, this macaque had attacked an employee (see May 20, 2014/Maiden, North Carolina).</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Buffalo Beal's Animal Park, #55-C-0138, May 28, 2014.</p>
<p><b>May 20, 2014/Maiden, North Carolina:</b> A recently acquired male rhesus macaque at Buffalo Beal's Animal Park jumped on the back of an employee and bit her on both ears when she entered the cage to clean it. Another employee pulled the macaque off the woman who was attacked.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Buffalo Beal's Animal Park, #55-C-0138, May 28, 2014.</p>
<p><b>May 15, 2014/Washington County, Utah:</b> A pet capuchin monkey wearing a diaper was captured after running loose for at least a day. A teenager who encountered the monkey was attacked when the monkey grabbed his hand and bit his finger for 5-6 seconds. The bite victim was treated at a hospital. Police and animal control corralled the monkey and located the owners the next day.</p>	<p>"Monkey Business in Washington County," KUTV, May 16, 2014.  "Police Find Monkey in Washington County," KUTV, May 16, 2014.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>April 27, 2014/Melrose, Florida:</b> During public handling sessions with two 14 to 15-week old bear cubs weighing between 18 and 22 pounds at Single Vision, a patron sustained a bite wound that broke the skin and drew blood. A Single Vision representative confirmed to a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector that there are had been at least two prior incidents in the last two weeks where volunteers or members of the public were bitten by the bear cubs while being handled.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Single Vision, #58-C-1117, May 6, 2014.</p>
<p><b>April 27, 2014/St. Louis, Missouri:</b> Eighteen students were nipped on the face and/or hands by a bear cub who was part of a petting zoo that was brought onto the campus of Washington University by Cindy's Zoo. A decision to kill the bear cub so the animal could be tested for rabies was ultimately reversed.</p>	<p>Valerie Schremp Hahn, "Bear cub brought to Washington U campus creates rabies scare," <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>, May 1, 2014. Jim Salter, "School: Bear cub that bit students not rabid," Associated Press, May 3, 2014.</p>
<p><b>April 8, 2014/Jackson, New Jersey:</b> Several Monmouth University students were bitten during a public handling session with two 3-month-old, 30-pound lion cubs at Six Flags Great Adventure.</p>	<p>Kelly Heyboer, "Great Adventure safari becomes classroom for Monmouth U. psychology students," <i>The Star-Ledger</i>, April 13, 2014. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Six Flags, #22-C-0005, June 9, 2014.</p>
<p><b>February 25, 2014/Reidsville, North Carolina:</b> An 18-year-old was bitten on the arm by a rattlesnake at the home of his friend who kept nearly a dozen venomous snakes, including vipers and a cobra. The bite occurred as the boys were returning the snake to its cage. The victim was taken to a hospital for treatment.</p>	<p>"Teen bitten by poisonous snake at Reidsville friend's home," WXII, February 25, 2014.</p>
<p><b>February 16, 2014/Lockport, Illinois:</b> Concerned about public safety, local police stopped John Basile, owner of Big Run Wolf Ranch, as he walked a juvenile tiger cub on a leash in the downtown area. Basile, who was intoxicated and highly argumentative with officers, had been bringing the tiger into crowded, noisy area bars. The tiger bit at least one patron, leaving teeth marks and a giant bruise.</p>	<p>Lockport Police Department, Incident Report #14-2914, February 16, 2014. Dennis Robaugh, "Get a Good Look at the Tiger That Walked into a Bar," <i>Orland Park Patch</i>, February 25, 2014.</p>
<p><b>February 7, 2014/Waterbury, Connecticut:</b> A woman was arrested after her 10-year-old daughter revealed to school officials that the bite and scratch wounds on her forehead were caused by her mother's pet marmoset. The woman was charged with risk of injury to a child and illegal possession of a wild animal. The monkey was placed under quarantine at the Beardsley Zoo.</p>	<p>Kelly Glista, "Waterbury Woman Charged With Keeping Illegal Pet Monkey," <i>Hartford Courant</i>, February 7, 2014. Jonathan Shugarts, "Naughty monkey is also illegal; Mom charged after girl, 10, injured by pet," <i>Republican-American</i>, February 7, 2014.</p>
<p><b>January 15, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:</b> A girl was nipped or scratched by an approximately 50-pound tiger cub being used in exhibitor Tim Stark's "Tiger Baby Playtime" program. The girl was one of several people who had recently been scratched during the play sessions. Stark commented to a USDA inspector, "a little blood is nothing," and that he advised participants to "smack the tigers on the nose if they get too rough."</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Timothy Stark, 32-C-0204, January 17, 2014.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>January 14, 2014/Vermillion, Ohio:</b> An employee at an auto dealership was bitten by a customer's pet spider monkey. The victim was treated at a hospital for a bleeding puncture wound on his thumb. The monkey was killed to be tested for rabies.</p>	<p>Anna Merriman, "Spider monkey death gains international attention," <i>Chronicle-Telegram</i>, January 20, 2014.</p>
<p><b>November 9, 2013/Sherwood, Oregon:</b> The head keeper at the Wildcat Haven Sanctuary was mauled and killed by two cougars. The woman, whose lifeless body was found inside the animals' cage, died from multiple bite injuries, with the most severe wounds around her head and neck.</p>	<p>Alexis Shaw, "Keeper mauled by cougars died doing the very thing that she cared so much about," ABC News, November 11, 2013.</p>
<p><b>October 31, 2013/Moyock, North Carolina:</b> A man was attacked by his neighbor's four pet capuchin monkeys who escaped from their cages inside a shed. The victim was trying to coax the monkeys back to the shed when the animals jumped on him. His thumb was nearly bitten off and he said "I had to hit 'em and fight them off me ..." The monkeys' owner told authorities the pets would become vicious if cornered. A reverse 911 call was sent out to warn the public, and elementary and middle schools were notified about the monkeys. Two of the monkeys were captured by animal control, one was tranquilized, and one was tranquilized and then shot and killed by law enforcement.</p>	<p>Nick Dutton, "Egg salad sandwich, cat and dog caused monkey attack," WTVR, November 1, 2013. Catherine Rogers, "Pet monkeys escape, attack man," WAVY, October 31, 2013.</p>
<p><b>October 23, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:</b> A man was attacked and bitten by a capuchin monkey belonging to USDA-licensed exhibitor Steven Scott in a RV park. The monkey jumped on the man and bit him on the arm and leg before returning to the owner's RV. The victim was rushed to the hospital where he received 12 stitches to the wound on his arm. When an animal control officer tried to make contact with the animal's owner at his home, both he and the monkey were gone.</p>	<p>"Monkey attacks man," KZTV, October 25, 2013. Port Aransas Animal Control, Incident Report, Work Order #79, October 23, 2013.</p>
<p><b>October 5, 2013/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:</b> A female employee at the GW Exotic Animal Park was attacked by an adult tiger who pulled her arm through a 4-inch hole when she reached into an opening in the cage. The woman was airlifted to the hospital for surgery and ultimately had most of her forearm amputated.</p>	<p>Dana Hertneky, "Employee attacked by tiger at Wynnewood exotic animal park returns to work," News9, October 21, 2013. Ian Scheuring, "Oklahoma zoo employee mauled by tiger former Hawaii resident," <i>Hawaii News Now</i>, October 7, 2013.</p>
<p><b>August 29, 2013/Brooklyn, New York:</b> A 20-foot, 300-pound albino Burmese python escaped from a cage and attacked a handler during a feeding demonstration at the Children's Museum. According to a witness, "The keeper opened the door to feed it another Guinea pig and the python just shot out, bit the keeper's leg and started to constrict around it. Every one screamed and ran." Visitors were evacuated and the snake was returned to a cage within an hour.</p>	<p>Joe Coscarelli, "A Giant Python Escaped at the Brooklyn Children's Museum," <i>New York Magazine</i>, August 30, 2013.</p>

Incident Details	Source
<p><b>August 27, 2013/Paterson, New Jersey:</b> A construction crew fixing a sewer line spotted a 12-foot Burmese python near a Burger King and called animal control. An animal control officer captured the snake and turned it over to a reptile exhibitor who was bitten on the arm by the python during a TV news interview. The snake had reportedly been seen slithering in the grass near the Passaic River for several days.</p>	<p>Carolina Leid, "Python found near Burger King in New Jersey," WABC, August 27, 2013.</p>
<p><b>August 11, 2013/Beecher City, Illinois:</b> A 64-year-old man was airlifted to a St. Louis hospital after he was mauled by his pet black bear at his rural USDA-licensed Fayette County farm. The man suffered a broken hip, broken leg, and bites to his arm after he entered the bear's cage. The bear was killed.</p>	<p>"Fayette County man mauled by captive bear," <i>Effingham Daily News</i>, August 12, 2013.  "Beecher City man mauled by captive bear," Associated Press, August 13, 2013.</p>
<p><b>August 2013/Tampa, Florida:</b> A member of the public was bitten by a capuchin monkey at Horse Power for Kids' petting zoo as she and her child attempted to feed the monkeys.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Horse Power for Kids, 58-C-1012, August 28, 2013.</p>
<p><b>August 2013/Tampa, Florida:</b> A volunteer at Horse Power for Kids was bitten on the arm by a lemur as she placed food inside the animal's cage.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Horse Power for Kids, 58-C-1012, August 28, 2013.</p>
<p><b>July 4, 2013/Texas:</b> A capuchin monkey who was being carried on owner Richard Spohrer's shoulder at a gas station reached out and scratched a delivery man on the face. This was the same capuchin monkey who had attacked a police officer two weeks earlier. Spohrer is a USDA-licensed exhibitor under the company name The Monkey Man (see June 19, 2013).</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Richard Spohrer, 74-C-0921, July 3, 2013.</p>
<p><b>June 21, 2013/Center Point, Indiana:</b> A woman was airlifted and hospitalized in critical condition after being attacked and bitten on the head by a tiger at Exotic Feline Rescue Center while cleaning the tiger's cage. A sliding door that separates the animals from caretakers had not been closed. Co-workers sprayed the tiger with water and tossed meat to distract and contain the animal. The victim's jaw was shattered, and she sustained a lot of trauma to her neck as well as lacerations to her back and an ear. She also suffered multiple strokes, causing her to lose all movement on one side of her face. One month later, her vocal cords had not healed enough to allow her to speak and she was still in the hospital recovering.</p>	<p>Annalisa Rodriguez and Michael Boren, "Woman mauled by tiger in Clay County, airlifted to Indianapolis hospital," <i>Indianapolis Star</i>, June 22, 2013.  Jon Swaner, "Tiger mauling victim's family speaks," WTHI, July 19, 2013.  Diane Pathieu, "Woman attacked by tiger recovering, back at work," ABC 7 News, August 4, 2013.</p>
<p><b>June 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:</b> A teenager was bitten on the finger by a capuchin monkey belonging to USDA-licensed exhibitor Steven Scott.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Steven Scott, 74-C-0966, July 3, 2013.</p>

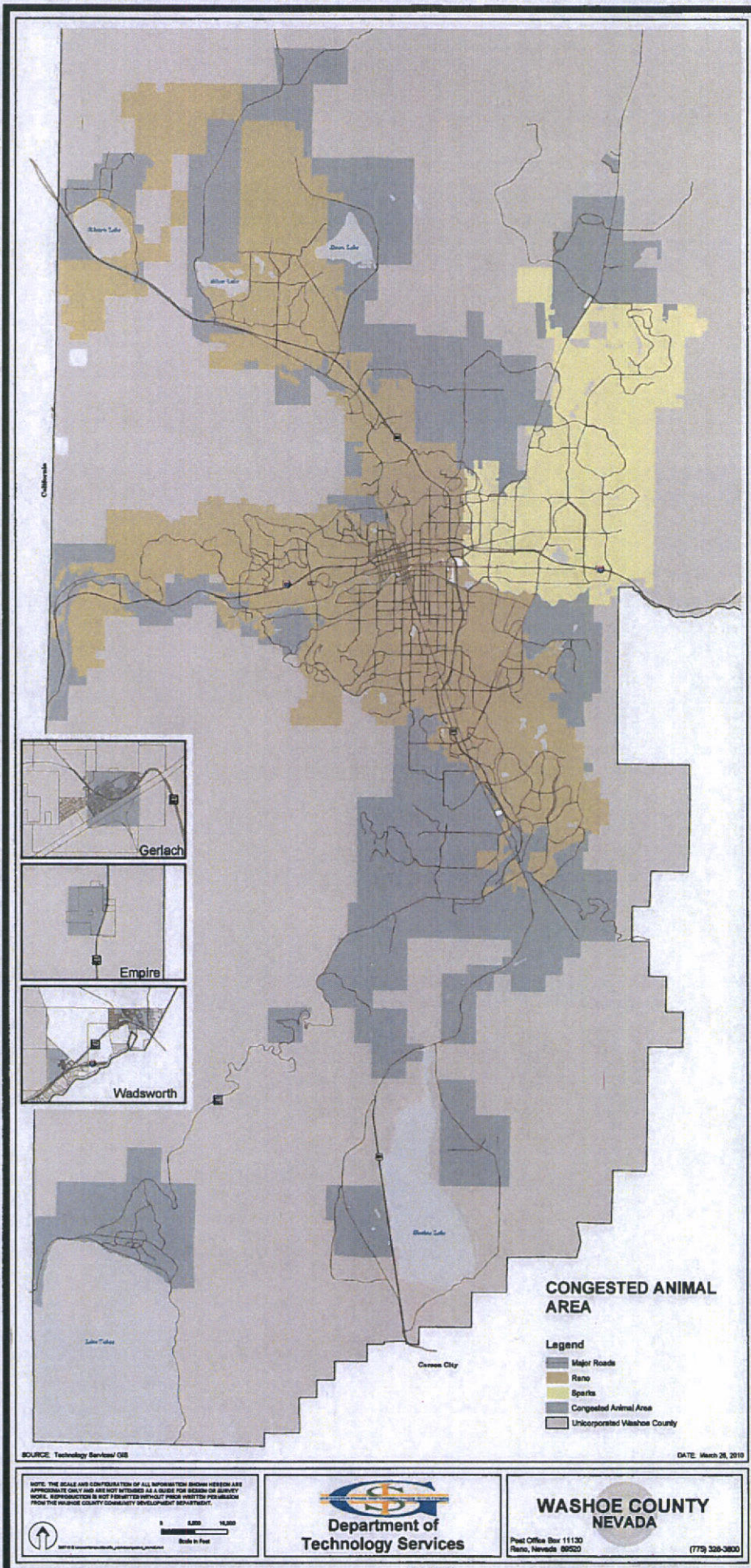
Incident Details	Source
<p><b>June 19, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:</b> A police officer who was handing a driver a speeding ticket through an open truck window was attacked by a capuchin monkey who leaped from the back seat and grabbed and bit the officer's hand. The man used the monkey to pose for photos with the public for money.</p>	<p>Morgan Frances, "The Monkey Man' talks about infamous traffic stop," KRIS-TV, June 21, 2013.</p>
<p><b>June 18, 2013/Conway, Arkansas:</b> A 30-pound pet macaque monkey escaped from a veterinary clinic where he was being boarded. He broke a lock to get out of his cage and then exited the building by opening the clinic's back door. Police officers responded to the scene and blocked the road to contain the monkey. As they waited for animal control and clinic employees to arrive, the monkey climbed onto the shoulders of one officer and ultimately followed him back into the clinic. While trying to get the monkey to go back into his cage, the officer was bitten on the knuckle of his right thumb. Police officers escorted animal control officials into the building so they could sedate the monkey in order to return him to his cage. It took two attempts to sedate the animal. The officer sought treatment at a medical center for the bite to his thumb and was subsequently sent to Little Rock for observation due to concerns that he had possibly been exposed to Herpes B virus. The monkey's owner acknowledged that the animal was "an escape artist."</p>	<p>Courtney Spradlin "Monkey named Joey goes ape on office, escapes clinic for brief time," <i>Log Cabin Democrat</i>, June 19, 2013.  Conway Police Department, Arkansas Incident Report, Incident No. 13-06638, June 18, 2013.  Conway Animal Welfare, Complaint Nos. 15837 and 15847, June 18, 2013.</p>
<p><b>June 2, 2013/Godfrey, Illinois:</b> A 6-year old boy was bitten by a pet java macaque who was taken to a dog festival at a local park. According to the boy's friend, the monkey jumped on the victim, grabbed his shirt, "pulled him back and bit his arm." The boy was taken to the hospital by ambulance and had to undergo several treatments for a bone-deep wound, which became infected. He also underwent treatment for possible rabies exposure. The monkey's owner tried to leave the park and was detained by witnesses who blocked her from doing so. The monkey was quarantined. The owner admitted to an officer that the monkey had previously bitten her several times, including a few hours before the monkey bit the child. The boy's father filed a lawsuit against the monkey's owner seeking in excess of \$50,000 on one count of alleged negligence.</p>	<p>Jill Moon, "Bitten boy getting medical treatment," <i>The Telegraph</i>, June 12, 2013.  Lauren Trager, "Mother wants owners held accountable after monkey attacks boy in Godfrey," KMOV-TV, June 7, 2013.  Paul Hampel, "Monkey that bit boy at Godfrey festival is made a ward of the state," <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>, June 28, 2013.  Steve Horrell, "Lawsuit filed by victim's family," <i>The Edwardsville Intelligencer</i>, June 17, 2013.</p>
<p><b>May 18, 2013/Montgomery, Alabama:</b> A visitor at the Montgomery Zoo was scratched on the hand by a jaguar who was able to get his paw between the wires of the enclosure.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Montgomery Zoo, 64-C-0003, May 22, 2013.</p>



Incident Details	Source
<p><b>May 13, 2013/Napa, California:</b> A teen reaching for her alarm clock was bitten on the hand by a 3-foot boa constrictor that had found its way into her family's apartment. It was unknown where the snake came from. The teen was treated at a hospital for a bite wound and panic attack. Animal control was called in and retrieved the snake from under her bed.</p>	<p>"Sleeping Napa Teen Woken Up By Boa Constrictor's Bite," KPIX 5, May 15, 2013.  "Loose boa sneaks into bedroom, bites woman," <i>Napa Valley Register</i>, May 14, 2013.</p>
<p><b>April 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:</b> A member of the public was bitten on the thumb by a capuchin monkey belonging to USDA-licensed exhibitor Steven Scott who was exhibiting the animal in front of a souvenir shop.</p>	<p>USDA Citation and Notification of Penalty, 74-C-0966, May 15, 2014.</p>
<p><b>March 6, 2013/Dunlap, California:</b> A 24-year-old woman who had been volunteering for two months at a private menagerie called Cat Haven died instantly from a broken neck after she was attacked by a 550-pound male African lion as she was cleaning his cage. The lion apparently reached the woman after opening a partially closed feeding cage. A sheriff's deputy shot and killed the lion in order to retrieve the body.</p>	<p>"Calif. animal park reopens after fatal lion attack," Associated Press, March 10, 2013.</p>
<p><b>February 16, 2013/Minneapolis, Minnesota:</b> A 3-year-old boy was bitten by a lemur who was being exhibited by Barry De Voll's Blue Trunk Educational Series at the Minnesota Convention Center. The lemur was invited to climb up the boy's arm for a photo and the child was bitten on the hand when he lowered his arm. The bite appeared to be mildly infected and medical personnel were concerned that a small cyst between three bite wounds could indicate a Herpes B infection if the lemur had been housed with macaques (a species that commonly carries the Herpes B virus). Although the cyst later tested negative for the deadly virus, the boy was put on anti-viral medication and given rabies prevention shots. The animal handler falsely claimed the lemur only scratched the child.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Barry De Voll, 42-C-0213, March 13, 2013. Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health, email to Catherine Hovancsak, USDA-APHIS, Subject: "Lemur Bite," February 19, 2013.</p>
<p><b>February 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:</b> A man who was allowed to lay face-up on the floor with an approximately 40-pound tiger cub on top of him was bitten on the nose by the tiger during a public handling session at Zootastic of Lake Norman.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Zootastic, 55-C-0243, March 28, 2013.</p>
<p><b>January 21, 2013/North Miami Beach, Florida:</b> Two pet lemurs escaped and ran wild through the neighborhood, charging at neighbors and police. Both lemurs jumped out of a tree onto a 2-year-old girl who was being carried by her mother and began attacking the girl. The girl was treated at the scene for a scratch to her face, just under the eye, and her mother was treated for a scratch to the arm. Police and the primates' owner finally recaptured the lemurs.</p>	<p>"Lemurs run amok in North Miami Beach, scratch toddler," <i>Miami Herald</i>, January 21, 2013. North Miami Beach Police Department, Incident/Investigation Report, Case #2013-0121-04, January 21, 2013. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, Incident Summary Report, FWSB-13-OFF-0639, January 21, 2013.</p>



# Exhibit F





# Photo/photographer Credit Page

BCC June 28, 2016

Exhibit G



Iguana – Unknown, CABBR/For HSUS



Bobcat - Fund for Animals Wildlife Center/ Patrick Fallon  
For The HSUS



Serval - Gayle Shomer Brezicki/For HSUS



Lynx - Kathy Milani/The HSUS



Tiger - Janice Morey, CABBR/For HSUS



# Photo/photographer Credit Page

BCC June 28, 2016

Exhibit G



Spider Monkey - Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary



Squirrel monkey - Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary



Tamarin - Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary

The attached document was submitted to the **Washoe  
County Board of Commissioners** during the meeting

held on 6-28-16

by Robert Smith

for Agenda Item No. 27

and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(7) as  
amended by AB65 of the 2013 Legislative Session.

**Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** Schull, Shyanne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:18 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** FW: Concern About Animal Control Agenda Item  
  
**Importance:** High

Shyanne Schull  
Director  
Washoe County Regional Animal Services  
2825A Longley Lane  
Reno, NV 89502  
775.328.2142 Office  
775.322.3647 Dispatch  
[Sschull@washoecounty.us](mailto:Sschull@washoecounty.us)  
[www.washoeanimals.com](http://www.washoeanimals.com)

*"Promoting responsible care of animals  
through education, proactive outreach,  
and regulation, making Washoe County  
a safe community".*

---

**From:** Slaughter, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:15 AM  
**To:** Schull, Shyanne; Schiller, Kevin  
**Subject:** FW: Concern About Animal Control Agenda Item  
**Importance:** High

---

**From:** Christopher Matthews [<mailto:christopherdalematthews@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 8:06 PM  
**To:** Slaughter, John  
**Subject:** Concern About Animal Control Agenda Item  
**Importance:** High

Mr. Slaughter,

I would like to take a moment of your time to express my concerns with an item for the Washoe County Commissioners agenda tomorrow, June 28th, 2016. It has come to my attention that the Washoe County Animal Control (WCAC) is advising the Commissioners to increase restrictions on responsible animal ownership. On its face, it may seem like they are suggesting prudent measures to control something that may endanger the well-being of animals in Washoe County. Of course, we should all want to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of animals and take steps to prevent harm and unconscionable living conditions for animals. Seeing animals kept in unsafe, unhealthy, and unkempt living conditions personally affects me quite strongly. Unfortunately, that isn't



what is being asked for by the WCAC. The agenda for changes in regulation and even law coming from the WCAC are strongly reminiscent of the nationwide push that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is making to end responsible animal husbandry and ownership completely, in however small a step at a time they can achieve. May I remind you that the HSUS has absolutely no stake in Washoe County. They employ not a single person in this region, and contribute nothing to the well-being of any animals here, exotic or domestic. There is absolutely no logic in their presence concerning these matters in Washoe County.

In the Commission meetings, I would implore you to ask exactly what sentinel event has precipitated the WCAC to so aggressively pursue restricting the freedoms of Washoe County citizens who have not displayed any hint of inhumane treatment of animals?

Is there a single reason that the WCAC can find that demonstrates that I am not a responsible and caring pet owner? In fact, it wasn't but a few short years ago that I was helping to rescue the non-domesticated animals that the WCAC themselves wouldn't touch, whether it was snakes, marmots, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, iguanas, wolves, or even common fowl such as ducks and migratory birds. The very reason that Virginia Lake has fountains is because I worked with a friend to present a plan to save the common fauna found there by installing water fountains, not only to beautify the lake, but to save the resident wildlife from a catastrophic avian botulism outbreak.

I submit that what is being asked is in fact a ban of lawful ownership of many types of animals that have already been responsibly kept in this region for decades. I have even been a part of using such animals as snakes (venomous and non-venomous) and assorted lizards, reptiles, and amphibians as educational tools at Wilbur May Museum, at regional libraries, at schools in the classrooms around our region, and as a Paramedic and EMS Instructor, to even to educate some of the very Paramedics and Firefighters that serve our region. I have also participated in training dogs, hunting and pets, to avoid venomous and non-venomous snakes, which will no longer be possible if the proposed restrictions are allowed to be implemented.

I will close with my utmost gratitude for your time, and that you strongly consider my position that further restriction beyond the presently barely objective and most often subjective permitting of ownership of exotic animals is unwarranted. It deprives Washoe County citizens of their liberties and happiness for no quantifiable reason. I served as a United States Marine for Americans to enjoy their freedoms and liberties. Responsible animal ownership is not unconstitutional. I am happy to speak with you personally regarding my concerns. Again, my thanks to you for considering my desires.

Warmest regards,

Christopher Matthews, MEP, NRP  
5491 Breeze Court  
Sun Valley, NV 89433  
(775) 393-9367

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Pattie Rackley <Buzbay@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:15 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Pattie Rackley  
4991 Newport ct  
Reno, NV 89506  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Carol Hammond-Tabacco <masquerade37@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 1:20 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Carol Hammond-Tabacco  
9145 Andraste Way  
Reno, NV 89506  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Professional Reptiles - Cody <cody@professionalreptiles.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:10 AM  
**To:** Berkbigler, Marsha; Lucey, Robert (Bob) L; Jung, Kitty; Hartung, Vaughn; Hartung, Vaughn; Herman, Jeanne; Tone, Sarah; Schull, Shyanne; Smith, Robert A.; Slaughter, John; Schiller, Kevin; Tone, Sarah  
**Subject:** Use local experts for animal code revisions

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

As a responsible animal owner who will be affected by overreaching regulations, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. I have lived in Washoe County my entire life and have been keeping/breeding reptiles for 18 years. You need to work with knowledgeable local keepers to write common sense regulation.

I have a local business that will be greatly affected by the false propaganda provided by animal rights groups. They are not experts and do not work with these animals. Falling for their recommendations will lead to unintended consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda.

Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas extreme groups are only looking to profit, while not actually helping animals or local residents.

Do not create problems by attempting to solve problems that do not exist. Thank you for your time and consideration on this complex matter.

Thank you,  
Cody Castellanos

**Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** Nicholas Crosby <nickacr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 10:04 PM  
**Subject:** Chapter 55 revisions need include local stakeholders

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

I am a responsible animal owner, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Many of the most responsible and caring animal keepers in the state dare I say country, live in Washoe County and they just want to work with officials like you making common sense regulation. Many animal rights group twist facts to suit their agenda but do not be mistaken they are not experts and do not work with these animals. Following their advice without multiple source on the subject will most definitely lead to unintended and like unwanted consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda. Like any subject matter pertaining relating to local regulations it's in everyone's best interest if you work with local experts, I emphasize experts. This is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas activists groups are only looking to gratify a need for selfish need of so called accomplishment, while not actually helping animals or local residents. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, and thank you for your service to our community. Have a great day.

Regards,

Nicholas Crosby

**Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** crinou pigeon@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:32 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Oppose Chapter 55

To whom it may concern:

I strongly Oppose Chapter 55

due to the affects it could have on many species of exotics that are currently on the endangered list.

I'm upset that Nevada would not help in preserving or cooperating with any efforts to get exotics off the endangered list and instead banning them completely from our state.

The way this is being handled is not preserving species in danger.

Having animals humanly raised is helping to preserve many species in the wild. Some populations found in the wild can be come inbred from bottlenecking of gene pool diversity. Animals born here are less likely to be inbred and the genes are much more reliable to use for breeding purposes to save species from going endangered or extinct.

The numbers in their own native land are disappearing by the hundreds due to deforestation, drought, disease, poaching, palm oil growth, and crops & cities expanding.

Nevada closing a blind eye to that really is hard for me to understand.

As I know Nevada has not had any incidents with exotics so I'm not quite sure this why this is an issue.

I hope the committee reconsiders and learns a bit more about the problems you are creating and work to find better solutions.

Please let's be the state to help protect these exotic species for future generations not be the state that made them disappear.

Please accept this letter into the Public Record to be included in any hearing studies and/or reports pertaining to this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christine Barrello

7854 Wishing Well rd

Las Vegas Nv 89123

702-610-8949

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** kelley quattro <kaqfour@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:29 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

kelley quattro  
10045 delicate dew street  
lasvegas, NV 89183  
US



**Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** Liz Clark <Tigers0424@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:03 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Liz Clark  
1713 Sebring Hills Dr.  
Henderson, NV 89052  
US

**Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** Amanda Guthrie <bleasingbambam@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 8:41 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Amanda Guthrie  
PO Box 61  
Montello, NV 89830  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Yvonne Downs <Ronvon@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 8:16 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Yvonne Downs  
2050 Longley Lane #206  
Reno, NV 89502  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Andrea Becker <Andrea@thelovestore.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 7:56 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Andrea Becker  
2100 S Rainbow blvd  
Las vegas, NV 89146  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Linda Massey <lkmass9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 7:55 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Linda Massey  
5210 Challis Circle  
Reno, NV 89523  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Debi Martinez <Martinez94550@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 7:05 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Debi Martinez  
4800 kietzke Lane  
102  
Reno, NV 89502  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Whitney Haze <withaze@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 6:58 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Whitney Haze  
8600 Scholar Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89128  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Brenda Pierson <dragon\_fly333@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 6:53 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Brenda Pierson  
5348 Fireside Ranch Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89131  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** AnnaSheila Paul <annasheila@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 6:22 PM  
**To:** Berkbigler, Marsha; Lucey, Robert (Bob) L; Jung, Kitty; Hartung, Vaughn; Herman, Jeanne; Tone, Sarah; Schull, Shyanne; Smith, Robert A.; Slaughter, John; Schiller, Kevin  
**Subject:** Use local experts for animal code revisions

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

I am a Washoe County resident and a mother of an 11-year old who is fascinated and interested in reptiles, particularly snakes. He is a very intelligent boy, and in the Gifted and Talented program in school, loves Science and other subjects, and loves animals.

Because of his interest in snakes, our family joined a local herpetological society here in Reno, and have been attending regular meetings. At these meetings, we were able to meet reptile owners who brought in their pets. My son would ask questions about each reptile, and have learned so much about them, about each breed, the care and husbandry involved in keeping reptiles, as well as all the responsibilities involved. Because of his direct exposure to these reptiles, his interest in science has blossomed, his grades in science has improved, and he now wants to be a Biologist when he grows up.

When he asked me if I could take him to ReptiCon, the big Reptile and Exotic Animal Convention, I quickly looked online for when their Reno, Nevada, show will be. To our huge disappointment, we found out that Repticon was being postponed indefinitely in Reno. When I did some digging on why this is happening in Reno, of all places (since I have come to believe that Reno residents' way of life was all about freedom, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) I found out that animal control has recently changed its laws and policies that made it very hard for ReptiCon to come to Reno.

Now, there are these new regulations that are being proposed before you by the HSUS, which, even to a new comer in this hobby like my son and I, looks like an over-reach of policies not really based on facts, but based on fear tactics and discrimination against exotic pet owners. I have read these new proposed policies, and they are very inhibiting to the learning process for anybody interested, or already into the hobby. I think to myself: What if HSUS's proposed policies have already gone through, and my son never got the chance to meet these cool reptiles along w/ their owners, to ask questions, meet the reptiles, and learn directly from their interactions? I doubt that my son would have been as interested in Science and Biology as he is now. These new proposals from HSUS are going to limit hands-on and up-close science education for Nevada's next generation of Scientists. Please reconsider to not adopt the HSUS policies for Washoe County.

Based on my experiences, we have some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers residing in Washoe County. Please listen to them, all they want is to have a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. These animal keepers are the experts, not the animal rights groups who have a different underlying agenda that are extreme, and don't help the animals nor the local residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
AnnaSheila Paul

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** christine sheen <junkmail803@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 6:04 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

christine sheen  
803 lake hill dr  
Boulder city, NV 89005  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Ryan Watkins <animalmaster33@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:59 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Oppose Washoe County Exotic Code Chapter 55!

Bans can cause wild animals to go extinct. You are more likely to have your life ruined or taken by a sinister disturbing mind holding a gun or a knife than be killed by a captive bred tiger, lion, jaguar, leopard, spotted hyena, puma, black bear, grizzly, gray wolf, alligator, crocodile, python, constrictor, chimpanzee or elephant. Scumbags are the number one threat to public safety, not wild animals under human care. There is love, respect, understanding and conservation efforts from well educated, experienced, private wild animal handlers. Those people are not the problem, they are doing nothing wrong, they know what they're doing. The life of having a wild animal under human care is not for everyone, it's like owning a personal jet. It takes education, experience, proper care and money, lots of money. But the ones who have the education, the experience, the care and the money to care for one, who can handle the lifestyle, they deserve it. It's important to spread awareness and to collect as much genetic material as possible in order to save wild animals that are on the verge of extinction because zoos can't do it alone. If there's no wild animals under private human care, under people who are just as well educated and experienced as zookeepers, wild animals that are endangered and critically endangered will disappear faster if bans proposed by animal rights groups like HSUS (The Humane Society Of the United States) and Peta go into law. And besides spreading lies and false accusations, they will pay anyone with high authority or politician through the nose to get what they want. Their goal is to leave no trace of life regarding human and animal interaction. Stand for the welfare of animals by facts through tv shows, documentaries, books, experts and the people who work with them. Not through animal rights groups. Please oppose the restriction and banning of reptiles and exotics in Washoe County.

Sincerely,

Ryan Watkins

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Ryan Watkins <animalmaster33@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:49 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.

Bans can cause wild animals to go extinct. You are more likely to have your life ruined or taken by a sinister disturbing mind holding a gun or a knife than be killed by a captive bred tiger, lion, jaguar, leopard, spotted hyena, puma, black bear, grizzly, gray wolf, alligator, crocodile, python, constrictor, chimpanzee or elephant. Scumbags are the number one threat to public safety, not wild animals under human care. There is love, respect, understanding and conservation efforts from well educated, experienced, private wild animal handlers. Those people are not the problem, they are doing nothing wrong, they know what they're doing. The life of having a wild animal under human care is not for everyone, it's like owning a personal jet. It takes education, experience, proper care and money, lots of money. But the ones who have the education, the experience, the care and the money to care for one, who can handle the lifestyle, they deserve it. It's important to spread awareness and to collect as much genetic material as possible in order to save wild animals that are on the verge of extinction because zoos can't do it alone. If there's no wild animals under private human care, under people who are just as well educated and experienced as zookeepers, wild animals that are endangered and critically endangered will disappear faster if bans proposed by animal rights groups like HSUS (The Humane Society Of the United States) and Peta go into law. And besides spreading lies and false accusations, they will pay anyone with high authority or politician through the nose to get what they want. Their goal is to leave no trace of life regarding human and animal interaction. Stand for the welfare of animals by facts through tv shows, documentaries, books, experts and the people who work with them. Not through animal rights groups. Please oppose the restriction and banning of reptiles and exotics in Washoe County.

Sincerely,

Ryan Watkins

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Lisa Cady <Ldc7@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:48 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Lisa Cady  
643 Avenue K  
#2117  
Boulder City, NV 89005  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Tami Lukachy <Tlukachy@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:40 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Tami Lukachy  
4375 East Sunset Road  
1324  
Henderson, NV 89014  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Kurt Graf <kglasvegas@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:35 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Kurt Graf  
10328 Chestnut Sweet St.  
Las Vegas, NV 89131  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Jessica Daniels <jess55@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:20 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Jessica Daniels  
9824 Uppsalla Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89129  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Charles O Vellone <cvellone57@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 5:18 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Charles O Vellone  
7951 Mariner Cove Dr  
Reno, NV 89506  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Barbara Scott <barbarascottharm@netscape.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 4:53 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Barbara Scott  
1400 S. Valley View  
2048  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Charlene Barnes <Mochamoon319@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 3:06 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Charlene Barnes  
2711 W Windmill Ln  
Las Vegas, NV 89123  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Deane Clark <Puter25@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 4:00 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Deane Clark  
6290 Leon Dr.  
Sun Valley, NV 89433  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Charlene Barnes <Mochamoon319@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 3:06 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Charlene Barnes  
2711 W Windmill Ln  
Las Vegas, NV 89123  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Jace Mande <jace@casinojobcenter.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 3:26 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Jace Mande  
3355 Spring Mtn.Road #63  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** John Hessel <Alabasterpanther@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 3:11 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

John Hessel  
1438 Lorilyn Ave #4  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Nan Stevenson <nanstevenson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 3:09 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Nan Stevenson  
2764 Desert Crystal Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89134  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Connie Brady <Ruffian613@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 2:17 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** It's Time - Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced!

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Connie Brady  
1117 Oak Tree Lane  
Las vegas, NV 89108  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Schull, Shyanne  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 1:48 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** FW: Revise Chapter 55

Shyanne Schull  
Director  
Washoe County Regional Animal Services  
2825A Longley Lane  
Reno, NV 89502  
775.328.2142 Office  
775.322.3647 Dispatch  
[Sschull@washoecounty.us](mailto:Sschull@washoecounty.us)  
[www.washoeanimals.com](http://www.washoeanimals.com)

*"Promoting responsible care of animals through education, proactive outreach, and regulation, making Washoe County a safe community".*

**From:** Mary Dillon [<mailto:rainydayz88@sbcglobal.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 1:19 PM  
**To:** Schull, Shyanne  
**Subject:** Revise Chapter 55

Dear Washoe County animal services,

As a responsible animal owner who will be affected by overreaching regulations, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers in the country reside in Washoe County and they only desire a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. Is this really too much to ask?

Do not fall for the false propoganda provided by animal rights groups! They are not experts and do not work with these animals. Take heed! Falling for their recommendations will lead to unintended consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda.

Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas extreme groups are only looking to profit, while not actually helping animals or local residents.

Do not create problems by attempting to solve problems that do not exist. Thank you for your time and consideration on this complex matter. Have a good day.

Sincerely,

Mary Dillon

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Sandra Barcenas <magickats242@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 2:10 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Sandra Barcenas  
1243 Colusa Dr.  
Reno, NV 89503  
US

**Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** trish schoenfeld <tjustme1915@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 1:20 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

trish schoenfeld  
8200 Pompano beach lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89128  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Yvonne Anderson <yarn612@centurylink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 1:12 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Yvonne Anderson  
2974 Strathspey Ct.  
Henderson, NV 89044  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Tricia Woodliff <Triciawoodliff@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 12:44 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Tricia Woodliff  
2125 Stoneview Dr  
Sparks, NV 89436  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Pamela Detrick <Drdetrick@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 12:50 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Pamela Detrick  
9(8 tudela ct  
Las vegas, NV 89138  
US

## **Smith, Robert A.**

---

**From:** Susan Krill <sskrill@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 12:55 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations.

Its bad enough that Las Vegas has the lion "sanctuary" that is nothing but a bunch of cages on an empty dirt lot. I don't even want to know how many other counties have idiots breeding them and keeping them as "pets".

Please ban private ownership as most people don't have the resources or intelligence to properly care for these animals.

Susan Krill  
1052 Sweeping Vine Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89183  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Linda Hardie <lhardie@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 12:13 PM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Ban Private Possession of Big/Wild Cats

I live in Washoe County, Nevada, and I vote. Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Linda Hardie  
4 Riesling Loop  
Reno, NV 89512  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Michael DiDiego <Spector007@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 11:23 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Michael DiDiego  
3004 reef view st.  
Las Vegas, NV 89117  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Renae Gray <MystikalStar28@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 11:21 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Renae Gray  
7230 Las Vegas Blvd South  
Apt. A383  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Jennifer Pritchard <mpritch735@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 11:06 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Jennifer Pritchard  
2136 Sun Swept Way  
Henderson, NV 89074  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Krymsen Hernandez <krymsen21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 11:02 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Krymsen Hernandez  
3405 Onyx sy  
Silver Springs, NV 89429  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Laurel Davis <Ldavisessq@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Laurel Davis  
300 Las Vegas Blvd S  
Las Vegas, NV 89101  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Tamara Moyer <tamer@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Tamara Moyer  
15150 Western Springs Dr.  
Reno, NV 89521  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Chris Westover <Westover.chris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 10:36 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Chris Westover  
7255 W Sunset Rd  
#2046  
Las Vegas, NV 89113  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** N K <Nytekitti@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 10:23 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

N K  
9999  
Las vegas, NV 89135  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Debi Martinez <Martinez94550@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:51 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Debi Martinez  
4800 kietzke Lane  
102  
Reno, NV 89502  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Don Berman <dmberman1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:47 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Don Berman  
3775 Clover Way  
Reno, NV 89509  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Jackie Casano <jackie.casano@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:29 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Jackie Casano  
8054 SECRETARIAT LN  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89123  
US



## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Susan Palwick <spalwick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 9:29 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** Please Prohibit Private Possession of Big Cats

Please prohibit the private possession of ALL exotic cats.

These animals should NOT be bred for life in cages.

All existing exotic cats should be spayed or neutered, microchipped and registered with the ultimate goal to be that these animals die of old age and not be replaced.

The only exception to a ban should be sanctuaries that do not buy, breed, sell, trade, allow public contact, nor take the animals off site for display. Such sanctuaries should be non profit organizations. There will be some need for these sanctuaries to exist as owners dump their animals, but in time these will phase out naturally.

Susan Palwick  
3950 Kings Row  
Reno, NV 89503  
US

## Smith, Robert A.

---

**From:** Schull, Shyanne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:16 AM  
**To:** Smith, Robert A.  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 27, Exotic Animal Ordinance  
**Attachments:** 20160627 Washoe County Exotic Animal Oversight.pdf; The Conservation Value of Privately-Owned Tigers. 2003. (00088542xB39F9).pdf; TigerCubIncidentsFactsheet.pdf; Big-Cat-Incident-List-US-only.pdf; Primate-Incident-List-US-only.pdf

Shyanne Schull  
Director  
Washoe County Regional Animal Services  
2825A Longley Lane  
Reno, NV 89502  
775.328.2142 Office  
775.322.3647 Dispatch  
[Sschull@washoecounty.us](mailto:Sschull@washoecounty.us)  
[www.washoecounty.us](http://www.washoecounty.us)

*"Promoting responsible care of animals  
through education, proactive outreach,  
and regulation, making Washoe County  
a safe community".*

---

**From:** Slaughter, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:15 AM  
**To:** Schiller, Kevin; Schull, Shyanne  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 27, Exotic Animal Ordinance

---

**From:** Carney Anne Nasser [<mailto:cnasser@aldf.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 8:06 PM  
**To:** Slaughter, John  
**Cc:** Tammy Thies; Kate Dylewsky; Kellie Heckman; Jeff Pierce  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 27, Exotic Animal Ordinance

Dear Mr. Slaughter, enclosed please find correspondence on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Born Free USA, Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and The Wildcat Sanctuary, urging the county to prohibit the private ownership of all inherently dangerous animals within Washoe County (not just within the "congested areas"). Please also be aware that the venomous reptile community will be out in full force at the hearing on June 28<sup>th</sup>, lobbying against oversight of their dangerous hobby, on the basis that they "need" rattle snakes in order to train dogs about how to avoid snake encounters. This is not the case at all. Respected reptile experts advise that such "aversion" training doesn't actually require the use, breeding, and sales of rattle snakes and that it is likely merely a front for their dangerous hobby. Such "training" can be accomplished safely and effectively without venomous snakes. [http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/18\\_5/features/Snake-Aversion-Without-Shock\\_21208-1.html](http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/18_5/features/Snake-Aversion-Without-Shock_21208-1.html)

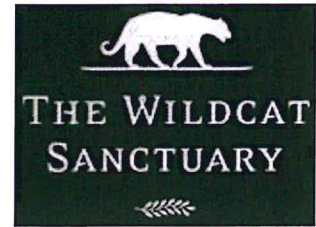
On another more personal note, I have roots deep in Washoe County. I come from a Nevada Wolfpack family, my brother is a Reno firefighter, and my sister owns a business in Washoe County called "Adventure Pet." Given that my brother is a first responder who is already expected to put his life on the line to save lives, I don't think it's fair of the county to expect him to have to potentially face encounters with inherently dangerous pets like tigers, venomous snakes, or chimpanzees regardless of whether he responds to an emergency in a "congested area" or a more rural area. It's not fair to ER doctors, law enforcement officers, and other first responders to carve out exemptions and loopholes when there is no legitimate reason whatsoever for personal use and ownership of apex predators or other inherently dangerous exotic pets. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions or would like additional supporting information.

Very truly yours,  
Carney Anne Nasser

CARNEY ANNE NASSER, ESQ. | SENIOR COUNSEL FOR WILDLIFE & REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
Animal Legal Defense Fund | [ALDF.ORG](http://ALDF.ORG)  
504.274.9381  
[cnasser@aldf.org](mailto:cnasser@aldf.org)

SIGN UP!  
[Action Alerts](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Causes](#)





June 27, 2016

John Slaughter  
County Manager  
Washoe County, Nevada

Via e-mail: [jslaughter@washoecounty.us](mailto:jslaughter@washoecounty.us)

Re: Policy Directon on Washoe County Exotic Animal Oversight

Dear Mr. Slaughter:

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), Born Free USA, and The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS), and our collective hundreds of thousands of members and supporters, we are writing regarding the proposed policy recommendations concerning Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code that you will be considering on June 28, 2016. While we are very pleased to see Washoe County initiating common-sense steps to implement greater oversight of dangerous and wild animals kept by private owners in the county, we suggest that the prohibitions against the ownership of big cats (including tigers, lions, and hybrid big cats such as ligers), venomous snakes, and other inherently dangerous wild and exotic animals should apply to *all areas* of Washoe County and not just within “congested areas.”

As you know, Nevada is one of five remaining states that has not yet passed any state laws to better ensure the safety of its citizens and the welfare of animals by regulating or prohibiting private ownership of dangerous and exotic animals kept as pets. Therefore, it is incumbent upon localities like Washoe County to take meaningful, proactive steps to keep the community and its first responders safe, and to better curtail the exploitation of endangered apex predators—like tigers—who do not belong in private ownership. Indeed, there is no safe or humane way for a private individual to keep wide ranging carnivores as pets, which is why private ownership of big cats is *condemned* by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Veterinary Medical Association, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and the American Bar Association—an independent association of nearly 400,000 attorneys which passed a resolution in 2015 recommending that all federal, state, local, and territorial governmental bodies ban the private ownership of dangerous and exotic animals as pets. Leading conservationists Dr. Philip Nyhus and the late Dr. Ronald Tilson, who served as the chair of the AZA Species Survival Program and Director of Conservation at the Minnesota Zoo for several decades, unequivocally have stated that

**[F]ederal, state, and local efforts should continue to do away with the practice of keeping dangerous wild animals as pets.**

See Philip J. Nyhus and Ronald Tilson, *The Conservation Value of Privately-Owned Tigers*, AZA Annual Conference Proceedings (2003). The additional enclosed materials provide a list of dangerous animal incidents that are known or have been reported. As you have likely seen in the media recently, there have been a number of dangerous animal incidents—including one human fatality—involving escapes, attacks, or other encounters between humans and big cats and other dangerous animals in AZA-accredited zoos. These incidents cast a spotlight on the risks of maintaining

dangerous wild animals in captivity – even in the hands of trained professionals – and they underscore how inappropriate it is for localities to allow anyone other than accredited zoological institutions or a *bona fide* wildlife sanctuary to maintain apex predators and other dangerous wild animals. Legitimate sanctuaries, such as the GFAS-accredited Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, Minnesota, and the Safe Haven Rescue Sanctuary in Imlay, Nevada, never breed animals, never facilitate direct contact between animals and the public, never use the animals for any commercial purpose, and provide lifelong care in vast, species-appropriate habitats. As of the date of this correspondence, there are no such facilities that meet either of the definition of accredited zoological institution or bona fide sanctuary in Washoe County.

As you may know, Clark County Commissioners did the right thing for animal welfare, exotic animal conservation, and public safety, by voting *unanimously* to ban the private ownership of inherently dangerous animals in November 2015. The undersigned organizations look forward to supporting the County's efforts to secure laws that better protect public health and safety as well as animal welfare, and to reduce the likelihood that Washoe County will become a haven for the owners of dangerous exotic animals now that Clark County has implemented common sense steps to curtail the problem. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 504-274-9381 or [cnasser@aldf.org](mailto:cnasser@aldf.org) with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Carney Anne Nasser, Esq.  
Senior Counsel for Wildlife and Regulatory Affairs  
Animal Legal Defense Fund



Kellie Heckman  
Executive Director  
Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries



Kate Dylewsky  
Program Associate  
Born Free USA



Tammy Thies  
Founder and Director  
Wildcat Sanctuary



## **The Conservation Value of Privately-Owned Tigers. 2003.**

*Philip J. Nyhus and Ronald Tilson.*

*In Doherty, E. and Girton, K., eds., AZA ANNUAL Conference Proceedings 2003. Silver Spring, MD, American Zoo & Aquarium Association, pp. 55-59.*

### **Abstract**

The plight of the tiger in the wild is now well known. Three of eight subspecies are extinct; a fourth may exist only in captivity. Few wild populations contain more than 100 individuals, poaching is rampant, and the rapid and frightening loss and fragmentation of habitat in the forests of Asia where the tiger calls home is one of the more poignant and tragic stories in conservation. In captivity, some 800 animals are actively managed by zoo and aquarium associations in North America, Europe, Australasia, and Asia.

Yet, paradoxically, the tiger as a species is in little real danger of going extinct because hundreds if not thousands of individuals, companies, and not-for-profit organizations in the United States currently own an estimated 5,000-14,000 tigers as private owners, breeders, for use in entertainment, and in feline rescue facilities. Oddly, no one really knows how many captive tigers exist outside of the world's zoos and aquaria in the US or globally. Even the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agency in charge of permitting many of these animals, is unable to provide a solid estimate because not all animals are required to hold USDA licenses and many more are owned illegally.

These "forgotten tigers", many located in backyards of rural America, have zero conservation value in the eyes of the American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan (Tiger SSP) or Felid Taxon Advisory Group (Felid TAG) because they are of unknown genetic heritage. The fate of these animals, to our knowledge never before discussed in major wildlife conservation journals, brings up very interesting philosophical questions about the role of private ownership of exotic species in support of endangered species conservation. Are these animals really "alley-cats" that deserve to be ignored by conservation biologists and the mainstream zoo community? What role, if any, can or should private owners of exotic species play in endangered species conservation? Should private ownership of tigers and other exotic but endangered species be encouraged or discouraged to help keep these animals from extinction and what role should conservation biologists play in this debate?

### **Introduction**

The decline and impending extinction of the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) in the wild is one of the best known conservation stories in the world. The extinction of the Caspian, Bali, and Javan tigers are legendary (Seidensticker, 1987; Seidensticker *et al.*, 1999). The few haunting images that remain of these extinct subspecies grace virtually every tiger web site. Of the five remaining subspecies, the South China tiger may be known by only 50 captive animals (Tilson *et al.*, in press). Only one subspecies, the Bengal, is likely to be represented by more than 500 individuals in the wild (Seidensticker *et al.*, 1999). In captivity, only about 800 tigers of all five subspecies are actively managed by zoo and aquarium associations in North America, Europe, Australasia, and Asia.

At the same time, any large cat breeder in Texas can say with some certainty that the tiger as a species is unlikely to go extinct any time soon. Among the thousands of individuals and organizations across the country that own or care for large exotic animals, a sizeable number have tigers in their collections. In fact, depending on whose estimates are used (oddly, no one really knows), as many as 5,000 to 7,000 tigers and at least 10,000 large cats may be privately owned as pets or housed in non-accredited zoos, circuses, and other facilities in the United States. If true, this captive population matches or exceeds the estimated combined population size of all the five remaining tiger subspecies in the wild.



This odd reality has historically not played a role in designing conservation programs by the mainstream zoo community. The preemption of the enormous surplus of tigers in non-accredited facilities and the backyards of rural homes in virtually every state is conveniently ignored in most zoo tiger exhibits and literature.

More recently, however, the tension between accredited zoos and private owners of tigers in the United States has come to a head as the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and a growing network of animal rights groups, wildlife and medical associations, and legislators have teamed up to support the stricter regulation of tigers and other large, dangerous animals. In this paper, we focus on one element of this debate—the conservation value of privately-owned tigers. We explore two questions. First, do privately-owned tigers have conservation value? Second, what should the response of the mainstream zoo community be to the claim that these animals do have conservation value?

### **Large Exotic Animals in the US Today**

While ownership of large and dangerous animals is by no means new—lions and tigers have graced the castles and homes of the rich and powerful for centuries—the breadth and scale of the enterprise in modern-day America is unprecedented. No where else in the world do so many private individuals and organizations own so many large and dangerous animals.

The widespread ownership of tigers and other exotic pets in the United States is at least in part due to the patchwork of federal and state laws regulating these animals. At present, no single law or federal agency is solely responsible for regulating private ownership of exotic animals. Enforcement of existing rules and regulations has been criticized as weak also (i.e., some private breeders reportedly operate without proper permits).

Three federal laws are primarily responsible for regulating exotic animals, but none strictly address the private possession of large exotic animals like tigers. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), enacted in 1973, regulates the import, export, possession, taking, sale, and transport of more than 1,800 species officially listed as “endangered” or “threatened,” including 500 international species not native to the United States. The Department of Interior’s US Fish and Wildlife Service is primarily responsible for permitting activities related to listed terrestrial and freshwater species, but permits are not issued by USFWS to keep or breed endangered or threatened animals as pets (USFWS, 2002). Captive-bred wildlife permits are issued by USFWS to buy and sell within the United States live, non-native endangered or threatened animals which were captive born in the United States for enhancement of species propagation, provided the other person is registered for the same species. Under this system, activities that would otherwise be prohibited can occur if the activities can be shown to enhance propagation or survival of the affected species and to facilitate captive breeding (USFWS, 1999).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also does not regulate the ownership and care of large wild and exotic cats as pets, but through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care (AC) program it is responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA, 2000). The Animal Welfare Act is responsible for regulating and inspecting exhibitors of wild and exotic animals. Commercial activity is a prerequisite for licensing and pet owners are not eligible to request a USDA license. A Class A license is required for the sale of offspring produced by an owner’s feline. A Class B license is required to sell felines not bred by an adult animal under their possession. A Class C license is required to exhibit animals to the public.

Finally, the Lacey Act allows USFWS to prosecute anyone who possesses an animal illegally obtained in a foreign country or another state. The Lacey Act prohibits the import, export, selling, acquisition, or purchase of fish, wildlife or plants taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of U.S. law or in interstate or foreign commerce involving fish, wildlife and plants protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and those protected by state laws.



The growing popularity of owning large exotic animals and the associated growth of the exotic pet industry has not come without problems. An increasing number of states, counties, and municipalities may have their own laws and regulations regulating the possession of exotics. Many require a USDA license as a prerequisite to possessing large exotic cats like tigers, and some outright ban the possession of these animals. At the federal level, the "Captive Wildlife Safety Act" (S.269, H.R. 1006), backed by AZA, The Humane Society of the United States, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, has been introduced in an attempt to ban the interstate shipment of tigers, lions, and bears for the pet trade by amending the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

### **Two sides of the Private Ownership Debate**

Supporters of private ownership of tigers and other large cats argue that most owners of exotic animals are law-abiding citizens who care for their animals and the safety of others and should not be punished for the careless or unsafe actions of a few individuals. Many private owners fervently believe they are supporting the conservation of this endangered species.

Critics of private ownership, such as the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition (CWAPC) ([www.cwapc.org](http://www.cwapc.org)), a consortium of more than 20 animal protection organizations, argue that keeping wild animals as pets causes many animals to suffer from poor health, is dangerous to people, and is inhumane to the animals themselves. According to CWAPC, an estimated 90% of wild animals kept as pets are dead within the first two years of captivity. Tigers, and other large cats, have the ability to cause significant trauma and hidden injuries (Wiens & Harrison, 1996). A recent study by Nyhus and Tilson (Nyhus *et al.*, in press) found that between 1992 and 2001, 7 people were reportedly killed and at least 27 injured by tigers, a rate of 1.75 fatal attacks and at least 9 non-fatal attacks per year.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVM) (AVM, 2000), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (APHIS, 2000), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) (Butler, 2001) all oppose the possession of certain exotic animals, including tigers and other large cats, by individuals.

AZA in particular has long opposed ownership of exotic animals as pets. The AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) has stated that it strongly opposes private ownership of wild felids as exotic pets (Mellen *et al.*, 2000). The AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) management group also does not endorse the private ownership of tigers in non-AZA accredited institutions or in institutions that fail to meet recommendations set forth by AZA's Roadside Zoo Task Force (Tilson *et al.*, 2002). During the 2002 Tiger SSP master plan meeting, there was consensus among participants that handling of tigers in public places puts the public at risk of injury or death, promotes private ownership and a false sense of handling big cats, and that the animal loses dignity as an ambassador of the wild (Tilson *et al.*, 2002).

### **Captive Tigers and Conservation**

While the issue of human safety and animal welfare is at the heart of much of the debate surrounding opposition to private ownership of large exotic animals like tigers and the proposed new federal legislation to restrict inter-state commerce of these animals, the question of the conservation value of these animals has received less attention.

AZA as an organization has been concerned for some time that privately-owned tigers and other large felids do not contribute to scientifically-managed conservation programs established to maintain genetic variation and viability in captive populations. Privately owned tigers have essentially no conservation value in the eyes of the American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan (Tiger SSP) or Felid Taxon Advisory Group (Felid TAG) because they are of unknown genetic heritage (Tilson *et al.*, 2002). In contrast, the actively managed programs can identify the lineage of their tigers back to wild caught founders. Few non-accredited facilities contribute to tiger field conservation and scientific research comparable to the activities of accredited zoos and their conservation partners.



Zoos themselves have long responded to criticisms that they contribute little to conservation by arguing that they provide a “genetic insurance policy” that makes large animal reintroduction a feasible conservation strategy (Tilson & Christie, 1999). The mission of zoos is increasingly defined by this conservation role, and *ex situ* propagation programs have become essential to the survival of a number of taxa (Conway & Hutchins, 2001). Education, scientific research, and human and financial resource capabilities of zoos are just some of the widely-acknowledged reasons for the value and importance of zoos to conservation.

Of particular relevance to the debate about private ownership of tigers and other large exotics is the question of whether and how many captive-bred animals are needed for potential future reintroduction programs. Christie and Seidensticker (1999) argued several years ago that while tiger reintroductions would unlikely be needed in the foreseeable future, a well-managed population of pure-bred tigers in zoos should be maintained in case this need arises. The recent finding that the South China tiger is likely extinct in the wild (Tilson *et al.*, in press) and current efforts to ship captive South China tigers to South Africa in preparation for reintroduction in China show just how valuable such captive populations can be. But as the South China tiger experience is showing, such programs are going to be expensive and, as Billy Arjan Singh’s reintroduction of the hybrid tigress Tara also showed, politically contentious as well.

Given the status of existing wild tiger populations, it is unlikely that additional tiger reintroductions will be necessary outside of China for some time. If wild tiger populations unexpectedly decline, the 800 tigers actively managed by accredited zoo associations are considered particularly valuable as candidates for the “genetic ark” and for reintroduction because their geneologies are known and they are managed by subspecies. According to recent genetic analysis (September 2003), all three subspecies managed by the Tigers SSP exceed the 100-year target of maintaining 90% of genetic diversity (Tiger SSP 2003 Master Plan Report, in prep.). Even if several reintroductions were to take place in the next 20-30 years, the existing capacity in zoos would be more than sufficient to handle this need.

In contrast, few if any privately-owned tigers are of known origin. The Tiger Missing Link Foundation ([www.tigerlink.org](http://www.tigerlink.org)) is working to identify the sub-specific affiliations and relationships of unknown tigers through DNA testing and genetic research, but these efforts are unique among private owners of tigers. But most private owners of tigers have no idea—and little interest in elucidating—the genetic background of their animals.

While private ownership of tigers legally fits under the broad umbrella of the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act, the argument that these tigers have any significant conservation value falls flat when looked at from the lens of real need for four reasons. First, tiger reintroductions are rare. Second, if tigers are to be reintroduced into the wild, animals of known genetic origin will be preferred. Third, the zoo and aquarium associations of North America, Europe, Australasia, and Asia, have more than sufficient tigers to meet any foreseeable need. Moreover, captive facilities in tiger range state countries continue to receive “problem” tigers that have been removed from the wild. Finally, in a rather ironic twist, if the arguments of some private owners that subspecies designation does not matter, then any limitations in the holdings of the world’s zoos could be made up with translocation from one area of Asia to the other. This is particularly true when balanced with the human health risks and animal welfare issues that are an integral part of private ownership of large and dangerous animals.

At the same time, it also makes little sense for AZA and other organizations to claim these privately-owned tigers have *no* conservation value. They may not be effective “ambassadors of the wild” (Tilson *et al.*, 2002), and private ownership in general may suffer from the dangers of improper care and unacceptable risk, but the thousands of tigers that exist in private hands today do have *some* value.

We agree that wild animals like tigers are not good pets, that they are best cared for in professionally-operated and regulated facilities, and that federal, state, and local efforts should continue to do away with the practice of keeping dangerous wild animals as pets. But the tigers themselves do have some value. We suggest that they should be considered animals of *lesser conservation value*.

## Conclusion

The problem of private ownership of tigers and other exotic animals will be a challenge for years to come. The explosive growth of wild animals in private hands has resulted in growing pressure from several sectors, notably AZA and groups like the recently-created Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition. As we have argued elsewhere (Nyhus *et al.*, in press), tigers are dangerous animals that can cause serious harm to private owners and the public. As USDA (APHIS, 2000) and others have noted, many large animals in private care receive substandard care.

The question of the conservation value of these tigers, however, has to date received less attention. The typical response from AZA and others is that these animals have *no* conservation value. In contrast, supporters of private ownership of tigers and other large exotic animals point out that their animals will ensure that the tiger will never go extinct. With thousands of animals spread out among hundreds of private owners, the tiger as a species will be ensured a long and successful life in the backyards of rural America, irrespective of what happens in the forests of Asia or the world's best-run zoos.

We argue that these animals do have some marginal conservation value. While they are of unknown genetic origin, they are still tigers and these animals should be considered animals of lesser conservation value. The mainstream conservation community may want to consider the precedent of calling any animal of unknown origin or hybrid animals of different subspecies "worthless." We need look no further than the Florida Panther or the possibility that the South China tiger may need to be hybridized to maintain its long-term viability to realize the implications of this argument.

In the final tally, the risks to human health and animal welfare exceed by a considerable margin any secondary conservation benefits privately-owned tigers are purported to have and private ownership of these animals should be discouraged by adopting stricter Federal and state standards. But in the zeal to close the lid on private ownership, conservationists should be careful not to open up an argument that may come back to bite them.



## Literature Cited

- APHIS (2000). *Large Wild and Exotic Cats Make Dangerous Pets*. United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Riverdale, Maryland.
- AVM (2000). *USDA Warns Against Private Ownership of Exotic Cats*. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association News (April 1 2000). Accessed February 2002 from <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/apr00/s040100n.asp>.
- Butler, S. (2001). Message from the Executive Director. *Communique*, 2.
- Christie, S. & Seidensticker, J. (1999). Is re-introduction of captive-bred tigers a feasible option for the future? In *Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human-dominated Landscapes* (eds J. Seidensticker, S. Christie & P. Jackson), pp. 207-209. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Conway, W. & Hutchins, M. (2001). Introduction. In *AZA Field Conservation Resource Guide* (eds W. G. Conway, M. Hutchins, M. Souza, Y. Kapetanacos & E. Paul), pp. Atlanta: Zoo Atlanta.
- Mellen, J., Wildt, D. & Shoemaker, A. (2000). *Felid Taxon Advisory Group North American Regional Collection Plan 2000-2002*. Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, FL.
- Nyhus, P. J., Tilson, R. L. & Tomlinson, J. L. (in press). Dangerous animals in captivity: *Ex situ* tiger conflict and implication for private ownership of exotic animals. *Zoo Biology*.
- Seidensticker, J. (1987). Bearing Witness: Observations on the extinction of *Panthera tigris balica* and *Panthera tigris sondaica*. In *Tigers of the World: The Biology, Biopolitics, Management, and Conservation of an Endangered Species* (eds R. L. Tilson & U. S. Seal), pp. 1-8. Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ.
- Seidensticker, J., Christie, S. & Jackson, P. (eds.) (1999). *Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human-dominated Landscapes*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.
- Tilson, R., Brady, G., Dulaney, M. & Traylor-Holzer, K. (2002). *AZA Annual Report of the Tiger SSP: 2002*. Minnesota Zoo, Appley Valley.
- Tilson, R. & Christie, S. (1999). Effective tiger conservation requires cooperation: Zoos as a support for wild tigers. In *Riding the tiger: Tiger conservation in human-dominated landscapes* (eds J. Seidensticker, S. Christie & P. Jackson), pp. 201-206. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.
- Tilson, R., Defu, H., Muntifering, J. & Nyhus, P. J. (in press). Dramatic decline of wild South China tigers: Field survey of priority tiger reserves. *Oryx*.
- USFWS (1999). *Captive-bred Wildlife Registration under the U.S. Endangered Species Act*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- USFWS (2002). *U.S. Endangered Species Act: Permits for Non-native Species or Import and Export of Non-native and Native Species*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- Wiens, M. B. & Harrison, P. B. (1996). Big cat attack: A case study. *Journal of Trauma-Injury Infection and Critical Care*, 40, 829-831.



# Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial list of incidents involving tiger cubs held captive by roadside zoos and traveling zoos in the United States since 2000. Tigers are repeatedly bred so that these enterprises have a constant supply of tiger cubs available to earn money through “encounter” sessions and photo opportunities in which people pay to hold and be photographed with the cubs. Since tiger cubs quickly grow to their adult size, which can be as much as 700 pounds, cubs can be used for photo opportunities only during their first few months of life, and they must be taken from their mother soon after birth in order to habituate them to humans. Some tiger cubs never make it to adulthood because of poor nutrition, illness, physical abuse, or neglect. As the cubs grow larger, they become too dangerous to interact with the public. The older cubs are replaced by younger ones and confined to cages or sent to roadside zoos. This cycle continually repeats itself, exacerbating the U.S. tiger crisis: There are far too many tigers and not enough responsible facilities to take them. Contact PETA for documentation.

**September 21, 2015/Okeechobee, Florida:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cited exhibitor Sue Pearce for failing to provide a tiger cub, who was found injured with a swollen neck and bite marks, with adequate veterinary care. Pearce called the attending veterinarian and described the injuries, and the vet prescribed treatment over the phone without having examined the cub. The cub's condition deteriorated, and she died the following day.

**September 13, 2015/Charlestown, Indiana:** The USDA cited Wildlife in Need, Inc., for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. During “Tiger Playtime,” four 16-week-old tiger cubs weighing 35 to 40 pounds were allowed to interact with approximately 40 to 50 members of the public. Two of the cubs walked into the public area after the gate was opened, one cub who appeared to be asleep was dragged in by his front paws, and the fourth cub was pushed from behind. The cubs had no collars or leashes on them, and the attendants used a riding crop to swat their noses if they started to bite. The inspector noted, “The cubs were swatted frequently with the riding crops when the attendants were near them. Some of the swats were excessive in severity causing the cubs obvious discomfort.” Members of the public, including

an 8- or 9-year-old girl, were bitten in at least two different incidents.

Wildlife in Need was also cited for using these cubs every day for months in multiple sessions without sufficient breaks in between. The inspector noted, “The fact that these cubs are allowing the attendants to drag them around by their front legs, non-responsively, suggests they are exhausted and have no choice but to cope with the situation.” The cub who had been pulled into the room was pulled to other areas during the 30-minute session. He remained unresponsive and never stood. As the session progressed, two other cubs lay down to nap and then were also dragged around the room. At the end of the “playtime,” three of the cubs were dragged by their legs from the exhibit area, and the remaining awake cub was used for photo opportunities.

**September 9, 2015/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a 7-week-old tiger cub who suffered from crusted hair and discharge from both eyes and was housed in an unsanitary enclosure with rodent feces and exposed drywall. The facility was also cited for failing to provide another sick tiger cub with timely veterinary care. En route to the veterinarian, the cub died from an underlying immune-system deficiency. Serenity Springs received an additional citation for failing to follow a veterinarian-approved diet plan, which required that tiger cubs receive calcium supplements. Two cubs were observed to have lameness and joint swelling, possibly caused by inadequate calcium in their diets.

**August 5, 2015/Davenport, Iowa:** During an inspection at the Mississippi Valley Fair, the USDA cited exhibitor Joe Schreiber for improper handling of a 19-day-old tiger cub who was being held alone, in view of the public, in a playpen-like enclosure with no secondary heating or cooling method for climate control. The inspector noted, “Animals this young in the absence of their parents are not able to adequately thermoregulate and exposure to temperatures which may be comfortable for adults may still be detrimental to the health of young cubs. Exposure to an excessive number of people and other animals at this young age poses a disease risk to the cub.”

**August 4, 2015/Kingwood, West Virginia:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Hovatter's Wildlife Zoo for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. The cubs used in the facility's photo shoots were too large, too strong, and too aggressive to engage in direct contact with the public. One tiger growled and used his claws to try to escape from the handler when the animal was moved from his or her cage.



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

**July 27, 2015/Charlestown, Indiana:** The USDA cited Wildlife in Need, Inc., for failing to feed four 10-week-old tiger cubs properly. They were still on a formula diet but should have been provided meat starting at 2 to 3 weeks of age, and the majority of their diet should have been meat by 8 weeks of age.

**July 17, 2015/Dade City, Florida:** The USDA filed a complaint against roadside zoo Dade City's Wild Things for 20 alleged violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including four separate citations for failing to handle young tigers as carefully as possible in a manner that didn't cause behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort; two separate citations for using physical abuse to handle young tigers, including pulling their tails to restrain them and holding a tiger aloft by his neck; and two citations for "exposing young or immature tigers to rough or excessive handling and/or exhibiting them for periods of time that would be detrimental to their health or well-being" and for "exhibiting young tigers for periods of time and/or under conditions that were inconsistent with their good health and well-being."

**June 4, 2015/Kingwood, West Virginia:** The USDA cited Hovatter's Wildlife Zoo for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. The cubs were pulled from their mother at birth and were cared for in the licensee's home. At 2½ weeks old, they were used for public encounters, and at 5 weeks old (at the time of this inspection), the cubs had not been vaccinated—putting them at risk since they didn't have fully developed immune systems. Hovatter's was also cited for failing to have a nutritionally adequate feeding plan for the cubs.

**May 23, 2015/Jamestown, Pennsylvania:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Pymatuning Deer Park for failing to have a veterinarian-approved diet plan to ease two 6-week-old tiger cubs to solid food.

**May 19, 2015/Natural Bridge, Virginia:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to feed tiger cubs properly. Four cubs were born on April 9, 2015, and removed from their mother within one hour of birth. They were fed a diet that was inappropriate for their age and species. The one cub still remaining at the facility had a rough hair coat, prominent pelvis, and pot-bellied appearance.

**January 6, 2015/Natural Bridge, Virginia:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to handle tiger cubs carefully. The cubs were pulled from their mother at birth and put on display in the gift shop when 2 to 3 weeks old. They were then used in photo sessions when 3 to 4 weeks old, which exposed them to the public before they were immunocompetent. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. In one case, a cub who was too

big and strong for direct public contact was being used for photo opportunities.

**December 5, 2014/Massillon, Ohio:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for interfering with an inspection by failing to report the possession of a juvenile tiger. The inspector asked the licensee multiple times in various ways about the presence of a juvenile tiger on the premises, and each time, the licensee responded that there were no young or juvenile tigers on the property. However, the attending veterinarian confirmed that his clinic had treated an injured tiger cub, Lilly, a few days earlier. The inspector returned to the property and told the licensee what he had learned. She confirmed that there was a cub and that "she had 'forgotten' about this tiger because it was housed in another enclosure on the property which was located away from where the other big cats were housed" in order to reduce stress and contamination.

The inspector also questioned the licensee about a specific enclosure between one containing an adult lion and another containing two adult tigers. The space in the fence was large enough for the big cats to injure any animal in the middle enclosure, so the inspector asked the licensee if animals were ever placed in that enclosure. The licensee said no but later during the inspection admitted to putting the tiger cub Lilly in there while staff cleaned her enclosure. Stump Hill was cited for placing Lilly in the enclosure near the other big cats. She had been injured in her primary enclosure, which resulted in a wound on her leg and the amputation of a toe. The licensee claimed that the injury occurred when Lilly got her paw stuck between metal piping and chewed on her own paw and leg in an attempt to free herself.

Stump Hill was also cited for failing to have the record of acquisition for Lilly at the time of the inspection.

**September 13, 2014/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for improperly handling an 8-week-old tiger cub by allowing the public to handle him for at least six hours in one day with no documented breaks. During this long public encounter, the cub uttered vocalizations indicating distress numerous times.

**September 11, 2014/Tuttle, Oklahoma:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Tiger Safari for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a 16-week-old white tiger cub who had skin lesions but had not been examined by a veterinarian.

**August 19, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** During a USDA inspection of roadside zoo Wildlife in Need, Inc., inspectors observed several incidents that took place during "Tiger Playtime," when approximately 30



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

members of the public sat in an enclosed area and were allowed to interact freely with two tiger cubs. An attendee was pawed and mouthed in the face, one child was bitten on the top of his thigh, another child was grabbed from behind and both sides of his or her head and ears were mouthed by a cub, and one of the inspectors was bitten on the back, resulting in broken skin and bleeding.

**August 11, 2014/Greensburg, Indiana:** The USDA cited Stapp Circle S Ranch for improper feeding of a 9-week-old tiger cub, who was fed only meat without additional calcium or vitamin supplements. Lack of calcium can lead to metabolic bone disease in cubs and cause fractures and painful bone conditions.

**March 18, 2014/Naples, Florida:** The USDA cited exhibitor Patrick Clancy for failing to feed a nutritionally complete diet and supply adequate veterinary care to a tiger cub who was walking with a limp. She was being exhibited at the Collier County Fair.

**March 10, 2014/Branson, Missouri:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Promised Land Zoo for failing to have an employee who had been approved by the USDA for the care and handling of exhibited big cats to oversee the adult lion and 7-week-old tiger cub displayed at the facility.

**March 10, 2014/Miller, Missouri:** The USDA cited Hostetler Wildlife Farms for failing to provide tiger cubs with adequate veterinary care. Three cubs were born in January, and according to the facility representative, one "got a little cold and the mother may have sat on it." The cub wasn't taken to a veterinarian. Hostetler was also cited for improper handling of a tiger cub born in mid-January who was transported to another facility on January 31. This cub had health concerns, including illness and possible injury, from the date of his birth, and the facility representative at the destination site stated that "there was something wrong with that cub."

**January 17, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** The USDA cited Wildlife in Need, Inc., for failing to handle animals properly. The tiger cubs used in the "Tiger Baby Playtime" event were approximately 15 to 16 weeks old. The licensee admitted that people had been scratched and nipped during the exhibitions and that he told visitors to smack the tigers on the nose if they got too rough. He said that some people didn't hit the tigers hard enough and that if he needed to step in, he would. The inspector noted that these cubs were "too large, too strong and aggressive" and that the licensee must stop using them for direct-contact exhibitions.

**September 25, 2013/Naubinway, Michigan:** The USDA cited roadside zoo GarLyn Zoo for failing to have an employee with experience or training in handling tigers in direct control of a tiger cub being used for pictures with the public.

**August 9, 2013/Denver, Colorado:** While exhibiting at the Denver County Fair, Serenity Springs Wildlife Center was cited by the USDA for failing to restrain a 7-week-old tiger cub properly during a photo shoot with the public. The cub was vocalizing and squirming, and the employee didn't properly handle the cub in order to minimize the risk of harm to the animal and the public.

**June 11, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA noted on an inspection report for Joe Schreiber, operator of G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation, that it was reviewing an incident that involved the transportation of two tiger cubs and their subsequent death on or around May 10, 2013. (See May 23, 2013/Calhan, Colorado.)

**May 23, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for failing to follow the attending veterinarian's instructions to monitor a tiger in labor, leading to the death of the tiger and the single cub during birth. In addition, the USDA cited Serenity Springs for failing to handle two 3-day-old tiger cubs properly. They were acquired from another facility, and one died within 24 hours of arriving at Serenity Springs. Two days after arriving at Serenity Springs, the second cub was unable to pass feces and was euthanized.

**May 6, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for a repeat violation for failing to provide two lame tiger cubs with veterinary care. During an inspection to check the condition of a tiger cub previously identified to be severely lame and unable to bear weight on his right front limb, the inspector observed that the cub had a severe limp, wouldn't bear weight on his right hind leg, and had noticeable swelling of the ankle area. Another cub was also severely limping on his right hind leg and had swelling around the ankle area. The cub would only hop a short distance before falling to the ground.

**April 18, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for a repeat violation for failing to provide a tiger cub with adequate veterinary care. The cub was previously observed to have a severe limp, and during this inspection, the limp affecting the right front leg appeared to be worse. The cub wouldn't bear weight on the paw and struggled to get to the food dish in the enclosure.



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

**April 10, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for failing to provide a tiger cub with adequate veterinary care. He was observed to have a severe limp affecting his right front leg, causing him to stumble and fall onto his shoulder. He was also seen walking with a crab-like posture with his hind legs and appeared to be in pain. This condition had not been noted by any of the staff members or reported to the veterinarian.

**March 28, 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Zootastic Park of Lake Norman for improperly handling a white tiger cub weighing approximately 40 pounds. A customer was allowed to lie face-to-face on the floor with the cub, who apparently bit the man on the nose.

**February 28, 2013/Litchfield Park, Arizona:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Wildlife World Zoo for allowing a 3-month-old tiger cub to run through a local television studio. The inspector noted that the cub was seen biting the clothing of an offstage handler while the lead handler was seen with scratches and bite marks on his arms. The host of the television program was also seen pulling on the tiger's tail.

**January 24, 2013/Chicago, Illinois:** The USDA cited traveling exhibitor Jo-Don Farms for failing to have barriers in place to protect a tiger cub and the public during a photo event.

**October 23, 2012/Seattle, Washington:** The USDA cited Steve Higgs for improperly handling a juvenile tiger. An onlooker was able to get close enough to touch the tiger's face.

**May 21, 2012/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** The USDA cited G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation for improperly handling animals. The report stated that the facility's handling techniques were under review.

**May 21, 2012/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** The USDA cited Beth Corley for improperly handling animals. The report stated that the handling practices for large felid cubs were under review.

**December 1, 2011/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** According to a USDA inspection report, a 3-month-old tiger cub who was being exhibited on a leash at G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation jumped on a small child and knocked him down. The child was scratched as a result.

**November 28, 2011/Cincinnati, Ohio:** After visiting a tiger exhibit at Northgate Mall run by Joe Schreiber, operator of G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation, *Inside Edition* noted that it cost shoppers \$55 to play with tiger cubs in a pen and

have a picture taken with a cub. The 8-week-old cub that the reporter petted and posed with barely moved and was obviously sick. When asked about the sick cub, the exhibit employee replied, "I don't know. Maybe he's just tired or stressed." Another cub was missing a patch of fur and appeared distressed while posing for pictures.

**September 14, 2011/Dade City, Florida:** The USDA cited Dade City's Wild Things for failing to handle a tiger cub properly. During a "tiger swim session," a cub was reluctant to move to the edge of the pool, and the handler pulled him by the leash. The cub showed signs of distress by vocalizing and moving around when he was handled in the pool. After swimming a short distance, he then swam toward the handler who was at the wall of the pool and extended his paws, apparently wanting to get out. Instead of pulling him out of the water and stopping the encounter, the handler prevented the cub from exiting and continued the swim session.

**July 7, 2011/Larkspur, Colorado:** While exhibiting animals at the Colorado Renaissance Festival, Serenity Springs Wildlife Center was cited by the USDA for failing to restrain a tiger cub properly during a public performance.

**June 9, 2011/Okeechobee, Florida:** The USDA cited Animal Adventures for improperly handling tiger cubs who were removed from their mother shortly after birth and deprived of natural nursing opportunities and colostrum. One tiger cub developed aspiration pneumonia and died. The remaining cubs were housed in the licensee's living room next to three dogs and exposed to multiple people, which increased the risk of disease for the immunologically compromised cubs.

**March 18, 2011:** The USDA cited Robert Engesser, owner of The Zoo (aka "Jungle Safari"), a traveling zoo based in Florida, for using a "highly active" 16-week-old tiger cub in public photo sessions. The handler said that he would replace the tiger with another younger cub because the current cub was getting more active.

**June 8, 2010:** The USDA cited the now-defunct traveling big-cat exhibitor ZooCats, Inc., for failing to provide several tigers with adequate veterinary care. A tiger died during dystocia (obstructed labor), and according to the licensee, she received no veterinary care prior to or during the dystocia. No necropsy was performed, and the licensee stated that the attending veterinarian felt it was not necessary since the dystocia probably resulted from genetic predisposition. Soon after this tiger's death, another tiger aborted cubs. She, too, received no veterinary care during or after the birth, and no necropsies were



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

performed. Yet another white tiger had given birth approximately three weeks earlier to three cubs. The licensee said one was born dead. The inspector noted the significant number of unexplained tiger cub deaths at this facility and that the "circumstances indicate that violations of the AWA, such as previously documented inadequate diets may have contributed to these deaths."

**June 2, 2010/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** An AllVoices.com article reported that 23 tiger cubs died over a seven-month period at G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation. According to the article, operator Joe Schreibvogel claimed that the cubs died as a result of being fed a tainted kitten formula. The Food and Drug Administration tested samples that the park provided it but detected no salmonella or *Cronobacter sakazakii* in them. The USDA opened an investigation into the deaths.

**January 1, 2008/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation ran an ad in *Animal Finders' Guide*, a trade publication for exotic-animal breeders and dealers, offering to give away free 10- to 12-week-old tiger cubs, yearlings, and adults, noting that they had all been bottle-fed from the day they were born.

**June 1, 2007/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation ran an ad in *Animal Finders' Guide* offering to give away free 12-week-old tigers.

**May 31, 2007/Boonsboro, Maryland:** The USDA cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for failing to give adequate rest breaks to the tiger cubs it exhibited at a carnival. Although the tiger cubs were kept in a penned area to rest, members of the public were allowed to come into the pen or lean over the sides to pet them.

**October 5, 2006/Shelby, North Carolina:** The USDA cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for failing to protect tiger cubs from diseases. Members of the public were allowed to pet the cubs at the Cleveland County Fair, and the Charlotte Metro Zoo allowed the cubs to suck on customers' hands, which they were not required to wash beforehand.

**February 12, 2005/Oldsmar, Florida:** A woman was bitten on the hand by a tiger cub used by the now-defunct traveling exhibitor Zoo Dynamics for photo opportunities at an automobile dealership.

**January 8, 2005/Cleveland County, North Carolina:** Two 6-month-old injured tiger cubs, weighing approximately 80 to 100 pounds each, were

abandoned and found wandering on the side of a road.

**August 30, 2004/Kaufman, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to have the attending veterinarian conduct an annual site visit and review the plan of veterinary care. The inspector noted that the two youngest tigers and the smallest of the lions displayed protruding hip bones and dull hair coats, conditions of great concern.

**August 19, 2004/Owatonna, Minnesota:** The USDA cited now-defunct Arcangel Wildlife for failing to ensure that a 6-week-old tiger cub used for photo shoots at the Steele County fairground was being properly handled. The inspector noted that the cub was the only one being used, and people of all ages were allowed to hold him.

**July 30, 2004/Kaufman, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to several 3- to 6-month-old tiger cubs who weren't being given supplements and were "thin in appearance to the point of the hip bone of these animals protruding." In addition, the inspector stated, "Also the hair coats of these animals are dull in appearance." The facility was also cited for offering the cats food every other day rather than daily as required.

**May 7, 2004/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A USDA inspector cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for improperly handling a 2-week-old tiger cub after seeing the cub being handled for approximately one hour by at least 12 people. The animal was allowed to rest—but in direct sunlight and for only 15 minutes. He was panting, and his skin tented when he was lifted, indicating that he may have been getting dehydrated. The outside temperature was 91 degrees, and the temperature of the table surface that he rested on was 93 degrees.

**April 16, 2004/Kaufman, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to provide two 4-month-old tiger cubs, who were very thin and exhibited dry coats, with adequate veterinary care. They had not been seen by the attending veterinarian since they were approximately 30 days old. ZooCats was also cited for keeping four approximately 6-month-old tiger cubs in temporary housing that wasn't large enough to provide each animal with comfortable protection from the elements.

**November 8, 2003/Frisco, Texas:** A 4-month-old, 50-pound, declawed tiger cub was abandoned and captured by police after a motorist spotted the animal roaming on the side of the road.

## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

**September 13, 2003/Rockwell, North Carolina:** The USDA cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for improperly handling animals at the Cabarrus County Fair in Concord, North Carolina. Children and other members of the public were allowed to hold and pet a 4½-month-old tiger without sufficient safety measures to ensure minimal risk of harm to the public.

suffering from metabolic bone disease caused by the lack of a proper diet.

**March 22, 2003/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A 5-month-old, 40-pound tiger cub at now-defunct Grant Oly's Tiger Zone bit a 16-year-old girl and grabbed and bit a pregnant woman on the wrist, causing a puncture wound. Police searching Oly's premises found guns, ammunition, and marijuana.

**January 24, 2003/Albert Lea, Minnesota:** A malnourished tiger cub was seized from a home in a residential neighborhood after school officials learned that scratches and bite marks on a fifth-grade boy were caused by his father's "pet" tiger.

**October 28, 2002/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Neighbors became frightened and alerted animal control when they spotted two tiger cubs running loose on a neighbor's rooftop. The cubs had escaped from the homeowner's private menagerie.

**July 22, 2002/Plano, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to give water to two cougar cubs, five tiger cubs, and a bear cub who were all kept in an animal trailer. According to the caretaker, the animals had last been offered water 12 hours earlier.

**October 27, 2000/Massillon, Ohio:** According to the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Stump Hill Farm leased a declawed tiger cub to Massillon High School's football team to serve as a "mascot." During the months he was kept at the high school, the tiger was held in a garage between exhibits.

**October 10, 2000/Charlotte, North Carolina:** According to the *Salisbury Post*, a 4-month-old leopard and a 5-month-old tiger escaped from a car when Steve Macaluso, owner of the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo, lost control of his vehicle and crashed while returning from a photo shoot. The cubs were later captured.

**September 10, 2000/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** A tiger cub bit a man during a photo opportunity at the New Mexico State Fair.

**August 17, 2000/Horseheads, New York:** The USDA cited Robert Engesser, owner of The Zoo (aka "Jungle Safari"), a traveling zoo based in Florida, for failing to give proper veterinary care to a tiger cub



# Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial list of incidents involving captive big cats in the United States since 1990. These incidents have resulted in the deaths of 128 big cats and 24 humans and more than 270 humans being injured. Contact PETA for documentation.

**April 15, 2016/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A zookeeper died after being attacked by a Malayan tiger at the Palm Beach Zoo. She had been preparing for her routine "Tiger Talk" behind the scenes in an enclosure where the tigers ate and slept.

**September 13, 2015/Charlestown, Indiana:** According to a USDA inspection report, members of the public, including an 8- or 9-year-old girl, were bitten in at least two different incidents during "Tiger Playtime"—during which four 16-week-old tiger cubs weighing 35 to 40 pounds were allowed to interact with approximately 40 to 50 members of the public at Wildlife in Need, Inc.

**September 6, 2015/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A cheetah named Pounce was discovered lying in a landscaped area between the exhibit barrier and guests at the Indianapolis Zoo, prompting a zoo-wide lockdown. An hour and a half later, the zoo tweeted that the cheetahs were back in holding cells and that staff and guests were safe.

**September 3, 2015/Hemet, California:** A 3-month-old declawed tiger cub was found wandering the streets of a neighborhood and was turned in to the Ramona Humane Society. The 25-pound cub, who was later named Himmel, was transferred to and provided a permanent home at the sanctuary Lions, Tigers & Bears. Himmel was believed to have been someone's "pet."

**August 17, 2015/Detroit, Michigan:** A tiger got loose in the Packard Automotive Plant during a photo shoot. The tiger, along with two wolves and a bobcat, came from Bozeman-based Animals of Montana. After the tiger got into a stairwell, attempts were made to scare the animal out with a weed whacker. The trainers were eventually able to get him or her back into a cage. Although the photographer had permission for the two-day shoot at the plant, he hadn't mentioned that he was bringing the animals.

**May 1, 2015/Flint, Michigan:** According to a USDA inspection report, a 50-pound cougar being exhibited by The Creature Conservancy became agitated and leaped off a platform in the direction of the general public. The handlers were able to restrain him with leads attached to two collars on his neck, but he remained agitated and attempted to strike the handlers. The report stated that the cougar was too large, fast, and unpredictable to be exhibited to the public in this manner.

**April 30, 2015/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A Sumatran tiger escaped from a primary enclosure at the Oklahoma City Zoo and was loose for 20 minutes. After being spotted in an enclosed space between two exhibits, she was tranquilized.

**April 15, 2015/Seattle, Washington:** A 6-month-old lion cub escaped from an enclosure at the Woodland Park Zoo after a keeper left the door open. He was loose in a service area for about an hour before being recaptured.

**October 22, 2014/Gentry, Arkansas:** A visitor to the Wild Wilderness Drive-Through Safari was either bitten or scratched by an uncontrolled 12-week-old lion cub during a park-allowed public interaction. The person later sought medical attention for the injury.

**October 11, 2014/St. Paul, Minnesota:** A 23-year-old man was clawed by a cougar after climbing a guardrail at the Como Zoo.

**October 10, 2014/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A 3-year-old child fell into a jaguar exhibit at the Little Rock Zoo. Two jaguars attacked the child, and fire extinguishers were used to keep the jaguars back as the boy was retrieved. He was taken to the hospital and listed in critical condition with a depressed skull fracture, an extensive scalp laceration, and puncture wounds. He was released from the hospital a week later.

**October 6, 2014/Jupiter, Florida:** A construction worker who was working at a large-cat breeding facility lost his thumb after he stuck his hand in a cage containing a tiger and the animal mauled it. The tiger belongs to Mario Tabraue, owner of Zoological Wildlife Foundation in Miami.

**August 26, 2014/Dallas, Texas:** A zookeeper at the Dallas Zoo was attacked by a lioness after failing to secure the door to an enclosure. He was hospitalized with a puncture wound to his back as well as scratches.

**August 19, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** During a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection of Wildlife in Need, the inspector observed several incidents that took place during "Tiger Playtime,"



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

when approximately 30 members of the public sit in an enclosed area and are allowed to interact freely with two tiger cubs. An attendee was pawed and mouthed in the face, one child was bitten on the top of his thigh, another child was grabbed from behind and both sides of the head and ears were mouthed by a cub, and the inspector was bitten on the back, resulting in broken skin and bleeding.

**July 26, 2014/Baldwin Township, Michigan:** A visitor to the Sunrise Side Nature Trail and Exotic Park had a piece of her finger broken off when she attempted to pet a caged lion.

**April 8, 2014/Jackson, New Jersey:** A few students were nipped by a couple of 3-month-old lion cubs while they were visiting Six Flags Great Adventure as part of an internship.

**January 17, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** According to a USDA inspection report, during an inspection of Wildlife in Need, Inc., the licensee admitted that people had been scratched and nipped by tiger cubs during "Tiger Baby Playtime." The inspector noted that the cubs were "too large, too strong and aggressive" and that the licensee must stop using them for direct-contact exhibitions. The animals used in the event were approximately 15 to 16 weeks old.

**January 3, 2014/Spring Hill, Florida:** Savannah, a 7-year-old lioness, escaped from an enclosure at the Survival Outreach Sanctuary. She was recaptured on the facility's grounds and relocated to a new cage.

**December 14, 2013/Hattiesburg, Mississippi:** A jaguar escaped from a holding area at the Hattiesburg Zoo after staffers failed to close and lock the gate properly after cleaning the exhibit. The animal was sedated with a tranquilizer dart and returned to the holding area within about 50 minutes.

**November 9, 2013/Sherwood, Oregon:** The head keeper at WildCat Haven Sanctuary was killed by a cougar inside the enclosure that the animal was housed in. The 36-year-old keeper was apparently the only person at the sanctuary at the time of the attack.

**December 8, 2013/Montgomery, Alabama:** A tiger escaped from the enclosure that she was being held in at the Montgomery Zoo by swimming through an underwater break in the fencing into a neighboring exhibit. She had been out of the enclosure for about 30 minutes when she was shot with a tranquilizer dart and returned to night quarters until the fence could be repaired.

**October 5, 2013/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** A tiger severely mauled the arm of an employee at The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Park after she

put her hand in the enclosure. She was airlifted to a hospital, where the limb was able to be reattached.

**June 21, 2013/Clay County, Indiana:** A worker at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center was attacked by a tiger while cleaning out the cage. She was admitted to a hospital's intensive care unit and listed in critical condition. Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators fined the center \$69,000 for safety violations.

**June 20, 2013/Charlestown, Indiana:** A woman and her boyfriend, concerned for their domestic cats' safety after other small animals had been attacked in their neighborhood, shot what they thought was a bobcat. The animal was later identified as an approximately 9-month-old leopard, whom authorities suspected came from Wildlife in Need.

**April 21, 2013/Salina, Kansas:** A woman came face to face with a tiger in a women's bathroom after the animal escaped from trainers at the Isis Shrine circus. The tiger was recaptured and returned to a cage.

**March 28, 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:** According to a USDA inspection report, a customer at roadside zoo Zootastic Park of Lake Norman was allowed to lie face-to-face on the floor with an approximately 40-pound white tiger cub, who apparently bit the man on the nose.

**March 6, 2013/Dunlap, California:** A volunteer intern was attacked and killed by a 550-pound, 4-year-old lion named Cous Cous, who broke the intern's neck with a paw swipe and then mauled her body. It was believed that Cous Cous escaped his cage by using his paw to lift a partially open door. Sheriff's deputies shot and killed him.

**February 28, 2013/Litchfield Park, Arizona:** The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for allowing a 3-month-old tiger cub to run throughout a local television studio. The inspector noted that the cub was seen biting the clothing of an offstage handler while the lead handler was seen with scratches and bite marks on his arms. The host of the television program was also seen pulling at the tail of the tiger.

**February 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:** A man was bitten on the nose by a 40-pound white tiger cub when he was allowed direct contact with the animal at Zootastic Park of Lake Norman. Apparently, the man was lying on the floor face to face with the cub when the incident happened.

**January 2012/Calhan, Colorado:** According to the owner of Serenity Springs Wildlife Center, a trespasser scaled a 10-foot fence lined with barbed wire and cut a hole in the fence surrounding a tiger



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

enclosure, allowing three tigers to escape and wander around the compound. Later that month, a couple was seen inside the compound sticking their hands inside the cougar cage, trying to pet the animal. After being confronted by workers, the couple jumped back over the 10-foot fence and drove off.

### **December 1, 2011/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:**

According to a USDA inspection report, a 3-month-old tiger cub, who was being exhibited on a leash at The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Park, jumped on a small child and knocked him down. The child was scratched as a result.

**October 19, 2011/Zanesville, Ohio:** Eighteen tigers, 17 lions, and three mountain lions were shot and killed by police after they were let loose from an animal compound by the owner, who then shot and killed himself.

**July 21, 2011/Warsaw, New York:** Three tigers owned by Natalie Cainan and generally used for circuses escaped from a transport enclosure, and two crossed a barrier fence and bit a horse in the next trailer. The tigers were loose for approximately 30 minutes before being contained again.

**July 17, 2011/Manchester, Iowa:** An adult tiger attacked Tom Sellner, the owner of the Cricket Hollow Zoo, while Sellner was feeding the animal at his facility. Sellner was flown to an Iowa City hospital after sustaining lacerations to his head and torso.

**May 6, 2011/Wichita, Kansas:** A 7-year-old boy on a field trip with Linwood Elementary School was mauled by an Amur leopard when the child climbed over a guardrail at the Sedgwick County Zoo. According to a witness, the leopard remained inside the cage but had his "claws into the little boy's face, and [was] gnawing his neck." A man reportedly had to kick the cat in the head to get the cat to release the boy, who was later taken to a hospital with face and neck injuries.

**May 2011/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A maintenance worker at the Palm Beach Zoo was treated at a hospital for cuts and bruises to his back that he received from a tiger after he fell against a mesh cage holding the animal in a restricted area of the zoo.

**October 22, 2010/Rock Springs, Wisconsin:** A volunteer at Wisconsin Big Cat Rescue and Educational Center required medical care for his arm after a tiger grabbed the volunteer's clothing and pulled his arm into the cage.

**November 27, 2010/Readstown, Wisconsin:** The USDA cited the licensees of Kickapoo Bobcat & Lynx, exotic-animal breeders, for failing to demonstrate

adequate experience and knowledge of a wild animal when a volunteer was scratched on the face by a bobcat while trying to place water in the enclosure.

**November 19, 2010/San Antonio, Texas:** A cougar escaped from the Wild Animal Orphanage while cages were being moved. Law enforcement officers searched for the animal for eight hours, during which time the cougar attacked and nearly killed a puppy. Area schools were put on alert, and recess was canceled at the elementary school. The cougar was ultimately tranquilized and recaptured.

**October 22, 2010/Rock Springs, Wisconsin:** A volunteer at Wisconsin Big Cat Rescue and Educational Center was severely bitten by an adult tiger who grabbed the man's arm and pulled it into the cage while the man was providing the big cat with water. Other volunteers helped the victim extract his arm from the cage, and the man was flown by helicopter to a hospital, where he underwent surgery on his hand and arm.

**October 2, 2010/Idaville, Indiana:** Two 900- to 1,000-pound tigers escaped from a cage at a private menagerie called Great Cats of Indiana. The tigers pushed out the corner post of a cage, which was held together with approximately 10 16-penny nails. The tigers were reportedly acting aggressively and were shot by the facility's owner. One tiger was killed after being shot four times in the head and twice in the body with a .223 rifle and twice in body with a 12-gauge shotgun. The other sustained a wound to the abdomen from a 12-gauge shotgun. The tigers were loose for at least 13 hours before they were shot.

**September 5, 2010/Essex County, New Jersey:** A leopard escaped from an enclosure at the Turtle Back Zoo and hid behind a retaining wall in a zoo service building. Visitors were moved to safe areas and the zoo was closed for approximately 45 minutes while the leopard was sedated and recaptured.

**September 1, 2010/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Numerous visitors looked on as an adult male lion attacked a trainer at the MGM Grand lion habitat. The victim was treated at a hospital and received stitches for a bite on the leg.

**August 28, 2010/Miami, Florida:** While chasing an escaped gibbon, a 500-pound tiger jumped over a 12-foot fence and escaped from an enclosure at Jungle Island. At one point, the tiger came face-to-face with a 2-year-old toddler. More than 100 park visitors were ushered into a dark barn for protection. Four people were hurt during the chaos and were treated for minor injuries. A fifth person was transported to a hospital after having a panic attack.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**April 23, 2010/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A 100-pound tiger broke through plastic glass while being loaded onto a trailer at Tiger World, an unaccredited zoo. For several moments, the escaped tiger was on a leash but not under the control of a handler. The tiger passed 20 to 30 feet directly in front of two families with young children, all of whom ran and hid behind a cash-register area. The USDA later ordered Tiger World to pay a \$2,571 penalty for this incident.

**April 15, 2010/Beltrami County, Minnesota:** Two 100-pound adolescent African lions bumped open a gate and escaped from an enclosure at Paul Bunyan's Animal Land. The two lions were found wrestling with a dog in the front yard of a home in a residential neighborhood approximately two blocks away.

**April 2010/Brown County, Ohio:** A cougar who had been purchased as a "pet" at a flea market escaped and remained on the loose a month later.

**February 19, 2010/Palm Beach County, Florida:** A jaguar at the Panther Ridge Conservation Center grabbed a woman's hand and tore off her thumb when the woman wrapped her fingers around a part of an enclosure. This was at least the third dangerous incident at the facility in the past five years (see March 29, 2008/Wellington, Florida, and February 26, 2005/Wellington, Florida).

**October 10, 2009/Cleveland, Ohio:** An adult clouded leopard escaped from an enclosure at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo when a wire in the cage broke. The leopard was tranquilized and recaptured.

**July 30, 2009/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A 400-pound tiger belonging to the Fercos Brothers magic act escaped while being walked on a leash outside the owners' gated property. The tiger ran after a rabbit, causing Tony Fercos to fall and drop the leash. Police responded to reports from local residents about a tiger wandering the streets, and the animal was found in a resident's backyard. The owners cornered the tiger and returned him to a cage.

**May 25, 2009/Lisbon, Ohio:** A 10-year-old girl was attacked by a "pet" cougar while visiting the home of Chris Joseph, a family friend who owned several African lions and cougars. A young male cougar grabbed and released the child's arm at least three times when she put her hand and arm into a cage containing two of these large predators. In order to release the girl from the cat's jaws, the friend had to remove a fan that was in front of an opening and crawl into the cage with the animals. The girl was rushed to a local hospital and then airlifted to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. A USDA inspector cited owner Matt Joseph for two direct

noncompliances in relation to this incident and warned that because the gate to the barrier fence, which is also the perimeter fence, was unlocked, "[a]nyone could access these animals when the owners are not at home."

**May 24, 2009/Great Bend, Kansas:** A 150-pound cougar escaped from an enclosure at the Great Bend Zoo when a zookeeper left a door open. Zoo visitors were evacuated and the cougar was shot and killed by police because the animal became aggressive and tranquilizer darts were not readily available.

**May 24, 2009/Memphis, Tennessee:** A zookeeper at the Memphis Zoo was bitten by an adult tiger who escaped into a corridor through unlocked doors. The keeper was taken to a hospital for a bite to his leg. The tiger was sedated and returned to a cage.

**May 2, 2009/Osceola County, Florida:** A pregnant cougar owned by Jungle Adventure Park escaped and ran into nearby woods when she was being moved from one cage to another. Officials from the fish and wildlife commission and the Osceola County Sheriff's Office searched unsuccessfully for the cougar.

**April 24, 2009/Calhan, Colorado:** A tiger bit a volunteer on the arm while the man was cleaning cages at Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. The volunteer was taken by ambulance to a hospital.

**April 17, 2009/Jacksonville, Florida:** A jaguar at the Jacksonville Zoo escaped from an enclosure through a hole in the fence. The hole may have been made by a groundskeeper. The jaguar was captured in a net and returned to the enclosure.

**February 21, 2009/Oakley, Kansas:** One of three lions in the private menagerie of Jeffrey Harsh attacked a man who put his arm into the cage. Harsh reportedly beat the lion with a steel pipe so that she would release the man. The victim sustained deep lacerations to both arms and was taken to a hospital in Denver for surgery.

**February 11, 2009/Omaha, Nebraska:** A veterinarian at the Henry Doorly Zoo was bitten by a tiger while performing a routine medical examination of the animal. The 200-pound anesthetized tiger bit the veterinarian's right forearm three times, and the veterinarian was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

**February 2, 2009/Troy, Alabama:** A child was clawed by a leopard at the McClelland Critters zoo when the owner of the facility took visitors behind the barrier that separates the animals from the public.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**January 18, 2009/Thurmont, Maryland:** An animal-care worker at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo was attacked by one or possibly two jaguars after she failed to secure the area in which they were enclosed before working in an adjacent area. Both jaguars entered the area, and the nearly 200-pound male jaguar and possibly also the female jaguar attacked the woman. A fire extinguisher was sprayed at the male jaguar to fend him off. Emergency medical technicians responded to the incident, and the victim was taken to the Maryland Shock Trauma Center. She spent 10 days in the hospital for injuries to her face and upper body. Both jaguars were placed in quarantine for one month.

**January 18, 2009/Ingram, Texas:** A 330-pound "pet" tiger owned by Anke Leitner escaped from an enclosure and was discovered in the residential backyard of a 79-year-old woman. The tiger was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**January 8, 2009/Salem, Oregon:** During a USDA inspection, exhibitor James Wise was demonstrating to the inspector how he gave an adult male tiger a pill. When Wise turned around, the tiger lunged at him, bit his forearm, and pushed him into a fence. Wise hit the tiger on the face until he released his grip long enough for Wise to escape the enclosure.

**December 12, 2008/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Numerous visitors looked on as a lion attacked and bit a trainer on the leg during a feeding at the MGM Grand lion habitat. Another trainer intervened by hitting the lion on the nose. The victim sustained injuries requiring stitches.

**December 9, 2008/Albion, Indiana:** A 350- to 400-pound Bengal tiger escaped from an enclosure at the Black Pine Animal Park when a keeper accidentally left a door open. The tiger was seen running on a local firefighter's farm. Park employees, sheriff's deputies, firefighters, conservation officers, and local and state police were called in, and thermal imaging equipment was used to aid in the search, which lasted nearly seven hours. Two tranquilizer darts had no effect on the tiger, who eventually returned to the park on her own and was coaxed into a cage.

**November 29, 2008/Jacksonville, Florida:** Two bobcats at the Jacksonville Zoo escaped from an enclosure and into the zookeepers' work area when a keeper left the enclosure door open. One of the bobcats was able to escape onto zoo grounds through another door that had been left open to the outside. The zoo was placed on lockdown and visitors were required to stay inside shops and restaurants. After nearly an hour, the bobcat was tranquilized and recaptured.

**November 29, 2008/Pocahontas County, West Virginia:** A 250- to 300-pound "pet" Bengal tiger escaped from an exotic-animal farm owned by David Cassell after squeezing through a hole in chain-link cage fencing. When employees at a local ski resort saw the animal's footprints, county and state officials were notified. The tiger was tracked into the Monongahela National Forest, where Cassell ultimately shot and killed her.

**November 16, 2008/Luray, Virginia:** A 16-year-old employee at the Luray Zoo was attacked by an adult tiger as she attempted to pet the animal while giving a tour to a group of visitors. The tiger reportedly pulled the girl's arm into the cage, causing severe injuries to her left hand and arm. The girl's finger had to be amputated.

**November 15, 2008/Dade County, Florida:** A 16-year-old girl was mauled by a 150-pound cougar at the private menagerie of Alan Rigerman. The animal pinned the girl to the ground and clenched his jaws around her head. A neighbor freed the girl by punching and kicking at the cougar. The victim underwent extensive surgery to repair a large gash in the back of her neck.

**October 30, 2008/Atlanta, Georgia:** One of two 1-year-old cheetahs who were being transported in the cargo hold of a plane from Wildlife Safari Park in Winston, Oregon, to the Memphis Zoo in Tennessee escaped from a travel crate. An airline baggage worker in Atlanta opened the plane's cargo door and found the cheetah running loose amid the luggage. The plane was moved into a closed airport hangar, and both cheetahs were tranquilized and taken to the Atlanta zoo for a few days before continuing their trip to Memphis.

**October 30, 2008/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** Tigers being exhibited by Serenity Springs Wildlife Center at a party were given insufficient distance and/or barriers from the public, allowing one the opportunity to scratch a person walking past the enclosure that the tigers were being kept in.

**October 29, 2008/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma:** A volunteer was attacked by a 1,000-pound liger (a cross between a lion and a tiger) while feeding the animal at Safari's Wildlife Sanctuary. The man sustained puncture wounds to his neck and upper back as well as trauma to his vertebrae. He was flown by medical helicopter to a hospital and died the next day from his injuries. A group of 40 elementary schoolchildren was walking by the cage when the incident occurred.

**September 18, 2008/Mentone, Alabama:** A cougar escaped from a cage at Lookout Mountain Wild



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

Animal Park and attacked a black leopard's foot through the fence of an enclosure. The cougar was shot and killed in order to get him to release his hold on the leopard's paw.

**August 19, 2008/Washoe County, Nevada:** Two black leopards were found on the roof of a private home after they apparently jumped a 12-foot fence while the owners were out of town. Authorities tranquilized both leopards, and they were taken to the local animal shelter.

**August 19, 2008/West Palm Beach, Florida:** An adult lion and an adult tiger escaped from a cage overnight at McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary. Three schools in the area were out of lockdown while officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office searched for the animals, who were both located the next day, tranquilized, and returned to cages.

**August 5, 2008/Richmond, Illinois:** During a rehearsal for a circus performance, a tiger at the Hawthorn Corporation circus training facility attacked a man, knocking him to the ground, face down, and grabbing him by the neck. The man sustained deep puncture wounds and several scratches to his upper body, neck, and knee. Others present during the attack hit the animal with wooden poles in order to get him to release the victim. Paramedics transported the man to the hospital, where he stayed for five or six days. It was the second time the man had been attacked by a tiger at the facility.

**August 4, 2008/Branson, Missouri:** A 16-year-old worker at Predator World was left a quadriplegic after he was attacked by three tigers when he went into the enclosure to photograph the animals for a visitor. One of the tigers jumped on the victim and knocked him to the ground before the two other animals joined the attack and dragged him to a water pool. Staff members used a fire extinguisher to deter the cats and pulled the teen from the cage. He was airlifted to the hospital and listed in critical condition with severe trauma to his neck and airway as well as a serious laceration on his leg.

**August 3, 2008/Warren County, Missouri:** A volunteer at the Wesa-A-Geh-Ya exotic-animal farm was attacked by an 800-pound tiger while cleaning cages. The man was standing on top of a cage when a tiger scaled the 12- to 14-foot chain-link fence and grabbed him. The victim's leg had much of the skin stripped off down to the bare bone, and he was flown by air ambulance to the hospital, where he underwent two surgeries to amputate his lower leg. The facility owners, who initially tried to cover up the incident by claiming that the victim had been attacked by a pit

bull, shot and wounded the tiger during the attack and then later shot and killed him.

**July 14, 2008/El Paso County, Colorado:** El Paso County Sheriff's deputies searched for an African lion who was spotted running loose by two witnesses, one of whom saw the lion chase several dogs through a field. Photographs confirmed that the animal was indeed an African lion, and the Sheriff's Office concluded that the animal was likely an escaped "pet."

**May 24, 2008/South Bend, Indiana:** A keeper at the Potawatomi Zoo was attacked by a leopard while cleaning an off-exhibit holding area. She was taken to a hospital by ambulance to be treated for her injuries.

**May 24, 2008/Detroit, Michigan:** A keeper at the Detroit Zoo was attacked by a lion while transferring the animals inside for the evening. He fended the animal off with pepper spray and was treated at a nearby hospital, where he received stitches for his injuries.

**May 19, 2008/Neosho, Missouri:** A black leopard approached a woman hanging laundry in her yard and then clawed at the door to her home when she retreated inside. The cat then charged a sheriff's deputy who arrived on the scene, ran past him, and turned around and charged again before being killed by several shots from the deputy's rifle and Glock handgun. Authorities speculated that the cat was a "pet" who had escaped or been abandoned.

**May 5, 2008/Miami, Florida:** Mark McCarthy, owner of McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary, was bitten by an adult tiger during a photo shoot for a music video. The tiger began to choke and became panicked when a chain tightened around her neck and body. McCarthy sustained bone-deep puncture wounds to his calf while attempting to free the chain, which ultimately had to be cut to be removed. He was treated by paramedics at the scene.

**May 11, 2008/Toledo, Ohio:** A keeper at the Toledo Zoo sustained three lacerations to his chest after a 5-year-old tiger reached through a double mesh barrier and clawed him. He was treated at a nearby hospital.

**March 29, 2008/Wellington, Florida:** The owner of Panther Ridge Conservation Center was attacked by two cheetahs while conducting an exhibition inside the cage during a fundraising event. She was pinned down by the cheetahs, who then bit and clawed at her for 10 minutes before she could be removed from the cage and airlifted to a hospital. She sustained 40 puncture wounds to her back, arms, and legs.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**March 24, 2008/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A panther who was likely being kept as a "pet" attacked a dog in the backyard of a home in a residential area. Police attempted to shoot the panther, but the animal escaped.

**February 21, 2008/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A 245-pound tiger escaped from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo when a zookeeper failed to secure two gates in the exhibit. During the 20 to 25 minutes that he was on the loose, the tiger walked past a volunteer and into an open area of the zoo, where nothing but a 4-foot fence separated him from the wider public areas of the zoo, including a playground.

**February 10, 2008/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A Palm Beach Zoo employee was bitten by a tiger during a training session. The worker was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

**February 9, 2008/Davenport, Florida:** A volunteer was clawed by a tiger while cleaning a cage at Horseshoe Creek Wildlife Foundation. The woman sustained minor injuries when the tiger swiped at her leg.

**February 2008/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A zookeeper at the Palm Beach Zoo had her finger nipped by Mata, a 3-year-old tiger, while she was training the animal. The keeper was taken to the emergency room and held overnight so that a hand surgeon could fix her finger.

**January 20, 2008/Cedar Creek, Texas:** A volunteer at the Capital of Texas Zoo was bitten by a cougar when she reached into the pen to pet the animal. The cougar gripped her arm and the girl sustained a broken thumb and bites that required stitches. She was the second person to be bitten by this animal. (See 2007/Cedar Creek, Texas.)

**January 10, 2008/San Francisco, California:** A 90-pound snow leopard at the San Francisco Zoo nearly escaped after he chewed or tore through a steel mesh wall that separated the feeding cage from a zookeeper service area. The animal created a hole large enough to get his leg and head through.

**December 27, 2007/Manitowoc, Wisconsin:** Two cougars escaped from the Lincoln Park Zoo when the fencing of the cage was cut by vandals. The animals were on the loose for approximately two hours before being located, tranquilized, and returned to the cage.

**December 25, 2007/San Francisco, California:** A 300-pound tiger escaped from an enclosure at the San Francisco Zoo, which was surrounded by a 20-foot-wide moat and a 12½-foot-high wall. She attacked three visitors, quickly killing a teenager and

following the other two male victims—a teenager and an adult—for 300 yards before mauling them. The two survivors sustained deep bites and claw cuts on their heads, necks, arms, and hands, and both underwent surgery for their wounds. The tiger was shot and killed by police. This was the same tiger who ripped the flesh off a zookeeper's arm approximately one year before (see December 22, 2006/San Francisco, California).

**December 3, 2007/Acton, California:** A 4-year-old male tiger mauled a caretaker who was cleaning an enclosure at the Shambala Preserve. The man sustained multiple bite wounds and was airlifted to a hospital, where he was listed in critical condition.

**November 19, 2007/Pike County, Ohio:** A 550-pound "pet" lion belonging to Terry Brumfield escaped from a cage and onto a nearby highway, where he chased and attacked passing cars. The State Highway Patrol and the Pike County Sheriff's Department responded to the call. Brumfield ultimately lured the lion back to the cage.

**November 19, 2007/Saint Louis, Missouri:** A portion of the Saint Louis Zoo was evacuated when a 1-year-old cheetah scaled a wall at least 10 feet high and got into an area intended to separate animals from people and was loose for nearly half an hour. The incident marked the third time since 2000 that a cheetah has escaped at this zoo.

**November 14, 2007/New Hampton, Iowa:** A "pet" tiger escaped from a cage by rushing past the owner at feeding time and attacked and mauled the family's dog. When the dog ran toward cars from the local sheriff's department and the tiger followed, a deputy sheriff shot and killed the tiger through a partially opened window of his vehicle.

**October 1, 2007/Pahrump, Nevada:** A cougar escaped from a holding pen at Running Wild animal compound and attacked a volunteer who entered the enclosure with a bucket of meat. The woman was knocked to the ground by the cougar and bitten on the neck, back, hands, and arms. The cougar stopped the attack when emergency sirens approached the facility.

**July 14, 2007/San Antonio, Texas:** A keeper who forgot to close a gate was attacked by a 250-pound tiger at the San Antonio Zoo. The tiger knocked the man down, dragged him, and bit him on the head several times before the keeper managed to escape by spraying the animal with pepper spray. The keeper was airlifted to the hospital with serious injuries to his head, neck, and arm.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**July 6, 2007/Marion County, Arkansas:** A man was injured by one of his 5½-year-old "pet" cougars as he was cleaning the cage. The male cougar knocked the man to the ground and bit him on the back of the neck, head, and leg. He was taken to the hospital and treated for his injuries.

**February 24, 2007/Denver, Colorado:** A keeper at the Denver Zoo was attacked and bitten on the neck by a 140-pound jaguar in a service hallway adjacent to the enclosure for the animals. The woman sustained extensive internal injuries and died at the hospital of a broken neck. The jaguar was shot and killed during the incident.

**January 21, 2007/San Angelo, Texas:** A woman sought hospital treatment after she was bitten by a 10-week-old African lion cub exhibited by G.W. Exotic Animal Foundation at a mall where patrons were allowed to pet and interact with the lion.

**January 5, 2007/Center Point, Indiana:** An 80-pound cougar scaled a 14-foot fence and escaped from an enclosure at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. More than two months later, she was still on the loose.

**2007/Cedar Creek, Texas:** A volunteer at the Capital of Texas Zoo was bitten by a cougar when she reached into the pen to pet the animal.

**December 22, 2006/San Francisco, California:** A keeper at the San Francisco Zoo was attacked by a 350-pound tiger who reached through the bars of the cage and grabbed the woman. The keeper sustained deep lacerations to her arms, which required surgery and may have resulted in the loss of one arm. A zoo visitor who witnessed the attack described what she saw: "The right arm was in the tiger's mouth .... The left arm was just being held there (in the claws) and the right arm was being eaten. She was screaming and flailing away." The tiger released the woman when other zookeepers jabbed the tiger in the head with a pole.

**December 22, 2006/Washington, D.C.:** A clouded leopard at the National Zoo escaped a cage through a hole in the fence and ventured onto zoo grounds. Visitors were evacuated while zoo employees surrounded the cat with nets and tranquilizer guns, sedated her, and returned her to the cage.

**November 24, 2006/Evansville, Indiana:** Animal trainer Wade Burck was clawed by a tiger during a performance of the Hadi Shrine circus. Burck received hospital treatment, including stitches, for wounds to his left forearm and leg.

**November 18, 2006/Coral Gables, Florida:** A 4-year-old girl was mauled by a 62-pound cougar at a children's birthday party. The cat took the child's head into her mouth, inflicting severe cuts to the girl's eyelid, cheek, and ear, and requiring surgical reattachment of part of her severed ear. The cougar had been provided by Wild Animal World and was killed to be tested for rabies. The proprietor of Wild Animal World had been cited at least twice previously for similar attacks.

**November 14, 2006/Gulf Breeze, Florida:** Two 150-pound cougars escaped through a hole in the fence of the pen and were loose for nearly three hours at The Zoo. The facility was closed and visitors were moved to secured areas while a search, aided by a sheriff's office helicopter using infrared cameras, was conducted for the cougars. Both were ultimately tranquilized and returned to the cage.

**November 13, 2006/Gulf Breeze, Florida:** A keeper at The Zoo was bitten by a leopard and sustained wounds on her hand.

**October 16, 2006/Copley Township, Ohio:** A veterinarian with the USDA was attacked by a tiger during an inspection at the L&L Exotic Animal Farm. The tiger reached outside the cage, grabbed the woman's arm, pulled her toward the cage, and got her arm into her mouth. She was treated at the hospital for scratches and bruising.

**October 16, 2006/Fleetwood, North Carolina:** A woman who attempted to pet a leopard at the New River Zoo was bitten on the arm and wrist, sustaining injuries that required surgery. The woman alleged that the owner of the zoo had encouraged her to pet the animal. The leopard was euthanized.

**October 6, 2006/Hesperia, California:** A 500-pound tiger escaped from a cage at the Cinema Safari Zoo when zoo workers failed to lock the cage during cleaning. Because the zoo did not have the proper equipment on hand to tranquilize a tiger, the animal was on the loose for hours, during which time he attacked a donkey, biting the animal's neck and a leg. When the proper equipment was obtained, the tiger was tranquilized and returned to the cage.

**September 12, 2006/Balm, Florida:** Lancelot Kollmann, owner of an animal business called Sir Lance A Lot, was attacked by a 250-pound tiger while cleaning a cage. His lower lip was split in two, requiring 25 stitches, and the side of one arm, which was sliced down to the bone, required five stitches and a drainage shunt.

**August 22, 2006/Tampa, Florida:** Enshala, a 180-pound Sumatran tiger at the Lowry Park Zoo,



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

escaped an enclosure 15 minutes before closing time and was loose for 50 minutes when an unlocked latch allowed her access to an empty exhibit that was under renovation. Zoo visitors were moved to safety in the zoo's restaurants or sent home as a 10-person weapons team assembled. Enshala became agitated when she was shot with a tranquilizer dart, causing her to lurch at a zoo veterinarian as well as a 7-foot wall separating her from public areas. She was ultimately killed by zoo president Lex Salisbury, who shot her four times with a 12-gauge shotgun.

**July 18, 2006/Ballston Spa, New York:** A 4-year-old boy was clawed by an adult tiger displayed by the Ashville Game Farm and Exotic Zoo at the Saratoga County Fair. The child was sitting next to a cage while having his photo taken with a baby kangaroo when the tiger reached out and clawed him. The boy was treated at the hospital and received 14 stitches for a 1-inch gash on his head.

**June 16, 2006/Kaufman County, Texas:** A part-time employee at Zoo Dynamics, an animal facility owned by Marcus Cook, was chased and mauled by a 300-pound tiger who climbed out of an uncovered enclosure. The tiger grabbed the man and threw him down, ripped off his ear, and left severe claw marks all over his body. The man spent the weekend in intensive care and received some 2,000 stitches. The employee in charge took the victim to the hospital without notifying local authorities that a tiger was still loose on the premises and recaptured the animal upon his return.

**May 2006/Kingman, Arizona:** A woman was attacked by two tigers at Jonathan Kraft's Keepers of the Wild animal sanctuary and required surgery for her injuries.

**April 6, 2006/Pine County, Minnesota:** Cynthia Gamble, owner of Center for Endangered Cats, was killed by an adult male tiger when she entered the cage. She died of crushing injuries to her throat and blood loss. The 400-pound tiger bit off her right foot and portions of both arms.

**February 24, 2006/San Antonio, Texas:** A cheetah at the San Antonio Zoo escaped from an enclosure by climbing over an approximately 10-foot-high fence into a tree and then jumping to the ground. She was loose for 20 minutes before being tranquilized and returned to the cage.

**February 15, 2006/Birmingham, Alabama:** An employee at the Birmingham Zoo was attacked by an adult lion while feeding the animals and moving them to the outdoor exhibit. The woman was taken to the hospital with bites on her scalp, right arm, and abdomen.

**January 30, 2006/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** A tiger escaped an enclosure at the Fort Wayne Zoological Society when a keeper failed to close a gate separating the enclosure from an aisle where the keeper was working. The keeper escaped to an unoccupied area and the tiger was tranquilized and returned to the enclosure.

**January 10, 2006/Center Hill, Florida:** A cougar slipped through an unsecured door and escaped from an enclosure at the Savage Kingdom breeding facility. As the cougar headed for an open field, an employee attempted to lasso him and was bitten on the lower leg. Other employees got ropes around the cougar's neck and the animal strangled to death as he struggled to resist the ropes.

**November 16, 2005/Greenwich, New York:** An adult tiger escaped from the Ashville Game Farm and Exotic Zoo by pushing through a section of fence across the top of a cage and jumping out. She was on the loose for approximately five hours before being found in a resident's yard several miles from the zoo, tranquilized, and returned to the cage.

**October 6, 2005/Duluth, Minnesota:** Two zookeepers were bitten by a tiger at the Lake Superior Zoo while they were moving the animal back to a cage following surgery. The anesthetized tiger bit down on one employee's arm, holding the bite for approximately 30 seconds and causing puncture wounds that required the man to be hospitalized. A second zookeeper sustained cuts to his hands and fingers as he helped other employees who used a broomstick and their hands to pry the tiger's mouth open.

**September 28, 2005/Lewis County, Washington:** A 5-year-old boy was tackled by one of his grandfather's "pet" tigers. The tiger scratched the boy's leg and gave him a puncture wound on his foot.

**August 18, 2005/Mound Valley, Kansas:** A 17-year-old girl was killed by a 300-pound tiger while having her picture taken with the animal at the Lost Creek Animal Sanctuary. During the photo session, the tiger, who was being held on a chain, lunged at the girl. The handler was unable to restrain the animal, and the tiger clamped his jaws on the girl's neck. She was severely bitten and her neck was broken. The tiger was killed.

**July 8, 2005/Peoria, Illinois:** A Frisco Bros. Petting Zoo employee was injured when a 2-year-old tiger grabbed his hand with her front claws as he was removing a feeding tray from an enclosure. The man was taken to the emergency room, and the tiger was quarantined by animal control for 30 days.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**July 2005/McHenry County, Illinois:** Craig Perry, of Perry's Wilderness Ranch and Zoo, was mauled by a tiger at the Hawthorn Corporation's circus-training facility. One of 14 tigers circled Perry during a photo shoot and then attacked his left leg. Perry required immediate surgery and sustained nerve damage.

**June 22, 2005/Little Falls, Minnesota:** A 10-year-old boy was attacked by a lion and a tiger while visiting a private collection of "pet" exotic cats kept at an auto dealership owned by Chuck Mock. When Mock opened a cage to go inside, a tiger pushed through the door and attacked the boy. As Mock pulled the tiger off, a lion came out and bit the boy, dragging him 24 to 30 feet. The boy sustained numerous facial fractures and his spinal cord was severed, leaving him a quadriplegic. The lion and tiger were killed.

**June 11, 2005/Lima, Ohio:** Bradley Craft was attacked by his "pet" cougar. Craft grabbed the cougar's tail to prevent the cat from attacking his mother and the cat turned on him, biting him in the leg.

**June 11, 2005/Underwood, Minnesota:** A full grown African lion escaped from a cage at the Arcangel Wildlife Farm and wandered through neighbors' yards for approximately two hours before being shot and killed by a sheriff's deputy.

**May 15, 2005/Kennewick, Washington:** A 110-pound cougar, likely an escaped "pet," was found in the garage of an auto repair shop by a guard after the animal set off a burglar alarm several times. The owner of the shop believed the cougar had been inside during work hours. The animal was removed after being shot with a tranquilizer gun by a Fish and Wildlife Officer.

**March 6, 2005/Underwood, Minnesota:** A 16-year-old girl was petting a tiger through the bars of a cage at the Arcangel Wildlife Farm when the tiger bit her finger and clawed her hand. The wound required a dozen stitches and three operations to treat an acute infection. The girl also underwent rabies shots.

**February 26, 2005/Wellington, Florida:** A 500-pound Bengal tiger escaped from a cage at Panther Ridge Sanctuary by pushing past a woman who was feeding him and who hadn't latched the cage properly. More than 20 sheriff's deputies and state wildlife officers armed with rifles were positioned inside and outside the perimeter fence of the facility as the tiger wandered the grounds for more than two hours. Two tranquilizer darts were required to sedate the tiger so that he could be recaptured.

**February 23, 2005/Pahrump, Nevada:** A "pet" leopard at Karl Mitchell's facility bit off the tip of a woman's finger.

**February 23, 2005/Simi Valley, California:** A tiger who had been roaming loose for at least eight days was shot and killed by authorities near a residential area.

**February 12, 2005/Oldsmar, Florida:** A woman was bitten on the hand by a tiger cub used by Zoo Dynamics for photo ops at an automobile dealership.

**February 11, 2005/Cut and Shoot, Texas:** A worker at Wildlife Extravaganza was hospitalized for several days after her arm was pulled through the feeding hole by a leopard as she prepared to feed the cat.

**January 26, 2005/Sioux Falls, South Dakota:** A man was given rabies shots and received stitches to his finger after he was bitten by a tiger at the Great Plains Zoo as he reached through a fence into the cage.

**January 20, 2005/Baraboo, Wisconsin:** An 8-year-old girl was bitten on the chest by an 80-pound, 7-month-old lion cub at Creature Features Pet Store. The girl had to undergo rabies shots.

**January 18, 2005/Arkansas:** A 400-pound "pet" tiger was abandoned in the mountains of north central Arkansas along the Buffalo River. The tiger trekked 60 miles over the next four days, returning to his owner's home and was then taken to a refuge.

**January 8, 2005/Cleveland County, North Carolina:** Two 6-month-old injured tiger cubs, weighing approximately 80 to 100 pounds each, were abandoned and found wandering on the side of a road.

**December 24, 2004/Suffolk County, New York:** An 8-year-old boy was attacked by his father's "pet" leopard. The boy was scratched on the chest and bitten on the neck, and he required medical treatment.

**December 5, 2004/Laredo, Texas:** A circus worker was rushed to the hospital after she was badly bitten on the hand by a caged tiger at Great Circus of China.

**November 20, 2004/St. Augustine, Florida:** A 350-pound tiger, displayed by The Catty Shack Ranch at the St. Johns County Fair, attacked his handler and a 14-year-old boy as he was being walked on a leash to a cage. Police used stun guns to stop the attack. The handler sustained puncture wounds to his head and the boy was knocked down and scratched.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**November 20, 2004/Branson West, Missouri:** An 18-year-old volunteer at Predator World spent the night in the hospital after being bitten on the arm by an 80-pound black leopard as he stood next to the cage.

**November 6, 2004/Gentry, Arkansas:** A visitor was taken to the hospital after a tiger pulled the flesh off her finger at the Wild Wilderness Drive Thru Safari when she placed her hand in the cage.

**October 30, 2004/Salisbury, Maryland:** A visitor to the Salisbury Zoo had part of his finger torn off when he approached a cage containing a jaguar.

**September 9, 2004/Chicago, Illinois:** A keeper at Lincoln Park Zoo was seriously injured with multiple bite wounds and lacerations after being attacked by a lion in the outdoor exhibit. The incident forced an evacuation of the zoo.

**September 8, 2004/Trenton, Maine:** An employee was seriously injured, with wounds to his face and arm, by a leopard at the Acadia Zoological Park.

**July 31, 2004/New York, New York:** A 450-pound white tiger belonging to Adriatic Animal Attractions bolted from the New Cole Bros. Circus while being transferred from one cage to another near the Forest Park band shell in Queens. Dozens of police officers with machine guns and tranquilizer darts pursued the tiger for 30 minutes as he prowled for a mile through a park crowded with picnickers, scattering screaming people and causing two traffic accidents. He was recaptured by the trainer. Two women filed a \$60 million lawsuit after suffering spinal fractures and other injuries in the multicar pileup on the Jackie Robinson Parkway.

**July 26, 2004/Shepherdsville, Kentucky:** A 2-year-old, declawed "pet" snow leopard escaped from a cage, broke through a wire gate, and ran into thick woods behind the owner's house.

**July 14, 2004/Little Falls, Minnesota:** A 22-year-old woman was bitten by an African lion when she stuck her hand into a cage while visiting a private collection of "pet" exotic cats kept at an auto dealership owned by Chuck Mock. The woman sustained a severe laceration to her middle finger and cuts on two other fingers.

**July 14, 2004/Detroit Lakes, Minnesota:** A worker with the Arcangel Wildlife Farm was bitten by a tiger who was on display at a local festival. The leashed tiger lunged at the man and bit him on the arm when the man attempted to move him.

**July 12, 2004/Loxahatchee, Florida:** Deputy sheriffs and state game officials launched an extensive search for a 600-pound "pet" tiger who escaped from Steve Sipek's private menagerie. Residents were escorted to and from their homes while the tiger was on the loose. The tiger was shot and killed the next day when he lunged at a wildlife officer.

**June 2, 2004/Landover Hills, Maryland:** A tiger belonging to exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson escaped from the UniverSoul Circus after fighting with another tiger and attacked an elephant, biting her on the hip. During the escape, there were several elementary schools attending the performance, and children were walking under the tent in the area where the tiger escaped.

**May 28, 2004/Chillicothe, Ohio:** A woman was hospitalized after she was bitten on the arm by her father's "pet" lion when she reached into the cage to pet him. The lion was shot and killed.

**April 16, 2004/Indio Hills, California:** After a tiger used in the movie industry escaped from his compound, the California Department of Fish and Game and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department launched a search. The tiger was later captured.

**March 13, 2004/Massena, New York:** A 4-year-old girl was mauled by her grandmother's "pet" cougar. The 160-pound cougar apparently reached through the cage and grabbed the girl. She was hospitalized with cuts and bruises on her head and an eye injury.

**March 11, 2004/Reno, Nevada:** A volunteer needed more than 15 stitches after a declawed leopard at the Sierra Safari Zoo bit her as she reached into the pen for a food bowl.

**February 12, 2004/Hardin County, Illinois:** A 52-year-old man with a private menagerie of exotic cats and wolves bled to death after he was mauled by a declawed African lion as he changed the bedding in the cage. During the autopsy, a coroner found that the man had sustained numerous puncture wounds and a broken neck. The lion was discovered running loose on the property and was shot and killed by police.

**February 9, 2004/Plaquemine, Louisiana:** A woman was attacked by a declawed "pet" leopard she kept in a makeshift 10-foot by 10-foot cage behind her house trailer. The leopard bit her on the head, nearly tearing off her ear and ripping the flesh from her scalp. Sheriff's deputies and one of the woman's relatives shot the leopard four times, killing him.

**January 31, 2004/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** A 4-year-old, 140-pound "pet" cougar escaped from a car



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

during a traffic accident and was shot and killed by police when he lunged at an emergency worker.

**January 24, 2004/Lowgap, North Carolina:** A tiger attacked and bit a 14-year-old girl on the cheek and neck as she was taking photos of four caged "pet" tigers. She was hospitalized in guarded condition. All four tigers were killed on the site.

**2003–04<sup>1</sup>/Montana:** A black leopard being used in a photo shoot by Animals of Montana at an offsite location escaped after being sprayed with an unknown substance by the trainer. The leopard went through a "hot wire" and was later recaptured in a barn.

**December 14, 2003/Millers Creek, North Carolina:** A 10-year-old boy was killed by his uncle's 400-pound "pet" tiger as he shoveled snow near the cage. The tiger reached under the fence, dragged the boy into the cage, and inflicted at least eight puncture wounds to his head, neck, and chest. The boy's uncle shot and killed the tiger.

**December 12, 2003/Marion County, Kansas:** A sheriff killed a second tiger at Chris McDonald's private menagerie when the animal became aggressive following the killing of his companion. (See December 9, 2003/Marion County, Kansas.)

**December 9, 2003/Marion County, Kansas:** A tiger was shot and killed after escaping from Chris McDonald's private menagerie and killing two dogs and a wolf.

**November 11, 2003/Palm Desert, California:** A zoo employee and a zoo visitor at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens were bitten by a cheetah who was being walked on a leash through the park. The zoo visitor was holding a 2-year-old child on her lap when the cheetah attacked her, biting her calf and thigh. The child was treated for a head injury after she fell onto cement.

**November 8, 2003/Frisco, Texas:** A 4-month-old, 50-pound declawed tiger cub was abandoned and captured by police after a motorist spotted the animal roaming on the side of the road.

**November 7, 2003/Rockwell, North Carolina:** Steve Macaluso, owner of a private menagerie called Charlotte Metro Zoo, was bitten on the neck by a

leopard. Zoo volunteers and employees reported that Macaluso needed dozens of stitches.

**October 6, 2003/Golden Valley, Arizona:** An employee at Keepers of the Wild Zoo was bitten and dragged by a 450-pound tiger as she tried to pet him. She was hospitalized for five days with four puncture wounds on her leg.

**October 3, 2003/Las Vegas, Nevada:** While walking a tiger across the stage on a leash, Roy Horn of the Siegfried & Roy casino act was mauled and critically injured by a tiger during a show. The tiger bit Horn on the right arm, then lunged at him, bit him on the neck, and dragged him across the stage in front of more than 1,500 horrified tourists. Horn sustained bite wounds and massive blood loss. The 7-year-old tiger had been performing in the show since he was 6 months old.

**October 3, 2003/New York, New York:** Police, along with animal control officers and Bronx Zoo employees, confiscated a 500-pound "pet" tiger belonging to Antoine Yates from a Harlem apartment. Yates was later arrested at a Philadelphia hospital where he had fled for treatment of a deep bite wound to his right leg. At various times, eight children had lived in the apartment where the tiger was kept.

**August 21, 2003/Whetstone Township, Ohio:** A chained 180-pound "pet" cougar snapped a collar, escaped, and attacked a neighbor's dog, causing more than 100 lacerations.

**August 14, 2003/St. Louis, Missouri:** A cheetah at the St. Louis Zoo escaped from an enclosure by going through a 12-foot wide moat and over a 12-foot high wall. The animal walked among visitors before being recaptured.

**July 3, 2003/La Crosse, Wisconsin:** A tiger mauled circus trainer Bruno Blaszak in front of 400 people during his show at a festival. The tiger charged at Blaszak, knocked him down, and clawed him. His right leg required 30 to 40 stitches.

**June 30, 2003/Calhan, Colorado:** Two tigers severely mauled an employee of Big Cats of Serenity Springs as he entered the cage. The employee was knocked down by one tiger and sustained a mangled leg and scalp injuries. As a result, the tigers were beaten with shovels and later killed.

**June 23, 2003/Crossett, Arkansas:** A firefighter visiting the Crossett Zoo sustained a deep laceration and lost part of his thumb when he was bitten by a tiger.

---

<sup>1</sup>The date was obtained from a USDA memo regarding an interview on June 12, 2013, pertaining to escapes at the Animals of Montana facility in Bozeman, Montana.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**June 14, 2003/Dodge City, Kansas:** An adult tiger who was being exhibited by G.W. Exotic Animal Foundation swiped at a young boy, tearing his pants. The tiger was being used for photo ops with the public at the Village Square Mall.

**June 2003/Mead, Washington:** A Korean actor filed a negligence lawsuit against Cat Tales Zoological Park, a roadside zoo and exotic-animal training center, after she was mauled by a white tiger during filming of a story about two of the facility's tigers. She sustained a cut on her forearm.

**May 28, 2003/Nampa, Idaho:** At a roadside zoo called For the Birds, where visitors are allowed to pet tigers, a toddler was jumped on and licked by a 170-pound tiger. Other zoo visitors and employees have been jumped on and bitten by tigers.

**April 6, 2003/San Antonio, Texas:** A lion from Wild Animal Orphanage escaped and roamed through a northwest area neighborhood for several hours. An employee required hospital treatment for a fractured pelvic bone and bruised rib when the lion charged and knocked her down as she attempted to shoot the animal with a tranquilizer dart. The lion was shot and killed by four police officers armed with handguns and shotguns.

**April 2, 2003/Adair, Oklahoma:** Several tigers belonging to the International Wildlife Center of Texas and boarded at Safari Joe's Rock Creek Exotic Animal Park attacked and killed a handler. One tiger grabbed her arm and pulled her into the cage as she was giving them water, and other tigers in the cage pounced on her. Another worker beat the tigers with a shovel to break up the attack and to retrieve the woman's body and her severed arm. The tigers were displayed at fairs and used in photo ops with the public.

**March 31, 2003/Hennepin, Illinois:** A man was mauled to death by two tigers he kept in a backyard menagerie when he attempted to move the two animals into another enclosure. Police shot and killed both tigers in order to retrieve the body. This was the second incident at the Second Nature Exotic Cats Sanctuary. (See May 26, 2002/Hennepin, Illinois.)

**March 23, 2003/Sacramento, California:** A keeper at the Sacramento Zoo was hospitalized and treated for puncture wounds to his neck, right shoulder, and left leg after he was attacked by a 325-pound tiger while he was preparing to feed the animal. Another worker beat the tiger on the head with a shovel to stop the attack.

**March 22, 2003/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A 5-month-old, 40-pound tiger cub at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone

grabbed and bit a pregnant woman on the wrist, causing a puncture wound, and bit a 16-year-old girl. Police searching Oly's premises found guns, ammunition, and marijuana.

**February 4, 2003/Jacksonville, Florida:** A 450-pound tiger, belonging to exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson, escaped from the UniverSoul Circus while the cage was being cleaned. The tiger climbed over a car, jumped over a fence, headed down an alley, frightened employees at a nearby restaurant, and was recaptured 10 minutes later.

**January 24, 2003/Albert Lea, Minnesota:** A malnourished tiger cub was seized from a home in a residential neighborhood after school officials learned that scratches and bite marks on a fifth-grade boy were caused by his father's "pet" tiger.

**January 8, 2003/Laurens, South Carolina:** A 200-pound "pet" cougar was recaptured in a residential neighborhood after he had escaped from a pen 5 miles away and roamed freely for three days.

**2003/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A tiger at Burnette's Pet Farm bit a worker in the jugular vein. Cuyahoga County Board of Health Deputy Director Dave Covell said, "We didn't even know they had a tiger."  
**2002-03<sup>2</sup>/Bozeman, Montana:** A person cleaning the enclosure holding a mountain lion chose not to lock the animal in a den box. The person sustained a laceration to the head and lip and was taken to a hospital.

**December 15, 2002/Leesburg, Virginia:** Animal control was called to help recapture an 80-pound tiger who escaped from a petting zoo and was on top of a car in a parking lot.

**December 2002/Malibu Hills, California:** Television star Elisha Cuthbert was treated at a hospital for deep puncture wounds to the hand after she was bitten by a cougar while shooting a scene for the TV show 24.

**November 14, 2002/Detroit, Michigan:** A tiger who had been beaten to death and dumped in a field was found by local residents.

**November 4, 2002/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A teenager reported to authorities that tigers at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone had bitten him and two adults.

---

<sup>2</sup>The date was obtained from a USDA memo regarding an interview on June 12, 2013, pertaining to escapes at the Animals of Montana facility in Bozeman, Montana.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**October 28, 2002/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Neighbors became frightened and alerted animal control when they spotted two tiger cubs running loose on a neighbor's rooftop. The cubs had escaped from the homeowner's private menagerie.

**October 17, 2002/Southport, Florida:** A 500-pound African lion pounced on, dragged, and mauled his owner at a roadside zoo called 77 Zoological Park as the owner stepped into the cage to pose for a picture. The lion ripped a hole in his throat, pulled his right eye out of its socket, severed tendons in his neck and chest, tore his skin, and bit through his flesh to the bone. The man spent weeks in the hospital and was in critical condition for 11 days.

**October 11, 2002/Jackson, New Jersey:** The 70-year-old husband of "tiger lady" Joan Byron-Marasek was suddenly attacked by a tiger at her controversial preserve as he was feeding the tigers. He sustained head injuries, and his arm was nearly severed.

**October 4, 2002/Leona, Texas:** A man was severely mauled by a 400-pound tiger at the Perrydise Exotic Animal Ranch when he stuck his arm in the feeding opening of the cage to touch the animal, resulting in amputation of his arm just above the elbow.

**September 28, 2002/Bloomington, Illinois:** A 400-pound tiger was shot and killed by police after he escaped from a trailer at a truck stop and hid in bushes near a residential area for nine hours. Local police spent \$9,000 attempting to recapture the tiger. This same tiger mauled a 7-year-old girl earlier in the year. (See May 26, 2002.)

**September 22, 2002/Quitman, Arkansas:** Four African lions, believed to have escaped from a nearby exotic-animal farm, were shot and killed after running loose for several days, terrifying residents.

**September 20, 2002/Scotts Valley, California:** A declawed 150-pound tiger, who was being walked on a leash by Zoo to You at a school assembly with 150 children at the Baymonte Christian School, suddenly lunged at a 6-year-old boy and grabbed the child by the head with her jaws. The boy was wrestled away from the tiger by the principal and airlifted to a medical center where he received 55 stitches for two cuts to his scalp. A psychologist gave counseling to the terrified children who witnessed the attack.

**July 25, 2002/Tacoma, Washington:** A 4-year-old male clouded leopard jumped on and scratched both arms of a handler at the Point Defiance Zoo during a behind-the-scenes tour at the zoo. A small group of children was nearby. The woman had to call for help to get the 43-pound cat under control and her wounds were treated at a hospital. The same animal had

scratched another handler's leg 18 days previously. (See July 7, 2002/Tacoma, Washington.)

**July 7, 2002/Tacoma, Washington:** A clouded leopard scratched the legs of a handler at the Point Defiance Zoo.

**July 2002/Nampa, Idaho:** A tiger being used in an exhibition injured a 12-year-old child's finger at For the Birds.

**June 17, 2002/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A tiger at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone bit a teenager on the arm, causing a puncture wound that required stitches.

**May 26, 2002/Hennepin, Illinois:** A 7-year-old girl was bitten by a tiger at a private menagerie as she attempted to pet the animal. The girl required 110 stitches and three months of therapy.

**May 12, 2002/Tampa, Florida:** A 350-pound African lion at Busch Gardens ripped off the arm of a zookeeper who was standing next to the cage while giving a private tour to her family. The attack occurred shortly after the zookeeper had fed the lion pieces of meat during training exercises. The zookeeper filed a lawsuit seeking in excess of \$15,000 in damages.

**April 28, 2002/Pickens County, South Carolina:** According to the Post & Courier, a "pet" tiger was quarantined for biting an 8-year-old boy in the leg after the tiger had been given a bath. The tiger was normally kept in a metal cage in the backyard.

**March 10, 2002/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A tiger at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone bit off a portion of a 14-year-old boy's finger.

**March 9, 2002/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** A cougar suddenly bit Joe Schreibvogel, director of the G.W. Exotic Animal Park, during feeding. The cougar reached out from the cage, grabbed Schreibvogel's sleeve, and began gnawing on his hand, nearly severing his thumb and finger. The man received stitches on his wrist, thumb, palm, and across the entire base of his index finger.

**March 2, 2002/Strafford, Missouri:** Two adult lions escaped from a cage at Exotic Animal Paradise after an employee failed to secure the enclosure. One of the lions was shot with three tranquilizer darts, failed to recover from the sedation, and subsequently died.

**February 15, 2002/Pahrump, Nevada:** Animal exhibitor Karl Mitchell shot and killed one of his tigers after the animal became frightened and escaped his control while being moved to a new residence.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**February 3, 2002/Loxahatchee, Florida:** A woman was hospitalized in critical condition with a skull fracture after she was attacked and bitten by a 750-pound declawed tiger. The woman had been painting in preparation for a photo shoot at Steve Sipek's private animal compound.

**February 1, 2002/Tampa, Florida:** A leashed tiger lurched toward a young boy during a Busch Gardens "animal encounter" during which animals are taken into the park to interact with the public.

**January 24, 2002/Gentry, Arkansas:** Two animal handlers at Wild Wilderness Drive Thru Safari were attacked while transferring cougars between cages. One handler received multiple bites on an arm and leg, and the other was bitten in the face.

**2001-02<sup>3</sup>/Bozeman, Montana:** Two lions held at the Animals of Montana facility escaped from an enclosure that was being cleaned, because the gate wasn't properly latched. One of the lions was fatally shot near the end of the driveway. Mountain lion hounds and a helicopter were called in to search for the other lion, who was shot and killed west of the facility.

**December 29, 2001/Leona, Texas:** A 6-year-old boy was taken to the emergency room after being attacked by a tiger at the Perrydise Exotic Animal Ranch. The child sustained severe lacerations to his face and hand when a tiger reached through the cage and clawed him as he was photographing the animal.

**December 8, 2001/Broward County, Florida:** During a photo session, a 7-year-old boy was bitten on the head by an unattended leopard.

**November 2, 2001/Pahrump, Nevada:** A man was severely injured by a tiger while visiting a private residence. The man was bitten on the arm when he was allowed to feed the animals and required more than \$160,000 in medical care, including reconstructive surgery. A lawsuit was filed against tiger owner Annette Grabowski and her companion, Paul Mason, for negligence and against Nye County for failure to take action despite a previous biting incident.

**October 10, 2001/Lee County, Texas:** A 3-year-old boy was killed by one of three of a relative's "pet" tigers as he was about to have his picture taken with

the animals. The 250-pound tiger snatched the boy from the arms of an adult, clamped down on his leg, and dragged him around the enclosure, causing head injuries. The tiger was beaten on the head until he released the boy's foot.

**July 31, 2001/Center Hill, Florida:** A 500-pound tiger mauled and killed a man making cage repairs at a roadside zoo called Savage Kingdom. The man had sustained a fatal bite to his neck and severe injuries to his head, arm, and ribs. The tiger was later shot and killed by zoo workers.

**July 27, 2001/Racine, Minnesota:** A 2-year-old, 400-pound white Siberian tiger was euthanized for rabies tests after he bit a 7-year-old girl. The tiger had escaped from a cage at a roadside zoo called B.E.A.R.C.A.T. Hollow and attacked the girl, inflicting two puncture wounds that became infected. The tiger was stuffed and mounted.

**June 25, 2001/Nashville, Tennessee:** The Nashville Zoo was evacuated after officials found a cheetah wandering outside of a pen. The cheetah was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**April 29, 2001/Oskaloosa, Kansas:** A Jefferson County sheriff's lieutenant shot and killed an escaped tiger as the tiger crouched in an attack position. The 600-pound tiger ran loose for an hour after fleeing while being unloaded at a traveling zoo called, "Gatekeepers Wildlife Sanctuary." The animal had twice tried to attack a veterinarian when he was shot with a tranquilizer dart.

**April 27, 2001/Oakwood, Ohio:** The Sheriff's Office warned residents to keep their children and companion animals indoors after receiving a report that an escaped lion had been sighted.

**April 7, 2001/Van Buren County, Arkansas:** Three tigers escaped from cages while being moved by court order from a Faulkner County subdivision, where they had been kept in violation of a local ordinance. The tigers were found three hours later, and one died after being tranquilized. After the escape, the sheriff of Van Buren County stated that he did not want the tigers in his county either.

**April 2001/Omaha, Nebraska:** Animal handler Bryan Franzen required stitches after he was clawed by a tiger during a performance at the Tangier Shrine circus.

**March 27, 2001/Morgan County, Missouri:** An African lion at Ozark Nature Center escaped from a cage while animals were being loaded for transport. Terrified residents spent the next four days escorting children and keeping companion animals indoors

<sup>3</sup>The date was obtained from a USDA memo regarding an interview on June 12, 2013, pertaining to escapes at the Animals of Montana facility in Bozeman, Montana.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

while dozens of police officers and conservation agents searched for the animal. The lion was found napping near a road and recaptured.

**March 25, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A tiger with Safari Wildlife attacked and killed a handler. The tiger put his paw on the man's back, pushed him down, and bit his throat. The handler died within minutes from loss of blood. The tiger was used for photo ops with the public and had also appeared in numerous motion pictures and advertisements. He was being groomed for a promotional advertisement when the attack occurred. Another handler was hospitalized with injuries to his knees and puncture wounds.

**March 20, 2001/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A worker spreading gravel in a tiger enclosure at Burnette Farm was mauled and critically injured by a 500-pound tiger. The worker underwent surgery for bite wounds to his neck.

**March 16, 2001/Witts Springs, Arkansas:** A tiger escaped from a backyard menagerie by gnawing her way through the heavy steel enclosure. The tiger was loose for three days, terrorizing residents and biting a dog, who was subsequently treated for three large fang marks on each side of his neck. The tiger continued to elude capture after she was shot in the shoulder by an area resident. She was tranquilized and recaptured after she was located in a thickly wooded area by a police helicopter.

**January 26, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A "pet" cougar escaped from a pen and hopped aboard a school bus. No children were on board at the time. The driver fled from the bus, and animal control workers captured the animal.

**December 20, 2000/Omaha, Nebraska:** A 6-month-old cougar cub pounced on the landlord of a rental home that he was checking on after the tenant was arrested for armed robbery.

**October 21, 2000/Gambier, Ohio:** A 10-year-old boy was knocked to the ground and bitten on the leg by a tiger at the Siberian Tiger Foundation while participating in a "close encounter" at the facility. This was the tenth incident in seven months of people being bitten or otherwise injured by tigers at the facility.

**September 10, 2000/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** A tiger cub bit a man during a photo op at the New Mexico State Fair.

**August 26, 2000/Sioux Falls, South Dakota:** A 14-year-old boy was hospitalized after being mauled by a tiger on his father's farm. The teenager was

hospitalized for more than a month with bite wounds to the leg, neck, and shoulder.

**August 16, 2000/Sapulpa, Oklahoma:** One of two 11-month-old tigers broke loose and frightened nearby children while they were being moved between cages at Safari Joe's.

**August 12, 2000/Boise, Idaho:** A woman was mauled by a tiger at a fundraiser for Zoo Boise after the cat escaped from an unlocked cage. She was hospitalized in serious condition with a broken leg, puncture wounds, and a gunshot wound that she received when police fired their guns to scare the tiger away.

**July 12, 2000/Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin:** An employee at the Irvine Park Zoo in Wisconsin was bitten by a cougar after she tried to pet him. She was hospitalized for three days.

**June 7, 2000/Bloomington, Illinois:** A man was treated for a 3-inch cut and puncture wounds to his hand, inflicted by a snow leopard after he tried to pet the animal at the Miller Park Zoo. A similar incident occurred at the same zoo in September 1995 when a man sustained a 3 1/2-inch gash to his hand when he attempted to pet a leopard.

**May 21, 2000/Kiowa, Colorado:** A tiger ripped off the arm of a volunteer at a zoo in Colorado.

**May 17, 2000/Massachusetts:** A 14-year-old girl was attacked by a tiger at a roadside zoo in Massachusetts. The girl, a part-time employee at the zoo, was feeding the cat when he bit her leg and shook her before releasing her.

**March 15, 2000/Channelview, Texas:** A 3-year-old boy had his arm bitten off by his uncle's "pet" tiger.

**February 23, 2000/Great Bend, Kansas:** A high school student was bitten on the hand and arm by a cougar after sticking her arm into a cage at the Brit Spagh Zoo.

**2000/Jacksonville, Florida:** An elderly woman was bitten on the arm by a tiger cub belonging to the Catty Shack Ranch. A trainer sustained 23 puncture wounds from a cougar and a woman sued the owner of Catty Shack Ranch after she was attacked by the same cougar.

**December 4, 1999/Williamsville, Missouri:** A 5-year-old boy required surgery after he was mauled by a "pet" lion kept chained in a neighbor's yard. The animal inflicted puncture wounds to the boy's throat and head. The lion was killed.





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**October 30, 1999/Buffalo, New York:** A keeper at the Buffalo Zoo was bit and clawed by a leopard.

**October 21, 1999/Evansville, Indiana:** A zookeeper at the Mesker Park Zoo was mauled by a lion who severely injured his leg and arm.

**June 26, 1999/Sterling, Kansas:** A woman with a group of Boy Scouts visiting Safari Zoological Park was attacked by a caged tiger when she put her hand on the cage.

**June 7, 1999/Yorktown, Texas:** A 9-year-old girl was killed when her stepfather's "pet" tiger grabbed her by the neck and dragged her into a water trough.

**April 10, 1999/Pearland, Texas:** A tiger handler had to be airlifted to the hospital after being attacked by a tiger at a defunct roadside zoo. The tiger was killed.

**March 31, 1999/Tyler, Texas:** A woman's arm was nearly severed by a tiger at a compound. A volunteer at the facility, she reached in to pet the tiger, when he attacked. Doctors were unsure whether they would be able to save her arm.

**March 16, 1999/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** A 6-year-old boy was severely injured by a leopard at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo after he climbed over a rope to get a closer look at the animal. Three months earlier, a woman was scratched by a tiger at the zoo after sticking her hand into a cage.

**February 28, 1999/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** A tiger mauled an employee of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo while she was cleaning the cage, causing injuries to her chest, neck and back.

**January 27, 1999/Jackson Township, New Jersey:** Police shot and killed a 431-pound tiger who escaped from the Tigers Only Preservation Society, only a few hundred yards from a subdivision.

**January 7, 1999/Wichita, Kansas:** A 5-month-old tiger cub bit the throat of a 5-year-old child. The tiger belonged to Safari Zoological Park, a roadside zoo that hauls animals around to schools, festivals, and store promotions. The tiger was killed the next day.

**1999/Jacksonville, Florida:** A cougar from the Catty Shack Ranch bit a 19-month-old child.

**December 23, 1998:** A cougar being used by Pangaea Productions for a wildlife show during a birthday party jumped on a 5-year-old girl's back and cut open her scalp from the head to the base of the neck.

**November 21, 1998/Chicago, Illinois:** A Ringling Bros. circus employee was seriously mauled by a tiger used in the circus when three tigers escaped from a cage in a Chicago parking lot. The tiger clawed the handler on his neck and side. This was the second attack by tigers used by Ringling in one year (see January 7, 1998).

**November 18, 1998/Kaufman, Texas:** A Texas man was attacked by his "pet" lion and sustained serious injuries. The adult female lion jumped him from behind.

**November 15, 1998/Chatham County, North Carolina:** A cougar mauled a volunteer with Carnivore Preservation Trust causing numerous bites and deep scratches.

**November 13, 1998/Newberry, Florida:** The same tiger who killed his trainer on October 8, 1998, attacked and killed his owner. The tiger was shot dead.

**November 8, 1998/Cut and Shoot, Texas:** Two "pet" tigers escaped a backyard cage and attacked a dog and a pig before being shot dead by police after charging pursuers. In 1997, a "pet" cougar kept by the same man escaped and was never re-captured.

**October 8, 1998/Newberry, Florida:** A tiger attacked and killed his trainer at the Holiday's Cat Dancer facility. The tiger had been used in the operation's traveling animal show and featured in Shrine circuses. The tiger grabbed the trainer by the throat.

**September 5, 1998/Tampa, Florida:** A woman needed 451 stitches after a leopard latched onto her arm with his mouth, removing skin from her elbow to her wrist. The woman was a volunteer at Wildlife on Easy Street, a breeding complex.

**August 1, 1998/Myakka City, Florida:** A tiger bit the hand of a 14-year-old volunteer with Tiger Claw Productions. The bite stripped flesh and tendons from her hand and required two surgeries to repair.

**July 31, 1998/Vallejo, California:** A woman getting her photo taken at Marine World with a Bengal tiger was mauled and hospitalized with multiple cuts to her neck and throat. A trainer trying to separate them was also injured.

**July 30, 1998/Minot, North Dakota:** A 5-year-old boy sustained facial cuts requiring plastic surgery after being attacked by a tiger at a Bridgeport Nature Center photo booth at the state fair.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**May 2, 1998/Wylie, Texas:** A "pet" cougar bit a 4-year-old boy on the leg. The boy required \$5,800 in medical care.

**May 1998:** The same cougar who bit a handler with Pangaea Productions in March was used in a photo session with children two months later. The animal attacked an 8-year-old boy, and the handler was bitten on the hand trying to stop the attack. The child required emergency room treatment to close the wound to his thigh.

**May 1, 1998/Wichita, Kansas:** A tiger scratched or bit an adult while the animal was appearing at a store's promotional event.

**April 7, 1998/Charlotte, North Carolina:** Two lions at the Charlotte Metro Zoo attacked a keeper, one biting him on the leg while the other took the man's head in his mouth. The keeper sustained deep puncture wounds to his head and leg. He had to be airlifted to a trauma center.

**April 1, 1998/Arkansas:** A tiger attacked a worker at a breeding compound, biting him on the neck.

**March 1998:** A handler with Pangaea Productions, a traveling exhibitor based in Miami, was bitten by a tiger after sticking her finger in a cage. Her finger was severed and surgically reattached.

**February 10, 1998/Lincolnton, North Carolina:** A leopard nearly killed his trainer after attacking her at a Royal Palace Circus performance in North Carolina. The trainer sustained injuries requiring reconstructive surgery and hospitalization for a week.

**January 7, 1998/St. Petersburg, Florida:** A trainer with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus sustained severe head wounds after a tiger grabbed him by the head and dragged him around the ring. He was hospitalized in critical condition and required extensive surgery. The trainer's brother shot the tiger five times after the animal had been returned to the cage, killing him.

**1998/Harris County, Texas:** A 4-year-old girl was mauled by a Bridgeport Nature Center tiger during photo ops at a county fair. The girl required stitches and \$17,000 in plastic surgery to her leg. The girl's family filed a lawsuit against Bridgeport.

**October 22, 1997/Calabasas, California:** The same jaguar who attacked a trainer on October 16, 1997, attacked another trainer who sustained bite wounds on his leg and a cut to his hand on a movie set.

**October 16, 1997/Calabasas, California:** A trainer on a movie set in California underwent surgery to repair a broken leg after being attacked by a jaguar. She was expected to remain hospitalized in fair condition for several days.

**August 17, 1997/Marshfield, Massachusetts:** A 13-year-old girl was taken to the emergency room after being bitten by a Bridgeport Nature Center tiger during a photo session in Massachusetts. The girl had to undergo painful rabies treatment. The Marshfield Animal Control Department reported "several" other bites associated with this photo booth.

**June 7, 1997/Scappoose, Oregon:** A woman sustained deep puncture wounds to the neck and post-traumatic stress disorder when she was attacked by a neighbor's "pet" leopard.

**May 8, 1997/Lubbock, Texas:** One of five "pet" tigers mauled his owner. The man was admitted to the hospital in critical condition. The owner's son killed the tiger.

**May 7, 1997/Carrolltown, Pennsylvania:** A tiger used in the Franzen Bros. Circus killed a trainer in front of 200 horrified schoolchildren.

**May 4, 1997/Knox County, Tennessee:** A tiger clawed a 4-year-old boy who got too close to the cage at Joe Robinson's roadside menagerie. The child sustained long lacerations to his leg and buttock.

**April 28, 1997/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A leopard who had escaped from a cage killed a woman at an exotic-animal "sanctuary." The leopard ran into the woods and was shot more than seven hours later after he came out and loped up a road after dark.

**April 27, 1997/San Antonio, Texas:** A man lost his finger when he tried to pet a tiger during a failed break-in with a friend at an exotic-animal orphanage.

**March 19, 1997/Orlando, Florida:** A tiger escaped from a cage and mauled a keeper at exotic-cat-breeding compound. The keeper sustained a broken thigh, a crushed knee, and severed arteries and veins in his leg. Authorities later shot and killed the tiger because they feared the animal would jump a perimeter fence and flee the compound.

**March 18, 1997/San Antonio, Texas:** A tiger climbed over a 10-foot fence to escape from a wildlife animal refuge, killing an ostrich and a duck as well as injuring a llama before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**March 12, 1997/Caudwell, Texas:** A 13-year-old boy was attacked by a "pet" tiger and a lion kept in a cage



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

built into the side of his grandfather's house. The boy's father said, "My boy was not mauled, he was being eaten alive."

**1997/Kirbyville, Texas:** A tiger bit two fingers off the left hand of Monique Woodard, owner of the Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage. Doctors were able to reattach one of the fingers.

**December 21, 1996/Brooklyn Park, Minnesota:** Three pet-supply store workers were bitten or scratched by a 7-month-old tiger who had been brought to the store to have his picture taken. The three workers agreed to receive rabies shots.

**October 8, 1996/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A Las Vegas animal trainer had to undergo surgery on his feet and legs after being mauled by a tiger.

**September 16, 1996/Crystal Beach, Texas:** A declawed "pet" lioness died after she was shot and tranquilized by a deputy. The lioness attacked a man after a burglar had apparently set her free.

**July 18, 1996/Middletown, New York:** A white tiger from Hawthorn Corporation bit the hand of a carnival worker while performing at the Orange County Fair.

**May 7, 1996/Midlothian, Texas:** A 6-year-old girl was critically injured in an attack by a tiger, one of six big cats on a breeding farm. The girl's mother was also injured as she tried to rescue her daughter. During the investigation, it was found that these same cats had been involved in three previous documented attacks.

**January 5, 1996/Vallejo, California:** One trainer at Marine World Africa was seriously hurt and another received minor injuries when they were attacked by two cougars as they prepared to take the cougars for a walk.

**December 26, 1995/Quinlen, Texas:** A 3-year-old toddler was mauled by his family's "pet" cougar, and his 6-year-old sister sustained minor injuries in the attack. The cougar was shot and killed.

**December 18, 1995/Fort Worth, Texas:** A tiger at the Fort Worth Zoo leaped an 11-foot-wide moat and attacked a zookeeper. The keeper was bitten on the shoulder, arm, and hand and was off work for a few weeks.

**November 23, 1995/Raleigh, North Carolina:** A "pet" Bengal tiger mauled and critically injured a 3-year-old boy while his father was walking the animal on a leash. The tiger was shot and killed.

**November 13, 1995/Memphis, Tennessee:** Two Sumatran tigers mauled a man who entered an enclosure at the Memphis Zoo.

**November 1, 1995/Washington, D.C.:** House Speaker Newt Gingrich was bitten on the chin by a baby cougar he was holding. The bite drew blood but was not considered a serious injury.

**October 29, 1995/Allegan, Michigan:** While her 9-year-old daughter watched in horror, a woman was attacked and killed by a "pet" lion after she entered a cage at the home of a friend who collected exotic animals. The friend was severely injured when he tried to stop the attack.

**September 30, 1995/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A lion being used by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bit off the index finger of a woman who put her hand in a cage in a staging area.

**September 27, 1995/Lava Hot Springs, Idaho:** Nineteen lions at Ligertown Game Farm were shot and killed after escaping the complex.

**September 19, 1995/Haysville, Kansas:** A man shot and killed an African lion he found pacing on his driveway after the lion had escaped from a neighbor's pen.

**September 18, 1995/Wesley, Kansas:** A 2-year-old boy required hospital treatment for a severe bite on his ear from the family's 4-month-old cougar.

**September 18, 1995/Wichita, Kansas:** A cougar was recaptured after escaping a week earlier.

**September 1995/Bloomington, Illinois:** A man sustained a 3½-inch gash to his hand when he attempted to pet a leopard at the Miller Park Zoo.

**August 6, 1995/Phoenix, Arizona:** A cougar at the Phoenix Zoo gashed a 5-year-old boy's arm and scratched the side of his chest after he wandered too close to the cage. He required stitches to close the wound on his arm.

**June 2, 1995/Queens, New York:** A 2-year-old boy was bitten by his neighbor's "pet" cougar when he reached through a barred window to pet the animal. The 9-month-old cougar nearly severed one of the boy's fingers, which was reattached at the hospital.

**May 28, 1995/Novi, Michigan:** Seven lions and tigers toppled onto a freeway when the trailer they were in came unhitched. One tiger bolted across traffic, leading police on a four-hour chase before being shot with a tranquilizer gun.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**March 5, 1995/Washington, D.C.:** A woman was fatally mauled by lions after climbing into an enclosure at the National Zoo. The body was so battered and shredded so violently that her fingerprints were gone and her face was almost unrecognizable.

**December 1994/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** A zookeeper at the Riverside Zoo required surgery to repair her larynx and trachea, which had to be replaced after she was attacked by a leopard.

**October 10, 1994/San Diego, California:** San Diego Zoo animal trainer Joan Embery sustained two long, deep gashes on her face by a cheetah she was exhibiting on a television talk show.

**September 5, 1994/Jasper, Alabama:** A tiger escaped from the private menagerie of Earl and Debra Dobbins and was shot and killed by a neighbor. Another tiger on the Dobbins' property was taken to the Birmingham Zoo.

**June 18, 1994/Columbia, South Carolina:** A tiger at an exotic-animal farm mauled a 17-year-old worker.

**June 6, 1994/Miami, Florida:** A senior zookeeper with 20 years' experience was mauled and killed by a tiger at Miami Metrozoo.

**April 5, 1994/Jackson, Mississippi:** An 80-pound cheetah scaled an 8-foot fence and pounced on an 8-year-old boy at the Jackson Zoo. The boy was scratched and nipped before the cheetah was recaptured.

**March 22, 1994/Beech Grove, Arkansas:** A 150-pound declawed "pet" cougar escaped and attacked a 71-year-old year neighbor, inflicting deep bite wounds to the man's shoulder and arm.

**March 1994/Leon, Kansas:** A "pet" 143-pound African lioness bit an 11-year-old girl.

**February 1994/Leon, Kansas:** An 11-year-old boy sustained a bite wound by a "pet" lion he had been told was tame.

**December 12, 1993/Palm Beach, Florida:** A worker at the Lion Country Safari was attacked by a lion, sustaining more than 20 puncture wounds as well as crushed ribs, collapsed lungs, and a torn scalp.

**September 14, 1993/Joplin, Missouri:** A circus employee lost part of her arm after an attack by a tiger on the circus's animal farm. Doctors had to amputate her arm below the elbow.

**August 9, 1993/Georgetown, Ohio:** A 16-year-old boy was hospitalized with facial cuts after a lion attacked him. He and his 17-year-old brother were out walking when a "pet" lion escaped from a cage and attacked them unprovoked. The older boy hit the lion several times, and then the boys fled. The lion was later shot to death by sheriff's deputies when they were unable to subdue him.

**May 6, 1993/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A keeper feeding a trio of lions in the backyard of a Las Vegas residence was hospitalized after one of the cats attacked her. The Circus Vargas employee sustained five gouges to her leg. During an April performance in Seoul, South Korea, another employee was bitten by a lion.

**May 6, 1993/Bronx, New York:** A man with a history of mental instability was mauled by two lions at the Bronx Zoo after he climbed into the cage and sat down between them as dozens of tourists and schoolchildren watched. The man was hospitalized and received stitches in his head and face.

**April 17, 1993/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A tiger performing with the Shrine circus at the Barton Coliseum escaped, ran into the audience, and bit a 13-year-old girl. The tiger was owned and trained by Jordan Circus.

**February 24, 1993/Norfolk, Virginia:** Graham Chipperfield, a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus big cat trainer, was mauled by a lion while breaking up a fight between two other lions. He was hospitalized for his injuries.

**February 3, 1993/Wichita, Kansas:** A keeper was hospitalized in serious condition with wounds to his face and neck after being mauled by a Bengal tiger at Tanganyika Wildlife Company. The tiger lunged through the open door of a cage and attacked when the keeper bent down to pick up something. A second keeper attempted to beat the tiger away with a shovel and then shot and killed the tiger.

**November 29, 1992/Pahrump, Nevada:** A man was severely bitten by a tiger owned by animal trainer Alex Pasternak. The tiger had to be shot before he would release his grip. The injured man received 35 stitches in his arm as a result of the bite.

**September 27, 1992/Reno, Nevada:** A Reno illusionist sustained puncture wounds to his leg and arm that went "down to the bone" by a tiger being used in a performance.

**May 21, 1992/Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania:** Two tigers with Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus escaped from an unlocked cage during a performance. One roamed around the center ring,





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

frightening more than 1,500 spectators before he was recaptured.

**April 7, 1992/Iron Hill, Delaware:** One of two cougars used by a private breeder jumped 12 feet and attacked a visitor, clamping his teeth into the back of her neck and dragging her farther into the cage. The injured woman was later treated at a hospital for several puncture wounds and scratches to her head, neck, and upper back. The breeder said that he would sell the two animals and might replace them with a cub.

**March 1992/Portland, Oregon:** A "pet" lion/tiger hybrid attacked an 11-year-old girl, who had to undergo surgery to repair extensive muscle damage in her arm. The animal would not let go and had to be shot and killed.

**October 9, 1991/Manchester, New Hampshire:** A model was hospitalized for five days and received 50 stitches and rabies shots after being attacked by a lion during a photo session in New Hampshire. A court awarded her a judgment of \$75,000 on March 24, 1995.

**September 29, 1991/Jackson County, Kansas:** A caged lion bit a man on the hand, causing puncture wounds that required stitches, after the man attempted to pet the lion at a Christmas tree farm.

**September 17, 1991/Tucson, Arizona:** A caged lion cub bit the arm of a 3-year-old girl at the Reid Park Zoo.

**August 17, 1991/Fresno, California:** A lion with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bit a man who had put his hand in the cage because he "only wanted to touch" the lion.

**June 1, 1991/Anderson County, South Carolina:** A "pet" lion escaped from a chain-link enclosure in a backyard, entered a mobile home and attacked a 5-year-old girl and her grandmother. The girl required stitches to wounds on her throat and chest, and the grandmother's hand was punctured by the lion's teeth. The lion's owner later shot and killed the animal.

**April 18, 1991/Wilkesboro, North Carolina:** A 3-year-old girl was attacked by a leopard who had escaped while traveling with the Great American Circus. The girl sustained large lacerations on her neck, which required stitches.

**1991:** A tiger grabbed and dragged a trainer by her hip during a live performance. The injuries required 84 stitches.

**November 5, 1990/Phoenix, Arizona:** A woman visiting a Phoenix resort was attacked by a tiger while his trainer was walking him on a leash. Witnesses reported that the tiger acted like a "pussycat" only moments before the attack. The woman was hospitalized with puncture wounds.

**August 9, 1990/Sturgis, South Dakota:** A 5-year-old girl was mauled by a leopard who was restrained by a small chain on a box in Engessor's Endangered Species traveling act. The girl's mother sued for \$100,000 in damages.

**June 1990/Sidney, Montana:** A leopard in a petting zoo bit a 7-year-old boy. The owner of the leopard said that he had no intention of stopping his shows.

**May 29, 1990/San Francisco, California:** A zookeeper was mauled by a leopard in front of schoolchildren at a San Francisco zoo. The keeper underwent hospital treatment for deep wounds to his head, shoulders, and arm.

# Primate Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial listing of incidents involving captive primates in the United States since 1990. These incidents have resulted in the deaths of 37 primates and one human as well as injuries to 235 humans. Contact PETA for documentation.

**November 19, 2015/Harlingen, Texas:** A monkey being kept as a "pet" in a backyard cage escaped from the enclosure. Three people were bitten when they tried to capture the animal, including an 84-year-old woman who went to the hospital. Animal control was able to capture the monkey.

**September 29, 2015/Sanford, Florida:** Police were called when a monkey named Zeek started eating the contents of someone's mailbox. When the patrol car arrived, Zeek began pulling the molding off it. The person responsible for Zeek was able to retrieve him and take him home, where he was kept as a "pet."

**July 11, 2015/Memphis, Tennessee:** Zimm, a 3-year-old monkey, was recaptured after having escaped from an enclosure at the Memphis Zoo nearly two days earlier. She was found in the zoo's drainage-ditch system.

**July 2, 2015/Los Angeles, California:** According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection report, two cotton-top tamarins at the Los Angeles Zoo were discovered to be missing from the open enclosure that they were confined to. The enclosure had access points that would allow entry of unauthorized animals. The remains of one tamarin were found, but there was no evidence of the second, and he was presumed dead. A zoo representative stated that footage from cameras in the area showed a bobcat carrying off one tamarin. The bobcat was still at large.

**May 1, 2015/Los Angeles, California:** According to a USDA inspection report, two François' langurs escaped from a holding area at the Los Angeles Zoo after a keeper left the enclosure and secondary containment doors unsecured. The langurs walked into a keepers' bathroom, and a volunteer closed the door behind them. The langurs were netted, sedated, and returned to the holding area.

**March 25, 2015/Charlotte, North Carolina:** According to local media, a capuchin monkey named

Carter attacked and scratched a maintenance worker in the parking lot of the Carolinas Medical Center-University. The maintenance worker had tried to contain Carter in a bin until animal control could arrive, but the monkey attacked him and then escaped into a nearby wooded area. He was captured the next day when he returned to the parking lot. Carter was kept as a "pet" and had been involved in an incident the previous year. The owner was to have produced the monkey for seizure following that incident since he was in violation of an ordinance that prohibited exotic animals within city limits, but he failed to do so.

**August 3, 2014/Riverside County, California:** A woman was attacked by a capuchin monkey outside a pizzeria. She sustained a laceration to her forearm and was taken to a local hospital. The capuchin and two other monkeys were confiscated from the owner since she didn't have a permit to have them. The capuchin involved in the attack was placed under a six-month quarantine.

**July 10, 2014/St. Paul, Minnesota:** Three gorillas escaped from an enclosure through an unlatched door, delaying the Como Park Zoo's opening by 40 minutes. They were found wandering a hall located behind enclosures used to hold orangutans and gorillas.

**June 25, 2014/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Pu'iwa, a 15-year-old chimpanzee, used a barrel to escape from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and moved into sleeping quarters. He had been out of the enclosure for about an hour.

**May 23, 2014/Maiden, North Carolina:** A rhesus macaque named Zander jumped on the back of an employee at Buffalo Beals Animal Park and bit her on both ears when she entered the enclosure to clean it. After Zander was pulled from the employee, another caretaker grabbed the water bowl from the enclosure to change the water, which left a hole big enough for Zander to escape through. The macaque then attacked a 3-year-old, injuring both of the child's legs and one arm.

**April 10, 2014/Kansas City, Missouri:** Seven chimpanzees escaped from an enclosure at the Kansas City Zoo. They used a large tree branch to access the wall of the exhibit in order to climb out. Patrons were moved into a locked building until all the chimpanzees were lured back into the enclosure with malted milk balls.

**January 8, 2014/Gentry, Arkansas:** According to a USDA inspection report, at the time of the inspection at least two lemurs were chewing on a live electrical wire outside the enclosure used to confine them.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**January 2014/Vermilion, Ohio:** An employee with Pat O'Brien Chevrolet was taken to an area hospital after a customer's pet spider monkey, Brodi, bit him. The police investigated and discovered that the owner was in illegal possession of him. Although it was confirmed that Brodi had been vaccinated for rabies, he was euthanized. The rabies test came back negative.

**October 31, 2013/Moyock, North Carolina:** Four pet capuchins escaped from a private residence. One monkey bit a man while he was helping to recapture them. One monkey was shot and injured with a "conventional weapon," and another died after being shot with a tranquilizer. The three survivors were taken to the Currituck County Animal Control for quarantine.

**October 23, 2013/Fredericksburg, Texas:** A capuchin monkey escaped from a Birdshots Entertainment travel trailer and bit a neighbor on the elbow.

**July 10, 2013/Independence, Kansas:** Two capuchins escaped from the enclosures that they were confined to at the Ralph Mitchell Zoo. One was recaptured shortly afterward, but the second was found dead two days later on the zoo's property.

**June 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A capuchin monkey bit a teenage patron as the monkey was being exhibited by Birdshots Entertainment. This was the second such incident in two months. (See April 21, 2013.)

**June 19, 2013/Miami-Dade County, Florida:** Over a period of weeks, residents spotted a loose monkey in various neighborhoods. Police were unable to apprehend the animal, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission warned people not to touch or attempt to recapture the monkey.

**June 18, 2013/Conway, Arkansas:** A "pet" macaque monkey escaped from an animal clinic where he was being treated. Joey broke the lock on his cage and opened the back door, triggering an alarm. Police were able to get him back into the building, but an officer was bitten on his knuckle as he was helping to put Joey back into a steel cage.

**June 7, 2013/Alexandria, Louisiana:** A monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Alexandria Zoological Park. He ran past patrons and climbed a tree, forcing the zoo to shut down until it was able to recapture him later that day.

**June 2, 2013/St. Louis, Missouri:** A 6-year-old boy sustained lacerations and bites to his arm from a "pet" Java macaque. The monkey's guardian had taken the

monkey and her dog to a dog event in a public park. The boy was bitten as he attempted to pet the dog.

**May 18, 2013/Neville, Ohio:** Authorities fatally shot a loose monkey whom residents spotted sitting and eating in a tree. The monkey was believed to have been someone's "pet."

**April 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A capuchin monkey being exhibited by Birdshots Entertainment bit a patron on the thumb.

**March 29, 2013/New Orleans, Louisiana:** Kivuli, a colobus monkey at the Audubon Zoo, escaped from an enclosure, causing the zoo to shut down until he was recaptured.

**March 27, 2013/Pawnee County, Oklahoma:** A "pet" capuchin who had been loose for a week was recaptured after being lured with fruit by area residents. The owner had previously told the Pawnee County sheriff's deputies that the capuchin had escaped from a cage and to shoot him if they found him.

**January 21, 2013/North Miami Beach, Florida:** Two lemurs escaped from a cage in which they were kept in the owners' backyard. Before being recaptured, one attacked a 2-year-old girl and scratched her face.

**December 4, 2012/Grapeland, Texas:** A lemur attacked a postal carrier as she was delivering mail to a rural address. As she was stopped at the mailbox, Keanu leapt into her vehicle and bit her on the arm and hand before jumping back out. Authorities took Keanu away to hold him for a 30-day quarantine.

**October 24, 2012/Tampa Bay, Florida:** A rhesus monkey who had eluded authorities for two years was finally recaptured after he bit a woman sitting in her backyard. The monkey was put under quarantine.

**September 29, 2012/Cherokee, North Carolina:** A capuchin named George was able to get off the island and access the barrier surrounding his enclosure at Santa's Land. George then made contact with the public and bit a child. The USDA later fined Santa's Land for this incident.

**August 18, 2012/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Elvis, a 14-year-old siamang gibbon, escaped from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo. He grabbed a volunteer and scratched the man's left leg. Carbon dioxide dispensers were used to direct Elvis back to the cage.

**August 11, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** C.J., a chimpanzee who had escaped from her home the



## Primate Incidents in the United States

previous month, escaped again. Police and animal control set up a perimeter in the neighborhood to contain her, and she was eventually shot with a tranquilizer and moved to a facility better equipped to handle her until a plan for her future could be made.

**July 12, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their owner's home, which led to a nearly two-hour attempt by police to recapture them in a residential area. During this time, residents were advised to stay indoors or in their vehicles. Police shot and killed Buddy, a male chimpanzee, but were able to tranquilize and recapture C.J., Buddy's female companion.

**June, 2012/Texas:** A police officer making a routine traffic stop was bitten on the hand by a capuchin who jumped out from the backseat as the officer was serving a citation to the driver. Apparently, the monkey was used for photo opportunities, in which people have their photo taken with the animal.

**May 12, 2012/Bordentown, New Jersey:** One of three spider monkeys bit a child who was able to get through a split-rail barrier fence around the animals' exhibit at the Animal Kingdom Zoo.

**March 19, 2012/Buffalo, New York:** A 24-year-old 400-pound male gorilla named Koga escaped from a cage at the Buffalo Zoo and bit a zookeeper on the hand and calf. Police had locked down the zoo, and Koga was tranquilized and captured in a zookeepers' lounge.

**February 19, 2012/Kansas City, Missouri:** Two 19-year-old 400-pound gorillas escaped from enclosures at the Kansas City Zoo. Handlers used ladders to scale the retaining wall in order to escape to safety. Mbundi and Ntondo were guided back to the holding area with water hoses.

**January 2012/Chesapeake, Virginia:** A capuchin escaped from an exotic-animal business, Spellbound, after his enclosure door was left open during feeding. Animal control recaptured the capuchin more than a month later.

**August 12, 2011/Springfield, Missouri:** A macaque monkey named Charlie bit an 8-year-old girl in a Walmart parking lot. Her family had parked next to a vehicle in which Charlie and the humans who kept him as a "pet" were parked. The girl reached in to pet Charlie, and he jumped up and bit her on the head. He was being tested for any diseases while the girl was treated with antibiotics and antivirals.

**July 30, 2011/Las Vegas, Nevada:** The Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NVOSHA) noted that the owner of the Southern

Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park expected employees to enter the Barbary apes' enclosure to feed, water, and clean them with no protection from a possible attack. When the apes were being moved from one enclosure to another, an ape scratched an employee. Later, that same employee along with two others "were asked to walk around the interior of the enclosure to simulate the animal's [sic] troop," again with no protection. In February 2012, NVOSHA marked the direct contact with primates as a serious violation and fined the facility \$4,200, which it ultimately paid.

**July 2, 2011/Jasper, New Jersey:** A baboon claimed by the Six Flags Great Adventure theme park evaded capture by local officials for three days before being caught 10 miles away from the facility on a farm. Police received reports of more than a dozen sightings and warned residents to stay indoors during that time.

**April 2011/Surry County, Virginia:** According to local news station WTKR, a Java macaque attacked his owner, injuring the man's nose and wrist. Authorities were not notified until the man checked himself into a local hospital. The report also noted that in a separate incident in 2010, another man had lost both of his thumbs after his "pet" capuchin monkey attacked him.

**March 15, 2011/West Knoxville, Tennessee:** Three police officers, an animal control officer, and a crime-scene technician were dispatched to a local residence after a report that a "pet" capuchin monkey had been found in a backyard tree. The 4-pound, 46-year-old monkey was recaptured when her caretaker eventually arrived on the scene.

**March 11, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah:** All four spider monkeys at the Hogle Zoo escaped from an enclosure and were seen climbing trees and approaching local wildlife, all while in close proximity to the public, before keepers recaptured them.

**March 2, 2011/Fort Madison, Iowa:** Authorities discovered that a 10-year-old child who had been taken to the Fort Madison Hospital for a cat bite had actually been bitten by a "pet" macaque.

**January 14, 2011/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** A keeper at the Riverside Discovery Center was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when she attempted to pet the animal. When the chimpanzee grabbed the woman's hand, the woman began screaming, which attracted another chimpanzee, who also grabbed her hand. The keeper's index and ring fingers on one hand were bitten off at the knuckles, and the middle finger was lacerated. She was taken to a hospital for treatment.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**January 10, 2011/Meigs, Georgia:** A capuchin with Brian Staples' traveling exhibit escaped while he was being transferred from his primary enclosure. Sven was missing for two days in temperatures that ranged from 35 to 43 degrees Fahrenheit.

**December 22, 2010/Miami, Florida:** A "pet" capuchin monkey escaped and bit a person, who was taken to the hospital. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took possession of the monkey to determine if the animal had rabies.

**November 7, 2010/Oneida Castle, New York:** Robert Jones' 8-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey, Jada, escaped from Jones' home by opening a screen door. The animal wandered into a neighbor's yard and attacked a woman who was outside playing with her son. Jada jumped onto the woman's arm and then bit her finger when she reached out to keep the monkey away from the child. The woman was taken to the hospital for puncture wounds. The fire department, state police, and sheriff were called to the scene. Jada was captured and killed in order to be tested for rabies.

**November 2010/Phoenix, Arizona:** A "pet" rhesus macaque bit a person on the hand and was subsequently killed.

**October 19, 2010/Kansas City, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's adult "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, escaped from a cage inside a truck and rampaged through a Kansas City neighborhood for 40 minutes. Sueko charged at two young girls who were out for a morning walk, opened the passenger door of a sport utility vehicle that drove into the neighborhood, broke a gate and a fence, and pounded on parked vehicles, passing cars, and the front door of a house. As authorities attempted to tranquilize the animal, Sueko charged a police car, pushed a trash can against its front bumper, climbed onto the car's hood, pounded on the roof, and kicked the windshield, breaking it. Sueko was finally recaptured when she walked into Archigo's van. Archigo has been in and out of legal trouble over Sueko since 1995 (see the entries titled "2000/Jackson County, Missouri," and "1995/Kansas City, Missouri").

**September 2010/San Antonio, Texas:** A spider monkey escaped from Primarily Primates after an enclosure was damaged by a tropical storm. The monkey traveled at least 6 miles in one day and was on the loose for nine days before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**August 28, 2010/Miami, Florida:** A white-handed gibbon escaped an enclosure at Jungle Island after a worker left the gate open. The gibbon jumped into a tiger enclosure, and a 500-pound tiger jumped over a

fence and escaped into the park while chasing the ape. At one point, the tiger came face to face with a 2-year-old toddler. More than 100 park visitors were ushered into a dark barn for protection. Four people were hurt during the chaos and were treated for minor injuries. A fifth person was transported to a hospital after suffering a panic attack. The gibbon was later found on a picnic table and recaptured.

**July 31, 2010/Greenwich, New York:** A lemur at the Ashville Game Farm bit a 7-year-old boy. The boy was petting the lemur as other people were feeding the animal when the boy was bitten on the thumb. The victim received a series of rabies shots, and a judge ordered that three lemurs at the facility be killed and tested for rabies.

**July 21, 2010/Hamilton County, Indiana:** A 40-pound, 3-foot-tall "pet" patas monkey injured a teenage boy and bit a family dog on the ear after escaping from a cage and running through the family's house for 20 minutes. Someone in the house called 911 and told the dispatcher that the monkey was a dangerous wild animal. A witness to the attack on the boy remarked that he had "never seen any animal jump on top of somebody and just start attacking him." Family members locked themselves in different rooms to avoid the monkey until police, paramedics, and animal control responded to the 911 call.

**July 21, 2010/Mechanicsville, Virginia:** Six chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at Windy Oaks Animal Farm when a gate was left open. Two male chimpanzees were still on the loose when animal control received a call about the incident. Upon arriving at the scene, the animal control officer was advised by Curtis Shepperson, owner of Windy Oaks, to stay in his car in order to avoid further agitating the chimpanzees. Windy Oaks did not have knowledgeable staff or equipment on site to tranquilize the escaped chimpanzees. At least two hours after animal control was first called to the scene, a sheriff's deputy shot one of the chimpanzees with a dart, and the animal was returned to the enclosure. Animal control officials and sheriff's deputies searched the compound for the second chimpanzee but could not find him. He was recaptured the next day. According to Windy Oaks' veterinarian, this escape was the third such incident at the facility.

**July 18, 2010/Catskill, New York:** A woman was mauled by a "pet" capuchin monkey who was being kept at the Kaaterskill Lodge. The victim was taking photographs of the monkey when the animal jumped out of the enclosure and attacked her. The woman was left with a scar down her cheek and had to receive rabies shots because Allen Hirsch, the owner



## Primate Incidents in the United States

of the lodge, disappeared with the monkey after the attack.

**July 17, 2010/Wichita, Kansas:** Nine chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at the Sedgwick County Zoo and were found in a maintenance area when keepers arrived at work in the morning. Eight of the chimpanzees were returned to the enclosure, but one adult male was loose for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**March 29, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia:** Babe Hamerick was attacked for the second time in two weeks by Noah, his "pet" capuchin monkey. The monkey reportedly went "berserk" and attacked Hamerick's legs and bit his left hand, severing his pinky finger. Police, animal control, and paramedics were called to the scene, and the victim was taken to a hospital, where he underwent surgery for his injuries.

**March 17, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia:** Babe Hamerick was attacked by his "pet" capuchin monkey, Noah, when he accidentally stepped on the monkey's foot. The man described the attack as worse than war, which he claimed was "a breeze compared to my little fight with [Noah, which] cut the vein, tore ligaments out of my wrists. I'm pumping blood all over." His injuries were treated at a hospital.

**March 4, 2010/St. Petersburg, Florida:** A rhesus macaque was shot twice with tranquilizer darts but managed to elude wildlife officials who were attempting to capture the animal. The monkey had been on the loose for more than a year.

**February 2010/Palm Harbor, Florida:** Two chimpanzees at Suncoast Primate Sanctuary, a roadside zoo, escaped from a cage that was not properly secured. One of the animals, described as typically gentle, relentlessly attacked and chased a female volunteer. The victim, who escaped the attack by locking herself in a bathroom, was hospitalized for treatment of serious injuries, including a deep laceration on the back of her head, damaged tendons in her right hand, and bite wounds on her thigh, back, and abdomen. When a sheriff's deputy responded to the incident, he was denied access and reported that zoo staff were "very uncooperative and intentionally deceptive and evasive."

**2010/Jacksonville, North Carolina:** A pigtail macaque at the Lynnwood Park Zoo was shot to death after biting the roadside zoo's owner.

**November 22, 2009/LaPorte, Indiana:** A 10-month-old girl was attacked by a "pet" Java macaque belonging to Richard and Laura Burlos. The attack occurred when the girl was held too close to the cage.

The monkey grabbed the hood of the infant's coat, as well as her hair, causing the baby's head to strike the metal cage repeatedly. The baby sustained a "rope burn" to her neck that was caused by the drawstring on her coat and had red marks on the back of her head because her head had hit the cage.

**November 12, 2009/Tampa, Florida:** A macaque got loose in a residential neighborhood. It was not known where the monkey escaped from or how the animal got loose.

**October 2009/Pine Mountain, Georgia:** A mangabey at Wild Animal Safari escaped while staff members were moving the animal from one enclosure to another. The monkey was shot and killed by zookeepers after climbing the zoo's perimeter fence.

**September 6, 2009/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** Four spider monkeys escaped from an enclosure at the Riverside Zoo while they were being fed. One of the monkeys attacked a zookeeper, who sustained bites to her arms and legs. The bites required multiple stitches. Three of the monkeys were quickly recaptured, but the fourth monkey remained loose on zoo grounds for approximately five hours.

**September 1, 2009/Los Angeles, California:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their crates while they were being unloaded at the Los Angeles Zoo following their transfer from Wildlife Waystation, which had been threatened by a wildfire. One chimpanzee climbed over the fence and into Griffith Park, where she was spotted approximately an hour later and secured in the back of a truck. The other chimpanzee remained loose on zoo grounds for 20 minutes before being tranquilized.

**June 12, 2009/Columbia, South Carolina:** A 390-pound gorilla at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden escaped by grabbing some low-hanging bamboo, scaling the 12-foot-4-inch wall of the enclosure, and climbing over two high-voltage security wires. The animal rushed at two food-service employees, pushing one aside and knocking the other down before jumping back into the enclosure. One of the employees was taken to a hospital, where he was treated for cuts and bruises.

**June 5, 2009/Candia, New Hampshire:** A macaque escaped from an enclosure at Charmingfare Farm when a worker left two doors unlocked. The worker was bitten on his calf as he tried to recapture the animal. As a result of his injuries, the worker required medical attention.

**May 26, 2009/Columbus, Ohio:** A gorilla at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium escaped from an enclosure through a door that was improperly secured





## Primate Incidents in the United States

and walked into a hallway used by zookeepers. Visitors were evacuated from the area, and the zoo's entrance was closed for approximately 45 minutes. While the entrance was closed, the gorilla was coaxed back into the enclosure.

**April 21, 2009/Corpus Christi, Texas:** A squirrel monkey bit a man who was transporting the animal to Michigan. Animal control officers planned to quarantine the monkey for three months to test for diseases.

**April 18, 2009/Salem, Oregon:** A man's "pet" monkey bit a 6-year-old girl at a park. The monkey lunged at the girl, grabbed her hair, scratched her, and bit her under the left eye, leaving two puncture marks. The man left the park before authorities arrived. The girl was taken to an urgent-care facility, where she was treated.

**April 14, 2009/Springfield, Missouri:** A rhesus macaque escaped from an exotic-animal menagerie owned by Debby Rose. The macaque went to a nearby home, and when the homeowner knocked on a window to scare the animal off, the macaque lunged at the window.

**April 3, 2009/Portland, Oregon:** Nine macaques escaped from the Oregon Health & Science University when a worker left the cage unlocked. It took almost three days to recapture all the monkeys.

**March 30, 2009/Winston, Missouri:** A 9-year-old chimpanzee named Timmy escaped from a cage (which measured 10 feet by 6 feet) at a private residence and ran loose on a nearby state highway. Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to help recapture the chimpanzee, who at one point opened a deputy's patrol car door, grabbed the deputy's leg, and tried to strike him. When the chimpanzee attempted to attack the man again, the chimpanzee was shot and killed. The deputy suffered minor injuries, and the owners of the chimpanzee suffered cuts and scratches.

**March 13, 2009/Fruitland Park, Florida:** A spider monkey named Reggie escaped from the Liebling Family Circus when the circus owner failed to latch a leash correctly. The monkey fled into nearby woods and was not recaptured until nearly five weeks later.

**February 25, 2009/East Ridge, Tennessee:** An obese "pet" spider monkey was found wandering through someone's yard and was captured by animal control officials.

**February 25, 2009/Athens, Georgia:** An animal-care technician at the University of Georgia suffered a severe bite to her thumb while cleaning the cage of a capuchin monkey. She was taken by ambulance to

the hospital and later transferred to a hand specialist in Atlanta for additional treatment.

**February 19, 2009/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** An orangutan named Elok escaped from an enclosure at the Oklahoma City Zoo by climbing into the moat and then over the exhibit wall. Twenty zoo visitors were ushered into buildings until Elok was recaptured approximately 100 feet from the enclosure.

**February 19, 2009/Seattle, Washington:** A De Brazza's monkey at the Woodland Park Zoo escaped from an enclosure by swimming across a moat and climbing a rock wall. The zoo was evacuated, and the monkey was on the loose for approximately 25 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured. Other monkeys had previously escaped from the same enclosure.

**February 16, 2009/Stamford, Connecticut:** Sandra Herold's 200-pound, 14-year-old "pet" chimpanzee named Travis escaped from the house and attacked a woman, inflicting massive injuries to her face and hands. The woman required more than seven hours of stabilizing surgery by four teams of doctors. She reportedly lost her hands, nose, lips, and eyelids in the attack. The bone structure of her face was also damaged, and she might have lost her vision and suffered brain damage. In 2011 she had a face transplant. At least three other people—including two police officers—were injured during the fracas. In an effort to stop the attack, Herold stabbed the chimpanzee repeatedly with a butcher knife. Police officers shot him numerous times before he made his way back into the house where he died. Neighbors reported that they often saw Travis roaming the streets in the neighborhood, sometimes unleashed, and that he frequently rode around in trucks with his owners. Travis had been involved in at least two previous incidents (see incidents titled "October 19, 2003," and "1996/Stamford, Connecticut").

**February 2, 2009/Flour Bluff, Texas:** An escaped or abandoned ring-tailed lemur was discovered when children were seen playing with the animal outdoors. The animal, who had a hurt arm and reportedly had possibly gotten a little nippy with the children, was seized by authorities, and the owners were ticketed for illegally possessing an exotic animal.

**January 30, 2009/New Orleans, Louisiana:** An orangutan named Berani escaped from an enclosure at the Audubon Zoo by stretching a T-shirt to help him scale a 10½-foot wall. He then wrapped the shirt around an electric wire surrounding the exhibit and finally swung out of the exhibit. The orangutan stood on a boardwalk with zoo visitors nearby for approximately 10 minutes before returning to the exhibit.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**January 24, 2009/Naples, Florida:** A worker at Gary's Paradise Gardens was attacked by a capuchin monkey. The monkey escaped through a space that was created when the worker removed the food bowl from the side of the cage. The woman was bitten on her right leg, lower arm, and hand and required stitches for some of the wounds.

**2009/Mechanicsville, Virginia:** Chimpanzees at Windy Oaks Animal Farm broke some welds on an enclosure, and two male chimpanzees pushed through a wire panel, opened a door, and escaped.

**November 10, 2008/Carbon County, Montana:** A woman was taken to a hospital for treatment after a chimpanzee named Conner latched on to her arm with his teeth. The woman lost 6 to 8 inches of skin. Conner was one of two chimpanzees who escaped from the home of Jeanne Rizzotto and ran to a neighbor's yard, where they were seen chasing cats up trees, swinging from the roof of the house, and getting into cars and trucks. One of the chimpanzees was also seen crossing a highway. The bite victim had been trying to prevent Conner from entering a home. The animals were recaptured, and Conner was quarantined at Rizzotto's home.

**September 24, 2008/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** An 18-pound macaque monkey bit and then mauled the hand of a University of Pittsburgh laboratory technician. The macaque grabbed a pole that the technician was using to test the animal's water system, pulled the woman's hand into the cage, and bit her palm. "My hand was in its mouth," the woman said. "It was clamping down on it and munching on it for up to a minute. I had no choice but to pull my hand out in shreds." The animal's teeth penetrated to the bone, and the woman sustained bone, tendon, and nerve damage. She underwent three surgeries to treat recurring infections and was released from the hospital after eight days, at which time she still had no feeling in two fingers and was awaiting results of blood tests on the monkey to determine if she had been exposed to hepatitis B or other infections.

**August 8, 2008/Bend, Oregon:** A 120-pound chimpanzee at Chimps, Inc., escaped from an unlocked enclosure and bit an intern. The intern was treated at the scene by firefighters and then driven to a hospital.

**August 2008/Cincinnati, Ohio:** A white-handed gibbon escaped from a cage at the Cincinnati Zoo and made his way to the parking lot where he bit a visitor on the leg. The gibbon was quarantined, and the zoo decided that he would no longer be allowed outdoors.

**July 2008/Orange Park, Florida:** A Japanese macaque was spotted running loose in a subdivision. Wildlife officials attempted to capture the animal with a trap and warned the public that macaques have sharp teeth and are prone to biting.

**June 27, 2008/Devore, California:** A chimpanzee named Moe escaped from a cage at Jungle Exotics, surprised construction workers when he wandered into a house next-door, and then continued on into the San Bernardino National Forest. After more than a month, search efforts were called off because of mounting expenses. Eight months later, Moe had still not been found.

**June 11, 2008/Michigan City, Indiana:** A spider monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Washington Park Zoo by using a garden hose to scale the wall of the moat. The moat had been emptied of water and was being cleaned by workers. The monkey was recaptured at a nearby boat dealership.

**June 5, 2008/Queens, New York:** A 22-month-old girl had her finger bitten off by a neighbor's "pet" capuchin monkey when she stuck her fingers through her backyard fence and into the pen of the monkey who was caged next to the fence. Doctors worked for 12 hours attempting to reattach the girl's finger but were unsuccessful. The monkey was euthanized in order to be tested for rabies.

**May 17, 2008/Los Angeles, California:** A 29-year-old orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo punched a hole in the mesh of an exhibit and escaped into a holding area behind a cage. Zoo officials ushered visitors to the zoo exit while the orangutan was sedated by zookeepers.

**May 17, 2008/Tampa, Florida:** A 10-year-old orangutan escaped from an enclosure at Busch Gardens by scaling a 12-foot wall and climbing onto the roof of an exhibit, where she was just feet away from zoo visitors. The public, including a group of nearby children, was evacuated from the area. The orangutan was lured back to the enclosure nearly one hour after she escaped.

**April 21, 2008/Polk County, Florida:** Fifteen patas monkeys escaped from Safari Wild by swimming across a 60-foot-wide moat and then climbing a 28-foot fence. One monkey was shot to death, and it took nearly eight months to recapture the rest of them.

**April 11, 2008/Trenton, Michigan:** A 6-year-old girl was bitten on the finger by a "pet" Java macaque who was being walked on a leash near the church where the girl was playing. The girl had to undergo several



## Primate Incidents in the United States

tests as a result of the bite, and the monkey was expected to be euthanized.

**April 5, 2008/Addison, Texas:** Two lemurs at the Trager Snake Farm were quarantined after biting or scratching a child.

**March 21, 2008/Fresno, California:** A black-and-white colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The eastern portion of the zoo was closed to the public as zoo staff members attempted to recapture the monkey. Two and a half hours after the escape, he was shot with a tranquilizer dart and taken to the zoo hospital to recover.

**March 14, 2008/Virginia:** A 6-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, injured a woman by biting and/or scratching her face and shoulder. Mikey had bitten another woman five months earlier (see the incident titled "October 23, 2007").

**March 2008/New Albany, Indiana:** A child visiting a home was bitten by the owner's "pet" capuchin monkey. The monkey was quarantined while county officials worked to obtain information about the animal's health.

**February 29, 2008/Gilbert, Arizona:** A 3-year-old boy was bitten on the wrist by his family's "pet" lemur. According to a local official, the emergency crew that responded to the incident reported that the bite was down to the bone. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment.

**February 28, 2008/Spokane, Washington:** A "pet" macaque monkey who escaped from his owners' home chased some boys who were walking a dog and bit one of the boys on the thumb; charged at a woman, grabbed her leg, and bit it; and bit an 18-year-old girl on the leg. The monkey was quarantined to be monitored for disease and ultimately euthanized to be tested for rabies.

**December 2, 2007/Rutherford College, North Carolina:** A grocery store clerk was bitten by a customer's 18-inch-tall "pet" monkey when she reached out to pet the animal. The monkey bit and scratched her right cheek just below the eye. The victim was treated at a local hospital for the bite and put on strong antibiotics.

**November 8, 2007/Columbia County, Georgia:** A 17-month-old boy was bitten by a baboon with the Eudora Farms petting zoo at the Columbia County Fair. The boy's father lifted him to feed the animal through the cage, and the baboon bit the child's hand.

**November 6, 2007/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A worker at Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility, was bitten by a chimpanzee named Ginny while she was handing blankets to the animals through a feeding tray. Ginny reached through a rusted hole in the tray and grabbed the worker's hand. When the woman was able to pull her hand out of the cage, one of her fingers was gone and two others were nearly severed. After multiple surgeries, including transplants and skin grafts, her hand is still disfigured and curls into a ball. The victim amassed more than \$100,000 in medical bills.

**October 23, 2007/Maryland:** A 5½-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, bit a woman's arm while posing for photographs with studio employees.

**September 28, 2007/Dallas, Texas:** An elderly spider monkey escaped the enclosure that she shared with two other monkeys at the Dallas Zoo. The monkey was loose for approximately 20 minutes.

**September 22, 2007/Columbia, Missouri:** A woman known for carrying her "pet" rhesus macaque into stores and to public events took the animal to a local park where the macaque bit a 7-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. The woman quickly left the park and was sought by local health officials for questioning.

**August 13, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** For the second time in two weeks, a white-faced capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo. He was found the following day, approximately 4 miles from the park, and returned to the zoo. One man was bitten on the hand during the attempt to capture Oliver. This was Oliver's third escape (see the incidents titled "July 31, 2007," and "2001").

**August 8, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A 1-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey bit a 21-year-old woman on the thumb at a beer garden and then eluded police for an hour before being recaptured. The monkey was declared dangerous by the Madison Environmental Health Services Department and was quarantined to be monitored for disease, and the owner was ordered to remove the animal from the city upon release from quarantine. The monkey had previously bitten at least one other person (see the incident titled "July 11, 2007").

**July 31, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from a cage at Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo and eluded capture for nearly a week before being recaptured. Zoo staff warned the public that Oliver would bite. This was Oliver's second escape (see the incident titled "2001").



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**July 11, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A "pet" capuchin monkey was placed under home quarantine after biting someone.

**June 30, 2007/Cherokee, North Carolina:** A capuchin monkey at Santa's Land theme park escaped from the island where the monkeys were kept and was loose overnight before being recaptured the next evening. It was believed that the animal used low-hanging tree limbs to scale the wall and the high-voltage wire that surrounded the island.

**June 5, 2007/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Metrolina Wildlife Park by running past a worker as she entered the cage. The monkey was chased around the zoo grounds by the zoo owner before being recaptured.

**April 24, 2007/Rankin County, Mississippi:** A "pet" macaque monkey attacked an IRS agent. Although the monkey's canine teeth had been removed, the agent sustained bites and scratches on her face and arms.

**April 8, 2007/Otis, Oregon:** A 12-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey escaped from a cage, ran through the neighborhood, attempted to attack residents, and cornered one man in his garage before being recaptured.

**2007/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A rhesus macaque scratched a girl at Burnette's Pet Farm. According to Inspector Stacey Short of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, 80 to 90 percent of macaque monkeys carry the herpes simian B virus, a disease that can be spread through scratches and is almost always fatal to humans.

**December 25, 2006/French Settlement, Louisiana:** An 8-year-old boy was bitten twice on the arm and shoulder and suffered cuts and bruises when a "pet" ring-tailed lemur leapt from a roof and attacked him. The lemur was kept on a large estate, where the animal roamed freely and could not be located after the attack. The boy underwent four rounds of injections to prevent rabies and more than two weeks after the incident still had a fever and periodic headaches.

**December 1, 2006/Nahunta, North Carolina:** A "pet" Japanese macaque belonging to Frankie Piscopo escaped from Piscopo's home and was on the loose for almost two months before being recaptured more than 11 miles away.

**October 28, 2006/Marquette County, Wisconsin:** A woman was taken to the hospital after being bitten by a lemur at an exotic animal farm.

**September 22, 2006/Horn Lake, Mississippi:** A "pet" bonnet macaque knocked out the window frame of a cage and escaped into the neighborhood. He ran for one and a half blocks and attacked an animal control officer before being recaptured.

**August 28, 2006/Chicago, Illinois:** A 15-year-old girl was hospitalized in serious condition after being attacked by a "pet" rhesus macaque monkey. The girl's arm was reportedly "bitten to the bone." The agitated monkey attempted to escape from the house as animal control officers worked to recapture him.

**June 1, 2006/ Naples, Florida:** A mustached guenon at the Naples Zoo swam from the island where she and a male companion were housed and escaped to a wooded area of the zoo.

**March 8, 2006/Bell County, Texas:** A person bitten by a "pet" rhesus macaque was taken to the hospital for treatment. The monkey was killed to be tested for rabies.

**February 3, 2006/Columbus, Ohio:** A zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo was bitten while feeding a grape to an adult bonobo, also known as a "pygmy chimpanzee." The zookeeper lost the tip of her finger and was treated at a hospital. All the zoo's bonobos were isolated for 14 days to be monitored for health issues.

**December 29, 2005/unknown location:** A capuchin monkey who was being exhibited by Patricia Dawdy bit and/or scratched an 8-year-old boy, causing one or more injuries that required ongoing medical attention.

**December 1, 2005/Covington, Kentucky:** A "pet" monkey escaped and led authorities on a two-day chase through the neighborhood before being recaptured. A primate expert was concerned that the animal might suffer from frostbite while on the loose, and an animal control officer noted that the animal appeared to suffer from a cough. A monkey had been loose on the same block one year earlier.

**November 14, 2005/Arizona:** Several children were attacked and two were bitten when a "pet" monkey escaped from a cage and tore through a neighbor's birthday party.

**October 6, 2005/Eureka, California:** Bill, the solitary chimpanzee at the Sequoia Park Zoo, escaped from a cage and wandered one and a half blocks from the zoo before it was discovered that he was missing. Bill was coaxed back to the cage by one of the zookeepers. This was Bill's second escape from the zoo—about 10 years previously, the door to Bill's cage was left open and he wandered off.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**September 10, 2005/Royal, Nebraska:** Workers at Zoo Nebraska failed to properly lock a chimpanzee cage after cleaning, and all four animals in the cage made a break for freedom. The chimpanzees confronted zoo visitors, and at least one of the animals—possibly all four—walked into the town of Royal, where they attempted to enter businesses and where one chimp allegedly chased a 15-year-old boy into his home and another threw a grill at a van. When the animals tried to enter the building where zoo visitors and employees had taken refuge, three of the four chimpanzees were shot and killed. The surviving chimpanzee was transferred to an exotic-animal dealer in Missouri.

**August 29, 2005/Springdale, Ohio:** A monkey with the Hendricks Bros. Circus was frightened by a train whistle and fled into a nearby wooded area. He was found the next day, damp and hungry, huddled in the roof area of a picnic pavilion at a park.

**August 27, 2005/San Antonio, Texas:** A young chimpanzee escaped through a hole in the chain-link fencing of a cage at Primarily Primates, where many of the cages for the more than 600 primates were secured with only a small piece of wire.

**July 20, 2005/Racine, Wisconsin:** Max, a 19-year-old orangutan at the Racine Zoo, escaped into a hallway that connected to other zoo exhibits and three hours later was lured back to a cage with food.

**July 11, 2005/Caldwell, Ohio:** Two "pet" monkeys belonging to Hollis McIntiurff escaped their cage. One was recaptured after running loose for several hours. The second, a rhesus macaque, attacked a 20-year-old man who stopped his truck in order to avoid hitting the monkey on the road. The monkey jumped in the truck and bit him on the leg. The man was treated at a hospital and received a tetanus shot. Ten days after escaping, the monkey remained on the loose.

**July 5, 2005/Chicago, Illinois:** A 350-pound male silverback gorilla attacked an intern working in a habitat at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The gorilla shoved the woman down and "mouthed" her, pressing his lips and teeth against her back. She sustained puncture wounds and scratches as well as a sprained ankle and was treated by paramedics before being taken to the hospital.

**June 2005/Morehead, Kentucky:** A monkey reached through a car window and grabbed and bit a clerk's hand at the drive-thru window of a Viking BP Mart while his owner, Jamie Dehart, was picking up an order.

**May 7, 2005/Huntington, West Virginia:** A leashed "pet" monkey who had been taken to a shopping

center bit a 13-year-old girl in the parking lot. A woman holding the leash had indicated that the animal was friendly, but when the girl and her father approached to pet the monkey, the monkey jumped on the girl's leg and bit her kneecap and finger. She was treated at a hospital.

**March 3, 2005/Caliente, California:** Four adult chimpanzees escaped from their cage at Animal Haven Ranch. The two male chimpanzees attacked a couple who were visiting their "pet" chimpanzee at the facility. The woman's thumb was bitten off, and her husband was severely mauled. The chimpanzees bit off his nose, an eye, part of his cheek, lips, most of his fingers, both testicles, and much of the flesh from his buttocks, face, and left foot. According to a medic at the scene, "His face was gone." The chimpanzees who attacked, both former "show biz" chimps raised at Bob Dunn's Animal Services, were shot and killed. The gunfire frightened the two female chimpanzees who ran into the hills and were on the loose for several hours before being recaptured. Three months and a dozen surgeries later, the man was pulled out of a medically induced coma.

**December 9, 2004/Detroit, Michigan:** A student was bitten by a cinnamon ringtail cebus monkey at a wildlife show-and-tell at Wayne State University. The monkey was part of a menagerie brought by Chicago-based Bill Hoffman's Animal Rentals.

**November 26, 2004/Evansville, Indiana:** An ambulance was called to the Hadi Shrine circus at Roberts Stadium after a circusgoer was bitten on the cheek by a chimpanzee belonging to Zoppe-Rosaire Chimpanzees while posing for pictures. The patron was treated at the hospital for a puncture wound.

**November 12, 2004/Palm Springs, California:** A 16-year-old chimpanzee from Dan Westfall's private menagerie escaped and ran loose in a residential neighborhood, banging on windows and pounding on doors. Police steered him back to Westfall's home.

**October 14, 2004/Fresno, California:** The Chaffee Zoo evacuated visitors after an orangutan unraveled the netting on a cage and crawled out. She was loose for 10 minutes.

**October 9, 2004/Gentry, Arkansas:** A woman feeding animals at the Wild Wilderness Drive-Thru Safari was bitten by a chimpanzee who reached through the bars of the cage, grabbed her, and bit off much of her hand, including two fingers.

**August 1, 2004/Brooklyn, New York:** A 5-year-old macaque, used as a so-called "service animal," attacked and bit a 2-year-old boy being wheeled by his grandparents in a shopping cart at a grocery store.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**July 14, 2004/St. Louis, Missouri:** A zookeeper at the Saint Louis Zoo was taken to the hospital after she was bitten by an orangutan while feeding the animal.

**July 6, 2004/St. Charles, Minnesota:** Two people agreed to undergo a series of rabies shots after they were bitten by a capuchin monkey who escaped from the Staples Safari Zoo during an appearance at the Winona County fairgrounds. The monkey was quarantined for 28 days.

**May 26, 2004/Rochester, New York:** A baboon at the Seneca Park Zoo escaped from a cage and climbed into nearby trees before he was tranquilized.

**March 18, 2004/Dallas, Texas:** A 300-pound gorilla named Jabari escaped from an enclosure surrounded by a 16-foot concave wall at the Dallas Zoo and attacked four people. A 3-year-old boy was critically injured as a result of multiple bites to his head and chest. The gorilla bit the boy's mother on her legs and threw her and the toddler against the wall. Another woman suffered injuries to her arms when she shielded several children from the gorilla. The fourth injured person was a child who was treated at the scene. Police evacuated 300 people and fatally shot the gorilla after he charged at officers. Some children had reportedly been teasing Jabari before the incident.

**January 19, 2004/Los Angeles, California:** The Los Angeles Zoo evacuated 9,000 visitors after an 80-pound chimpanzee named Gracie escaped from her enclosure for the fifth time. She was loose for 45 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**January 8, 2004/Denver, Colorado:** A gorilla named Evelyn escaped from an enclosure at the Denver Zoo and entered the keepers' area, where she spent 45 minutes before being tranquilized. Evelyn was originally from the Los Angeles Zoo and had escaped several times while at that facility.

**December 27, 2003/St. Leonard, Maryland:** A man was taken to the hospital for treatment after being bitten on the thumb by a pigtailed macaque who was being kept as a house "pet."

**October 30, 2003/Savannah, Georgia:** Exhibitor Brian Staples was cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the escape of a spider monkey at the Georgia Coastal Fair. The monkey ran through the fair midway, a public area, before being recaptured.

**October 19, 2003/Stamford, Connecticut:** A 170-pound "pet" chimpanzee bolted from his owner's sport utility vehicle in a busy downtown street. A dozen police cruisers were called to the scene as the

chimpanzee charged officers and the crowds. He was recaptured two hours later.

**September 28, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts:** A gorilla named Little Joe escaped from an enclosure in Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, grabbed a toddler from a young woman's arms, then threw the child to the ground and jumped on her. Little Joe led more than 50 police officers and zoo staff members on a massive two-hour chase through darkened woods and along a nearby street outside the zoo. He finally collapsed after being shot repeatedly with tranquilizer darts and was returned to the zoo. The toddler required several stitches for a gash in her head. The gorilla also bit a zoo visitor on the back and attempted to attack other zoo staff members who were huddled in fear inside the ticket booth. Little Joe had also escaped during the previous month.

**August 26, 2003/Rochester, New York:** The Seneca Park Zoo evacuated visitors after a 300-pound orangutan escaped from a cage. During his 15-minute escape, the orangutan picked up a zoo volunteer, carried him into the cage, and then pushed him back out.

**August 13, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts:** Little Joe, a gorilla at Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, scaled a 20-foot rock wall and escaped from the ape enclosure. He was recaptured 10 minutes later.

**August 8, 2003/Chicago, Illinois:** A "pet" monkey who escaped from her home was chased for much of the day by police and animal control officers before being cornered in a stairwell and captured in a net. An animal control officer was bitten by the monkey during the capture.

**July 11, 2003/Southborough, Massachusetts:** A squirrel monkey escaped from the New England Primate Research Center and was found 17 days later having been struck and killed on a road 10 miles away.

**May 3, 2003/Fountain Hills, Arizona:** A "pet" capuchin monkey broke out of a cage, turned the key on the front door, and took off on a three-day rampage. He was spotted by neighbors in the trees, in garages, and inside several cars.

**April 19, 2003/Green Bay, Wisconsin:** A "pet" capuchin monkey purchased on the Internet escaped when the owner brought him, perched on her shoulder, into a tavern.

**September 10, 2002/Northwest Montana:** A "pet" macaque taken to malls bit at least three people. One incident occurred at a restaurant, a second at a fruit stand, and a third at the owner's residence. The



## Primate Incidents in the United States

monkey was quarantined, and two victims went for medical treatment.

**September 8, 2002/Hillsboro, Oregon:** A female rhesus macaque escaped from the Oregon National Primate Research Center while being transferred between buildings. Police warned area residents not to approach the animal. She was recaptured two days later.

**August 7, 2002/Racine, Minnesota:** A volunteer at BEARCAT Hollow animal park was attacked by a monkey as she entered the cage. The monkey grabbed her hair and bit her on the finger. The volunteer needed five stitches and rabies shots.

**August 4, 2002/Davenport, Iowa:** A monkey with the Texas-based Gerald Eppel's Monkey Business act performing at the Mississippi Valley Fair went berserk and jumped on a woman, hitting her head and biting her as she posed for a photograph. The woman filed a \$5,000 lawsuit against the fair and the animal exhibitor.

**June 23, 2002/Magnolia, Texas:** A "pet" Java macaque attacked and bit a 9-year-old boy and a woman and severely scratched a firefighter, sending all three to the hospital for treatment.

**May 13, 2002/Frankfort, Indiana:** A lemur jumped on and scratched a keeper's arm as she retrieved a food dish from a cage at a petting zoo at the TPA park. The keeper needed seven stitches in her arm, and the monkey was quarantined.

**April 3, 2002/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A Honolulu Zoo employee was attacked by a Siamang gibbon as she cleaned the animal's sleeping area. The woman suffered cuts and bites to both legs and received 45 stitches.

**January 10, 2002/Knox County, Tennessee:** A "pet" Japanese snow macaque escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a neighbor, biting his back and hand.

**November 23, 2001/Cleveland, Ohio:** A "pet" capuchin monkey who had been taken to a restaurant attacked, bit, and scratched a patron, inflicting 16 puncture wounds. A subsequent lawsuit seeking more than \$25,000 in damages for injuries and anxiety described the monkey as mischievous, ferocious, and/or vicious.

**September 10, 2001/Danville, New Hampshire:** A search party was organized after at least 10 monkey sightings were reported, including by the fire chief. The monkey, believed to be an escaped "pet," was seen running across streets and into bushes and was

described as being 8 feet long from his tail to his hands. Experts feared that the monkey would perish if not captured before winter.

**July 27, 2001/Martinsburg, West Virginia:** A "pet" monkey kept in a trailer park, believed to be a rhesus macaque, escaped and bit two children and a teenager. The bite victims underwent testing for herpes, tuberculosis, HIV, and other conditions.

**June 14, 2001/Seattle, Washington:** Woodland Park Zoo officials euthanized a 20-year-old lion-tailed macaque who tested positive for the herpes B virus.

**June 9, 2001/Omaha, Nebraska:** A squirrel monkey roaming freely and mingling with zoo visitors in an exhibit at Henry Doorly Zoo bit a woman's finger, causing an infection, after she offered the animal a cookie.

**May 12, 2001/Lakeland, Florida:** Health officials searched in vain for a woman who brought a "pet" monkey on a leash to a festival after the monkey bit and scratched a man on the arm. The man was treated for herpes B for fear that he might have contracted the deadly virus.

**April 22, 2001/Ventura, California:** According to a Ventura County Animal Bite Record, a 2½-year-old male chimpanzee named Mr. P belonging to Sid Yost's Amazing Animal Actors was ordered to be quarantined for 30 days after lunging at and biting a 12-year-old boy on the left hand.

**April 19, 2001/Jefferson County, Missouri:** Three chimpanzees with Chimparty, a company owned by Connie and Mike Casey that supplies primates for parties and TV commercials, escaped from an unlocked cage. A teenage boy shot and killed one of the chimpanzees.

**February 4, 2001/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** A crowd of 250 people cowered for 45 minutes inside a building at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium after a 150-pound female gorilla crossed a moat, scaled a 14-foot wall, and began to wander around the zoo. Zookeepers lured the gorilla into a restroom and tranquilized her.

**January 30, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A 1-year-old female chimpanzee named C.J., belonging to Monica Riddell's Xotic Stars of Las Vegas, bit a person on the finger during a public exhibition.

**2001/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped and ran amok on the grounds of Tupelo Country Club before being captured and returned to the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo.





## Primate Incidents in the United States

**December 2, 2000/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A 5-year-old "pet" capuchin, who was taken on a shopping trip to Home Depot, attacked and bit a teenage shopper on the leg.

**September 29, 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A 4-year-old girl required hospital treatment after she was bitten or scratched on the cheek by a monkey who had been brought to a motel.

**September 25, 2000/Maryville, Tennessee:** A girl was treated at a hospital for a bite wound to her arm inflicted by her stepfather's "pet" Japanese snow macaque.

**September 23, 2000/Jarratt, Virginia:** Three escaped monkeys threw fruit at vehicles traveling the interstate. After police arrived at the scene, the monkeys dashed across the interstate and disappeared into the woods.

**August 29, 2000/Washington, D.C.:** A 260-pound orangutan, Junior, climbed down a tower at the National Zoo and wandered the zoo grounds for 45 minutes while nearly 100 zoo visitors were herded into buildings. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**August 15, 2000/Sprague, West Virginia:** A "pet" chimpanzee escaped from a cage for three hours, biting a teenager on the hand and biting a neighbor who had tried to restrain the 150-pound animal. The same chimpanzee had escaped in July 1998 and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.

**August 12, 2000/Jessamine County, Kentucky:** A woman who was eight months pregnant was hospitalized after one of her two "pet" rhesus macaques suddenly turned violent while a cage was being cleaned and bit the woman's nose. The woman was given an anti-viral medication, which was a hazard to her pregnancy, in case the monkey tested positive for herpes B. She had been inspired to purchase "pet" monkeys when, as a child, she saw monkeys riding bicycles in a circus.

**August 8, 2000/San Angelo, Texas:** A capuchin "went crazy" and bit his owner. The owner shot the monkey seven or eight times, killing him. This is the same monkey who bit a neighbor on January 9, 1998.

**August 3, 2000/Southwest Ranches, Florida:** A "pet" spider monkey escaped from a cage and attacked two teenage girls. The girls were treated at the hospital for scratch and bite wounds to their faces, heads, and arms. The monkey was captured the next day. The same monkey had attacked a woman six months earlier.

**August 1, 2000/Dover, Wisconsin:** A "pet" Japanese macaque got loose and attacked two people. The monkey grabbed a neighbor around the waist and inflicted four bite wounds to the leg. Moments later, the monkey bit a postal carrier on the hand. The monkey was captured and killed.

**July 24, 2000/Dallas, Texas:** A chimpanzee was electrocuted after escaping from a habitat at the Dallas Zoo. She scratched a zookeeper, who required hospital treatment, and climbed a telephone pole. The zookeeper fired at the great ape with a shotgun, and a veterinarian fired a tranquilizer at the animal, causing her to fall. She was electrocuted as she grabbed for a power line.

**July 18, 2000/Jefferson City, Missouri:** A 7-year-old boy, riding his bicycle, was attacked by a neighbor's "pet" rhesus macaque, who jumped from a tree and bit the boy's arm. The child was subjected to a two-month ordeal involving doctors, needles, tests, and the fear of contracting the deadly herpes B virus. The boy later received a \$148,000 settlement from a lawsuit filed by his family.

**July 2000/Los Angeles, California:** Jim, a 350-pound 12-year-old gorilla, jumped across the 12-foot moat in an exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo. He started to walk toward a group of schoolchildren and was squirted with water to steer him into another enclosure.

**June 1, 2000/Columbia, Maryland:** An escaped 2½-foot-tall spider monkey chased a woman who had just stepped outside her home and bit her on the thigh, then ran away.

**May 31, 2000/Pensacola, Florida:** An orangutan at The Zoo escaped from an unlocked cage and attacked a zookeeper. The keeper was treated at a hospital for bruises and five bite wounds. The orangutan was lured back to the cage 45 minutes later with food.

**May 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A monkey bit a boy in a pet store.

**April 9, 2000/Franklin, Tennessee:** A chimpanzee named Angel, brought by Sid Yost (also known as Ranger Rick Kelly) to Blockbuster Video for photo ops and to promote a Critter Gitter movie, fiercely bit a 9-year-old girl on the hand after posing for a photograph. The girl's hand swelled and required stitches. Yost left the state before the chimpanzee could be quarantined and was issued a citation for violating Tennessee's exotic-animal law. Yost failed to show up in court and never paid the fine. The girl's parents filed a \$50,000 lawsuit against Yost, Critter Gitters, and Blockbuster, claiming that the defendants



## Primate Incidents in the United States

should have been aware of the danger inherent in subjecting Angel to a crowded area with so many children. None of the parties named in the lawsuit offered to pay for medical expenses.

**February 13, 2000/Lansing, Illinois:** A "pet" Java macaque attacked his owner, inflicting 6-inch-deep bites and cuts on her head, arms, and legs and causing her to lose 1½ pints of blood. She underwent three hours of surgery and 12 weeks of physical therapy. The monkey was killed for rabies tests.

**January 14, 2000/Palm Harbor, Florida:** A "pet" spider monkey escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a dog who was being walked by a neighbor. The dog went into shock and suffered serious artery and tendon damage.

**2000/Jackson County, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's adult "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, injured a teenage girl by lifting her by the ankles and tossing her to the ground.

**December 28, 1999/Des Moines, Iowa:** A rhesus macaque found wandering the streets on November 23, 1999, bit an animal control officer.

**December 15, 1999/Rancho Bernardo, California:** An escaped 3-foot-tall spider monkey led police on a two-hour chase, frightened residents, and bit a police officer.

**November 1, 1999/Euless, Texas:** A "pet" capuchin monkey attacked and bit an elderly woman.

**October 4, 1999/Evansville, Indiana:** A child was bitten on his finger by a macaque at Mesker Park Zoo. Two of the zoo's six macaque monkeys selected at random tested positive for the herpes B virus.

**September 1, 1999/West Covina, California:** A "pet" chimpanzee bit off the fingertip of a woman visiting the owner's home. This is the same chimpanzee who attacked four people on August 19, 1998.

**August 5, 1999/Bellevue, Nebraska:** A police officer was sent to the hospital after a macaque with a history of biting people bit him on the leg.

**July 31, 1999/Kissimmee, Florida:** A "pet" capuchin escaped and attacked a boy, scratching his leg. The monkey bit one police officer on the leg and pulled the hair of another before he was recaptured.

**June 20, 1999/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** An orangutan at the Philadelphia Zoo escaped from the exhibit he was in and ran loose in the zoo for 25 minutes before he was tranquilized by a veterinarian.

**May 11, 1999/Idaho Falls, Idaho:** A woman went to the hospital after a caged "pet" monkey bit her.

**April 15, 1999/Punta Gorda Isles, Florida:** A police officer used a 12-gauge shotgun to shoot and kill a 2-foot-tall rhesus macaque. The monkey had been running loose and acting aggressively toward residents for a month.

**April 1, 1999/Glen Burnie, Maryland:** A 2-year-old bonnet macaque bit a woman on the lip at a tavern, touching off a brawl in which two other people were bitten. Animal control had instances on file in which seven other people had been bitten or scratched by the 9-pound "pet" monkey. The owners ignored animal control orders not to take the monkey out in public. One of the injured parties filed a \$25,000 lawsuit.

**February 27, 1999/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Chip, Happy, and Tammy, chimpanzees at Hogle Zoo, escaped from a cage and attacked two zoo staff members. One employee, who was in serious condition, was hospitalized for nearly four weeks after one finger, part of a second finger, and part of his nose were bitten off. His left ear was also partially severed, and he suffered severe lacerations on his face, head, arms, and chest. A second employee was treated for cuts and scrapes. Chip and Happy were shot with shotguns by zoo employees and later euthanized. The USDA issued an official warning against the zoo for failure to securely contain primates. The zoo later settled a lawsuit brought by the seriously injured employee.

**January 13, 1999/Hillsborough, Florida:** A "pet" capuchin attacked her owner, biting her 50 times on the hands and legs.

**December 7, 1998/Kansas City, Missouri:** A male orangutan, Joe, used a tire to climb over the wall of an outdoor pen and escape from an exhibit at the Kansas City Zoo. Zoo visitors noticed him after he made his way to the sheep barn. He was tranquilized and recaptured.

**November 28, 1998/Dallas, Texas:** A 340-pound gorilla, Hercules, escaped from an open cage at the Dallas Zoo and attacked a zookeeper, dragging her down a hallway and biting her on her arm and side. Hercules was shot with a tranquilizer dart, and the zookeeper was hospitalized. The USDA fined the zoo \$25,000 for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

**November 1, 1998/Euless, Texas:** A spider monkey bit a student at an elementary school.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**October 4, 1998/Slidell, Louisiana:** An escaped "pet" vervet ran wild in a house, knocking over a lamp and attacking two women, biting one on the arm and slashing the legs of the other with teeth and claws. A police officer who responded to the frantic 911 call was also attacked. The monkey threw a picture frame at him, then jumped on him and bit him. Both women needed stitches. The monkey was killed.

**August 19, 1998/West Covina, California:** A "pet" chimpanzee escaped from a cage and went berserk, biting four people and denting a police car with his fists during a three-hour rampage. One officer required three surgeries on his hand at a cost of \$250,000.

**July 6, 1998/Sprague, West Virginia:** A "pet" chimpanzee escaped from an enclosure and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.

**May 1, 1998/Wichita, Kansas:** A macaque bit a child and a teenager at a store during a promotional event.

**April 13, 1998/Atlanta, Georgia:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that four lab workers who handled monkeys had become infected with monkey viruses.

**January 28, 1998/Los Angeles, California:** An employee was bitten by an orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo. As the keeper stooped down to speak to the animal, she held onto the chain-link fence between them. The orangutan grabbed her finger and bit the tip, which subsequently required amputation.

**January 9, 1998/San Angelo, Texas:** A "pet" capuchin bit a 19-year-old neighbor, who underwent rabies shots.

**January 5, 1998/Madison, Wisconsin:** Henry Vilas Zoo announced that its 150 macaques had been exposed to herpes B. One-third of them were infectious carriers and were considered to pose a public health risk.

**December 28, 1997/Charlotte County, Florida:** A 6-year-old girl visiting Octagon Exotics was attacked by a caged baboon, who pulled out chunks of her hair and attempted to bite her.

**December 10, 1997/Atlanta, Georgia:** A Yerkes primate researcher died of herpes B after she was splashed in the eye with bodily fluids from a rhesus macaque.

**October 6, 1997/South Barrington, Illinois:** A baboon at a petting zoo bit a 4-year-old girl.

**August 15, 1997/Elburn, Illinois:** A baboon with a traveling zoo scratched a 15-year-old girl's leg during a parade.

**August 8, 1997/Hartford, Connecticut:** A "pet" Java macaque got away while being taken for a walk and attacked an elderly neighbor, grabbing her hair and biting her arm.

**July 12, 1997/Glen Burnie, Maryland:** A 6-year-old girl who had been bitten in the face by a "pet" bonnet macaque while at a carnival was treated at a nearby hospital for her wound and received six shots to her face, arms, and legs.

**July 7, 1997/Bridgton, Maine:** State game wardens seized a "pet" squirrel monkey after the animal bit and scratched a woman standing in a supermarket checkout line. This same monkey had bitten a child the previous year (see the incident titled "February 1, 1996").

**June 29, 1997/Bourbonnais, Illinois:** A vervet with a traveling zoo bit a 3-year-old girl's face at a festival.

**May 27, 1997/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A 375-pound gorilla, Rocky, and a 180-pound gorilla, Tammy, escaped from a cage and entered a work area at the Little Rock Zoo.

**April 24, 1997/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A chimpanzee named Sydney pried back a steel bar on a cage and escaped from the Charlotte Metro Zoo, scaring neighbors as he roamed free for a week. Animal control officers spent 115 hours searching for the great ape. Sydney was finally captured in a neighbor's yard and taken back to the zoo, but as he was being returned to the cage, he broke free and bit a television news camera operator twice on the arm. The bite went through the man's wrist to the bone, severing tendons and damaging nerves; the photographer was permanently injured and suffered excruciating pain for a year.

**March 1, 1997/Houston, Texas:** An 8-year-old capuchin turned on his owner and nearly killed her, severing her thumb and part of her index finger and cutting her legs.

**September 28, 1996/Los Angeles, California:** Actor Elizabeth Hurley reeled back in shock when she was bitten on the ear by a chimpanzee while appearing on Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*.

**September 22, 1996/Palm Beach, Florida:** A pigtailed macaque who tested positive for herpes B bit a 4-year-old girl on the shoulder while he was being taken for a walk. The "pet" monkey had been kissed



## Primate Incidents in the United States

and held by hundreds of people. Authorities confiscated the animal.

**May 18, 1996/Staten Island, New York:** Four heavily armed emergency service police officers chased a capuchin monkey through a residential neighborhood for 45 minutes. The monkey escaped, fleeing into woods near the Staten Island mall.

**April 1996/Dahlonoga, Georgia:** A zoo visitor was bitten by a lemur after being allowed to enter the enclosure that was holding lemurs at the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve.

**April 6, 1996/Alice, Texas:** Two monkeys imported into a research facility were infected with the deadly Ebola virus. One monkey died, and the other was killed.

**March 24, 1996/Gainesville, Florida:** Residents were warned not to catch, feed, or touch a rhesus macaque who had been exposed to the herpes B virus. The macaque had escaped from a research farm.

**February 28, 1996/Metairie, Louisiana:** A "pet" vervet was impounded after biting an animal control officer during a home inspection. The monkey had earlier scratched the owner's 2-year-old son.

**February 12, 1996/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Six chimpanzees at the Tulsa Zoo escaped by scaling a wall, forcing an evacuation of the zoo that lasted five hours.

**February 1, 1996/Bridgton, Maine:** A squirrel monkey bit a child during a school demonstration.

**1996/Stamford, Connecticut:** Sandra Herold's "pet" chimpanzee, Travis, bit a woman and tried to pull her into a car. The woman had to get rabies shots.

**November 14, 1995/Acadiana, Louisiana:** A zoo worker at the Zoo of Acadiana was attacked and bitten on the leg by a monkey who escaped during a medical exam. The employee was off work for several days with an infected leg.

**September 8, 1995/Royal Oak, Michigan:** The owner of a 3-year-old spider monkey received 17 stitches in his lower lip after the monkey attacked him.

**July 16, 1995/Los Angeles, California:** A Los Angeles Zoo volunteer was placing popcorn in the monkey exhibit when a monkey mauled her. She sustained lacerations, puncture wounds, and deep cuts, leaving her disfigured and permanently disabled. A lawsuit was filed against the zoo.

**June 3, 1995/Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania:** An escaped "pet" monkey grabbed a kitchen knife and cigarette lighter, holding police at bay for nearly two hours. The monkey ran through the house and bit two women. Animal control caught the monkey with a snare. The monkey later died in a cage.

**April 10, 1995/Asheboro, North Carolina:** Tammy, a chimpanzee at the North Carolina Zoological Park, escaped from an enclosure that was surrounded by moats and a 12-foot concrete wall. The zoo was evacuated as Tammy walked around for 20 minutes before being coaxed back to the enclosure.

**January 7, 1995/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A chimpanzee, Reggie, escaped by pulling a wire on a cage at the Baton Rouge Zoo. Reggie was being transferred to another exhibit after he had been attacked and injured by another chimpanzee. He was tranquilized and recaptured.

**January 1, 1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** A "pet" chimpanzee bit a 7-year-old girl, causing her to have to undergo rabies treatment. Authorities had received numerous complaints that the chimpanzee ran loose and had attacked several people.

**1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, was taken into custody by Kansas City animal control officials after they investigated reports that she had bitten humans.

**November 30, 1994/Boca Raton, Florida:** A 5-inch "pet" marmoset, smuggled into a restaurant in a bag, escaped and bit a diner on the ear.

**November 11, 1994/San Francisco, California:** The San Francisco Zoo alerted area residents to be on the watch for an escaped patas monkey.

**Fall of 1994/Festus, Missouri:** A chimpanzee escaped from James Michael "Mike" and Connie Casey's chimpanzee-breeding compound and attacked a dog before entering a home in which four adults and three children were sitting on a couch looking at photos. The chimpanzee grabbed a 2-year-old girl by her ponytail and dragged her across the floor. A man who attempted to retrieve the girl from the chimpanzee resorted to beating the animal on the head with a skillet. The man and the girl were both scratched and bruised and were treated at the hospital.

**August 20, 1994/Covington, Louisiana:** Residents began calling authorities after spotting monkeys near their homes. The monkeys were among 28 pigtailed macaques who had escaped from the Delta Regional Primate Research Center.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**August 9, 1994/Surprise, Arizona:** A 4-year-old boy developed an eye infection after being bitten and scratched by two macaques. The boy's mother had obtained the monkeys as "pets" three weeks earlier.

**August 2, 1994/Knoxville, Tennessee:** Residents were warned that an escaped "pet" spider monkey might bite. The animal got loose in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**August 2, 1994/New Smyrna Beach, Florida:** Five Japanese macaques donated to Ashby Acres Wildlife Park by the Pittsburgh Zoo were found to be infected with herpes B.

**June 30, 1994/Phoenix, Arizona:** A "pet" Java macaque escaped from a backyard cage and ran throughout a residential neighborhood for 17 hours before he was recaptured.

**May 13, 1994/St. Paul, Minnesota:** Casey, a 400-pound gorilla, scaled a 15-foot concrete wall and wandered around the Como Zoo for 45 minutes while a group of kindergarten students were ushered to safety. Casey was shot with a tranquilizer and returned to the enclosure.

**February 1, 1994/Kansas City, Missouri:** A "pet" chimpanzee jumped on a man and bit him, causing injuries that needed medical treatment.

**July 11, 1993/Rolling Meadows, Illinois:** A leashed guenon grabbed an 11-year-old girl's leg and inflicted three bite wounds that required stitches. Animal control had tried unsuccessfully to confiscate the monkey years earlier after police alleged that the animal had bitten several people.

**July 9, 1993/Niagara, New York:** A man was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, where he received stitches to close bite wounds from his "pet" patas monkey.

**June 18, 1993/San Diego, California:** An orangutan, Indah, climbed a wall in an enclosure and entered a viewing deck containing about 30 zoo visitors at the San Diego Zoo. Indah was tranquilized and recaptured 30 minutes later.

**May 17, 1993/Seattle, Washington:** A 300-pound orangutan, Towan, escaped from an enclosure at the Woodland Park Zoo and remained in a holding area. He was recaptured nearly two hours later, after being shot with a tranquilizer dart.

**January 21, 1993/Los Angeles, California:** Three chimpanzees, Toto, Bonnie, and Gracie, escaped from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo by scaling

a moat using a rope that had been tossed into the enclosure by a visitor. Frightened zoo visitors fled to safety. Two of the chimpanzees were coaxed back into their cage within 45 minutes, and the third was tranquilized and recaptured.

**October 12, 1992/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A 180-pound chimpanzee bent the bars of a cage and escaped from Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility. The animal bit a 15-year-old boy and threw a 77-year-old woman to the ground. Sheriff's deputies and an animal control officer returned the chimpanzee to the ranch. The boy was treated for a bite to the hand at a minor-emergency clinic, and the elderly woman suffered facial injuries.

**September 28, 1992/Bronx, New York:** Kongo, a 500-pound gorilla at the Bronx Zoo, escaped while he was being transferred from one cage to another. He bit one keeper on the thigh and a second on the shoulder. Both keepers required hospitalization. The gorilla was tranquilized and dragged back into the cage.

**September 28, 1992/Miami, Florida:** A 400-pound gorilla named Jimmy at the Miami Metrozoo unlatched a lock on a cage, entered a holding area, and harassed and bit a keeper, who required hospital treatment.

**August 24, 1992/Welford, South Carolina:** A 78-year-old woman hanging sheets on a clothesline in her backyard was attacked twice by one of three chimpanzees who had escaped from Hollywild Animal Park. The woman was repeatedly knocked to the ground and rolled around by the 100-pound chimp. She was treated for minor injuries at a medical center.

**July 15, 1992/New York, New York:** A leashed monkey slapped and scratched a subway clerk on the head when a man attempted to bring him into the subway station.

**July 6, 1992/Miami, Florida:** Police warned area residents of rogue rhesus and Java macaques who had bitten a toddler, attacked a police officer, and terrorized a suburban parking lot. One monkey was shot and killed.

**June 22, 1992/San Diego, California:** Mema, a 400-pound gorilla, escaped from an enclosure through a door that had been left open at the San Diego Zoo and roamed free for two and a half hours before he was tranquilized.

**May 8, 1992/Norcross, Georgia:** A 2-year-old squirrel monkey kept in a cage at a pet shop bit a teenager.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**March 23, 1992/Los Angeles, California:** For the second time in three days, chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, Gerrard, and Bonnie used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. The chimps were recaptured within an hour.

**March 21, 1992/Los Angeles, California:** Chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, and Gerrard used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. The zoo was closed for an hour while the chimps were recaptured.

**February 1, 1992/Fashion Island, California:** A man's "pet" monkey bit a woman. The man was accused of trying to sell tiger and lion cubs from the back of a convertible.

**1992/Festus, Missouri:** James Michael "Mike" Casey was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when he entered a cage at his chimpanzee-breeding compound. The chimpanzee grabbed the back of Casey's head, hit him twice on the shoulders, and bit off a good portion of his nose. Casey was treated at a hospital, where his nose had to be reconstructed by grafting part of his forehead onto it.

**December 29, 1991/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** An 80-pound chimpanzee named Candy escaped from a local amusement park for an hour, disrupted traffic, and injured two people. She was shot with a tranquilizer gun.

**October 24, 1991/Seattle, Washington:** Three frightened Woodland Park Zoo volunteers were trapped for 40 minutes in an exhibit with a 300-pound male orangutan named Towan after he, three female orangutans, and a baby orangutan escaped from a pen. The volunteers escaped, and the five orangutans climbed onto the roof of the exhibit, where they stayed for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured. Zoo visitors, including 55 children from a local elementary school, were evacuated.

**July 25, 1991/Jefferson, Arkansas:** An animal handler filed a \$100 million claim against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services because he allegedly contracted a deadly virus when he was scratched by a macaque while working at the National Center for Toxicological Research.

**June 26, 1991/Tampa, Florida:** Nearly 100 spectators were evacuated from the Lowry Park Zoo after Rudy, an 80-pound orangutan, scaled the wall of an exhibit, bounded over a ledge, crossed a sidewalk, and climbed to a nearby rooftop during an escape that lasted 10 minutes. Zookeepers coaxed her from the roof.

**June 10, 1991/Little Rock, Arkansas:** At the Little Rock Zoo, two chimpanzees named Kim and Jodie escaped from a cage through an unlocked door. About 800 zoo visitors had to be evacuated from the premises for an hour.

**October 23, 1990/St. Petersburg, Florida:** An escaped "pet" capuchin ran into a neighbor's home, grabbed food in the kitchen, darted outside, and bit a woman as she grabbed him.

**July 7, 1990/Southeast Portland, Oregon:** Two leashed and collared chimpanzees went out of control during a Circus Gatti performance. They dragged the trainer into the stands and pulled a child from her seat and onto the arena floor, then mauled her.

**June 6, 1990/Kansas City, Missouri:** A 127-pound orangutan named Cheyenne unscrewed four bolts to escape from a cage at the Kansas City Zoo. Visitors screamed as mothers pushed their children in strollers to safety. Cheyenne was tranquilized and taken back to the cage 20 minutes later.

**June 1990/Detroit, Michigan:** A chimpanzee escaped from an exhibit at the Detroit Zoo. Zoo visitors had to be evacuated from the premises for an hour while staff members attempted to recapture her.

The attached document was submitted to the **Washoe County Board of Commissioners** during the meeting held on 6-28-16

by Constituent SVCS

for Agenda Item No. 27

and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(7) as

amended by AB65 of the 2013 Legislative Session.



**Animal Ordinance Revision  
Chapter 55  
June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting  
Constituent Comments**

[crinoupigeon@aol.com](mailto:crinoupigeon@aol.com)

To whom it may concern:

I strongly Oppose Chapter 55

due to the affects it could have on many species of exotics that are currently on the endangered list.

I'm upset that Nevada would not help in preserving or cooperating with any efforts to get exotics off the endangered list and instead banning them completely from our state.

The way this is being handled is not preserving species in danger.

Having animals humanly raised is helping to preserve many species in the wild. Some populations found in the wild can be come inbred from bottlenecking of gene pool diversity. Animals born here are less likely to be inbred and the genes are much more reliable to use for breeding purposes to save species from going endangered or extinct.

The numbers in their own native land are disappearing by the hundreds due to deforestation, drought, disease, poaching, palm oil growth, and crops & cities expanding.

Nevada closing a blind eye to that really is hard for me to understand.

As I know Nevada has not had any incidents with exotics so I'm not quite sure this why this is an issue.

I hope the committee reconsiders and learns a bit more about the problems you are creating and work to find better solutions.

Please let's be the state to help protect these exotic species for future generations not be the state that made them disappear.

Please accept this letter into the Public Record to be included in any hearing studies and/or reports pertaining to this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christine Barrello

7854 Wishing Well rd

Las Vegas Nv 89123

702-610-8949

[Christopher Matthews medic8r@hotmail.com](mailto:medic8r@hotmail.com)

Ms. Tone,

I would like to take a moment of your time to express my concerns with an item for the Washoe County Commissioners agenda tomorrow, June 28th, 2016. It has come to my attention that the Washoe County Animal Control (WCAC) is advising the Commissioners to increase restrictions on responsible animal ownership. On its face, it may seem like they are suggesting prudent measures to control something that may endanger the well-being of animals in Washoe County. Of course, we should all want to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of animals and take steps to prevent harm and unconscionable living conditions for animals. Seeing animals kept in unsafe, unhealthy, and unkempt living conditions personally affects me quite strongly. Unfortunately, that isn't what is being asked for by the WCAC. The agenda for changes in regulation and even law coming from the WCAC are strongly reminiscent of the nationwide push that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is making to

6-28-16 BCC 27  
Constituent Svcs





**June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting**

end responsible animal husbandry and ownership completely, in however small a step at a time they can achieve. May I remind you that the HSUS has absolutely no stake in Washoe County. They employ not a single person in this region, and contribute nothing to the well-being of any animals here, exotic or domestic. There is absolutely no logic in their presence concerning these matters in Washoe County.

In the Commission meetings, I would implore you to ask exactly what sentinel event has precipitated the WCAC to so aggressively pursue restricting the freedoms of Washoe County citizens who have not displayed any hint of inhumane treatment of animals?

Is there a single reason that the WCAC can find that demonstrates that I am not a responsible and caring pet owner? In fact, it wasn't but a few short years ago that I was helping to rescue the non-domesticated animals that the WCAC themselves wouldn't touch, whether it was snakes, marmots, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, iguanas, wolves, or even common fowl such as ducks and migratory birds. The very reason that Virginia Lake has fountains is because I worked with a friend to present a plan to save the common fauna found there by installing water fountains, not only to beautify the lake, but to save the resident wildlife from a catastrophic avian botulism outbreak.

I submit that what is being asked is in fact a ban of lawful ownership of many types of animals that have already been responsibly kept in this region for decades. I have even been a part of using such animals as snakes (venomous and non-venomous) and assorted lizards, reptiles, and amphibians as educational tools at Wilbur May Museum, at regional libraries, at schools in the classrooms around our region, and as a Paramedic and EMS Instructor, to even to educate some of the very Paramedics and Firefighters that serve our region. I have also participated in training dogs, hunting and pets, to avoid venomous and non-venomous snakes, which will no longer be possible if the proposed restrictions are allowed to be implemented.

I will close with my utmost gratitude for your time, and that you strongly consider my position that further restriction beyond the presently barely objective and most often subjective permitting of ownership of exotic animals is unwarranted. It deprives Washoe County citizens of their liberties and happiness for no quantifiable reason. I served as a United States Marine for Americans to enjoy their freedoms and liberties. Responsible animal ownership is not unconstitutional. I am happy to speak with you personally regarding my concerns. Again, my thanks to you for considering my desires.

Warmest regards,

Christopher Matthews, MEP, NRP

5491 Breeze Court

Sun Valley, NV 89433

(775) 393-9367



June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

AnnaSheila Paul <annasheila@yahoo.com>

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

I am a Washoe County resident and a mother of an 11-year old who is fascinated and interested in reptiles, particularly snakes. He is a very intelligent boy, and in the Gifted and Talented program in school, loves Science and other subjects, and loves animals.

Because of his interest in snakes, our family joined a local herpetological society here in Reno, and have been attending regular meetings. At these meetings, we were able to meet reptile owners who brought in their pets. My son would ask questions about each reptile, and have learned so much about them, about each breed, the care and husbandry involved in keeping reptiles, as well as all the responsibilities involved. Because of his direct exposure to these reptiles, his interest in science has blossomed, his grades in science has improved, and he now wants to be a Biologist when he grows up.

When he asked me if I could take him to ReptiCon, the big Reptile and Exotic Animal Convention, I quickly looked online for when their Reno, Nevada, show will be. To our huge disappointment, we found out that Repticon was being postponed indefinitely in Reno. When I did some digging on why this is happening in Reno, of all places (since I have come to believe that Reno residents' way of life was all about freedom, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) I found out that animal control has recently changed its laws and policies that made it very hard for ReptiCon to come to Reno.

Now, there are these new regulations that are being proposed before you by the HSUS, which, even to a new comer in this hobby like my son and I, looks like an over-reach of policies not really based on facts, but based on fear tactics and discrimination against exotic pet owners. I have read these new proposed policies, and they are very inhibiting to the learning process for anybody interested, or already into the hobby. I think to myself: What if HSUS's proposed policies have already gone through, and my son never got the chance to meet these cool reptiles along w/ their owners, to ask questions, meet the reptiles, and learn directly from their interactions? I doubt that my son would have been as interested in Science and Biology as he is now. These new proposals from HSUS are going to limit hands-on and up-close science education for Nevada's next generation of Scientists. Please reconsider to not adopt the HSUS policies for Washoe County.

Based on my experiences, we have some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers residing in Washoe County. Please listen to them, all they want is to have a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. These animal keepers are the experts, not the animal rights groups who have a different underlying agenda that are extreme, and don't help the animals nor the local residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
AnnaSheila Paul





June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

Ryan Watkins <animalmaster33@yahoo.com>

Bans can cause wild animals to go extinct. You are more likely to have your life ruined or taken by a sinister disturbing mind holding a gun or a knife than be killed by a captive bred tiger, lion, jaguar, leopard, spotted hyena, puma, black bear, grizzly, gray wolf, alligator, crocodile, python, constrictor, chimpanzee or elephant. Scumbags are the number one threat to public safety, not wild animals under human care. There is love, respect, understanding and conservation efforts from well educated, experienced, private wild animal handlers. Those people are not the problem, they are doing nothing wrong, they know what they're doing. The life of having a wild animal under human care is not for everyone, it's like owning a personal jet. It takes education, experience, proper care and money, lots of money. But the ones who have the education, the experience, the care and the money to care for one, who can handle the lifestyle, they deserve it. It's important to spread awareness and to collect as much genetic material as possible in order to save wild animals that are on the verge of extinction because zoos can't do it alone. If there's no wild animals under private human care, under people who are just as well educated and experienced as zookeepers, wild animals that are endangered and critically endangered will disappear faster if bans proposed by animal rights groups like HSUS (The Humane Society Of the United States) and Peta go into law. And besides spreading lies and false accusations, they will pay anyone with high authority or politician through the nose to get what they want. Their goal is to leave no trace of life regarding human and animal interaction. Stand for the welfare of animals by facts through tv shows, documentaries, books, experts and the people who work with them. Not through animal rights groups. Please oppose the restriction and banning of reptiles and exotics in Washoe County.

Sincerely,

Ryan Watkins

Breton Gunn <bretong@cogeco.ca>

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

As a responsible animal owner who will be affected by overreaching regulations, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers in the country reside in Washoe County and they only desire a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. Is this really too much to ask?

Do not fall for the false propaganda provided by animal rights groups! They are not experts and do not work with these animals. They have been known to falsify data, and misrepresent statistics. Take heed! Falling for their recommendations will lead to unintended consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda. Always have a scientist unrelated to their cause examine their proposals before considering them.

Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas extreme groups are only looking to profit, while not actually helping animals or local residents.

Do not create problems by attempting to solve problems that do not exist. Thank you for your time and consideration on this complex matter. Have a good day.

Sincerely, Breton Gunn.

6/27/2016 1:20 PM

Source: Multiple Email Accounts





June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

**Eric Roscoe**

Dear Washoe County NV Commissioner:

My name is Eric Roscoe, and I am currently the Education and Events Coordinator for the Madison Area Herpetological Society (MAHS). Although a Wisconsin resident, our organization is a 501c(3) nonprofit that promotes conservation and education regarding reptiles and amphibians, and works to advise, council, and assist in forming other similar herpetological societies and organizations elsewhere in the country including the Southern Nevada Herpetological Society and the Great Basin Herpetological Society. I oppose some of the proposed rule changes as a responsible animal owner. This is an example of the government overreaching and taking away freedoms without just cause or valid reasoning. There is absolutely no justification to list reptiles as prohibited in Nevada.

As a responsible animal owner who will be potentially affected by overreaching regulations, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers in the country reside in Washoe County and they only desire a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. Is this really too much to ask?

Do not fall for the false propaganda provided by animal rights groups! They are not experts and do not work with these animals. Take heed! Falling for their recommendations will lead to unintended consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda.

Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas extreme groups are only looking to profit, while not actually helping animals or local residents.

Do not create problems by attempting to solve problems that do not exist. Thank you for your time and consideration on this complex matter. Have a good day.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Roscoe  
Education & Events Coordinator  
Madison Area Herpetological Society  
<http://www.madisonherps.org>

--





June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

Eric Roscoe



Dear Washoe County NV Commissioner:

My name is Eric Roscoe, and I am currently the Education and Events Coordinator for the Madison Area Herpetological Society (MAHS). Although a Wisconsin resident, our organization is a 501c(3) nonprofit that promotes conservation and education regarding reptiles and amphibians, and works to advise, council, and assist in forming other similar herpetological societies and organizations elsewhere in the country including the Southern Nevada Herpetological Society and the Great Basin Herpetological Society. I oppose some of the proposed rule changes as a responsible animal owner. This is an example of the government overreaching and taking away freedoms without just cause or valid reasoning. There is absolutely no justification to list reptiles as prohibited in Nevada.

As a responsible animal owner who will be potentially affected by overreaching regulations, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers in the country reside in Washoe County and they only desire a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. Is this really too much to ask?

Do not fall for the false propoganda provided by animal rights groups! They are not experts and do not work with these animals. Take heed! Falling for their recommendations will lead to unintended consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda.

Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas extreme groups are only looking to profit, while not actually helping animals or local residents.

Do not create problems by attempting to solve problems that do not exist. Thank you for your time and consideration on this complex matter. Have a good day.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Roscoe  
Education & Events Coordinator  
Madison Area Herpetological Society

<http://www.madisonherps.org>

6/27/2016 1:20 PM

Source: Multiple Email Accounts



June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

**Karin Benker, [kbenker@greatbasinherp.org](mailto:kbenker@greatbasinherp.org)**

I'm current secretary of the Great Basin Herpetological Society. We work to educate the public on proper care and husbandry of exotic animals - focusing on reptiles and amphibians. Part of our public outreach included participation in the Sssnakes Alive! exhibit at Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno Pet Show, Earth Day, various Washoe County schools and we're currently touring the Washoe County libraries. The reptiles displayed to the public are our personal pets, not owned by the non-profit. Reaching and making an impression on children is such an important part in today's age of electronics. It has been shown that children, who are interested in or own reptiles and more connected to nature and have a stronger interest in conservation of native animals and fauna. Reptiles do make good pets and all have individual personalities, not that different from dogs and cats. My own daughter was diagnosed with Asperger's in 2nd grade. Since she had always showed a strong interest in reptiles, we purchase our first back then. We joined the Great Basin Herpetological Society shortly there after. Through the Junior program, my daughter has blossomed and is now the current Junior President. She speaks at our monthly meetings and helps with public education. She saved her money to purchase a snake of her choosing - but had to do so at the Sacramento Reptile Show, as we no longer have the Repticon reptile show in Nevada. We would have rather spent the money locally! She wants to become a herpetologist. We have another young member, with severe allergies, unable to own a dog, cat or other furry critter. She can only own reptiles, which she loves enough they have helped her from being an introvert to helping educate other children at our public venues. The proposed liability insurance would place an unreasonable burden on a small organization as ours and would essentially put an end to our educational efforts. There have been no incidences with our animals on any outings, as we promote responsible care. There actually is no statistical evidence to any incidences with snakes involving the public, it is strictly limited to actual handlers/owners. I have personally attended some of the meetings between local experts and animal control personnel. I keep hearing this is all being done to ensure public safety - yet there is no data to back this up. Also, the suggestions of experienced, responsible keepers appear to be largely ignored. Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. We are not opposed to regulations on the larger species and are certain that with the help of an independent moderator, we can all reach common ground.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,

Karin Benker

Secretary - Great Basin Herpetological Society





June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

[AnnaSheila Paul \[mailto:annasheila@yahoo.com\]](mailto:annasheila@yahoo.com)

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

I am a Washoe County resident and a mother of an 11-year old who is fascinated and interested in reptiles, particularly snakes. He is a very intelligent boy, and in the Gifted and Talented program in school, loves Science and other subjects, and loves animals.

Because of his interest in snakes, our family joined a local herpetological society here in Reno, and have been attending regular meetings. At these meetings, we were able to meet reptile owners who brought in their pets. My son would ask questions about each reptile, and have learned so much about them, about each breed, the care and husbandry involved in keeping reptiles, as well as all the responsibilities involved. Because of his direct exposure to these reptiles, his interest in science has blossomed, his grades in science has improved, and he now wants to be a Biologist when he grows up.

When he asked me if I could take him to ReptiCon, the big Reptile and Exotic Animal Convention, I quickly looked online for when their Reno, Nevada, show will be. To our huge disappointment, we found out that Repticon was being postponed indefinitely in Reno. When I did some digging on why this is happening in Reno, of all places (since I have come to believe that Reno residents' way of life was all about freedom, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) I found out that animal control has recently changed its laws and policies that made it very hard for ReptiCon to come to Reno.

Now, there are these new regulations that are being proposed before you by the HSUS, which, even to a new comer in this hobby like my son and I, looks like an over-reach of policies not really based on facts, but based on fear tactics and discrimination against exotic pet owners. I have read these new proposed policies, and they are very inhibiting to the learning process for anybody interested, or already into the hobby. I think to myself: What if HSUS's proposed policies have already gone through, and my son never got the chance to meet these cool reptiles along w/ their owners, to ask questions, meet the reptiles, and learn directly from their interactions? I doubt that my son would have been as interested in Science and Biology as he is now. These new proposals from HSUS are going to limit hands-on and up-close science education for Nevada's next generation of Scientists. Please reconsider to not adopt the HSUS policies for Washoe County.

Based on my experiences, we have some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers residing in Washoe County. Please listen to them, all they want is to have a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. These animal keepers are the experts, not the animal rights groups who have a different underlying agenda that are extreme, and don't help the animals nor the local residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
AnnaSheila Paul





June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

**Mary Dillon** [<mailto:rainydayz88@sbcglobal.net>]

Dear Washoe County Manager,

As a responsible animal owner who will be affected by overreaching regulations, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Some of the most knowledgeable animal keepers in the country reside in Washoe County and they only desire a working relationship with officials to write common sense regulation. Is this really too much to ask?

Do not fall for the false propaganda provided by animal rights groups! They are not experts and do not work with these animals. Take heed! Falling for their recommendations will lead to unintended consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda.

Collaborating with local experts is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas extreme groups are only looking to profit, while not actually helping animals or local residents.

Do not create problems by attempting to solve problems that do not exist. Thank you for your time and consideration on this complex matter. Have a good day.

Sincerely,

Mary Dillon

**Chris Matthews:** [christopherdalematthews@hotmail.com](mailto:christopherdalematthews@hotmail.com)

Mr. Slaughter,

I would like to take a moment of your time to express my concerns with an item for the Washoe County Commissioners agenda tomorrow, June 28th, 2016. It has come to my attention that the Washoe County Animal Control (WCAC) is advising the Commissioners to increase restrictions on responsible animal ownership. On its face, it may seem like they are suggesting prudent measures to control something that may endanger the well-being of animals in Washoe County. Of course, we should all want to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of animals and take steps to prevent harm and unconscionable living conditions for animals. Seeing animals kept in unsafe, unhealthy, and unkempt living conditions personally affects me quite strongly. Unfortunately, that isn't what is being asked for by the WCAC. The agenda for changes in regulation and even law coming from the WCAC are strongly reminiscent of the nationwide push that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is making to end responsible animal husbandry and ownership completely, in however small a step at a time they can achieve. May I remind you that the HSUS has absolutely no stake in Washoe County. They employ not a single

6/27/2016 1:20 PM

Source: Multiple Email Accounts





**June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting**

person in this region, and contribute nothing to the well-being of any animals here, exotic or domestic. There is absolutely no logic in their presence concerning these matters in Washoe County.

In the Commission meetings, I would implore you to ask exactly what sentinel event has precipitated the WCAC to so aggressively pursue restricting the freedoms of Washoe County citizens who have not displayed any hint of inhumane treatment of animals?

Is there a single reason that the WCAC can find that demonstrates that I am not a responsible and caring pet owner? In fact, it wasn't but a few short years ago that I was helping to rescue the non-domesticated animals that the WCAC themselves wouldn't touch, whether it was snakes, marmots, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, iguanas, wolves, or even common fowl such as ducks and migratory birds. The very reason that Virginia Lake has fountains is because I worked with a friend to present a plan to save the common fauna found there by installing water fountains, not only to beautify the lake, but to save the resident wildlife from a catastrophic avian botulism outbreak.

I submit that what is being asked is in fact a ban of lawful ownership of many types of animals that have already been responsibly kept in this region for decades. I have even been a part of using such animals as snakes (venomous and non-venomous) and assorted lizards, reptiles, and amphibians as educational tools at Wilbur May Museum, at regional libraries, at schools in the classrooms around our region, and as a Paramedic and EMS Instructor, to even to educate some of the very Paramedics and Firefighters that serve our region. I have also participated in training dogs, hunting and pets, to avoid venomous and non-venomous snakes, which will no longer be possible if the proposed restrictions are allowed to be implemented.

I will close with my utmost gratitude for your time, and that you strongly consider my position that further restriction beyond the presently barely objective and most often subjective permitting of ownership of exotic animals is unwarranted. It deprives Washoe County citizens of their liberties and happiness for no quantifiable reason. I served as a United States Marine for Americans to enjoy their freedoms and liberties. Responsible animal ownership is not unconstitutional. I am happy to speak with you personally regarding my concerns. Again, my thanks to you for considering my desires.

Warmest regards,

Christopher Matthews, MEP, NRP

5491 Breeze Court

Sun Valley, NV 89433

(775) 393-9367





June 28, 2016 BCC Meeting

**Carney Anne Nasser** [<mailto:cnasser@aldf.org>]

Dear Mr. Slaughter, enclosed please find correspondence on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Born Free USA, Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and The Wildcat Sanctuary, urging the county to prohibit the private ownership of all inherently dangerous animals within Washoe County (not just within the "congested areas"). Please also be aware that the venomous reptile community will be out in full force at the hearing on June 28<sup>th</sup>, lobbying against oversight of their dangerous hobby, on the basis that they "need" rattle snakes in order to train dogs about how to avoid snake encounters. This is not the case at all. Respected reptile experts advise that such "aversion" training doesn't actually require the use, breeding, and sales of rattle snakes and that it is likely merely a front for their dangerous hobby. Such "training" can be accomplished safely and effectively without venomous snakes. [http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/18\\_5/features/Snake-Aversion-Without-Shock\\_21208-1.html](http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/18_5/features/Snake-Aversion-Without-Shock_21208-1.html)

On another more personal note, I have roots deep in Washoe County. I come from a Nevada Wolfpack family, my brother is a Reno firefighter, and my sister owns a business in Washoe County called "Adventure Pet." Given that my brother is a first responder who is already expected to put his life on the line to save lives, I don't think it's fair of the county to expect him to have to potentially face encounters with inherently dangerous pets like tigers, venomous snakes, or chimpanzees regardless of whether he responds to an emergency in a "congested area" or a more rural area. It's not fair to ER doctors, law enforcement officers, and other first responders to carve out exemptions and loopholes when there is no legitimate reason whatsoever for personal use and ownership of apex predators or other inherently dangerous exotic pets. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions or would like additional supporting information.

Very truly yours,

Carney Anne Nasser

CARNEY ANNE NASSER, ESQ. | SENIOR COUNSEL FOR WILDLIFE & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Animal Legal Defense Fund | [ALDF.ORG](http://ALDF.ORG)

504.274.9381

[cnasser@aldf.org](mailto:cnasser@aldf.org)

**Nicholas Crosby** [<mailto:nickacr@gmail.com>]

Dear Washoe County Commissioner,

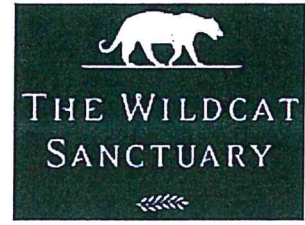
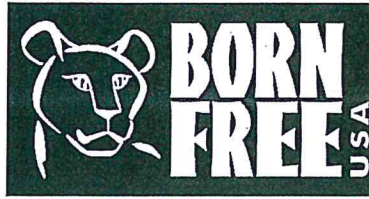
I am a responsible animal owner, I ask that you work with experienced Washoe County stakeholders to revise Chapter 55. Many of the most responsible and caring animal keepers in the state dare I say country, live in Washoe County and they just want to work with officials like you making common sense regulation. Many animal rights group twist facts to suit their agenda but do not be mistaken they are not experts and do not work with these animals. Following their advice without multiple source on the subject will most definitely lead to unintended and like unwanted consequences and they are simply using you to advance their agenda. Like any subject matter pertaining relating to local regulations it's in everyone's best interest if you work with local experts, I emphasize experts. This is how good government should work. They are willing to do what is best for the County, whereas activists groups are only looking to gratify a need for selfish need of so called accomplishment, while not actually helping animals or local residents. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, and thank you for your service to our community. Have a great day.

Regards,

Nicholas Crosby

6/27/2016 1:20 PM

Source: Multiple Email Accounts



June 27, 2016

John Slaughter  
County Manager  
Washoe County, Nevada

Via e-mail: [jslaughter@washoecounty.us](mailto:jslaughter@washoecounty.us)

Re: Policy Directon on Washoe County Exotic Animal Oversight

Dear Mr. Slaughter:

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), Born Free USA, and The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS), and our collective hundreds of thousands of members and supporters, we are writing regarding the proposed policy recommendations concerning Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code that you will be considering on June 28, 2016. While we are very pleased to see Washoe County initiating common-sense steps to implement greater oversight of dangerous and wild animals kept by private owners in the county, we suggest that the prohibitions against the ownership of big cats (including tigers, lions, and hybrid big cats such as ligers), venomous snakes, and other inherently dangerous wild and exotic animals should apply to *all areas* of Washoe County and not just within “congested areas.”

As you know, Nevada is one of five remaining states that has not yet passed any state laws to better ensure the safety of its citizens and the welfare of animals by regulating or prohibiting private ownership of dangerous and exotic animals kept as pets. Therefore, it is incumbent upon localities like Washoe County to take meaningful, proactive steps to keep the community and its first responders safe, and to better curtail the exploitation of endangered apex predators—like tigers—who do not belong in private ownership. Indeed, there is no safe or humane way for a private individual to keep wide ranging carnivores as pets, which is why private ownership of big cats is *condemned* by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Veterinary Medical Association, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and the American Bar Association—an independent association of nearly 400,000 attorneys which passed a resolution in 2015 recommending that all federal, state, local, and territorial governmental bodies ban the private ownership of dangerous and exotic animals as pets. Leading conservationists Dr. Philip Nyhus and the late Dr. Ronald Tilson, who served as the chair of the AZA Species Survival Program and Director of Conservation at the Minnesota Zoo for several decades, unequivocally have stated that

**[F]ederal, state, and local efforts should continue to do away with the practice of keeping dangerous wild animals as pets.**

See Philip J. Nyhus and Ronald Tilson, *The Conservation Value of Privately-Owned Tigers*, AZA Annual Conference Proceedings (2003). The additional enclosed materials provide a list of dangerous animal incidents that are known or have been reported. As you have likely seen in the media recently, there have been a number of dangerous animal incidents—including one human fatality—involving escapes, attacks, or other encounters between humans and big cats and other dangerous animals in AZA-accredited zoos. These incidents cast a spotlight on the risks of maintaining



dangerous wild animals in captivity – even in the hands of trained professionals – and they underscore how inappropriate it is for localities to allow anyone other than accredited zoological institutions or a *bona fide* wildlife sanctuary to maintain apex predators and other dangerous wild animals. Legitimate sanctuaries, such as the GFAS-accredited Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, Minnesota, and the Safe Haven Rescue Sanctuary in Imlay, Nevada, never breed animals, never facilitate direct contact between animals and the public, never use the animals for any commercial purpose, and provide lifelong care in vast, species-appropriate habitats. As of the date of this correspondence, there are no such facilities that meet either of the definition of accredited zoological institution or bona fide sanctuary in Washoe County.

As you may know, Clark County Commissioners did the right thing for animal welfare, exotic animal conservation, and public safety, by voting *unanimously* to ban the private ownership of inherently dangerous animals in November 2015. The undersigned organizations look forward to supporting the County’s efforts to secure laws that better protect public health and safety as well as animal welfare, and to reduce the likelihood that Washoe County will become a haven for the owners of dangerous exotic animals now that Clark County has implemented common sense steps to curtail the problem. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 504-274-9381 or [cnasser@aldf.org](mailto:cnasser@aldf.org) with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Carney Anne Nasser, Esq.  
Senior Counsel for Wildlife and Regulatory Affairs  
Animal Legal Defense Fund



Kellie Heckman  
Executive Director  
Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries



Kate Dylewsky  
Program Associate  
Born Free USA



Tammy Thies  
Founder and Director  
Wildcat Sanctuary



## **The Conservation Value of Privately-Owned Tigers. 2003.**

*Philip J. Nyhus and Ronald Tilson.*

*In Doherty, E. and Gorton, K., eds., AZA ANNUAL Conference Proceedings 2003. Silver Spring, MD, American Zoo & Aquarium Association, pp. 55-59.*

### **Abstract**

The plight of the tiger in the wild is now well known. Three of eight subspecies are extinct; a fourth may exist only in captivity. Few wild populations contain more than 100 individuals, poaching is rampant, and the rapid and frightening loss and fragmentation of habitat in the forests of Asia where the tiger calls home is one of the more poignant and tragic stories in conservation. In captivity, some 800 animals are actively managed by zoo and aquarium associations in North America, Europe, Australasia, and Asia.

Yet, paradoxically, the tiger as a species is in little real danger of going extinct because hundreds if not thousands of individuals, companies, and not-for-profit organizations in the United States currently own an estimated 5,000-14,000 tigers as private owners, breeders, for use in entertainment, and in feline rescue facilities. Oddly, no one really knows how many captive tigers exist outside of the world's zoos and aquaria in the US or globally. Even the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agency in charge of permitting many of these animals, is unable to provide a solid estimate because not all animals are required to hold USDA licenses and many more are owned illegally.

These "forgotten tigers", many located in backyards of rural America, have zero conservation value in the eyes of the American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan (Tiger SSP) or Felid Taxon Advisory Group (Felid TAG) because they are of unknown genetic heritage. The fate of these animals, to our knowledge never before discussed in major wildlife conservation journals, brings up very interesting philosophical questions about the role of private ownership of exotic species in support of endangered species conservation. Are these animals really "alley-cats" that deserve to be ignored by conservation biologists and the mainstream zoo community? What role, if any, can or should private owners of exotic species play in endangered species conservation? Should private ownership of tigers and other exotic but endangered species be encouraged or discouraged to help keep these animals from extinction and what role should conservation biologists play in this debate?

### **Introduction**

The decline and impending extinction of the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) in the wild is one of the best known conservation stories in the world. The extinction of the Caspian, Bali, and Javan tigers are legendary (Seidensticker, 1987; Seidensticker *et al.*, 1999). The few haunting images that remain of these extinct subspecies grace virtually every tiger web site. Of the five remaining subspecies, the South China tiger may be known by only 50 captive animals (Tilson *et al.*, in press). Only one subspecies, the Bengal, is likely to be represented by more than 500 individuals in the wild (Seidensticker *et al.*, 1999). In captivity, only about 800 tigers of all five subspecies are actively managed by zoo and aquarium associations in North America, Europe, Australasia, and Asia.

At the same time, any large cat breeder in Texas can say with some certainty that the tiger as a species is unlikely to go extinct any time soon. Among the thousands of individuals and organizations across the country that own or care for large exotic animals, a sizeable number have tigers in their collections. In fact, depending on whose estimates are used (oddly, no one really knows), as many as 5,000 to 7,000 tigers and at least 10,000 large cats may be privately owned as pets or housed in non-accredited zoos, circuses, and other facilities in the United States. If true, this captive population matches or exceeds the estimated combined population size of all the five remaining tiger subspecies in the wild.



This odd reality has historically not played a role in designing conservation programs by the mainstream zoo community. The preemption of the enormous surplus of tigers in non-accredited facilities and the backyards of rural homes in virtually every state is conveniently ignored in most zoo tiger exhibits and literature.

More recently, however, the tension between accredited zoos and private owners of tigers in the United States has come to a head as the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and a growing network of animal rights groups, wildlife and medical associations, and legislators have teamed up to support the stricter regulation of tigers and other large, dangerous animals. In this paper, we focus on one element of this debate—the conservation value of privately-owned tigers. We explore two questions. First, do privately-owned tigers have conservation value? Second, what should the response of the mainstream zoo community be to the claim that these animals do have conservation value?

### **Large Exotic Animals in the US Today**

While ownership of large and dangerous animals is by no means new—lions and tigers have graced the castles and homes of the rich and powerful for centuries—the breadth and scale of the enterprise in modern-day America is unprecedented. No where else in the world do so many private individuals and organizations own so many large and dangerous animals.

The widespread ownership of tigers and other exotic pets in the United States is at least in part due to the patchwork of federal and state laws regulating these animals. At present, no single law or federal agency is solely responsible for regulating private ownership of exotic animals. Enforcement of existing rules and regulations has been criticized as weak also (i.e., some private breeders reportedly operate without proper permits).

Three federal laws are primarily responsible for regulating exotic animals, but none strictly address the private possession of large exotic animals like tigers. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), enacted in 1973, regulates the import, export, possession, taking, sale, and transport of more than 1,800 species officially listed as “endangered” or “threatened,” including 500 international species not native to the United States. The Department of Interior’s US Fish and Wildlife Service is primarily responsible for permitting activities related to listed terrestrial and freshwater species, but permits are not issued by USFWS to keep or breed endangered or threatened animals as pets (USFWS, 2002). Captive-bred wildlife permits are issued by USFWS to buy and sell within the United States live, non-native endangered or threatened animals which were captive born in the United States for enhancement of species propagation, provided the other person is registered for the same species. Under this system, activities that would otherwise be prohibited can occur if the activities can be shown to enhance propagation or survival of the affected species and to facilitate captive breeding (USFWS, 1999).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also does not regulate the ownership and care of large wild and exotic cats as pets, but through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care (AC) program it is responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA, 2000). The Animal Welfare Act is responsible for regulating and inspecting exhibitors of wild and exotic animals. Commercial activity is a prerequisite for licensing and pet owners are not eligible to request a USDA license. A Class A license is required for the sale of offspring produced by an owner’s feline. A Class B license is required to sell felines not bred by an adult animal under their possession. A Class C license is required to exhibit animals to the public.

Finally, the Lacey Act allows USFWS to prosecute anyone who possesses an animal illegally obtained in a foreign country or another state. The Lacey Act prohibits the import, export, selling, acquisition, or purchase of fish, wildlife or plants taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of U.S. law or in interstate or foreign commerce involving fish, wildlife and plants protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and those protected by state laws.



The growing popularity of owning large exotic animals and the associated growth of the exotic pet industry has not come without problems. An increasing number of states, counties, and municipalities may have their own laws and regulations regulating the possession of exotics. Many require a USDA license as a prerequisite to possessing large exotic cats like tigers, and some outright ban the possession of these animals. At the federal level, the "Captive Wildlife Safety Act" (S.269, H.R. 1006), backed by AZA, The Human Society of the United States, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, has been introduced in an attempt to ban the interstate shipment of tigers, lions, and bears for the pet trade by amending the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

### **Two sides of the Private Ownership Debate**

Supporters of private ownership of tigers and other large cats argue that most owners of exotic animals are law-abiding citizens who care for their animals and the safety of others and should not be punished for the careless or unsafe actions of a few individuals. Many private owners fervently believe they are supporting the conservation of this endangered species.

Critics of private ownership, such as the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition (CWAPC) ([www.cwopc.org](http://www.cwopc.org)), a consortium of more than 20 animal protection organizations, argue that keeping wild animals as pets causes many animals to suffer from poor health, is dangerous to people, and is inhumane to the animals themselves. According to CWAPC, an estimated 90% of wild animals kept as pets are dead within the first two years of captivity. Tigers, and other large cats, have the ability to cause significant trauma and hidden injuries (Wiens & Harrison, 1996). A recent study by Nyhus and Tilson (Nyhus *et al.*, in press) found that between 1992 and 2001, 7 people were reportedly killed and at least 27 injured by tigers, a rate of 1.75 fatal attacks and at least 9 non-fatal attacks per year.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVM) (AVM, 2000), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (APHIS, 2000), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) (Butler, 2001) all oppose the possession of certain exotic animals, including tigers and other large cats, by individuals.

AZA in particular has long opposed ownership of exotic animals as pets. The AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) has stated that it strongly opposes private ownership of wild felids as exotic pets (Mellen *et al.*, 2000). The AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) management group also does not endorse the private ownership of tigers in non-AZA accredited institutions or in institutions that fail to meet recommendations set forth by AZA's Roadside Zoo Task Force (Tilson *et al.*, 2002). During the 2002 Tiger SSP master plan meeting, there was consensus among participants that handling of tigers in public places puts the public at risk of injury or death, promotes private ownership and a false sense of handling big cats, and that the animal loses dignity as an ambassador of the wild (Tilson *et al.*, 2002).

### **Captive Tigers and Conservation**

While the issue of human safety and animal welfare is at the heart of much of the debate surrounding opposition to private ownership of large exotic animals like tigers and the proposed new federal legislation to restrict inter-state commerce of these animals, the question of the conservation value of these animals has received less attention.

AZA as an organization has been concerned for some time that privately-owned tigers and other large felids do not contribute to scientifically-managed conservation programs established to maintain genetic variation and viability in captive populations. Privately owned tigers have essentially no conservation value in the eyes of the American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan (Tiger SSP) or Felid Taxon Advisory Group (Felid TAG) because they are of unknown genetic heritage (Tilson *et al.*, 2002). In contrast, the actively managed programs can identify the lineage of their tigers back to wild caught founders. Few non-accredited facilities contribute to tiger field conservation and scientific research comparable to the activities of accredited zoos and their conservation partners.



Zoos themselves have long responded to criticisms that they contribute little to conservation by arguing that they provide a “genetic insurance policy” that makes large animal reintroduction a feasible conservation strategy (Tilson & Christie, 1999). The mission of zoos is increasingly defined by this conservation role, and *ex situ* propagation programs have become essential to the survival of a number of taxa (Conway & Hutchins, 2001). Education, scientific research, and human and financial resource capabilities of zoos are just some of the widely-acknowledged reasons for the value and importance of zoos to conservation.

Of particular relevance to the debate about private ownership of tigers and other large exotics is the question of whether and how many captive-bred animals are needed for potential future reintroduction programs. Christie and Seidensticker (1999) argued several years ago that while tiger reintroductions would unlikely be needed in the foreseeable future, a well-managed population of pure-bred tigers in zoos should be maintained in case this need arises. The recent finding that the South China tiger is likely extinct in the wild (Tilson *et al.*, in press) and current efforts to ship captive South China tigers to South Africa in preparation for reintroduction in China show just how valuable such captive populations can be. But as the South China tiger experience is showing, such programs are going to be expensive and, as Billy Arjan Singh’s reintroduction of the hybrid tigress Tara also showed, politically contentious as well.

Given the status of existing wild tiger populations, it is unlikely that additional tiger reintroductions will be necessary outside of China for some time. If wild tiger populations unexpectedly decline, the 800 tigers actively managed by accredited zoo associations are considered particularly valuable as candidates for the “genetic ark” and for reintroduction because their geneologies are known and they are managed by subspecies. According to recent genetic analysis (September 2003), all three subspecies managed by the Tigers SSP exceed the 100-year target of maintaining 90% of genetic diversity (Tiger SSP 2003 Master Plan Report, in prep.). Even if several reintroductions were to take place in the next 20-30 years, the existing capacity in zoos would be more than sufficient to handle this need.

In contrast, few if any privately-owned tigers are of known origin. The Tiger Missing Link Foundation ([www.tigerlink.org](http://www.tigerlink.org)) is working to identify the sub-specific affiliations and relationships of unknown tigers through DNA testing and genetic research, but these efforts are unique among private owners of tigers. But most private owners of tigers have no idea—and little interest in elucidating—the genetic background of their animals.

While private ownership of tigers legally fits under the broad umbrella of the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act, the argument that these tigers have any significant conservation value falls flat when looked at from the lens of real need for four reasons. First, tiger reintroductions are rare. Second, if tigers are to be reintroduced into the wild, animals of known genetic origin will be preferred. Third, the zoo and aquarium associations of North America, Europe, Australasia, and Asia, have more than sufficient tigers to meet any foreseeable need. Moreover, captive facilities in tiger range state countries continue to receive “problem” tigers that have been removed from the wild. Finally, in a rather ironic twist, if the arguments of some private owners that subspecies designation does not matter, then any limitations in the holdings of the world’s zoos could be made up with translocation from one area of Asia to the other. This is particularly true when balanced with the human health risks and animal welfare issues that are an integral part of private ownership of large and dangerous animals.

At the same time, it also makes little sense for AZA and other organizations to claim these privately-owned tigers have *no* conservation value. They may not be effective “ambassadors of the wild” (Tilson *et al.*, 2002), and private ownership in general may suffer from the dangers of improper care and unacceptable risk, but the thousands of tigers that exist in private hands today do have *some* value.

We agree that wild animals like tigers are not good pets, that they are best cared for in professionally-operated and regulated facilities, and that federal, state, and local efforts should continue to do away with the practice of keeping dangerous wild animals as pets. But the tigers themselves do have some value. We suggest that they should be considered animals of *lesser conservation value*.

## Conclusion

The problem of private ownership of tigers and other exotic animals will be a challenge for years to come. The explosive growth of wild animals in private hands has resulted in growing pressure from several sectors, notably AZA and groups like the recently-created Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition. As we have argued elsewhere (Nyhus *et al.*, in press), tigers are dangerous animals that can cause serious harm to private owners and the public. As USDA (APHIS, 2000) and other have noted, many large animals in private care receive substandard care.

The question of the conservation value of these tigers, however, has to date received less attention. The typical response from AZA and others is that these animals have *no* conservation value. In contrast, supporters of private ownership of tigers and other large exotic animals point out that their animals will ensure that the tiger will never go extinct. With thousands of animals spread out among hundreds of private owners, the tiger as a species will be ensured a long and successful life in the backyards of rural America, irrespective of what happens in the forests of Asia or the world's best-run zoos.

We argue that these animals do have some marginal conservation value. While they are of unknown genetic origin, they are still tigers and these animals should be considered animals of lesser conservation value. The mainstream conservation community may want to consider the precedent of calling any animal of unknown origin or hybrid animals of different subspecies "worthless." We need look no further than the Florida Panther or the possibility that the South China tiger may need to be hybridized to maintain its long-term viability to realize the implications of this argument.

In the final tally, the risks to human health and animal welfare exceed by a considerable margin any secondary conservation benefits privately-owned tigers are purported to have and private ownership of these animals should be discouraged by adopting stricter Federal and state standards. But in the zeal to close the lid on private ownership, conservationists should be careful not to open up an argument that may come back to bite them.



## Literature Cited

- APHIS (2000). *Large Wild and Exotic Cats Make Dangerous Pets*. United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Riverdale, Maryland.
- AVM (2000). *USDA Warns Against Private Ownership of Exotic Cats*. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association News (April 1 2000). Accessed February 2002 from <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/apr00/s040100n.asp>.
- Butler, S. (2001). Message from the Executive Director. *Communique*, 2.
- Christie, S. & Seidensticker, J. (1999). Is re-introduction of captive-bred tigers a feasible option for the future? In *Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human-dominated Landscapes* (eds J. Seidensticker, S. Christie & P. Jackson), pp. 207-209. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Conway, W. & Hutchins, M. (2001). Introduction. In *AZA Field Conservation Resource Guide* (eds W. G. Conway, M. Hutchins, M. Souza, Y. Kapetanakos & E. Paul), pp. Atlanta: Zoo Atlanta.
- Mellen, J., Wildt, D. & Shoemaker, A. (2000). *Felid Taxon Advisory Group North American Regional Collection Plan 2000-2002*. Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, FL.
- Nyhus, P. J., Tilson, R. L. & Tomlinson, J. L. (in press). Dangerous animals in captivity: *Ex situ* tiger conflict and implication for private ownership of exotic animals. *Zoo Biology*.
- Seidensticker, J. (1987). Bearing Witness: Observations on the extinction of *Panthera tigris balica* and *Panthera tigris sondaica*. In *Tigers of the World: The Biology, Biopolitics, Management, and Conservation of an Endangered Species* (eds R. L. Tilson & U. S. Seal), pp. 1-8. Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ.
- Seidensticker, J., Christie, S. & Jackson, P. (eds.) (1999). *Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human-dominated Landscapes*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.
- Tilson, R., Brady, G., Dulaney, M. & Traylor-Holzer, K. (2002). *AZA Annual Report of the Tiger SSP: 2002*. Minnesota Zoo, Appley Valley.
- Tilson, R. & Christie, S. (1999). Effective tiger conservation requires cooperation: Zoos as a support for wild tigers. In *Riding the tiger: Tiger conservation in human-dominated landscapes* (eds J. Seidensticker, S. Christie & P. Jackson), pp. 201-206. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.
- Tilson, R., Defu, H., Muntifering, J. & Nyhus, P. J. (in press). Dramatic decline of wild South China tigers: Field survey of priority tiger reserves. *Oryx*.
- USFWS (1999). *Captive-bred Wildlife Registration under the U.S. Endangered Species Act*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- USFWS (2002). *U.S. Endangered Species Act: Permits for Non-native Species or Import and Export of Non-native and Native Species*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- Wiens, M. B. & Harrison, P. B. (1996). Big cat attack: A case study. *Journal of Trauma-Injury Infection and Critical Care*, 40, 829-831.



# Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial list of incidents involving tiger cubs held captive by roadside zoos and traveling zoos in the United States since 2000. Tigers are repeatedly bred so that these enterprises have a constant supply of tiger cubs available to earn money through “encounter” sessions and photo opportunities in which people pay to hold and be photographed with the cubs. Since tiger cubs quickly grow to their adult size, which can be as much as 700 pounds, cubs can be used for photo opportunities only during their first few months of life, and they must be taken from their mother soon after birth in order to habituate them to humans. Some tiger cubs never make it to adulthood because of poor nutrition, illness, physical abuse, or neglect. As the cubs grow larger, they become too dangerous to interact with the public. The older cubs are replaced by younger ones and confined to cages or sent to roadside zoos. This cycle continually repeats itself, exacerbating the U.S. tiger crisis: There are far too many tigers and not enough responsible facilities to take them. Contact PETA for documentation.

**September 21, 2015/Okeechobee, Florida:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cited exhibitor Sue Pearce for failing to provide a tiger cub, who was found injured with a swollen neck and bite marks, with adequate veterinary care. Pearce called the attending veterinarian and described the injuries, and the vet prescribed treatment over the phone without having examined the cub. The cub’s condition deteriorated, and she died the following day.

**September 13, 2015/Charlestown, Indiana:** The USDA cited Wildlife in Need, Inc., for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. During “Tiger Playtime,” four 16-week-old tiger cubs weighing 35 to 40 pounds were allowed to interact with approximately 40 to 50 members of the public. Two of the cubs walked into the public area after the gate was opened, one cub who appeared to be asleep was dragged in by his front paws, and the fourth cub was pushed from behind. The cubs had no collars or leashes on them, and the attendants used a riding crop to swat their noses if they started to bite. The inspector noted, “The cubs were swatted frequently with the riding crops when the attendants were near them. Some of the swats were excessive in severity causing the cubs obvious discomfort.” Members of the public, including

an 8- or 9-year-old girl, were bitten in at least two different incidents.

Wildlife in Need was also cited for using these cubs every day for months in multiple sessions without sufficient breaks in between. The inspector noted, “The fact that these cubs are allowing the attendants to drag them around by their front legs, non-responsively, suggests they are exhausted and have no choice but to cope with the situation.” The cub who had been pulled into the room was pulled to other areas during the 30-minute session. He remained unresponsive and never stood. As the session progressed, two other cubs lay down to nap and then were also dragged around the room. At the end of the “playtime,” three of the cubs were dragged by their legs from the exhibit area, and the remaining awake cub was used for photo opportunities.

**September 9, 2015/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a 7-week-old tiger cub who suffered from crusted hair and discharge from both eyes and was housed in an unsanitary enclosure with rodent feces and exposed drywall. The facility was also cited for failing to provide another sick tiger cub with timely veterinary care. En route to the veterinarian, the cub died from an underlying immune-system deficiency. Serenity Springs received an additional citation for failing to follow a veterinarian-approved diet plan, which required that tiger cubs receive calcium supplements. Two cubs were observed to have lameness and joint swelling, possibly caused by inadequate calcium in their diets.

**August 5, 2015/Davenport, Iowa:** During an inspection at the Mississippi Valley Fair, the USDA cited exhibitor Joe Schreiber for improper handling of a 19-day-old tiger cub who was being held alone, in view of the public, in a playpen-like enclosure with no secondary heating or cooling method for climate control. The inspector noted, “Animals this young in the absence of their parents are not able to adequately thermoregulate and exposure to temperatures which may be comfortable for adults may still be detrimental to the health of young cubs. Exposure to an excessive number of people and other animals at this young age poses a disease risk to the cub.”

**August 4, 2015/Kingwood, West Virginia:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Hovatter’s Wildlife Zoo for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. The cubs used in the facility’s photo shoots were too large, too strong, and too aggressive to engage in direct contact with the public. One tiger growled and used his claws to try to escape from the handler when the animal was moved from his or her cage.



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

**July 27, 2015/Charlestown, Indiana:** The USDA cited Wildlife in Need, Inc., for failing to feed four 10-week-old tiger cubs properly. They were still on a formula diet but should have been provided meat starting at 2 to 3 weeks of age, and the majority of their diet should have been meat by 8 weeks of age.

**July 17, 2015/Dade City, Florida:** The USDA filed a complaint against roadside zoo Dade City's Wild Things for 20 alleged violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including four separate citations for failing to handle young tigers as carefully as possible in a manner that didn't cause behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort; two separate citations for using physical abuse to handle young tigers, including pulling their tails to restrain them and holding a tiger aloft by his neck; and two citations for "exposing young or immature tigers to rough or excessive handling and/or exhibiting them for periods of time that would be detrimental to their health or well-being" and for "exhibiting young tigers for periods of time and/or under conditions that were inconsistent with their good health and well-being."

**June 4, 2015/Kingwood, West Virginia:** The USDA cited Hovatter's Wildlife Zoo for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. The cubs were pulled from their mother at birth and were cared for in the licensee's home. At 2½ weeks old, they were used for public encounters, and at 5 weeks old (at the time of this inspection), the cubs had not been vaccinated—putting them at risk since they didn't have fully developed immune systems. Hovatter's was also cited for failing to have a nutritionally adequate feeding plan for the cubs.

**May 23, 2015/Jamestown, Pennsylvania:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Pymatuning Deer Park for failing to have a veterinarian-approved diet plan to ease two 6-week-old tiger cubs to solid food.

**May 19, 2015/Natural Bridge, Virginia:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to feed tiger cubs properly. Four cubs were born on April 9, 2015, and removed from their mother within one hour of birth. They were fed a diet that was inappropriate for their age and species. The one cub still remaining at the facility had a rough hair coat, prominent pelvis, and pot-bellied appearance.

**January 6, 2015/Natural Bridge, Virginia:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to handle tiger cubs carefully. The cubs were pulled from their mother at birth and put on display in the gift shop when 2 to 3 weeks old. They were then used in photo sessions when 3 to 4 weeks old, which exposed them to the public before they were immunocompetent. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to handle tiger cubs properly. In one case, a cub who was too

big and strong for direct public contact was being used for photo opportunities.

**December 5, 2014/Massillon, Ohio:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for interfering with an inspection by failing to report the possession of a juvenile tiger. The inspector asked the licensee multiple times in various ways about the presence of a juvenile tiger on the premises, and each time, the licensee responded that there were no young or juvenile tigers on the property. However, the attending veterinarian confirmed that his clinic had treated an injured tiger cub, Lilly, a few days earlier. The inspector returned to the property and told the licensee what he had learned. She confirmed that there was a cub and that "she had 'forgotten' about this tiger because it was housed in another enclosure on the property which was located away from where the other big cats were housed" in order to reduce stress and contamination.

The inspector also questioned the licensee about a specific enclosure between one containing an adult lion and another containing two adult tigers. The space in the fence was large enough for the big cats to injure any animal in the middle enclosure, so the inspector asked the licensee if animals were ever placed in that enclosure. The licensee said no but later during the inspection admitted to putting the tiger cub Lilly in there while staff cleaned her enclosure. Stump Hill was cited for placing Lilly in the enclosure near the other big cats. She had been injured in her primary enclosure, which resulted in a wound on her leg and the amputation of a toe. The licensee claimed that the injury occurred when Lilly got her paw stuck between metal piping and chewed on her own paw and leg in an attempt to free herself.

Stump Hill was also cited for failing to have the record of acquisition for Lilly at the time of the inspection.

**September 13, 2014/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for improperly handling an 8-week-old tiger cub by allowing the public to handle him for at least six hours in one day with no documented breaks. During this long public encounter, the cub uttered vocalizations indicating distress numerous times.

**September 11, 2014/Tuttle, Oklahoma:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Tiger Safari for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a 16-week-old white tiger cub who had skin lesions but had not been examined by a veterinarian.

**August 19, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** During a USDA inspection of roadside zoo Wildlife in Need, Inc., inspectors observed several incidents that took place during "Tiger Playtime," when approximately 30



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

members of the public sat in an enclosed area and were allowed to interact freely with two tiger cubs. An attendee was pawed and mouthed in the face, one child was bitten on the top of his thigh, another child was grabbed from behind and both sides of his or her head and ears were mouthed by a cub, and one of the inspectors was bitten on the back, resulting in broken skin and bleeding.

**August 11, 2014/Greensburg, Indiana:** The USDA cited Stapp Circle S Ranch for improper feeding of a 9-week-old tiger cub, who was fed only meat without additional calcium or vitamin supplements. Lack of calcium can lead to metabolic bone disease in cubs and cause fractures and painful bone conditions.

**March 18, 2014/Naples, Florida:** The USDA cited exhibitor Patrick Clancy for failing to feed a nutritionally complete diet and supply adequate veterinary care to a tiger cub who was walking with a limp. She was being exhibited at the Collier County Fair.

**March 10, 2014/Branson, Missouri:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Promised Land Zoo for failing to have an employee who had been approved by the USDA for the care and handling of exhibited big cats to oversee the adult lion and 7-week-old tiger cub displayed at the facility.

**March 10, 2014/Miller, Missouri:** The USDA cited Hostetler Wildlife Farms for failing to provide tiger cubs with adequate veterinary care. Three cubs were born in January, and according to the facility representative, one "got a little cold and the mother may have sat on it." The cub wasn't taken to a veterinarian. Hostetler was also cited for improper handling of a tiger cub born in mid-January who was transported to another facility on January 31. This cub had health concerns, including illness and possible injury, from the date of his birth, and the facility representative at the destination site stated that "there was something wrong with that cub."

**January 17, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** The USDA cited Wildlife in Need, Inc., for failing to handle animals properly. The tiger cubs used in the "Tiger Baby Playtime" event were approximately 15 to 16 weeks old. The licensee admitted that people had been scratched and nipped during the exhibitions and that he told visitors to smack the tigers on the nose if they got too rough. He said that some people didn't hit the tigers hard enough and that if he needed to step in, he would. The inspector noted that these cubs were "too large, too strong and aggressive" and that the licensee must stop using them for direct-contact exhibitions.

**September 25, 2013/Naubinway, Michigan:** The USDA cited roadside zoo GarLyn Zoo for failing to have an employee with experience or training in handling tigers in direct control of a tiger cub being used for pictures with the public.

**August 9, 2013/Denver, Colorado:** While exhibiting at the Denver County Fair, Serenity Springs Wildlife Center was cited by the USDA for failing to restrain a 7-week-old tiger cub properly during a photo shoot with the public. The cub was vocalizing and squirming, and the employee didn't properly handle the cub in order to minimize the risk of harm to the animal and the public.

**June 11, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA noted on an inspection report for Joe Schreibvogel, operator of G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation, that it was reviewing an incident that involved the transportation of two tiger cubs and their subsequent death on or around May 10, 2013. (See May 23, 2013/Calhan, Colorado.)

**May 23, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for failing to follow the attending veterinarian's instructions to monitor a tiger in labor, leading to the death of the tiger and the single cub during birth. In addition, the USDA cited Serenity Springs for failing to handle two 3-day-old tiger cubs properly. They were acquired from another facility, and one died within 24 hours of arriving at Serenity Springs. Two days after arriving at Serenity Springs, the second cub was unable to pass feces and was euthanized.

**May 6, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for a repeat violation for failing to provide two lame tiger cubs with veterinary care. During an inspection to check the condition of a tiger cub previously identified to be severely lame and unable to bear weight on his right front limb, the inspector observed that the cub had a severe limp, wouldn't bear weight on his right hind leg, and had noticeable swelling of the ankle area. Another cub was also severely limping on his right hind leg and had swelling around the ankle area. The cub would only hop a short distance before falling to the ground.

**April 18, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for a repeat violation for failing to provide a tiger cub with adequate veterinary care. The cub was previously observed to have a severe limp, and during this inspection, the limp affecting the right front leg appeared to be worse. The cub wouldn't bear weight on the paw and struggled to get to the food dish in the enclosure.



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

**April 10, 2013/Calhan, Colorado:** The USDA cited Serenity Springs Wildlife Center for failing to provide a tiger cub with adequate veterinary care. He was observed to have a severe limp affecting his right front leg, causing him to stumble and fall onto his shoulder. He was also seen walking with a crab-like posture with his hind legs and appeared to be in pain. This condition had not been noted by any of the staff members or reported to the veterinarian.

**March 28, 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Zootastic Park of Lake Norman for improperly handling a white tiger cub weighing approximately 40 pounds. A customer was allowed to lie face-to-face on the floor with the cub, who apparently bit the man on the nose.

**February 28, 2013/Litchfield Park, Arizona:** The USDA cited roadside zoo Wildlife World Zoo for allowing a 3-month-old tiger cub to run through a local television studio. The inspector noted that the cub was seen biting the clothing of an offstage handler while the lead handler was seen with scratches and bite marks on his arms. The host of the television program was also seen pulling on the tiger's tail.

**January 24, 2013/Chicago, Illinois:** The USDA cited traveling exhibitor Jo-Don Farms for failing to have barriers in place to protect a tiger cub and the public during a photo event.

**October 23, 2012/Seattle, Washington:** The USDA cited Steve Higgs for improperly handling a juvenile tiger. An onlooker was able to get close enough to touch the tiger's face.

**May 21, 2012/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** The USDA cited G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation for improperly handling animals. The report stated that the facility's handling techniques were under review.

**May 21, 2012/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** The USDA cited Beth Corley for improperly handling animals. The report stated that the handling practices for large felid cubs were under review.

**December 1, 2011/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** According to a USDA inspection report, a 3-month-old tiger cub who was being exhibited on a leash at G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation jumped on a small child and knocked him down. The child was scratched as a result.

**November 28, 2011/Cincinnati, Ohio:** After visiting a tiger exhibit at Northgate Mall run by Joe Schreiber, operator of G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation, *Inside Edition* noted that it cost shoppers \$55 to play with tiger cubs in a pen and

have a picture taken with a cub. The 8-week-old cub that the reporter petted and posed with barely moved and was obviously sick. When asked about the sick cub, the exhibit employee replied, "I don't know. Maybe he's just tired or stressed." Another cub was missing a patch of fur and appeared distressed while posing for pictures.

**September 14, 2011/Dade City, Florida:** The USDA cited Dade City's Wild Things for failing to handle a tiger cub properly. During a "tiger swim session," a cub was reluctant to move to the edge of the pool, and the handler pulled him by the leash. The cub showed signs of distress by vocalizing and moving around when he was handled in the pool. After swimming a short distance, he then swam toward the handler who was at the wall of the pool and extended his paws, apparently wanting to get out. Instead of pulling him out of the water and stopping the encounter, the handler prevented the cub from exiting and continued the swim session.

**July 7, 2011/Larkspur, Colorado:** While exhibiting animals at the Colorado Renaissance Festival, Serenity Springs Wildlife Center was cited by the USDA for failing to restrain a tiger cub properly during a public performance.

**June 9, 2011/Okeechobee, Florida:** The USDA cited Animal Adventures for improperly handling tiger cubs who were removed from their mother shortly after birth and deprived of natural nursing opportunities and colostrum. One tiger cub developed aspiration pneumonia and died. The remaining cubs were housed in the licensee's living room next to three dogs and exposed to multiple people, which increased the risk of disease for the immunologically compromised cubs.

**March 18, 2011:** The USDA cited Robert Engesser, owner of The Zoo (aka "Jungle Safari"), a traveling zoo based in Florida, for using a "highly active" 16-week-old tiger cub in public photo sessions. The handler said that he would replace the tiger with another younger cub because the current cub was getting more active.

**June 8, 2010:** The USDA cited the now-defunct traveling big-cat exhibitor ZooCats, Inc., for failing to provide several tigers with adequate veterinary care. A tiger died during dystocia (obstructed labor), and according to the licensee, she received no veterinary care prior to or during the dystocia. No necropsy was performed, and the licensee stated that the attending veterinarian felt it was not necessary since the dystocia probably resulted from genetic predisposition. Soon after this tiger's death, another tiger aborted cubs. She, too, received no veterinary care during or after the birth, and no necropsies were



## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

performed. Yet another white tiger had given birth approximately three weeks earlier to three cubs. The licensee said one was born dead. The inspector noted the significant number of unexplained tiger cub deaths at this facility and that the "circumstances indicate that violations of the AWA, such as previously documented inadequate diets may have contributed to these deaths."

**June 2, 2010/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** An AllVoices.com article reported that 23 tiger cubs died over a seven-month period at G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation. According to the article, operator Joe Schreiber claimed that the cubs died as a result of being fed a tainted kitten formula. The Food and Drug Administration tested samples that the park provided it but detected no salmonella or *Cronobacter sakazakii* in them. The USDA opened an investigation into the deaths.

**January 1, 2008/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation ran an ad in *Animal Finders' Guide*, a trade publication for exotic-animal breeders and dealers, offering to give away free 10- to 12-week-old tiger cubs, yearlings, and adults, noting that they had all been bottle-fed from the day they were born.

**June 1, 2007/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation ran an ad in *Animal Finders' Guide* offering to give away free 12-week-old tigers.

**May 31, 2007/Boonsboro, Maryland:** The USDA cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for failing to give adequate rest breaks to the tiger cubs it exhibited at a carnival. Although the tiger cubs were kept in a penned area to rest, members of the public were allowed to come into the pen or lean over the sides to pet them.

**October 5, 2006/Shelby, North Carolina:** The USDA cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for failing to protect tiger cubs from diseases. Members of the public were allowed to pet the cubs at the Cleveland County Fair, and the Charlotte Metro Zoo allowed the cubs to suck on customers' hands, which they were not required to wash beforehand.

**February 12, 2005/Oldsmar, Florida:** A woman was bitten on the hand by a tiger cub used by the now-defunct traveling exhibitor Zoo Dynamics for photo opportunities at an automobile dealership.

**January 8, 2005/Cleveland County, North Carolina:** Two 6-month-old injured tiger cubs, weighing approximately 80 to 100 pounds each, were

abandoned and found wandering on the side of a road.

**August 30, 2004/Kaufman, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to have the attending veterinarian conduct an annual site visit and review the plan of veterinary care. The inspector noted that the two youngest tigers and the smallest of the lions displayed protruding hip bones and dull hair coats, conditions of great concern.

**August 19, 2004/Owatonna, Minnesota:** The USDA cited now-defunct Arcangel Wildlife for failing to ensure that a 6-week-old tiger cub used for photo shoots at the Steele County fairground was being properly handled. The inspector noted that the cub was the only one being used, and people of all ages were allowed to hold him.

**July 30, 2004/Kaufman, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to several 3- to 6-month-old tiger cubs who weren't being given supplements and were "thin in appearance to the point of the hip bone of these animals protruding." In addition, the inspector stated, "Also the hair coats of these animals are dull in appearance." The facility was also cited for offering the cats food every other day rather than daily as required.

**May 7, 2004/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A USDA inspector cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for improperly handling a 2-week-old tiger cub after seeing the cub being handled for approximately one hour by at least 12 people. The animal was allowed to rest—but in direct sunlight and for only 15 minutes. He was panting, and his skin tented when he was lifted, indicating that he may have been getting dehydrated. The outside temperature was 91 degrees, and the temperature of the table surface that he rested on was 93 degrees.

**April 16, 2004/Kaufman, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to provide two 4-month-old tiger cubs, who were very thin and exhibited dry coats, with adequate veterinary care. They had not been seen by the attending veterinarian since they were approximately 30 days old. ZooCats was also cited for keeping four approximately 6-month-old tiger cubs in temporary housing that wasn't large enough to provide each animal with comfortable protection from the elements.

**November 8, 2003/Frisco, Texas:** A 4-month-old, 50-pound, declawed tiger cub was abandoned and captured by police after a motorist spotted the animal roaming on the side of the road.

## Tiger Cub Incidents in the United States

**September 13, 2003/Rockwell, North Carolina:** The USDA cited the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo for improperly handling animals at the Cabarrus County Fair in Concord, North Carolina. Children and other members of the public were allowed to hold and pet a 4½-month-old tiger without sufficient safety measures to ensure minimal risk of harm to the public.

suffering from metabolic bone disease caused by the lack of a proper diet.

**March 22, 2003/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A 5-month-old, 40-pound tiger cub at now-defunct Grant Oly's Tiger Zone bit a 16-year-old girl and grabbed and bit a pregnant woman on the wrist, causing a puncture wound. Police searching Oly's premises found guns, ammunition, and marijuana.

**January 24, 2003/Albert Lea, Minnesota:** A malnourished tiger cub was seized from a home in a residential neighborhood after school officials learned that scratches and bite marks on a fifth-grade boy were caused by his father's "pet" tiger.

**October 28, 2002/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Neighbors became frightened and alerted animal control when they spotted two tiger cubs running loose on a neighbor's rooftop. The cubs had escaped from the homeowner's private menagerie.

**July 22, 2002/Plano, Texas:** The USDA cited now-defunct ZooCats, Inc., for failing to give water to two cougar cubs, five tiger cubs, and a bear cub who were all kept in an animal trailer. According to the caretaker, the animals had last been offered water 12 hours earlier.

**October 27, 2000/Massillon, Ohio:** According to the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Stump Hill Farm leased a declawed tiger cub to Massillon High School's football team to serve as a "mascot." During the months he was kept at the high school, the tiger was held in a garage between exhibits.

**October 10, 2000/Charlotte, North Carolina:** According to the *Salisbury Post*, a 4-month-old leopard and a 5-month-old tiger escaped from a car when Steve Macaluso, owner of the now-defunct Charlotte Metro Zoo, lost control of his vehicle and crashed while returning from a photo shoot. The cubs were later captured.

**September 10, 2000/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** A tiger cub bit a man during a photo opportunity at the New Mexico State Fair.

**August 17, 2000/Horseheads, New York:** The USDA cited Robert Engesser, owner of The Zoo (aka "Jungle Safari"), a traveling zoo based in Florida, for failing to give proper veterinary care to a tiger cub





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial list of incidents involving captive big cats in the United States since 1990. These incidents have resulted in the deaths of 128 big cats and 24 humans and more than 270 humans being injured. Contact PETA for documentation.

**April 15, 2016/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A zookeeper died after being attacked by a Malayan tiger at the Palm Beach Zoo. She had been preparing for her routine "Tiger Talk" behind the scenes in an enclosure where the tigers ate and slept.

**September 13, 2015/Charlestown, Indiana:** According to a USDA inspection report, members of the public, including an 8- or 9-year-old girl, were bitten in at least two different incidents during "Tiger Playtime"—during which four 16-week-old tiger cubs weighing 35 to 40 pounds were allowed to interact with approximately 40 to 50 members of the public at Wildlife in Need, Inc.

**September 6, 2015/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A cheetah named Pounce was discovered lying in a landscaped area between the exhibit barrier and guests at the Indianapolis Zoo, prompting a zoo-wide lockdown. An hour and a half later, the zoo tweeted that the cheetahs were back in holding cells and that staff and guests were safe.

**September 3, 2015/Hemet, California:** A 3-month-old declawed tiger cub was found wandering the streets of a neighborhood and was turned in to the Ramona Humane Society. The 25-pound cub, who was later named Himmel, was transferred to and provided a permanent home at the sanctuary Lions, Tigers & Bears. Himmel was believed to have been someone's "pet."

**August 17, 2015/Detroit, Michigan:** A tiger got loose in the Packard Automotive Plant during a photo shoot. The tiger, along with two wolves and a bobcat, came from Bozeman-based Animals of Montana. After the tiger got into a stairwell, attempts were made to scare the animal out with a weed whacker. The trainers were eventually able to get him or her back into a cage. Although the photographer had permission for the two-day shoot at the plant, he hadn't mentioned that he was bringing the animals.

**May 1, 2015/Flint, Michigan:** According to a USDA inspection report, a 50-pound cougar being exhibited by The Creature Conservancy became agitated and leaped off a platform in the direction of the general public. The handlers were able to restrain him with leads attached to two collars on his neck, but he remained agitated and attempted to strike the handlers. The report stated that the cougar was too large, fast, and unpredictable to be exhibited to the public in this manner.

**April 30, 2015/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A Sumatran tiger escaped from a primary enclosure at the Oklahoma City Zoo and was loose for 20 minutes. After being spotted in an enclosed space between two exhibits, she was tranquilized.

**April 15, 2015/Seattle, Washington:** A 6-month-old lion cub escaped from an enclosure at the Woodland Park Zoo after a keeper left the door open. He was loose in a service area for about an hour before being recaptured.

**October 22, 2014/Gentry, Arkansas:** A visitor to the Wild Wilderness Drive-Through Safari was either bitten or scratched by an uncontrolled 12-week-old lion cub during a park-allowed public interaction. The person later sought medical attention for the injury.

**October 11, 2014/St. Paul, Minnesota:** A 23-year-old man was clawed by a cougar after climbing a guardrail at the Como Zoo.

**October 10, 2014/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A 3-year-old child fell into a jaguar exhibit at the Little Rock Zoo. Two jaguars attacked the child, and fire extinguishers were used to keep the jaguars back as the boy was retrieved. He was taken to the hospital and listed in critical condition with a depressed skull fracture, an extensive scalp laceration, and puncture wounds. He was released from the hospital a week later.

**October 6, 2014/Jupiter, Florida:** A construction worker who was working at a large-cat breeding facility lost his thumb after he stuck his hand in a cage containing a tiger and the animal mauled it. The tiger belongs to Mario Tabraue, owner of Zoological Wildlife Foundation in Miami.

**August 26, 2014/Dallas, Texas:** A zookeeper at the Dallas Zoo was attacked by a lioness after failing to secure the door to an enclosure. He was hospitalized with a puncture wound to his back as well as scratches.

**August 19, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** During a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection of Wildlife in Need, the inspector observed several incidents that took place during "Tiger Playtime,"



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

when approximately 30 members of the public sit in an enclosed area and are allowed to interact freely with two tiger cubs. An attendee was pawed and mouthed in the face, one child was bitten on the top of his thigh, another child was grabbed from behind and both sides of the head and ears were mouthed by a cub, and the inspector was bitten on the back, resulting in broken skin and bleeding.

**July 26, 2014/Baldwin Township, Michigan:** A visitor to the Sunrise Side Nature Trail and Exotic Park had a piece of her finger broken off when she attempted to pet a caged lion.

**April 8, 2014/Jackson, New Jersey:** A few students were nipped by a couple of 3-month-old lion cubs while they were visiting Six Flags Great Adventure as part of an internship.

**January 17, 2014/Charlestown, Indiana:** According to a USDA inspection report, during an inspection of Wildlife in Need, Inc., the licensee admitted that people had been scratched and nipped by tiger cubs during "Tiger Baby Playtime." The inspector noted that the cubs were "too large, too strong and aggressive" and that the licensee must stop using them for direct-contact exhibitions. The animals used in the event were approximately 15 to 16 weeks old.

**January 3, 2014/Spring Hill, Florida:** Savannah, a 7-year-old lioness, escaped from an enclosure at the Survival Outreach Sanctuary. She was recaptured on the facility's grounds and relocated to a new cage.

**December 14, 2013/Hattiesburg, Mississippi:** A jaguar escaped from a holding area at the Hattiesburg Zoo after staffers failed to close and lock the gate properly after cleaning the exhibit. The animal was sedated with a tranquilizer dart and returned to the holding area within about 50 minutes.

**November 9, 2013/Sherwood, Oregon:** The head keeper at WildCat Haven Sanctuary was killed by a cougar inside the enclosure that the animal was housed in. The 36-year-old keeper was apparently the only person at the sanctuary at the time of the attack.

**December 8, 2013/Montgomery, Alabama:** A tiger escaped from the enclosure that she was being held in at the Montgomery Zoo by swimming through an underwater break in the fencing into a neighboring exhibit. She had been out of the enclosure for about 30 minutes when she was shot with a tranquilizer dart and returned to night quarters until the fence could be repaired.

**October 5, 2013/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** A tiger severely mauled the arm of an employee at The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Park after she

put her hand in the enclosure. She was airlifted to a hospital, where the limb was able to be reattached.

**June 21, 2013/Clay County, Indiana:** A worker at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center was attacked by a tiger while cleaning out the cage. She was admitted to a hospital's intensive care unit and listed in critical condition. Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators fined the center \$69,000 for safety violations.

**June 20, 2013/Charlestown, Indiana:** A woman and her boyfriend, concerned for their domestic cats' safety after other small animals had been attacked in their neighborhood, shot what they thought was a bobcat. The animal was later identified as an approximately 9-month-old leopard, whom authorities suspected came from Wildlife in Need.

**April 21, 2013/Salina, Kansas:** A woman came face to face with a tiger in a women's bathroom after the animal escaped from trainers at the Isis Shrine circus. The tiger was recaptured and returned to a cage.

**March 28, 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:** According to a USDA inspection report, a customer at roadside zoo Zootastic Park of Lake Norman was allowed to lie face-to-face on the floor with an approximately 40-pound white tiger cub, who apparently bit the man on the nose.

**March 6, 2013/Dunlap, California:** A volunteer intern was attacked and killed by a 550-pound, 4-year-old lion named Cous Cous, who broke the intern's neck with a paw swipe and then mauled her body. It was believed that Cous Cous escaped his cage by using his paw to lift a partially open door. Sheriff's deputies shot and killed him.

**February 28, 2013/Litchfield Park, Arizona:** The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for allowing a 3-month-old tiger cub to run throughout a local television studio. The inspector noted that the cub was seen biting the clothing of an offstage handler while the lead handler was seen with scratches and bite marks on his arms. The host of the television program was also seen pulling at the tail of the tiger.

**February 2013/Troutman, North Carolina:** A man was bitten on the nose by a 40-pound white tiger cub when he was allowed direct contact with the animal at Zootastic Park of Lake Norman. Apparently, the man was lying on the floor face to face with the cub when the incident happened.

**January 2012/Calhan, Colorado:** According to the owner of Serenity Springs Wildlife Center, a trespasser scaled a 10-foot fence lined with barbed wire and cut a hole in the fence surrounding a tiger



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

enclosure, allowing three tigers to escape and wander around the compound. Later that month, a couple was seen inside the compound sticking their hands inside the cougar cage, trying to pet the animal. After being confronted by workers, the couple jumped back over the 10-foot fence and drove off.

**December 1, 2011/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:**

According to a USDA inspection report, a 3-month-old tiger cub, who was being exhibited on a leash at The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Park, jumped on a small child and knocked him down. The child was scratched as a result.

**October 19, 2011/Zanesville, Ohio:** Eighteen tigers, 17 lions, and three mountain lions were shot and killed by police after they were let loose from an animal compound by the owner, who then shot and killed himself.

**July 21, 2011/Warsaw, New York:** Three tigers owned by Natalie Cainan and generally used for circuses escaped from a transport enclosure, and two crossed a barrier fence and bit a horse in the next trailer. The tigers were loose for approximately 30 minutes before being contained again.

**July 17, 2011/Manchester, Iowa:** An adult tiger attacked Tom Sellner, the owner of the Cricket Hollow Zoo, while Sellner was feeding the animal at his facility. Sellner was flown to an Iowa City hospital after sustaining lacerations to his head and torso.

**May 6, 2011/Wichita, Kansas:** A 7-year-old boy on a field trip with Linwood Elementary School was mauled by an Amur leopard when the child climbed over a guardrail at the Sedgwick County Zoo. According to a witness, the leopard remained inside the cage but had his "claws into the little boy's face, and [was] gnawing his neck." A man reportedly had to kick the cat in the head to get the cat to release the boy, who was later taken to a hospital with face and neck injuries.

**May 2011/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A maintenance worker at the Palm Beach Zoo was treated at a hospital for cuts and bruises to his back that he received from a tiger after he fell against a mesh cage holding the animal in a restricted area of the zoo.

**October 22, 2010/Rock Springs, Wisconsin:** A volunteer at Wisconsin Big Cat Rescue and Educational Center required medical care for his arm after a tiger grabbed the volunteer's clothing and pulled his arm into the cage.

**November 27, 2010/Readstown, Wisconsin:** The USDA cited the licensees of Kickapoo Bobcat & Lynx, exotic-animal breeders, for failing to demonstrate

adequate experience and knowledge of a wild animal when a volunteer was scratched on the face by a bobcat while trying to place water in the enclosure.

**November 19, 2010/San Antonio, Texas:** A cougar escaped from the Wild Animal Orphanage while cages were being moved. Law enforcement officers searched for the animal for eight hours, during which time the cougar attacked and nearly killed a puppy. Area schools were put on alert, and recess was canceled at the elementary school. The cougar was ultimately tranquilized and recaptured.

**October 22, 2010/Rock Springs, Wisconsin:** A volunteer at Wisconsin Big Cat Rescue and Educational Center was severely bitten by an adult tiger who grabbed the man's arm and pulled it into the cage while the man was providing the big cat with water. Other volunteers helped the victim extract his arm from the cage, and the man was flown by helicopter to a hospital, where he underwent surgery on his hand and arm.

**October 2, 2010/Idaville, Indiana:** Two 900- to 1,000-pound tigers escaped from a cage at a private menagerie called Great Cats of Indiana. The tigers pushed out the corner post of a cage, which was held together with approximately 10 16-penny nails. The tigers were reportedly acting aggressively and were shot by the facility's owner. One tiger was killed after being shot four times in the head and twice in the body with a .223 rifle and twice in body with a 12-gauge shotgun. The other sustained a wound to the abdomen from a 12-gauge shotgun. The tigers were loose for at least 13 hours before they were shot.

**September 5, 2010/Essex County, New Jersey:** A leopard escaped from an enclosure at the Turtle Back Zoo and hid behind a retaining wall in a zoo service building. Visitors were moved to safe areas and the zoo was closed for approximately 45 minutes while the leopard was sedated and recaptured.

**September 1, 2010/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Numerous visitors looked on as an adult male lion attacked a trainer at the MGM Grand lion habitat. The victim was treated at a hospital and received stitches for a bite on the leg.

**August 28, 2010/Miami, Florida:** While chasing an escaped gibbon, a 500-pound tiger jumped over a 12-foot fence and escaped from an enclosure at Jungle Island. At one point, the tiger came face-to-face with a 2-year-old toddler. More than 100 park visitors were ushered into a dark barn for protection. Four people were hurt during the chaos and were treated for minor injuries. A fifth person was transported to a hospital after having a panic attack.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**April 23, 2010/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A 100-pound tiger broke through plastic glass while being loaded onto a trailer at Tiger World, an unaccredited zoo. For several moments, the escaped tiger was on a leash but not under the control of a handler. The tiger passed 20 to 30 feet directly in front of two families with young children, all of whom ran and hid behind a cash-register area. The USDA later ordered Tiger World to pay a \$2,571 penalty for this incident.

**April 15, 2010/Beltrami County, Minnesota:** Two 100-pound adolescent African lions bumped open a gate and escaped from an enclosure at Paul Bunyan's Animal Land. The two lions were found wrestling with a dog in the front yard of a home in a residential neighborhood approximately two blocks away.

**April 2010/Brown County, Ohio:** A cougar who had been purchased as a "pet" at a flea market escaped and remained on the loose a month later.

**February 19, 2010/Palm Beach County, Florida:** A jaguar at the Panther Ridge Conservation Center grabbed a woman's hand and tore off her thumb when the woman wrapped her fingers around a part of an enclosure. This was at least the third dangerous incident at the facility in the past five years (see March 29, 2008/Wellington, Florida, and February 26, 2005/Wellington, Florida).

**October 10, 2009/Cleveland, Ohio:** An adult clouded leopard escaped from an enclosure at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo when a wire in the cage broke. The leopard was tranquilized and recaptured.

**July 30, 2009/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A 400-pound tiger belonging to the Fercos Brothers magic act escaped while being walked on a leash outside the owners' gated property. The tiger ran after a rabbit, causing Tony Fercos to fall and drop the leash. Police responded to reports from local residents about a tiger wandering the streets, and the animal was found in a resident's backyard. The owners cornered the tiger and returned him to a cage.

**May 25, 2009/Lisbon, Ohio:** A 10-year-old girl was attacked by a "pet" cougar while visiting the home of Chris Joseph, a family friend who owned several African lions and cougars. A young male cougar grabbed and released the child's arm at least three times when she put her hand and arm into a cage containing two of these large predators. In order to release the girl from the cat's jaws, the friend had to remove a fan that was in front of an opening and crawl into the cage with the animals. The girl was rushed to a local hospital and then airlifted to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. A USDA inspector cited owner Matt Joseph for two direct

noncompliances in relation to this incident and warned that because the gate to the barrier fence, which is also the perimeter fence, was unlocked, "[a]nyone could access these animals when the owners are not at home."

**May 24, 2009/Great Bend, Kansas:** A 150-pound cougar escaped from an enclosure at the Great Bend Zoo when a zookeeper left a door open. Zoo visitors were evacuated and the cougar was shot and killed by police because the animal became aggressive and tranquilizer darts were not readily available.

**May 24, 2009/Memphis, Tennessee:** A zookeeper at the Memphis Zoo was bitten by an adult tiger who escaped into a corridor through unlocked doors. The keeper was taken to a hospital for a bite to his leg. The tiger was sedated and returned to a cage.

**May 2, 2009/Osceola County, Florida:** A pregnant cougar owned by Jungle Adventure Park escaped and ran into nearby woods when she was being moved from one cage to another. Officials from the fish and wildlife commission and the Osceola County Sheriff's Office searched unsuccessfully for the cougar.

**April 24, 2009/Calhan, Colorado:** A tiger bit a volunteer on the arm while the man was cleaning cages at Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. The volunteer was taken by ambulance to a hospital.

**April 17, 2009/Jacksonville, Florida:** A jaguar at the Jacksonville Zoo escaped from an enclosure through a hole in the fence. The hole may have been made by a groundskeeper. The jaguar was captured in a net and returned to the enclosure.

**February 21, 2009/Oakley, Kansas:** One of three lions in the private menagerie of Jeffrey Harsh attacked a man who put his arm into the cage. Harsh reportedly beat the lion with a steel pipe so that she would release the man. The victim sustained deep lacerations to both arms and was taken to a hospital in Denver for surgery.

**February 11, 2009/Omaha, Nebraska:** A veterinarian at the Henry Doorly Zoo was bitten by a tiger while performing a routine medical examination of the animal. The 200-pound anesthetized tiger bit the veterinarian's right forearm three times, and the veterinarian was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

**February 2, 2009/Troy, Alabama:** A child was clawed by a leopard at the McClelland Critters zoo when the owner of the facility took visitors behind the barrier that separates the animals from the public.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**January 18, 2009/Thurmont, Maryland:** An animal-care worker at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo was attacked by one or possibly two jaguars after she failed to secure the area in which they were enclosed before working in an adjacent area. Both jaguars entered the area, and the nearly 200-pound male jaguar and possibly also the female jaguar attacked the woman. A fire extinguisher was sprayed at the male jaguar to fend him off. Emergency medical technicians responded to the incident, and the victim was taken to the Maryland Shock Trauma Center. She spent 10 days in the hospital for injuries to her face and upper body. Both jaguars were placed in quarantine for one month.

**January 18, 2009/Ingram, Texas:** A 330-pound "pet" tiger owned by Anke Leitner escaped from an enclosure and was discovered in the residential backyard of a 79-year-old woman. The tiger was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**January 8, 2009/Salem, Oregon:** During a USDA inspection, exhibitor James Wise was demonstrating to the inspector how he gave an adult male tiger a pill. When Wise turned around, the tiger lunged at him, bit his forearm, and pushed him into a fence. Wise hit the tiger on the face until he released his grip long enough for Wise to escape the enclosure.

**December 12, 2008/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Numerous visitors looked on as a lion attacked and bit a trainer on the leg during a feeding at the MGM Grand lion habitat. Another trainer intervened by hitting the lion on the nose. The victim sustained injuries requiring stitches.

**December 9, 2008/Albion, Indiana:** A 350- to 400-pound Bengal tiger escaped from an enclosure at the Black Pine Animal Park when a keeper accidentally left a door open. The tiger was seen running on a local firefighter's farm. Park employees, sheriff's deputies, firefighters, conservation officers, and local and state police were called in, and thermal imaging equipment was used to aid in the search, which lasted nearly seven hours. Two tranquilizer darts had no effect on the tiger, who eventually returned to the park on her own and was coaxed into a cage.

**November 29, 2008/Jacksonville, Florida:** Two bobcats at the Jacksonville Zoo escaped from an enclosure and into the zookeepers' work area when a keeper left the enclosure door open. One of the bobcats was able to escape onto zoo grounds through another door that had been left open to the outside. The zoo was placed on lockdown and visitors were required to stay inside shops and restaurants. After nearly an hour, the bobcat was tranquilized and recaptured.

**November 29, 2008/Pocahontas County, West Virginia:** A 250- to 300-pound "pet" Bengal tiger escaped from an exotic-animal farm owned by David Cassell after squeezing through a hole in chain-link cage fencing. When employees at a local ski resort saw the animal's footprints, county and state officials were notified. The tiger was tracked into the Monongahela National Forest, where Cassell ultimately shot and killed her.

**November 16, 2008/Luray, Virginia:** A 16-year-old employee at the Luray Zoo was attacked by an adult tiger as she attempted to pet the animal while giving a tour to a group of visitors. The tiger reportedly pulled the girl's arm into the cage, causing severe injuries to her left hand and arm. The girl's finger had to be amputated.

**November 15, 2008/Dade County, Florida:** A 16-year-old girl was mauled by a 150-pound cougar at the private menagerie of Alan Rigerman. The animal pinned the girl to the ground and clenched his jaws around her head. A neighbor freed the girl by punching and kicking at the cougar. The victim underwent extensive surgery to repair a large gash in the back of her neck.

**October 30, 2008/Atlanta, Georgia:** One of two 1-year-old cheetahs who were being transported in the cargo hold of a plane from Wildlife Safari Park in Winston, Oregon, to the Memphis Zoo in Tennessee escaped from a travel crate. An airline baggage worker in Atlanta opened the plane's cargo door and found the cheetah running loose amid the luggage. The plane was moved into a closed airport hangar, and both cheetahs were tranquilized and taken to the Atlanta zoo for a few days before continuing their trip to Memphis.

**October 30, 2008/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** Tigers being exhibited by Serenity Springs Wildlife Center at a party were given insufficient distance and/or barriers from the public, allowing one the opportunity to scratch a person walking past the enclosure that the tigers were being kept in.

**October 29, 2008/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma:** A volunteer was attacked by a 1,000-pound liger (a cross between a lion and a tiger) while feeding the animal at Safari's Wildlife Sanctuary. The man sustained puncture wounds to his neck and upper back as well as trauma to his vertebrae. He was flown by medical helicopter to a hospital and died the next day from his injuries. A group of 40 elementary schoolchildren was walking by the cage when the incident occurred.

**September 18, 2008/Mentone, Alabama:** A cougar escaped from a cage at Lookout Mountain Wild



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

Animal Park and attacked a black leopard's foot through the fence of an enclosure. The cougar was shot and killed in order to get him to release his hold on the leopard's paw.

**August 19, 2008/Washoe County, Nevada:** Two black leopards were found on the roof of a private home after they apparently jumped a 12-foot fence while the owners were out of town. Authorities tranquilized both leopards, and they were taken to the local animal shelter.

**August 19, 2008/West Palm Beach, Florida:** An adult lion and an adult tiger escaped from a cage overnight at McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary. Three schools in the area were on lockdown while officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office searched for the animals, who were both located the next day, tranquilized, and returned to cages.

**August 5, 2008/Richmond, Illinois:** During a rehearsal for a circus performance, a tiger at the Hawthorn Corporation circus training facility attacked a man, knocking him to the ground, face down, and grabbing him by the neck. The man sustained deep puncture wounds and several scratches to his upper body, neck, and knee. Others present during the attack hit the animal with wooden poles in order to get him to release the victim. Paramedics transported the man to the hospital, where he stayed for five or six days. It was the second time the man had been attacked by a tiger at the facility.

**August 4, 2008/Branson, Missouri:** A 16-year-old worker at Predator World was left a quadriplegic after he was attacked by three tigers when he went into the enclosure to photograph the animals for a visitor. One of the tigers jumped on the victim and knocked him to the ground before the two other animals joined the attack and dragged him to a water pool. Staff members used a fire extinguisher to deter the cats and pulled the teen from the cage. He was airlifted to the hospital and listed in critical condition with severe trauma to his neck and airway as well as a serious laceration on his leg.

**August 3, 2008/Warren County, Missouri:** A volunteer at the Wesa-A-Geh-Ya exotic-animal farm was attacked by an 800-pound tiger while cleaning cages. The man was standing on top of a cage when a tiger scaled the 12- to 14-foot chain-link fence and grabbed him. The victim's leg had much of the skin stripped off down to the bare bone, and he was flown by air ambulance to the hospital, where he underwent two surgeries to amputate his lower leg. The facility owners, who initially tried to cover up the incident by claiming that the victim had been attacked by a pit

bull, shot and wounded the tiger during the attack and then later shot and killed him.

**July 14, 2008/El Paso County, Colorado:** El Paso County Sheriff's deputies searched for an African lion who was spotted running loose by two witnesses, one of whom saw the lion chase several dogs through a field. Photographs confirmed that the animal was indeed an African lion, and the Sheriff's Office concluded that the animal was likely an escaped "pet."

**May 24, 2008/South Bend, Indiana:** A keeper at the Potawatomi Zoo was attacked by a leopard while cleaning an off-exhibit holding area. She was taken to a hospital by ambulance to be treated for her injuries.

**May 24, 2008/Detroit, Michigan:** A keeper at the Detroit Zoo was attacked by a lion while transferring the animals inside for the evening. He fended the animal off with pepper spray and was treated at a nearby hospital, where he received stitches for his injuries.

**May 19, 2008/Neosho, Missouri:** A black leopard approached a woman hanging laundry in her yard and then clawed at the door to her home when she retreated inside. The cat then charged a sheriff's deputy who arrived on the scene, ran past him, and turned around and charged again before being killed by several shots from the deputy's rifle and Glock handgun. Authorities speculated that the cat was a "pet" who had escaped or been abandoned.

**May 5, 2008/Miami, Florida:** Mark McCarthy, owner of McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary, was bitten by an adult tiger during a photo shoot for a music video. The tiger began to choke and became panicked when a chain tightened around her neck and body. McCarthy sustained bone-deep puncture wounds to his calf while attempting to free the chain, which ultimately had to be cut to be removed. He was treated by paramedics at the scene.

**May 11, 2008/Toledo, Ohio:** A keeper at the Toledo Zoo sustained three lacerations to his chest after a 5-year-old tiger reached through a double mesh barrier and clawed him. He was treated at a nearby hospital.

**March 29, 2008/Wellington, Florida:** The owner of Panther Ridge Conservation Center was attacked by two cheetahs while conducting an exhibition inside the cage during a fundraising event. She was pinned down by the cheetahs, who then bit and clawed at her for 10 minutes before she could be removed from the cage and airlifted to a hospital. She sustained 40 puncture wounds to her back, arms, and legs.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**March 24, 2008/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A panther who was likely being kept as a "pet" attacked a dog in the backyard of a home in a residential area. Police attempted to shoot the panther, but the animal escaped.

**February 21, 2008/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A 245-pound tiger escaped from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo when a zookeeper failed to secure two gates in the exhibit. During the 20 to 25 minutes that he was on the loose, the tiger walked past a volunteer and into an open area of the zoo, where nothing but a 4-foot fence separated him from the wider public areas of the zoo, including a playground.

**February 10, 2008/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A Palm Beach Zoo employee was bitten by a tiger during a training session. The worker was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

**February 9, 2008/Davenport, Florida:** A volunteer was clawed by a tiger while cleaning a cage at Horseshoe Creek Wildlife Foundation. The woman sustained minor injuries when the tiger swiped at her leg.

**February 2008/West Palm Beach, Florida:** A zookeeper at the Palm Beach Zoo had her finger nipped by Mata, a 3-year-old tiger, while she was training the animal. The keeper was taken to the emergency room and held overnight so that a hand surgeon could fix her finger.

**January 20, 2008/Cedar Creek, Texas:** A volunteer at the Capital of Texas Zoo was bitten by a cougar when she reached into the pen to pet the animal. The cougar gripped her arm and the girl sustained a broken thumb and bites that required stitches. She was the second person to be bitten by this animal. (See 2007/Cedar Creek, Texas.)

**January 10, 2008/San Francisco, California:** A 90-pound snow leopard at the San Francisco Zoo nearly escaped after he chewed or tore through a steel mesh wall that separated the feeding cage from a zookeeper service area. The animal created a hole large enough to get his leg and head through.

**December 27, 2007/Manitowoc, Wisconsin:** Two cougars escaped from the Lincoln Park Zoo when the fencing of the cage was cut by vandals. The animals were on the loose for approximately two hours before being located, tranquilized, and returned to the cage.

**December 25, 2007/San Francisco, California:** A 300-pound tiger escaped from an enclosure at the San Francisco Zoo, which was surrounded by a 20-foot-wide moat and a 12½-foot-high wall. She attacked three visitors, quickly killing a teenager and

following the other two male victims—a teenager and an adult—for 300 yards before mauling them. The two survivors sustained deep bites and claw cuts on their heads, necks, arms, and hands, and both underwent surgery for their wounds. The tiger was shot and killed by police. This was the same tiger who ripped the flesh off a zookeeper's arm approximately one year before (see December 22, 2006/San Francisco, California).

**December 3, 2007/Acton, California:** A 4-year-old male tiger mauled a caretaker who was cleaning an enclosure at the Shambala Preserve. The man sustained multiple bite wounds and was airlifted to a hospital, where he was listed in critical condition.

**November 19, 2007/Pike County, Ohio:** A 550-pound "pet" lion belonging to Terry Brumfield escaped from a cage and onto a nearby highway, where he chased and attacked passing cars. The State Highway Patrol and the Pike County Sheriff's Department responded to the call. Brumfield ultimately lured the lion back to the cage.

**November 19, 2007/Saint Louis, Missouri:** A portion of the Saint Louis Zoo was evacuated when a 1-year-old cheetah scaled a wall at least 10 feet high and got into an area intended to separate animals from people and was loose for nearly half an hour. The incident marked the third time since 2000 that a cheetah has escaped at this zoo.

**November 14, 2007/New Hampton, Iowa:** A "pet" tiger escaped from a cage by rushing past the owner at feeding time and attacked and mauled the family's dog. When the dog ran toward cars from the local sheriff's department and the tiger followed, a deputy sheriff shot and killed the tiger through a partially opened window of his vehicle.

**October 1, 2007/Pahrump, Nevada:** A cougar escaped from a holding pen at Running Wild animal compound and attacked a volunteer who entered the enclosure with a bucket of meat. The woman was knocked to the ground by the cougar and bitten on the neck, back, hands, and arms. The cougar stopped the attack when emergency sirens approached the facility.

**July 14, 2007/San Antonio, Texas:** A keeper who forgot to close a gate was attacked by a 250-pound tiger at the San Antonio Zoo. The tiger knocked the man down, dragged him, and bit him on the head several times before the keeper managed to escape by spraying the animal with pepper spray. The keeper was airlifted to the hospital with serious injuries to his head, neck, and arm.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**July 6, 2007/Marion County, Arkansas:** A man was injured by one of his 5½-year-old "pet" cougars as he was cleaning the cage. The male cougar knocked the man to the ground and bit him on the back of the neck, head, and leg. He was taken to the hospital and treated for his injuries.

**February 24, 2007/Denver, Colorado:** A keeper at the Denver Zoo was attacked and bitten on the neck by a 140-pound jaguar in a service hallway adjacent to the enclosure for the animals. The woman sustained extensive internal injuries and died at the hospital of a broken neck. The jaguar was shot and killed during the incident.

**January 21, 2007/San Angelo, Texas:** A woman sought hospital treatment after she was bitten by a 10-week-old African lion cub exhibited by G.W. Exotic Animal Foundation at a mall where patrons were allowed to pet and interact with the lion.

**January 5, 2007/Center Point, Indiana:** An 80-pound cougar scaled a 14-foot fence and escaped from an enclosure at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. More than two months later, she was still on the loose.

**2007/Cedar Creek, Texas:** A volunteer at the Capital of Texas Zoo was bitten by a cougar when she reached into the pen to pet the animal.

**December 22, 2006/San Francisco, California:** A keeper at the San Francisco Zoo was attacked by a 350-pound tiger who reached through the bars of the cage and grabbed the woman. The keeper sustained deep lacerations to her arms, which required surgery and may have resulted in the loss of one arm. A zoo visitor who witnessed the attack described what she saw: "The right arm was in the tiger's mouth .... The left arm was just being held there (in the claws) and the right arm was being eaten. She was screaming and flailing away." The tiger released the woman when other zookeepers jabbed the tiger in the head with a pole.

**December 22, 2006/Washington, D.C.:** A clouded leopard at the National Zoo escaped a cage through a hole in the fence and ventured onto zoo grounds. Visitors were evacuated while zoo employees surrounded the cat with nets and tranquilizer guns, sedated her, and returned her to the cage.

**November 24, 2006/Evansville, Indiana:** Animal trainer Wade Burck was clawed by a tiger during a performance of the Hadi Shrine circus. Burck received hospital treatment, including stitches, for wounds to his left forearm and leg.

**November 18, 2006/Coral Gables, Florida:** A 4-year-old girl was mauled by a 62-pound cougar at a children's birthday party. The cat took the child's head into her mouth, inflicting severe cuts to the girl's eyelid, cheek, and ear, and requiring surgical reattachment of part of her severed ear. The cougar had been provided by Wild Animal World and was killed to be tested for rabies. The proprietor of Wild Animal World had been cited at least twice previously for similar attacks.

**November 14, 2006/Gulf Breeze, Florida:** Two 150-pound cougars escaped through a hole in the fence of the pen and were loose for nearly three hours at The Zoo. The facility was closed and visitors were moved to secured areas while a search, aided by a sheriff's office helicopter using infrared cameras, was conducted for the cougars. Both were ultimately tranquilized and returned to the cage.

**November 13, 2006/Gulf Breeze, Florida:** A keeper at The Zoo was bitten by a leopard and sustained wounds on her hand.

**October 16, 2006/Copley Township, Ohio:** A veterinarian with the USDA was attacked by a tiger during an inspection at the L&L Exotic Animal Farm. The tiger reached outside the cage, grabbed the woman's arm, pulled her toward the cage, and got her arm into her mouth. She was treated at the hospital for scratches and bruising.

**October 16, 2006/Fleetwood, North Carolina:** A woman who attempted to pet a leopard at the New River Zoo was bitten on the arm and wrist, sustaining injuries that required surgery. The woman alleged that the owner of the zoo had encouraged her to pet the animal. The leopard was euthanized.

**October 6, 2006/Hesperia, California:** A 500-pound tiger escaped from a cage at the Cinema Safari Zoo when zoo workers failed to lock the cage during cleaning. Because the zoo did not have the proper equipment on hand to tranquilize a tiger, the animal was on the loose for hours, during which time he attacked a donkey, biting the animal's neck and a leg. When the proper equipment was obtained, the tiger was tranquilized and returned to the cage.

**September 12, 2006/Balm, Florida:** Lancelot Kollmann, owner of an animal business called Sir Lance A Lot, was attacked by a 250-pound tiger while cleaning a cage. His lower lip was split in two, requiring 25 stitches, and the side of one arm, which was sliced down to the bone, required five stitches and a drainage shunt.

**August 22, 2006/Tampa, Florida:** Enshala, a 180-pound Sumatran tiger at the Lowry Park Zoo,





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

escaped an enclosure 15 minutes before closing time and was loose for 50 minutes when an unlocked latch allowed her access to an empty exhibit that was under renovation. Zoo visitors were moved to safety in the zoo's restaurants or sent home as a 10-person weapons team assembled. Enshala became agitated when she was shot with a tranquilizer dart, causing her to lurch at a zoo veterinarian as well as a 7-foot wall separating her from public areas. She was ultimately killed by zoo president Lex Salisbury, who shot her four times with a 12-gauge shotgun.

**July 18, 2006/Ballston Spa, New York:** A 4-year-old boy was clawed by an adult tiger displayed by the Ashville Game Farm and Exotic Zoo at the Saratoga County Fair. The child was sitting next to a cage while having his photo taken with a baby kangaroo when the tiger reached out and clawed him. The boy was treated at the hospital and received 14 stitches for a 1-inch gash on his head.

**June 16, 2006/Kaufman County, Texas:** A part-time employee at Zoo Dynamics, an animal facility owned by Marcus Cook, was chased and mauled by a 300-pound tiger who climbed out of an uncovered enclosure. The tiger grabbed the man and threw him down, ripped off his ear, and left severe claw marks all over his body. The man spent the weekend in intensive care and received some 2,000 stitches. The employee in charge took the victim to the hospital without notifying local authorities that a tiger was still loose on the premises and recaptured the animal upon his return.

**May 2006/Kingman, Arizona:** A woman was attacked by two tigers at Jonathan Kraft's Keepers of the Wild animal sanctuary and required surgery for her injuries.

**April 6, 2006/Pine County, Minnesota:** Cynthia Gamble, owner of Center for Endangered Cats, was killed by an adult male tiger when she entered the cage. She died of crushing injuries to her throat and blood loss. The 400-pound tiger bit off her right foot and portions of both arms.

**February 24, 2006/San Antonio, Texas:** A cheetah at the San Antonio Zoo escaped from an enclosure by climbing over an approximately 10-foot-high fence into a tree and then jumping to the ground. She was loose for 20 minutes before being tranquilized and returned to the cage.

**February 15, 2006/Birmingham, Alabama:** An employee at the Birmingham Zoo was attacked by an adult lion while feeding the animals and moving them to the outdoor exhibit. The woman was taken to the hospital with bites on her scalp, right arm, and abdomen.

**January 30, 2006/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** A tiger escaped an enclosure at the Fort Wayne Zoological Society when a keeper failed to close a gate separating the enclosure from an aisle where the keeper was working. The keeper escaped to an unoccupied area and the tiger was tranquilized and returned to the enclosure.

**January 10, 2006/Center Hill, Florida:** A cougar slipped through an unsecured door and escaped from an enclosure at the Savage Kingdom breeding facility. As the cougar headed for an open field, an employee attempted to lasso him and was bitten on the lower leg. Other employees got ropes around the cougar's neck and the animal strangled to death as he struggled to resist the ropes.

**November 16, 2005/Greenwich, New York:** An adult tiger escaped from the Ashville Game Farm and Exotic Zoo by pushing through a section of fence across the top of a cage and jumping out. She was on the loose for approximately five hours before being found in a resident's yard several miles from the zoo, tranquilized, and returned to the cage.

**October 6, 2005/Duluth, Minnesota:** Two zookeepers were bitten by a tiger at the Lake Superior Zoo while they were moving the animal back to a cage following surgery. The anesthetized tiger bit down on one employee's arm, holding the bite for approximately 30 seconds and causing puncture wounds that required the man to be hospitalized. A second zookeeper sustained cuts to his hands and fingers as he helped other employees who used a broomstick and their hands to pry the tiger's mouth open.

**September 28, 2005/Lewis County, Washington:** A 5-year-old boy was tackled by one of his grandfather's "pet" tigers. The tiger scratched the boy's leg and gave him a puncture wound on his foot.

**August 18, 2005/Mound Valley, Kansas:** A 17-year-old girl was killed by a 300-pound tiger while having her picture taken with the animal at the Lost Creek Animal Sanctuary. During the photo session, the tiger, who was being held on a chain, lunged at the girl. The handler was unable to restrain the animal, and the tiger clamped his jaws on the girl's neck. She was severely bitten and her neck was broken. The tiger was killed.

**July 8, 2005/Peoria, Illinois:** A Frisco Bros. Petting Zoo employee was injured when a 2-year-old tiger grabbed his hand with her front claws as he was removing a feeding tray from an enclosure. The man was taken to the emergency room, and the tiger was quarantined by animal control for 30 days.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**July 2005/McHenry County, Illinois:** Craig Perry, of Perry's Wilderness Ranch and Zoo, was mauled by a tiger at the Hawthorn Corporation's circus-training facility. One of 14 tigers circled Perry during a photo shoot and then attacked his left leg. Perry required immediate surgery and sustained nerve damage.

**June 22, 2005/Little Falls, Minnesota:** A 10-year-old boy was attacked by a lion and a tiger while visiting a private collection of "pet" exotic cats kept at an auto dealership owned by Chuck Mock. When Mock opened a cage to go inside, a tiger pushed through the door and attacked the boy. As Mock pulled the tiger off, a lion came out and bit the boy, dragging him 24 to 30 feet. The boy sustained numerous facial fractures and his spinal cord was severed, leaving him a quadriplegic. The lion and tiger were killed.

**June 11, 2005/Lima, Ohio:** Bradley Craft was attacked by his "pet" cougar. Craft grabbed the cougar's tail to prevent the cat from attacking his mother and the cat turned on him, biting him in the leg.

**June 11, 2005/Underwood, Minnesota:** A full grown African lion escaped from a cage at the Arcangel Wildlife Farm and wandered through neighbors' yards for approximately two hours before being shot and killed by a sheriff's deputy.

**May 15, 2005/Kennewick, Washington:** A 110-pound cougar, likely an escaped "pet," was found in the garage of an auto repair shop by a guard after the animal set off a burglar alarm several times. The owner of the shop believed the cougar had been inside during work hours. The animal was removed after being shot with a tranquilizer gun by a Fish and Wildlife Officer.

**March 6, 2005/Underwood, Minnesota:** A 16-year-old girl was petting a tiger through the bars of a cage at the Arcangel Wildlife Farm when the tiger bit her finger and clawed her hand. The wound required a dozen stitches and three operations to treat an acute infection. The girl also underwent rabies shots.

**February 26, 2005/Wellington, Florida:** A 500-pound Bengal tiger escaped from a cage at Panther Ridge Sanctuary by pushing past a woman who was feeding him and who hadn't latched the cage properly. More than 20 sheriff's deputies and state wildlife officers armed with rifles were positioned inside and outside the perimeter fence of the facility as the tiger wandered the grounds for more than two hours. Two tranquilizer darts were required to sedate the tiger so that he could be recaptured.

**February 23, 2005/Pahrump, Nevada:** A "pet" leopard at Karl Mitchell's facility bit off the tip of a woman's finger.

**February 23, 2005/Simi Valley, California:** A tiger who had been roaming loose for at least eight days was shot and killed by authorities near a residential area.

**February 12, 2005/Oldsma, Florida:** A woman was bitten on the hand by a tiger cub used by Zoo Dynamics for photo ops at an automobile dealership.

**February 11, 2005/Cut and Shoot, Texas:** A worker at Wildlife Extravaganza was hospitalized for several days after her arm was pulled through the feeding hole by a leopard as she prepared to feed the cat.

**January 26, 2005/Sioux Falls, South Dakota:** A man was given rabies shots and received stitches to his finger after he was bitten by a tiger at the Great Plains Zoo as he reached through a fence into the cage.

**January 20, 2005/Baraboo, Wisconsin:** An 8-year-old girl was bitten on the chest by an 80-pound, 7-month-old lion cub at Creature Features Pet Store. The girl had to undergo rabies shots.

**January 18, 2005/Arkansas:** A 400-pound "pet" tiger was abandoned in the mountains of north central Arkansas along the Buffalo River. The tiger trekked 60 miles over the next four days, returning to his owner's home and was then taken to a refuge.

**January 8, 2005/Cleveland County, North Carolina:** Two 6-month-old injured tiger cubs, weighing approximately 80 to 100 pounds each, were abandoned and found wandering on the side of a road.

**December 24, 2004/Suffolk County, New York:** An 8-year-old boy was attacked by his father's "pet" leopard. The boy was scratched on the chest and bitten on the neck, and he required medical treatment.

**December 5, 2004/Laredo, Texas:** A circus worker was rushed to the hospital after she was badly bitten on the hand by a caged tiger at Great Circus of China.

**November 20, 2004/St. Augustine, Florida:** A 350-pound tiger, displayed by The Catty Shack Ranch at the St. Johns County Fair, attacked his handler and a 14-year-old boy as he was being walked on a leash to a cage. Police used stun guns to stop the attack. The handler sustained puncture wounds to his head and the boy was knocked down and scratched.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**November 20, 2004/Branson West, Missouri:** An 18-year-old volunteer at Predator World spent the night in the hospital after being bitten on the arm by an 80-pound black leopard as he stood next to the cage.

**November 6, 2004/Gentry, Arkansas:** A visitor was taken to the hospital after a tiger pulled the flesh off her finger at the Wild Wilderness Drive Thru Safari when she placed her hand in the cage.

**October 30, 2004/Salisbury, Maryland:** A visitor to the Salisbury Zoo had part of his finger torn off when he approached a cage containing a jaguar.

**September 9, 2004/Chicago, Illinois:** A keeper at Lincoln Park Zoo was seriously injured with multiple bite wounds and lacerations after being attacked by a lion in the outdoor exhibit. The incident forced an evacuation of the zoo.

**September 8, 2004/Trenton, Maine:** An employee was seriously injured, with wounds to his face and arm, by a leopard at the Acadia Zoological Park.

**July 31, 2004/New York, New York:** A 450-pound white tiger belonging to Adriatic Animal Attractions bolted from the New Cole Bros. Circus while being transferred from one cage to another near the Forest Park band shell in Queens. Dozens of police officers with machine guns and tranquilizer darts pursued the tiger for 30 minutes as he prowled for a mile through a park crowded with picnickers, scattering screaming people and causing two traffic accidents. He was recaptured by the trainer. Two women filed a \$60 million lawsuit after suffering spinal fractures and other injuries in the multicar pileup on the Jackie Robinson Parkway.

**July 26, 2004/Shepherdsville, Kentucky:** A 2-year-old, declawed "pet" snow leopard escaped from a cage, broke through a wire gate, and ran into thick woods behind the owner's house.

**July 14, 2004/Little Falls, Minnesota:** A 22-year-old woman was bitten by an African lion when she stuck her hand into a cage while visiting a private collection of "pet" exotic cats kept at an auto dealership owned by Chuck Mock. The woman sustained a severe laceration to her middle finger and cuts on two other fingers.

**July 14, 2004/Detroit Lakes, Minnesota:** A worker with the Arcangel Wildlife Farm was bitten by a tiger who was on display at a local festival. The leashed tiger lunged at the man and bit him on the arm when the man attempted to move him.

**July 12, 2004/Loxahatchee, Florida:** Deputy sheriffs and state game officials launched an extensive search for a 600-pound "pet" tiger who escaped from Steve Sipek's private menagerie. Residents were escorted to and from their homes while the tiger was on the loose. The tiger was shot and killed the next day when he lunged at a wildlife officer.

**June 2, 2004/Landover Hills, Maryland:** A tiger belonging to exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson escaped from the UniverSoul Circus after fighting with another tiger and attacked an elephant, biting her on the hip. During the escape, there were several elementary schools attending the performance, and children were walking under the tent in the area where the tiger escaped.

**May 28, 2004/Chillicothe, Ohio:** A woman was hospitalized after she was bitten on the arm by her father's "pet" lion when she reached into the cage to pet him. The lion was shot and killed.

**April 16, 2004/Indio Hills, California:** After a tiger used in the movie industry escaped from his compound, the California Department of Fish and Game and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department launched a search. The tiger was later captured.

**March 13, 2004/Massena, New York:** A 4-year-old girl was mauled by her grandmother's "pet" cougar. The 160-pound cougar apparently reached through the cage and grabbed the girl. She was hospitalized with cuts and bruises on her head and an eye injury.

**March 11, 2004/Reno, Nevada:** A volunteer needed more than 15 stitches after a declawed leopard at the Sierra Safari Zoo bit her as she reached into the pen for a food bowl.

**February 12, 2004/Hardin County, Illinois:** A 52-year-old man with a private menagerie of exotic cats and wolves bled to death after he was mauled by a declawed African lion as he changed the bedding in the cage. During the autopsy, a coroner found that the man had sustained numerous puncture wounds and a broken neck. The lion was discovered running loose on the property and was shot and killed by police.

**February 9, 2004/Plaquemine, Louisiana:** A woman was attacked by a declawed "pet" leopard she kept in a makeshift 10-foot by 10-foot cage behind her house trailer. The leopard bit her on the head, nearly tearing off her ear and ripping the flesh from her scalp. Sheriff's deputies and one of the woman's relatives shot the leopard four times, killing him.

**January 31, 2004/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** A 4-year-old, 140-pound "pet" cougar escaped from a car



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

during a traffic accident and was shot and killed by police when he lunged at an emergency worker.

**January 24, 2004/Lowgap, North Carolina:** A tiger attacked and bit a 14-year-old girl on the cheek and neck as she was taking photos of four caged "pet" tigers. She was hospitalized in guarded condition. All four tigers were killed on the site.

**2003-04<sup>1</sup>/Montana:** A black leopard being used in a photo shoot by Animals of Montana at an offsite location escaped after being sprayed with an unknown substance by the trainer. The leopard went through a "hot wire" and was later recaptured in a barn.

**December 14, 2003/Millers Creek, North Carolina:** A 10-year-old boy was killed by his uncle's 400-pound "pet" tiger as he shoveled snow near the cage. The tiger reached under the fence, dragged the boy into the cage, and inflicted at least eight puncture wounds to his head, neck, and chest. The boy's uncle shot and killed the tiger.

**December 12, 2003/Marion County, Kansas:** A sheriff killed a second tiger at Chris McDonald's private menagerie when the animal became aggressive following the killing of his companion. (See December 9, 2003/Marion County, Kansas.)

**December 9, 2003/Marion County, Kansas:** A tiger was shot and killed after escaping from Chris McDonald's private menagerie and killing two dogs and a wolf.

**November 11, 2003/Palm Desert, California:** A zoo employee and a zoo visitor at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens were bitten by a cheetah who was being walked on a leash through the park. The zoo visitor was holding a 2-year-old child on her lap when the cheetah attacked her, biting her calf and thigh. The child was treated for a head injury after she fell onto cement.

**November 8, 2003/Frisco, Texas:** A 4-month-old, 50-pound declawed tiger cub was abandoned and captured by police after a motorist spotted the animal roaming on the side of the road.

**November 7, 2003/Rockwell, North Carolina:** Steve Macaluso, owner of a private menagerie called Charlotte Metro Zoo, was bitten on the neck by a

leopard. Zoo volunteers and employees reported that Macaluso needed dozens of stitches.

**October 6, 2003/Golden Valley, Arizona:** An employee at Keepers of the Wild Zoo was bitten and dragged by a 450-pound tiger as she tried to pet him. She was hospitalized for five days with four puncture wounds on her leg.

**October 3, 2003/Las Vegas, Nevada:** While walking a tiger across the stage on a leash, Roy Horn of the Siegfried & Roy casino act was mauled and critically injured by a tiger during a show. The tiger bit Horn on the right arm, then lunged at him, bit him on the neck, and dragged him across the stage in front of more than 1,500 horrified tourists. Horn sustained bite wounds and massive blood loss. The 7-year-old tiger had been performing in the show since he was 6 months old.

**October 3, 2003/New York, New York:** Police, along with animal control officers and Bronx Zoo employees, confiscated a 500-pound "pet" tiger belonging to Antoine Yates from a Harlem apartment. Yates was later arrested at a Philadelphia hospital where he had fled for treatment of a deep bite wound to his right leg. At various times, eight children had lived in the apartment where the tiger was kept.

**August 21, 2003/Whetstone Township, Ohio:** A chained 180-pound "pet" cougar snapped a collar, escaped, and attacked a neighbor's dog, causing more than 100 lacerations.

**August 14, 2003/St. Louis, Missouri:** A cheetah at the St. Louis Zoo escaped from an enclosure by going through a 12-foot wide moat and over a 12-foot high wall. The animal walked among visitors before being recaptured.

**July 3, 2003/La Crosse, Wisconsin:** A tiger mauled circus trainer Bruno Blaszak in front of 400 people during his show at a festival. The tiger charged at Blaszak, knocked him down, and clawed him. His right leg required 30 to 40 stitches.

**June 30, 2003/Calhan, Colorado:** Two tigers severely mauled an employee of Big Cats of Serenity Springs as he entered the cage. The employee was knocked down by one tiger and sustained a mangled leg and scalp injuries. As a result, the tigers were beaten with shovels and later killed.

**June 23, 2003/Crossett, Arkansas:** A firefighter visiting the Crossett Zoo sustained a deep laceration and lost part of his thumb when he was bitten by a tiger.

<sup>1</sup>The date was obtained from a USDA memo regarding an interview on June 12, 2013, pertaining to escapes at the Animals of Montana facility in Bozeman, Montana.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**June 14, 2003/Dodge City, Kansas:** An adult tiger who was being exhibited by G.W. Exotic Animal Foundation swiped at a young boy, tearing his pants. The tiger was being used for photo ops with the public at the Village Square Mall.

**June 2003/Mead, Washington:** A Korean actor filed a negligence lawsuit against Cat Tales Zoological Park, a roadside zoo and exotic-animal training center, after she was mauled by a white tiger during filming of a story about two of the facility's tigers. She sustained a cut on her forearm.

**May 28, 2003/Nampa, Idaho:** At a roadside zoo called For the Birds, where visitors are allowed to pet tigers, a toddler was jumped on and licked by a 170-pound tiger. Other zoo visitors and employees have been jumped on and bitten by tigers.

**April 6, 2003/San Antonio, Texas:** A lion from Wild Animal Orphanage escaped and roamed through a northwest area neighborhood for several hours. An employee required hospital treatment for a fractured pelvic bone and bruised rib when the lion charged and knocked her down as she attempted to shoot the animal with a tranquilizer dart. The lion was shot and killed by four police officers armed with handguns and shotguns.

**April 2, 2003/Adair, Oklahoma:** Several tigers belonging to the International Wildlife Center of Texas and boarded at Safari Joe's Rock Creek Exotic Animal Park attacked and killed a handler. One tiger grabbed her arm and pulled her into the cage as she was giving them water, and other tigers in the cage pounced on her. Another worker beat the tigers with a shovel to break up the attack and to retrieve the woman's body and her severed arm. The tigers were displayed at fairs and used in photo ops with the public.

**March 31, 2003/Hennepin, Illinois:** A man was mauled to death by two tigers he kept in a backyard menagerie when he attempted to move the two animals into another enclosure. Police shot and killed both tigers in order to retrieve the body. This was the second incident at the Second Nature Exotic Cats Sanctuary. (See May 26, 2002/Hennepin, Illinois.)

**March 23, 2003/Sacramento, California:** A keeper at the Sacramento Zoo was hospitalized and treated for puncture wounds to his neck, right shoulder, and left leg after he was attacked by a 325-pound tiger while he was preparing to feed the animal. Another worker beat the tiger on the head with a shovel to stop the attack.

**March 22, 2003/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A 5-month-old, 40-pound tiger cub at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone

grabbed and bit a pregnant woman on the wrist, causing a puncture wound, and bit a 16-year-old girl. Police searching Oly's premises found guns, ammunition, and marijuana.

**February 4, 2003/Jacksonville, Florida:** A 450-pound tiger, belonging to exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson, escaped from the UniverSoul Circus while the cage was being cleaned. The tiger climbed over a car, jumped over a fence, headed down an alley, frightened employees at a nearby restaurant, and was recaptured 10 minutes later.

**January 24, 2003/Albert Lea, Minnesota:** A malnourished tiger cub was seized from a home in a residential neighborhood after school officials learned that scratches and bite marks on a fifth-grade boy were caused by his father's "pet" tiger.

**January 8, 2003/Laurens, South Carolina:** A 200-pound "pet" cougar was recaptured in a residential neighborhood after he had escaped from a pen 5 miles away and roamed freely for three days.

**2003/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A tiger at Burnette's Pet Farm bit a worker in the jugular vein. Cuyahoga County Board of Health Deputy Director Dave Covell said, "We didn't even know they had a tiger."

**2002-03<sup>2</sup>/Bozeman, Montana:** A person cleaning the enclosure holding a mountain lion chose not to lock the animal in a den box. The person sustained a laceration to the head and lip and was taken to a hospital.

**December 15, 2002/Leesburg, Virginia:** Animal control was called to help recapture an 80-pound tiger who escaped from a petting zoo and was on top of a car in a parking lot.

**December 2002/Malibu Hills, California:** Television star Elisha Cuthbert was treated at a hospital for deep puncture wounds to the hand after she was bitten by a cougar while shooting a scene for the TV show *24*.

**November 14, 2002/Detroit, Michigan:** A tiger who had been beaten to death and dumped in a field was found by local residents.

**November 4, 2002/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A teenager reported to authorities that tigers at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone had bitten him and two adults.

<sup>2</sup>The date was obtained from a USDA memo regarding an interview on June 12, 2013, pertaining to escapes at the Animals of Montana facility in Bozeman, Montana.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**October 28, 2002/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Neighbors became frightened and alerted animal control when they spotted two tiger cubs running loose on a neighbor's rooftop. The cubs had escaped from the homeowner's private menagerie.

**October 17, 2002/Southport, Florida:** A 500-pound African lion pounced on, dragged, and mauled his owner at a roadside zoo called 77 Zoological Park as the owner stepped into the cage to pose for a picture. The lion ripped a hole in his throat, pulled his right eye out of its socket, severed tendons in his neck and chest, tore his skin, and bit through his flesh to the bone. The man spent weeks in the hospital and was in critical condition for 11 days.

**October 11, 2002/Jackson, New Jersey:** The 70-year-old husband of "tiger lady" Joan Byron-Marasek was suddenly attacked by a tiger at her controversial preserve as he was feeding the tigers. He sustained head injuries, and his arm was nearly severed.

**October 4, 2002/Leona, Texas:** A man was severely mauled by a 400-pound tiger at the Perrydise Exotic Animal Ranch when he stuck his arm in the feeding opening of the cage to touch the animal, resulting in amputation of his arm just above the elbow.

**September 28, 2002/Bloomington, Illinois:** A 400-pound tiger was shot and killed by police after he escaped from a trailer at a truck stop and hid in bushes near a residential area for nine hours. Local police spent \$9,000 attempting to recapture the tiger. This same tiger mauled a 7-year-old girl earlier in the year. (See May 26, 2002.)

**September 22, 2002/Quitman, Arkansas:** Four African lions, believed to have escaped from a nearby exotic-animal farm, were shot and killed after running loose for several days, terrifying residents.

**September 20, 2002/Scotts Valley, California:** A declawed 150-pound tiger, who was being walked on a leash by Zoo to You at a school assembly with 150 children at the Baymonte Christian School, suddenly lunged at a 6-year-old boy and grabbed the child by the head with her jaws. The boy was wrestled away from the tiger by the principal and airlifted to a medical center where he received 55 stitches for two cuts to his scalp. A psychologist gave counseling to the terrified children who witnessed the attack.

**July 25, 2002/Tacoma, Washington:** A 4-year-old male clouded leopard jumped on and scratched both arms of a handler at the Point Defiance Zoo during a behind-the-scenes tour at the zoo. A small group of children was nearby. The woman had to call for help to get the 43-pound cat under control and her wounds were treated at a hospital. The same animal had

scratched another handler's leg 18 days previously. (See July 7, 2002/Tacoma, Washington.)

**July 7, 2002/Tacoma, Washington:** A clouded leopard scratched the legs of a handler at the Point Defiance Zoo.

**July 2002/Nampa, Idaho:** A tiger being used in an exhibition injured a 12-year-old child's finger at For the Birds.

**June 17, 2002/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A tiger at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone bit a teenager on the arm, causing a puncture wound that required stitches.

**May 26, 2002/Hennepin, Illinois:** A 7-year-old girl was bitten by a tiger at a private menagerie as she attempted to pet the animal. The girl required 110 stitches and three months of therapy.

**May 12, 2002/Tampa, Florida:** A 350-pound African lion at Busch Gardens ripped off the arm of a zookeeper who was standing next to the cage while giving a private tour to her family. The attack occurred shortly after the zookeeper had fed the lion pieces of meat during training exercises. The zookeeper filed a lawsuit seeking in excess of \$15,000 in damages.

**April 28, 2002/Pickens County, South Carolina:** According to the Post & Courier, a "pet" tiger was quarantined for biting an 8-year-old boy in the leg after the tiger had been given a bath. The tiger was normally kept in a metal cage in the backyard.

**March 10, 2002/Red Wing, Minnesota:** A tiger at Grant Oly's Tiger Zone bit off a portion of a 14-year-old boy's finger.

**March 9, 2002/Wynnewood, Oklahoma:** A cougar suddenly bit Joe Schreiber, director of the G.W. Exotic Animal Park, during feeding. The cougar reached out from the cage, grabbed Schreiber's sleeve, and began gnawing on his hand, nearly severing his thumb and finger. The man received stitches on his wrist, thumb, palm, and across the entire base of his index finger.

**March 2, 2002/Strafford, Missouri:** Two adult lions escaped from a cage at Exotic Animal Paradise after an employee failed to secure the enclosure. One of the lions was shot with three tranquilizer darts, failed to recover from the sedation, and subsequently died.

**February 15, 2002/Pahrump, Nevada:** Animal exhibitor Karl Mitchell shot and killed one of his tigers after the animal became frightened and escaped his control while being moved to a new residence.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**February 3, 2002/Loxahatchee, Florida:** A woman was hospitalized in critical condition with a skull fracture after she was attacked and bitten by a 750-pound declawed tiger. The woman had been painting in preparation for a photo shoot at Steve Sipek's private animal compound.

**February 1, 2002/Tampa, Florida:** A leashed tiger lurched toward a young boy during a Busch Gardens "animal encounter" during which animals are taken into the park to interact with the public.

**January 24, 2002/Gentry, Arkansas:** Two animal handlers at Wild Wilderness Drive Thru Safari were attacked while transferring cougars between cages. One handler received multiple bites on an arm and leg, and the other was bitten in the face.

**2001-02<sup>3</sup>/Bozeman, Montana:** Two lions held at the Animals of Montana facility escaped from an enclosure that was being cleaned, because the gate wasn't properly latched. One of the lions was fatally shot near the end of the driveway. Mountain lion hounds and a helicopter were called in to search for the other lion, who was shot and killed west of the facility.

**December 29, 2001/Leona, Texas:** A 6-year-old boy was taken to the emergency room after being attacked by a tiger at the Perrydise Exotic Animal Ranch. The child sustained severe lacerations to his face and hand when a tiger reached through the cage and clawed him as he was photographing the animal.

**December 8, 2001/Broward County, Florida:** During a photo session, a 7-year-old boy was bitten on the head by an unattended leopard.

**November 2, 2001/Pahrump, Nevada:** A man was severely injured by a tiger while visiting a private residence. The man was bitten on the arm when he was allowed to feed the animals and required more than \$160,000 in medical care, including reconstructive surgery. A lawsuit was filed against tiger owner Annette Grabowski and her companion, Paul Mason, for negligence and against Nye County for failure to take action despite a previous biting incident.

**October 10, 2001/Lee County, Texas:** A 3-year-old boy was killed by one of three of a relative's "pet" tigers as he was about to have his picture taken with

the animals. The 250-pound tiger snatched the boy from the arms of an adult, clamped down on his leg, and dragged him around the enclosure, causing head injuries. The tiger was beaten on the head until he released the boy's foot.

**July 31, 2001/Center Hill, Florida:** A 500-pound tiger mauled and killed a man making cage repairs at a roadside zoo called Savage Kingdom. The man had sustained a fatal bite to his neck and severe injuries to his head, arm, and ribs. The tiger was later shot and killed by zoo workers.

**July 27, 2001/Racine, Minnesota:** A 2-year-old, 400-pound white Siberian tiger was euthanized for rabies tests after he bit a 7-year-old girl. The tiger had escaped from a cage at a roadside zoo called B.E.A.R.C.A.T. Hollow and attacked the girl, inflicting two puncture wounds that became infected. The tiger was stuffed and mounted.

**June 25, 2001/Nashville, Tennessee:** The Nashville Zoo was evacuated after officials found a cheetah wandering outside of a pen. The cheetah was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**April 29, 2001/Oskaloosa, Kansas:** A Jefferson County sheriff's lieutenant shot and killed an escaped tiger as the tiger crouched in an attack position. The 600-pound tiger ran loose for an hour after fleeing while being unloaded at a traveling zoo called, "Gatekeepers Wildlife Sanctuary." The animal had twice tried to attack a veterinarian when he was shot with a tranquilizer dart.

**April 27, 2001/Oakwood, Ohio:** The Sheriff's Office warned residents to keep their children and companion animals indoors after receiving a report that an escaped lion had been sighted.

**April 7, 2001/Van Buren County, Arkansas:** Three tigers escaped from cages while being moved by court order from a Faulkner County subdivision, where they had been kept in violation of a local ordinance. The tigers were found three hours later, and one died after being tranquilized. After the escape, the sheriff of Van Buren County stated that he did not want the tigers in his county either.

**April 2001/Omaha, Nebraska:** Animal handler Bryan Franzen required stitches after he was clawed by a tiger during a performance at the Tangier Shrine circus.

**March 27, 2001/Morgan County, Missouri:** An African lion at Ozark Nature Center escaped from a cage while animals were being loaded for transport. Terrified residents spent the next four days escorting children and keeping companion animals indoors

<sup>3</sup>The date was obtained from a USDA memo regarding an interview on June 12, 2013, pertaining to escapes at the Animals of Montana facility in Bozeman, Montana.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

while dozens of police officers and conservation agents searched for the animal. The lion was found napping near a road and recaptured.

**March 25, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A tiger with Safari Wildlife attacked and killed a handler. The tiger put his paw on the man's back, pushed him down, and bit his throat. The handler died within minutes from loss of blood. The tiger was used for photo ops with the public and had also appeared in numerous motion pictures and advertisements. He was being groomed for a promotional advertisement when the attack occurred. Another handler was hospitalized with injuries to his knees and puncture wounds.

**March 20, 2001/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A worker spreading gravel in a tiger enclosure at Burnette Farm was mauled and critically injured by a 500-pound tiger. The worker underwent surgery for bite wounds to his neck.

**March 16, 2001/Witts Springs, Arkansas:** A tiger escaped from a backyard menagerie by gnawing her way through the heavy steel enclosure. The tiger was loose for three days, terrorizing residents and biting a dog, who was subsequently treated for three large fang marks on each side of his neck. The tiger continued to elude capture after she was shot in the shoulder by an area resident. She was tranquilized and recaptured after she was located in a thickly wooded area by a police helicopter.

**January 26, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A "pet" cougar escaped from a pen and hopped aboard a school bus. No children were on board at the time. The driver fled from the bus, and animal control workers captured the animal.

**December 20, 2000/Omaha, Nebraska:** A 6-month-old cougar cub pounced on the landlord of a rental home that he was checking on after the tenant was arrested for armed robbery.

**October 21, 2000/Gambier, Ohio:** A 10-year-old boy was knocked to the ground and bitten on the leg by a tiger at the Siberian Tiger Foundation while participating in a "close encounter" at the facility. This was the tenth incident in seven months of people being bitten or otherwise injured by tigers at the facility.

**September 10, 2000/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** A tiger cub bit a man during a photo op at the New Mexico State Fair.

**August 26, 2000/Sioux Falls, South Dakota:** A 14-year-old boy was hospitalized after being mauled by a tiger on his father's farm. The teenager was

hospitalized for more than a month with bite wounds to the leg, neck, and shoulder.

**August 16, 2000/Sapulpa, Oklahoma:** One of two 11-month-old tigers broke loose and frightened nearby children while they were being moved between cages at Safari Joe's.

**August 12, 2000/Boise, Idaho:** A woman was mauled by a tiger at a fundraiser for Zoo Boise after the cat escaped from an unlocked cage. She was hospitalized in serious condition with a broken leg, puncture wounds, and a gunshot wound that she received when police fired their guns to scare the tiger away.

**July 12, 2000/Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin:** An employee at the Irvine Park Zoo in Wisconsin was bitten by a cougar after she tried to pet him. She was hospitalized for three days.

**June 7, 2000/Bloomington, Illinois:** A man was treated for a 3-inch cut and puncture wounds to his hand, inflicted by a snow leopard after he tried to pet the animal at the Miller Park Zoo. A similar incident occurred at the same zoo in September 1995 when a man sustained a 3 1/2-inch gash to his hand when he attempted to pet a leopard.

**May 21, 2000/Kiowa, Colorado:** A tiger ripped off the arm of a volunteer at a zoo in Colorado.

**May 17, 2000/Massachusetts:** A 14-year-old girl was attacked by a tiger at a roadside zoo in Massachusetts. The girl, a part-time employee at the zoo, was feeding the cat when he bit her leg and shook her before releasing her.

**March 15, 2000/Channelview, Texas:** A 3-year-old boy had his arm bitten off by his uncle's "pet" tiger.

**February 23, 2000/Great Bend, Kansas:** A high school student was bitten on the hand and arm by a cougar after sticking her arm into a cage at the Brit Spagh Zoo.

**2000/Jacksonville, Florida:** An elderly woman was bitten on the arm by a tiger cub belonging to the Catty Shack Ranch. A trainer sustained 23 puncture wounds from a cougar and a woman sued the owner of Catty Shack Ranch after she was attacked by the same cougar.

**December 4, 1999/Williamsville, Missouri:** A 5-year-old boy required surgery after he was mauled by a "pet" lion kept chained in a neighbor's yard. The animal inflicted puncture wounds to the boy's throat and head. The lion was killed.





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**October 30, 1999/Buffalo, New York:** A keeper at the Buffalo Zoo was bit and clawed by a leopard.

**October 21, 1999/Evansville, Indiana:** A zookeeper at the Mesker Park Zoo was mauled by a lion who severely injured his leg and arm.

**June 26, 1999/Sterling, Kansas:** A woman with a group of Boy Scouts visiting Safari Zoological Park was attacked by a caged tiger when she put her hand on the cage.

**June 7, 1999/Yorktown, Texas:** A 9-year-old girl was killed when her stepfather's "pet" tiger grabbed her by the neck and dragged her into a water trough.

**April 10, 1999/Pearland, Texas:** A tiger handler had to be airlifted to the hospital after being attacked by a tiger at a defunct roadside zoo. The tiger was killed.

**March 31, 1999/Tyler, Texas:** A woman's arm was nearly severed by a tiger at a compound. A volunteer at the facility, she reached in to pet the tiger, when he attacked. Doctors were unsure whether they would be able to save her arm.

**March 16, 1999/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** A 6-year-old boy was severely injured by a leopard at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo after he climbed over a rope to get a closer look at the animal. Three months earlier, a woman was scratched by a tiger at the zoo after sticking her hand into a cage.

**February 28, 1999/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** A tiger mauled an employee of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo while she was cleaning the cage, causing injuries to her chest, neck and back.

**January 27, 1999/Jackson Township, New Jersey:** Police shot and killed a 431-pound tiger who escaped from the Tigers Only Preservation Society, only a few hundred yards from a subdivision.

**January 7, 1999/Wichita, Kansas:** A 5-month-old tiger cub bit the throat of a 5-year-old child. The tiger belonged to Safari Zoological Park, a roadside zoo that hauls animals around to schools, festivals, and store promotions. The tiger was killed the next day.

**1999/Jacksonville, Florida:** A cougar from the Catty Shack Ranch bit a 19-month-old child.

**December 23, 1998:** A cougar being used by Pangaea Productions for a wildlife show during a birthday party jumped on a 5-year-old girl's back and cut open her scalp from the head to the base of the neck.

**November 21, 1998/Chicago, Illinois:** A Ringling Bros. circus employee was seriously mauled by a tiger used in the circus when three tigers escaped from a cage in a Chicago parking lot. The tiger clawed the handler on his neck and side. This was the second attack by tigers used by Ringling in one year (see January 7, 1998).

**November 18, 1998/Kaufman, Texas:** A Texas man was attacked by his "pet" lion and sustained serious injuries. The adult female lion jumped him from behind.

**November 15, 1998/Chatham County, North Carolina:** A cougar mauled a volunteer with Carnivore Preservation Trust causing numerous bites and deep scratches.

**November 13, 1998/Newberry, Florida:** The same tiger who killed his trainer on October 8, 1998, attacked and killed his owner. The tiger was shot dead.

**November 8, 1998/Cut and Shoot, Texas:** Two "pet" tigers escaped a backyard cage and attacked a dog and a pig before being shot dead by police after charging pursuers. In 1997, a "pet" cougar kept by the same man escaped and was never re-captured.

**October 8, 1998/Newberry, Florida:** A tiger attacked and killed his trainer at the Holiday's Cat Dancer facility. The tiger had been used in the operation's traveling animal show and featured in Shrine circuses. The tiger grabbed the trainer by the throat.

**September 5, 1998/Tampa, Florida:** A woman needed 451 stitches after a leopard latched onto her arm with his mouth, removing skin from her elbow to her wrist. The woman was a volunteer at Wildlife on Easy Street, a breeding complex.

**August 1, 1998/Myakka City, Florida:** A tiger bit the hand of a 14-year-old volunteer with Tiger Claw Productions. The bite stripped flesh and tendons from her hand and required two surgeries to repair.

**July 31, 1998/Vallejo, California:** A woman getting her photo taken at Marine World with a Bengal tiger was mauled and hospitalized with multiple cuts to her neck and throat. A trainer trying to separate them was also injured.

**July 30, 1998/Minot, North Dakota:** A 5-year-old boy sustained facial cuts requiring plastic surgery after being attacked by a tiger at a Bridgeport Nature Center photo booth at the state fair.





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**May 2, 1998/Wylie, Texas:** A "pet" cougar bit a 4-year-old boy on the leg. The boy required \$5,800 in medical care.

**May 1998:** The same cougar who bit a handler with Pangaea Productions in March was used in a photo session with children two months later. The animal attacked an 8-year-old boy, and the handler was bitten on the hand trying to stop the attack. The child required emergency room treatment to close the wound to his thigh.

**May 1, 1998/Wichita, Kansas:** A tiger scratched or bit an adult while the animal was appearing at a store's promotional event.

**April 7, 1998/Charlotte, North Carolina:** Two lions at the Charlotte Metro Zoo attacked a keeper, one biting him on the leg while the other took the man's head in his mouth. The keeper sustained deep puncture wounds to his head and leg. He had to be airlifted to a trauma center.

**April 1, 1998/Arkansas:** A tiger attacked a worker at a breeding compound, biting him on the neck.

**March 1998:** A handler with Pangaea Productions, a traveling exhibitor based in Miami, was bitten by a tiger after sticking her finger in a cage. Her finger was severed and surgically reattached.

**February 10, 1998/Lincolnton, North Carolina:** A leopard nearly killed his trainer after attacking her at a Royal Palace Circus performance in North Carolina. The trainer sustained injuries requiring reconstructive surgery and hospitalization for a week.

**January 7, 1998/St. Petersburg, Florida:** A trainer with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus sustained severe head wounds after a tiger grabbed him by the head and dragged him around the ring. He was hospitalized in critical condition and required extensive surgery. The trainer's brother shot the tiger five times after the animal had been returned to the cage, killing him.

**1998/Harris County, Texas:** A 4-year-old girl was mauled by a Bridgeport Nature Center tiger during photo ops at a county fair. The girl required stitches and \$17,000 in plastic surgery to her leg. The girl's family filed a lawsuit against Bridgeport.

**October 22, 1997/Calabasas, California:** The same jaguar who attacked a trainer on October 16, 1997, attacked another trainer who sustained bite wounds on his leg and a cut to his hand on a movie set.

**October 16, 1997/Calabasas, California:** A trainer on a movie set in California underwent surgery to repair a broken leg after being attacked by a jaguar. She was expected to remain hospitalized in fair condition for several days.

**August 17, 1997/Marshfield, Massachusetts:** A 13-year-old girl was taken to the emergency room after being bitten by a Bridgeport Nature Center tiger during a photo session in Massachusetts. The girl had to undergo painful rabies treatment. The Marshfield Animal Control Department reported "several" other bites associated with this photo booth.

**June 7, 1997/Scappoose, Oregon:** A woman sustained deep puncture wounds to the neck and post-traumatic stress disorder when she was attacked by a neighbor's "pet" leopard.

**May 8, 1997/Lubbock, Texas:** One of five "pet" tigers mauled his owner. The man was admitted to the hospital in critical condition. The owner's son killed the tiger.

**May 7, 1997/Carrolltown, Pennsylvania:** A tiger used in the Franzen Bros. Circus killed a trainer in front of 200 horrified schoolchildren.

**May 4, 1997/Knox County, Tennessee:** A liger clawed a 4-year-old boy who got too close to the cage at Joe Robinson's roadside menagerie. The child sustained long lacerations to his leg and buttock.

**April 28, 1997/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A leopard who had escaped from a cage killed a woman at an exotic-animal "sanctuary." The leopard ran into the woods and was shot more than seven hours later after he came out and loped up a road after dark.

**April 27, 1997/San Antonio, Texas:** A man lost his finger when he tried to pet a tiger during a failed break-in with a friend at an exotic-animal orphanage.

**March 19, 1997/Orlando, Florida:** A tiger escaped from a cage and mauled a keeper at exotic-cat-breeding compound. The keeper sustained a broken thigh, a crushed knee, and severed arteries and veins in his leg. Authorities later shot and killed the tiger because they feared the animal would jump a perimeter fence and flee the compound.

**March 18, 1997/San Antonio, Texas:** A tiger climbed over a 10-foot fence to escape from a wildlife animal refuge, killing an ostrich and a duck as well as injuring a llama before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**March 12, 1997/Caudwell, Texas:** A 13-year-old boy was attacked by a "pet" tiger and a lion kept in a cage





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

built into the side of his grandfather's house. The boy's father said, "My boy was not mauled, he was being eaten alive."

**1997/Kirbyville, Texas:** A tiger bit two fingers off the left hand of Monique Woodard, owner of the Exotic Cat Refuge and Wildlife Orphanage. Doctors were able to reattach one of the fingers.

**December 21, 1996/Brooklyn Park, Minnesota:** Three pet-supply store workers were bitten or scratched by a 7-month-old tiger who had been brought to the store to have his picture taken. The three workers agreed to receive rabies shots.

**October 8, 1996/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A Las Vegas animal trainer had to undergo surgery on his feet and legs after being mauled by a tiger.

**September 16, 1996/Crystal Beach, Texas:** A declawed "pet" lioness died after she was shot and tranquilized by a deputy. The lioness attacked a man after a burglar had apparently set her free.

**July 18, 1996/Middletown, New York:** A white tiger from Hawthorn Corporation bit the hand of a carnival worker while performing at the Orange County Fair.

**May 7, 1996/Midlothian, Texas:** A 6-year-old girl was critically injured in an attack by a tiger, one of six big cats on a breeding farm. The girl's mother was also injured as she tried to rescue her daughter. During the investigation, it was found that these same cats had been involved in three previous documented attacks.

**January 5, 1996/Vallejo, California:** One trainer at Marine World Africa was seriously hurt and another received minor injuries when they were attacked by two cougars as they prepared to take the cougars for a walk.

**December 26, 1995/Quinlen, Texas:** A 3-year-old toddler was mauled by his family's "pet" cougar, and his 6-year-old sister sustained minor injuries in the attack. The cougar was shot and killed.

**December 18, 1995/Fort Worth, Texas:** A tiger at the Fort Worth Zoo leaped an 11-foot-wide moat and attacked a zookeeper. The keeper was bitten on the shoulder, arm, and hand and was off work for a few weeks.

**November 23, 1995/Raleigh, North Carolina:** A "pet" Bengal tiger mauled and critically injured a 3-year-old boy while his father was walking the animal on a leash. The tiger was shot and killed.

**November 13, 1995/Memphis, Tennessee:** Two Sumatran tigers mauled a man who entered an enclosure at the Memphis Zoo.

**November 1, 1995/Washington, D.C.:** House Speaker Newt Gingrich was bitten on the chin by a baby cougar he was holding. The bite drew blood but was not considered a serious injury.

**October 29, 1995/Allegan, Michigan:** While her 9-year-old daughter watched in horror, a woman was attacked and killed by a "pet" lion after she entered a cage at the home of a friend who collected exotic animals. The friend was severely injured when he tried to stop the attack.

**September 30, 1995/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A lion being used by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bit off the index finger of a woman who put her hand in a cage in a staging area.

**September 27, 1995/Lava Hot Springs, Idaho:** Nineteen lions at Ligertown Game Farm were shot and killed after escaping the complex.

**September 19, 1995/Haysville, Kansas:** A man shot and killed an African lion he found pacing on his driveway after the lion had escaped from a neighbor's pen.

**September 18, 1995/Wesley, Kansas:** A 2-year-old boy required hospital treatment for a severe bite on his ear from the family's 4-month-old cougar.

**September 18, 1995/Wichita, Kansas:** A cougar was recaptured after escaping a week earlier.

**September 1995/Bloomington, Illinois:** A man sustained a 3½-inch gash to his hand when he attempted to pet a leopard at the Miller Park Zoo.

**August 6, 1995/Phoenix, Arizona:** A cougar at the Phoenix Zoo gashed a 5-year-old boy's arm and scratched the side of his chest after he wandered too close to the cage. He required stitches to close the wound on his arm.

**June 2, 1995/Queens, New York:** A 2-year-old boy was bitten by his neighbor's "pet" cougar when he reached through a barred window to pet the animal. The 9-month-old cougar nearly severed one of the boy's fingers, which was reattached at the hospital.

**May 28, 1995/Novi, Michigan:** Seven lions and tigers toppled onto a freeway when the trailer they were in came unhitched. One tiger bolted across traffic, leading police on a four-hour chase before being shot with a tranquilizer gun.



## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

**March 5, 1995/Washington, D.C.:** A woman was fatally mauled by lions after climbing into an enclosure at the National Zoo. The body was so battered and shredded so violently that her fingerprints were gone and her face was almost unrecognizable.

**December 1994/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** A zookeeper at the Riverside Zoo required surgery to repair her larynx and trachea, which had to be replaced after she was attacked by a leopard.

**October 10, 1994/San Diego, California:** San Diego Zoo animal trainer Joan Embery sustained two long, deep gashes on her face by a cheetah she was exhibiting on a television talk show.

**September 5, 1994/Jasper, Alabama:** A tiger escaped from the private menagerie of Earl and Debra Dobbins and was shot and killed by a neighbor. Another tiger on the Dobbins' property was taken to the Birmingham Zoo.

**June 18, 1994/Columbia, South Carolina:** A tiger at an exotic-animal farm mauled a 17-year-old worker.

**June 6, 1994/Miami, Florida:** A senior zookeeper with 20 years' experience was mauled and killed by a tiger at Miami Metrozoo.

**April 5, 1994/Jackson, Mississippi:** An 80-pound cheetah scaled an 8-foot fence and pounced on an 8-year-old boy at the Jackson Zoo. The boy was scratched and nipped before the cheetah was recaptured.

**March 22, 1994/Beech Grove, Arkansas:** A 150-pound declawed "pet" cougar escaped and attacked a 71-year-old year neighbor, inflicting deep bite wounds to the man's shoulder and arm.

**March 1994/Leon, Kansas:** A "pet" 143-pound African lioness bit an 11-year-old girl.

**February 1994/Leon, Kansas:** An 11-year-old boy sustained a bite wound by a "pet" lion he had been told was tame.

**December 12, 1993/Palm Beach, Florida:** A worker at the Lion Country Safari was attacked by a lion, sustaining more than 20 puncture wounds as well as crushed ribs, collapsed lungs, and a torn scalp.

**September 14, 1993/Joplin, Missouri:** A circus employee lost part of her arm after an attack by a tiger on the circus's animal farm. Doctors had to amputate her arm below the elbow.

**August 9, 1993/Georgetown, Ohio:** A 16-year-old boy was hospitalized with facial cuts after a lion attacked him. He and his 17-year-old brother were out walking when a "pet" lion escaped from a cage and attacked them unprovoked. The older boy hit the lion several times, and then the boys fled. The lion was later shot to death by sheriff's deputies when they were unable to subdue him.

**May 6, 1993/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A keeper feeding a trio of lions in the backyard of a Las Vegas residence was hospitalized after one of the cats attacked her. The Circus Vargas employee sustained five gouges to her leg. During an April performance in Seoul, South Korea, another employee was bitten by a lion.

**May 6, 1993/Bronx, New York:** A man with a history of mental instability was mauled by two lions at the Bronx Zoo after he climbed into the cage and sat down between them as dozens of tourists and schoolchildren watched. The man was hospitalized and received stitches in his head and face.

**April 17, 1993/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A tiger performing with the Shrine circus at the Barton Coliseum escaped, ran into the audience, and bit a 13-year-old girl. The tiger was owned and trained by Jordan Circus.

**February 24, 1993/Norfolk, Virginia:** Graham Chipperfield, a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus big cat trainer, was mauled by a lion while breaking up a fight between two other lions. He was hospitalized for his injuries.

**February 3, 1993/Wichita, Kansas:** A keeper was hospitalized in serious condition with wounds to his face and neck after being mauled by a Bengal tiger at Tanganyika Wildlife Company. The tiger lunged through the open door of a cage and attacked when the keeper bent down to pick up something. A second keeper attempted to beat the tiger away with a shovel and then shot and killed the tiger.

**November 29, 1992/Pahrump, Nevada:** A man was severely bitten by a tiger owned by animal trainer Alex Pasternak. The tiger had to be shot before he would release his grip. The injured man received 35 stitches in his arm as a result of the bite.

**September 27, 1992/Reno, Nevada:** A Reno illusionist sustained puncture wounds to his leg and arm that went "down to the bone" by a tiger being used in a performance.

**May 21, 1992/Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania:** Two tigers with Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus escaped from an unlocked cage during a performance. One roamed around the center ring,





## Big-Cat Incidents in the United States

frightening more than 1,500 spectators before he was recaptured.

**April 7, 1992/Iron Hill, Delaware:** One of two cougars used by a private breeder jumped 12 feet and attacked a visitor, clamping his teeth into the back of her neck and dragging her farther into the cage. The injured woman was later treated at a hospital for several puncture wounds and scratches to her head, neck, and upper back. The breeder said that he would sell the two animals and might replace them with a cub.

**March 1992/Portland, Oregon:** A "pet" lion/tiger hybrid attacked an 11-year-old girl, who had to undergo surgery to repair extensive muscle damage in her arm. The animal would not let go and had to be shot and killed.

**October 9, 1991/Manchester, New Hampshire:** A model was hospitalized for five days and received 50 stitches and rabies shots after being attacked by a lion during a photo session in New Hampshire. A court awarded her a judgment of \$75,000 on March 24, 1995.

**September 29, 1991/Jackson County, Kansas:** A caged lion bit a man on the hand, causing puncture wounds that required stitches, after the man attempted to pet the lion at a Christmas tree farm.

**September 17, 1991/Tucson, Arizona:** A caged lion cub bit the arm of a 3-year-old girl at the Reid Park Zoo.

**August 17, 1991/Fresno, California:** A lion with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bit a man who had put his hand in the cage because he "only wanted to touch" the lion.

**June 1, 1991/Anderson County, South Carolina:** A "pet" lion escaped from a chain-link enclosure in a backyard, entered a mobile home and attacked a 5-year-old girl and her grandmother. The girl required stitches to wounds on her throat and chest, and the grandmother's hand was punctured by the lion's teeth. The lion's owner later shot and killed the animal.

**April 18, 1991/Wilkesboro, North Carolina:** A 3-year-old girl was attacked by a leopard who had escaped while traveling with the Great American Circus. The girl sustained large lacerations on her neck, which required stitches.

**1991:** A tiger grabbed and dragged a trainer by her hip during a live performance. The injuries required 84 stitches.

**November 5, 1990/Phoenix, Arizona:** A woman visiting a Phoenix resort was attacked by a tiger while his trainer was walking him on a leash. Witnesses reported that the tiger acted like a "pussycat" only moments before the attack. The woman was hospitalized with puncture wounds.

**August 9, 1990/Sturgis, South Dakota:** A 5-year-old girl was mauled by a leopard who was restrained by a small chain on a box in Engessor's Endangered Species traveling act. The girl's mother sued for \$100,000 in damages.

**June 1990/Sidney, Montana:** A leopard in a petting zoo bit a 7-year-old boy. The owner of the leopard said that he had no intention of stopping his shows.

**May 29, 1990/San Francisco, California:** A zookeeper was mauled by a leopard in front of schoolchildren at a San Francisco zoo. The keeper underwent hospital treatment for deep wounds to his head, shoulders, and arm.



# Primate Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial listing of incidents involving captive primates in the United States since 1990. These incidents have resulted in the deaths of 37 primates and one human as well as injuries to 235 humans. Contact PETA for documentation.

**November 19, 2015/Harlingen, Texas:** A monkey being kept as a "pet" in a backyard cage escaped from the enclosure. Three people were bitten when they tried to capture the animal, including an 84-year-old woman who went to the hospital. Animal control was able to capture the monkey.

**September 29, 2015/Sanford, Florida:** Police were called when a monkey named Zeek started eating the contents of someone's mailbox. When the patrol car arrived, Zeek began pulling the molding off it. The person responsible for Zeek was able to retrieve him and take him home, where he was kept as a "pet."

**July 11, 2015/Memphis, Tennessee:** Zimm, a 3-year-old monkey, was recaptured after having escaped from an enclosure at the Memphis Zoo nearly two days earlier. She was found in the zoo's drainage-ditch system.

**July 2, 2015/Los Angeles, California:** According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection report, two cotton-top tamarins at the Los Angeles Zoo were discovered to be missing from the open enclosure that they were confined to. The enclosure had access points that would allow entry of unauthorized animals. The remains of one tamarin were found, but there was no evidence of the second, and he was presumed dead. A zoo representative stated that footage from cameras in the area showed a bobcat carrying off one tamarin. The bobcat was still at large.

**May 1, 2015/Los Angeles, California:** According to a USDA inspection report, two François' langurs escaped from a holding area at the Los Angeles Zoo after a keeper left the enclosure and secondary containment doors unsecured. The langurs walked into a keepers' bathroom, and a volunteer closed the door behind them. The langurs were netted, sedated, and returned to the holding area.

**March 25, 2015/Charlotte, North Carolina:** According to local media, a capuchin monkey named

Carter attacked and scratched a maintenance worker in the parking lot of the Carolinas Medical Center-University. The maintenance worker had tried to contain Carter in a bin until animal control could arrive, but the monkey attacked him and then escaped into a nearby wooded area. He was captured the next day when he returned to the parking lot. Carter was kept as a "pet" and had been involved in an incident the previous year. The owner was to have produced the monkey for seizure following that incident since he was in violation of an ordinance that prohibited exotic animals within city limits, but he failed to do so.

**August 3, 2014/Riverside County, California:** A woman was attacked by a capuchin monkey outside a pizzeria. She sustained a laceration to her forearm and was taken to a local hospital. The capuchin and two other monkeys were confiscated from the owner since she didn't have a permit to have them. The capuchin involved in the attack was placed under a six-month quarantine.

**July 10, 2014/St. Paul, Minnesota:** Three gorillas escaped from an enclosure through an unlatched door, delaying the Como Park Zoo's opening by 40 minutes. They were found wandering a hall located behind enclosures used to hold orangutans and gorillas.

**June 25, 2014/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Pu'iwa, a 15-year-old chimpanzee, used a barrel to escape from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and moved into sleeping quarters. He had been out of the enclosure for about an hour.

**May 23, 2014/Maiden, North Carolina:** A rhesus macaque named Zander jumped on the back of an employee at Buffalo Beals Animal Park and bit her on both ears when she entered the enclosure to clean it. After Zander was pulled from the employee, another caretaker grabbed the water bowl from the enclosure to change the water, which left a hole big enough for Zander to escape through. The macaque then attacked a 3-year-old, injuring both of the child's legs and one arm.

**April 10, 2014/Kansas City, Missouri:** Seven chimpanzees escaped from an enclosure at the Kansas City Zoo. They used a large tree branch to access the wall of the exhibit in order to climb out. Patrons were moved into a locked building until all the chimpanzees were lured back into the enclosure with malted milk balls.

**January 8, 2014/Gentry, Arkansas:** According to a USDA inspection report, at the time of the inspection at least two lemurs were chewing on a live electrical wire outside the enclosure used to confine them.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**January 2014/Vermilion, Ohio:** An employee with Pat O'Brien Chevrolet was taken to an area hospital after a customer's pet spider monkey, Brodi, bit him. The police investigated and discovered that the owner was in illegal possession of him. Although it was confirmed that Brodi had been vaccinated for rabies, he was euthanized. The rabies test came back negative.

**October 31, 2013/Moyock, North Carolina:** Four pet capuchins escaped from a private residence. One monkey bit a man while he was helping to recapture them. One monkey was shot and injured with a "conventional weapon," and another died after being shot with a tranquilizer. The three survivors were taken to the Currituck County Animal Control for quarantine.

**October 23, 2013/Fredericksburg, Texas:** A capuchin monkey escaped from a Birdshots Entertainment travel trailer and bit a neighbor on the elbow.

**July 10, 2013/Independence, Kansas:** Two capuchins escaped from the enclosures that they were confined to at the Ralph Mitchell Zoo. One was recaptured shortly afterward, but the second was found dead two days later on the zoo's property.

**June 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A capuchin monkey bit a teenage patron as the monkey was being exhibited by Birdshots Entertainment. This was the second such incident in two months. (See April 21, 2013.)

**June 19, 2013/Miami-Dade County, Florida:** Over a period of weeks, residents spotted a loose monkey in various neighborhoods. Police were unable to apprehend the animal, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission warned people not to touch or attempt to recapture the monkey.

**June 18, 2013/Conway, Arkansas:** A "pet" macaque monkey escaped from an animal clinic where he was being treated. Joey broke the lock on his cage and opened the back door, triggering an alarm. Police were able to get him back into the building, but an officer was bitten on his knuckle as he was helping to put Joey back into a steel cage.

**June 7, 2013/Alexandria, Louisiana:** A monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Alexandria Zoological Park. He ran past patrons and climbed a tree, forcing the zoo to shut down until it was able to recapture him later that day.

**June 2, 2013/St. Louis, Missouri:** A 6-year-old boy sustained lacerations and bites to his arm from a "pet" Java macaque. The monkey's guardian had taken the

monkey and her dog to a dog event in a public park. The boy was bitten as he attempted to pet the dog.

**May 18, 2013/Neville, Ohio:** Authorities fatally shot a loose monkey whom residents spotted sitting and eating in a tree. The monkey was believed to have been someone's "pet."

**April 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A capuchin monkey being exhibited by Birdshots Entertainment bit a patron on the thumb.

**March 29, 2013/New Orleans, Louisiana:** Kivuli, a colobus monkey at the Audubon Zoo, escaped from an enclosure, causing the zoo to shut down until he was recaptured.

**March 27, 2013/Pawnee County, Oklahoma:** A "pet" capuchin who had been loose for a week was recaptured after being lured with fruit by area residents. The owner had previously told the Pawnee County sheriff's deputies that the capuchin had escaped from a cage and to shoot him if they found him.

**January 21, 2013/North Miami Beach, Florida:** Two lemurs escaped from a cage in which they were kept in the owners' backyard. Before being recaptured, one attacked a 2-year-old girl and scratched her face.

**December 4, 2012/Grapeland, Texas:** A lemur attacked a postal carrier as she was delivering mail to a rural address. As she was stopped at the mailbox, Keanu leapt into her vehicle and bit her on the arm and hand before jumping back out. Authorities took Keanu away to hold him for a 30-day quarantine.

**October 24, 2012/Tampa Bay, Florida:** A rhesus monkey who had eluded authorities for two years was finally recaptured after he bit a woman sitting in her backyard. The monkey was put under quarantine.

**September 29, 2012/Cherokee, North Carolina:** A capuchin named George was able to get off the island and access the barrier surrounding his enclosure at Santa's Land. George then made contact with the public and bit a child. The USDA later fined Santa's Land for this incident.

**August 18, 2012/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Elvis, a 14-year-old siamang gibbon, escaped from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo. He grabbed a volunteer and scratched the man's left leg. Carbon dioxide dispensers were used to direct Elvis back to the cage.

**August 11, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** C.J., a chimpanzee who had escaped from her home the



## Primate Incidents in the United States

previous month, escaped again. Police and animal control set up a perimeter in the neighborhood to contain her, and she was eventually shot with a tranquilizer and moved to a facility better equipped to handle her until a plan for her future could be made.

**July 12, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their owner's home, which led to a nearly two-hour attempt by police to recapture them in a residential area. During this time, residents were advised to stay indoors or in their vehicles. Police shot and killed Buddy, a male chimpanzee, but were able to tranquilize and recapture C.J., Buddy's female companion.

**June, 2012/Texas:** A police officer making a routine traffic stop was bitten on the hand by a capuchin who jumped out from the backseat as the officer was serving a citation to the driver. Apparently, the monkey was used for photo opportunities, in which people have their photo taken with the animal.

**May 12, 2012/Bordentown, New Jersey:** One of three spider monkeys bit a child who was able to get through a split-rail barrier fence around the animals' exhibit at the Animal Kingdom Zoo.

**March 19, 2012/Buffalo, New York:** A 24-year-old 400-pound male gorilla named Koga escaped from a cage at the Buffalo Zoo and bit a zookeeper on the hand and calf. Police had locked down the zoo, and Koga was tranquilized and captured in a zookeepers' lounge.

**February 19, 2012/Kansas City, Missouri:** Two 19-year-old 400-pound gorillas escaped from enclosures at the Kansas City Zoo. Handlers used ladders to scale the retaining wall in order to escape to safety. Mbundi and Ntondo were guided back to the holding area with water hoses.

**January 2012/Chesapeake, Virginia:** A capuchin escaped from an exotic-animal business, Spellbound, after his enclosure door was left open during feeding. Animal control recaptured the capuchin more than a month later.

**August 12, 2011/Springfield, Missouri:** A macaque monkey named Charlie bit an 8-year-old girl in a Walmart parking lot. Her family had parked next to a vehicle in which Charlie and the humans who kept him as a "pet" were parked. The girl reached in to pet Charlie, and he jumped up and bit her on the head. He was being tested for any diseases while the girl was treated with antibiotics and antivirals.

**July 30, 2011/Las Vegas, Nevada:** The Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NVOSHA) noted that the owner of the Southern

Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park expected employees to enter the Barbary apes' enclosure to feed, water, and clean them with no protection from a possible attack. When the apes were being moved from one enclosure to another, an ape scratched an employee. Later, that same employee along with two others "were asked to walk around the interior of the enclosure to simulate the animal's [*sic*] troop," again with no protection. In February 2012, NVOSHA marked the direct contact with primates as a serious violation and fined the facility \$4,200, which it ultimately paid.

**July 2, 2011/Jasper, New Jersey:** A baboon claimed by the Six Flags Great Adventure theme park evaded capture by local officials for three days before being caught 10 miles away from the facility on a farm. Police received reports of more than a dozen sightings and warned residents to stay indoors during that time.

**April 2011/Surry County, Virginia:** According to local news station WTKR, a Java macaque attacked his owner, injuring the man's nose and wrist. Authorities were not notified until the man checked himself into a local hospital. The report also noted that in a separate incident in 2010, another man had lost both of his thumbs after his "pet" capuchin monkey attacked him.

**March 15, 2011/West Knoxville, Tennessee:** Three police officers, an animal control officer, and a crime-scene technician were dispatched to a local residence after a report that a "pet" capuchin monkey had been found in a backyard tree. The 4-pound, 46-year-old monkey was recaptured when her caretaker eventually arrived on the scene.

**March 11, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah:** All four spider monkeys at the Hogle Zoo escaped from an enclosure and were seen climbing trees and approaching local wildlife, all while in close proximity to the public, before keepers recaptured them.

**March 2, 2011/Fort Madison, Iowa:** Authorities discovered that a 10-year-old child who had been taken to the Fort Madison Hospital for a cat bite had actually been bitten by a "pet" macaque.

**January 14, 2011/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** A keeper at the Riverside Discovery Center was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when she attempted to pet the animal. When the chimpanzee grabbed the woman's hand, the woman began screaming, which attracted another chimpanzee, who also grabbed her hand. The keeper's index and ring fingers on one hand were bitten off at the knuckles, and the middle finger was lacerated. She was taken to a hospital for treatment.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**January 10, 2011/Meigs, Georgia:** A capuchin with Brian Staples' traveling exhibit escaped while he was being transferred from his primary enclosure. Sven was missing for two days in temperatures that ranged from 35 to 43 degrees Fahrenheit.

**December 22, 2010/Miami, Florida:** A "pet" capuchin monkey escaped and bit a person, who was taken to the hospital. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took possession of the monkey to determine if the animal had rabies.

**November 7, 2010/Oneida Castle, New York:** Robert Jones' 8-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey, Jada, escaped from Jones' home by opening a screen door. The animal wandered into a neighbor's yard and attacked a woman who was outside playing with her son. Jada jumped onto the woman's arm and then bit her finger when she reached out to keep the monkey away from the child. The woman was taken to the hospital for puncture wounds. The fire department, state police, and sheriff were called to the scene. Jada was captured and killed in order to be tested for rabies.

**November 2010/Phoenix, Arizona:** A "pet" rhesus macaque bit a person on the hand and was subsequently killed.

**October 19, 2010/Kansas City, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's adult "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, escaped from a cage inside a truck and rampaged through a Kansas City neighborhood for 40 minutes. Sueko charged at two young girls who were out for a morning walk, opened the passenger door of a sport utility vehicle that drove into the neighborhood, broke a gate and a fence, and pounded on parked vehicles, passing cars, and the front door of a house. As authorities attempted to tranquilize the animal, Sueko charged a police car, pushed a trash can against its front bumper, climbed onto the car's hood, pounded on the roof, and kicked the windshield, breaking it. Sueko was finally recaptured when she walked into Archigo's van. Archigo has been in and out of legal trouble over Sueko since 1995 (see the entries titled "2000/Jackson County, Missouri," and "1995/Kansas City, Missouri").

**September 2010/San Antonio, Texas:** A spider monkey escaped from Primarily Primates after an enclosure was damaged by a tropical storm. The monkey traveled at least 6 miles in one day and was on the loose for nine days before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**August 28, 2010/Miami, Florida:** A white-handed gibbon escaped an enclosure at Jungle Island after a worker left the gate open. The gibbon jumped into a tiger enclosure, and a 500-pound tiger jumped over a

fence and escaped into the park while chasing the ape. At one point, the tiger came face to face with a 2-year-old toddler. More than 100 park visitors were ushered into a dark barn for protection. Four people were hurt during the chaos and were treated for minor injuries. A fifth person was transported to a hospital after suffering a panic attack. The gibbon was later found on a picnic table and recaptured.

**July 31, 2010/Greenwich, New York:** A lemur at the Ashville Game Farm bit a 7-year-old boy. The boy was petting the lemur as other people were feeding the animal when the boy was bitten on the thumb. The victim received a series of rabies shots, and a judge ordered that three lemurs at the facility be killed and tested for rabies.

**July 21, 2010/Hamilton County, Indiana:** A 40-pound, 3-foot-tall "pet" patas monkey injured a teenage boy and bit a family dog on the ear after escaping from a cage and running through the family's house for 20 minutes. Someone in the house called 911 and told the dispatcher that the monkey was a dangerous wild animal. A witness to the attack on the boy remarked that he had "never seen any animal jump on top of somebody and just start attacking him." Family members locked themselves in different rooms to avoid the monkey until police, paramedics, and animal control responded to the 911 call.

**July 21, 2010/Mechanicsville, Virginia:** Six chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at Windy Oaks Animal Farm when a gate was left open. Two male chimpanzees were still on the loose when animal control received a call about the incident. Upon arriving at the scene, the animal control officer was advised by Curtis Shepperson, owner of Windy Oaks, to stay in his car in order to avoid further agitating the chimpanzees. Windy Oaks did not have knowledgeable staff or equipment on site to tranquilize the escaped chimpanzees. At least two hours after animal control was first called to the scene, a sheriff's deputy shot one of the chimpanzees with a dart, and the animal was returned to the enclosure. Animal control officials and sheriff's deputies searched the compound for the second chimpanzee but could not find him. He was recaptured the next day. According to Windy Oaks' veterinarian, this escape was the third such incident at the facility.

**July 18, 2010/Catskill, New York:** A woman was mauled by a "pet" capuchin monkey who was being kept at the Kaaterskill Lodge. The victim was taking photographs of the monkey when the animal jumped out of the enclosure and attacked her. The woman was left with a scar down her cheek and had to receive rabies shots because Allen Hirsch, the owner



## Primate Incidents in the United States

of the lodge, disappeared with the monkey after the attack.

**July 17, 2010/Wichita, Kansas:** Nine chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at the Sedgwick County Zoo and were found in a maintenance area when keepers arrived at work in the morning. Eight of the chimpanzees were returned to the enclosure, but one adult male was loose for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**March 29, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia:** Babe Hamerick was attacked for the second time in two weeks by Noah, his "pet" capuchin monkey. The monkey reportedly went "berserk" and attacked Hamerick's legs and bit his left hand, severing his pinky finger. Police, animal control, and paramedics were called to the scene, and the victim was taken to a hospital, where he underwent surgery for his injuries.

**March 17, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia:** Babe Hamerick was attacked by his "pet" capuchin monkey, Noah, when he accidentally stepped on the monkey's foot. The man described the attack as worse than war, which he claimed was "a breeze compared to my little fight with [Noah, which] cut the vein, tore ligaments out of my wrists. I'm pumping blood all over." His injuries were treated at a hospital.

**March 4, 2010/St. Petersburg, Florida:** A rhesus macaque was shot twice with tranquilizer darts but managed to elude wildlife officials who were attempting to capture the animal. The monkey had been on the loose for more than a year.

**February 2010/Palm Harbor, Florida:** Two chimpanzees at Suncoast Primate Sanctuary, a roadside zoo, escaped from a cage that was not properly secured. One of the animals, described as typically gentle, relentlessly attacked and chased a female volunteer. The victim, who escaped the attack by locking herself in a bathroom, was hospitalized for treatment of serious injuries, including a deep laceration on the back of her head, damaged tendons in her right hand, and bite wounds on her thigh, back, and abdomen. When a sheriff's deputy responded to the incident, he was denied access and reported that zoo staff were "very uncooperative and intentionally deceptive and evasive."

**2010/Jacksonville, North Carolina:** A pigtail macaque at the Lynnwood Park Zoo was shot to death after biting the roadside zoo's owner.

**November 22, 2009/LaPorte, Indiana:** A 10-month-old girl was attacked by a "pet" Java macaque belonging to Richard and Laura Burlos. The attack occurred when the girl was held too close to the cage.

The monkey grabbed the hood of the infant's coat, as well as her hair, causing the baby's head to strike the metal cage repeatedly. The baby sustained a "rope burn" to her neck that was caused by the drawstring on her coat and had red marks on the back of her head because her head had hit the cage.

**November 12, 2009/Tampa, Florida:** A macaque got loose in a residential neighborhood. It was not known where the monkey escaped from or how the animal got loose.

**October 2009/Pine Mountain, Georgia:** A mangabey at Wild Animal Safari escaped while staff members were moving the animal from one enclosure to another. The monkey was shot and killed by zookeepers after climbing the zoo's perimeter fence.

**September 6, 2009/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** Four spider monkeys escaped from an enclosure at the Riverside Zoo while they were being fed. One of the monkeys attacked a zookeeper, who sustained bites to her arms and legs. The bites required multiple stitches. Three of the monkeys were quickly recaptured, but the fourth monkey remained loose on zoo grounds for approximately five hours.

**September 1, 2009/Los Angeles, California:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their crates while they were being unloaded at the Los Angeles Zoo following their transfer from Wildlife Waystation, which had been threatened by a wildfire. One chimpanzee climbed over the fence and into Griffith Park, where she was spotted approximately an hour later and secured in the back of a truck. The other chimpanzee remained loose on zoo grounds for 20 minutes before being tranquilized.

**June 12, 2009/Columbia, South Carolina:** A 390-pound gorilla at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden escaped by grabbing some low-hanging bamboo, scaling the 12-foot-4-inch wall of the enclosure, and climbing over two high-voltage security wires. The animal rushed at two food-service employees, pushing one aside and knocking the other down before jumping back into the enclosure. One of the employees was taken to a hospital, where he was treated for cuts and bruises.

**June 5, 2009/Candia, New Hampshire:** A macaque escaped from an enclosure at Charmingfare Farm when a worker left two doors unlocked. The worker was bitten on his calf as he tried to recapture the animal. As a result of his injuries, the worker required medical attention.

**May 26, 2009/Columbus, Ohio:** A gorilla at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium escaped from an enclosure through a door that was improperly secured



## Primate Incidents in the United States

and walked into a hallway used by zookeepers. Visitors were evacuated from the area, and the zoo's entrance was closed for approximately 45 minutes. While the entrance was closed, the gorilla was coaxed back into the enclosure.

**April 21, 2009/ Corpus Christi, Texas:** A squirrel monkey bit a man who was transporting the animal to Michigan. Animal control officers planned to quarantine the monkey for three months to test for diseases.

**April 18, 2009/Salem, Oregon:** A man's "pet" monkey bit a 6-year-old girl at a park. The monkey lunged at the girl, grabbed her hair, scratched her, and bit her under the left eye, leaving two puncture marks. The man left the park before authorities arrived. The girl was taken to an urgent-care facility, where she was treated.

**April 14, 2009/Springfield, Missouri:** A rhesus macaque escaped from an exotic-animal menagerie owned by Debby Rose. The macaque went to a nearby home, and when the homeowner knocked on a window to scare the animal off, the macaque lunged at the window.

**April 3, 2009/Portland, Oregon:** Nine macaques escaped from the Oregon Health & Science University when a worker left the cage unlocked. It took almost three days to recapture all the monkeys.

**March 30, 2009/Winston, Missouri:** A 9-year-old chimpanzee named Timmy escaped from a cage (which measured 10 feet by 6 feet) at a private residence and ran loose on a nearby state highway. Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to help recapture the chimpanzee, who at one point opened a deputy's patrol car door, grabbed the deputy's leg, and tried to strike him. When the chimpanzee attempted to attack the man again, the chimpanzee was shot and killed. The deputy suffered minor injuries, and the owners of the chimpanzee suffered cuts and scratches.

**March 13, 2009/Fruitland Park, Florida:** A spider monkey named Reggie escaped from the Liebling Family Circus when the circus owner failed to latch a leash correctly. The monkey fled into nearby woods and was not recaptured until nearly five weeks later.

**February 25, 2009/East Ridge, Tennessee:** An obese "pet" spider monkey was found wandering through someone's yard and was captured by animal control officials.

**February 25, 2009/Athens, Georgia:** An animal-care technician at the University of Georgia suffered a severe bite to her thumb while cleaning the cage of a capuchin monkey. She was taken by ambulance to

the hospital and later transferred to a hand specialist in Atlanta for additional treatment.

**February 19, 2009/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** An orangutan named Elok escaped from an enclosure at the Oklahoma City Zoo by climbing into the moat and then over the exhibit wall. Twenty zoo visitors were ushered into buildings until Elok was recaptured approximately 100 feet from the enclosure.

**February 19, 2009/Seattle, Washington:** A De Brazza's monkey at the Woodland Park Zoo escaped from an enclosure by swimming across a moat and climbing a rock wall. The zoo was evacuated, and the monkey was on the loose for approximately 25 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured. Other monkeys had previously escaped from the same enclosure.

**February 16, 2009/Stamford, Connecticut:** Sandra Herold's 200-pound, 14-year-old "pet" chimpanzee named Travis escaped from the house and attacked a woman, inflicting massive injuries to her face and hands. The woman required more than seven hours of stabilizing surgery by four teams of doctors. She reportedly lost her hands, nose, lips, and eyelids in the attack. The bone structure of her face was also damaged, and she might have lost her vision and suffered brain damage. In 2011 she had a face transplant. At least three other people—including two police officers—were injured during the fracas. In an effort to stop the attack, Herold stabbed the chimpanzee repeatedly with a butcher knife. Police officers shot him numerous times before he made his way back into the house where he died. Neighbors reported that they often saw Travis roaming the streets in the neighborhood, sometimes unleashed, and that he frequently rode around in trucks with his owners. Travis had been involved in at least two previous incidents (see incidents titled "October 19, 2003," and "1996/Stamford, Connecticut").

**February 2, 2009/Flour Bluff, Texas:** An escaped or abandoned ring-tailed lemur was discovered when children were seen playing with the animal outdoors. The animal, who had a hurt arm and reportedly had possibly gotten a little nippy with the children, was seized by authorities, and the owners were ticketed for illegally possessing an exotic animal.

**January 30, 2009/New Orleans, Louisiana:** An orangutan named Berani escaped from an enclosure at the Audubon Zoo by stretching a T-shirt to help him scale a 10½-foot wall. He then wrapped the shirt around an electric wire surrounding the exhibit and finally swung out of the exhibit. The orangutan stood on a boardwalk with zoo visitors nearby for approximately 10 minutes before returning to the exhibit.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**January 24, 2009/Naples, Florida:** A worker at Gary's Paradise Gardens was attacked by a capuchin monkey. The monkey escaped through a space that was created when the worker removed the food bowl from the side of the cage. The woman was bitten on her right leg, lower arm, and hand and required stitches for some of the wounds.

**2009/Mechanicsville, Virginia:** Chimpanzees at Windy Oaks Animal Farm broke some welds on an enclosure, and two male chimpanzees pushed through a wire panel, opened a door, and escaped.

**November 10, 2008/Carbon County, Montana:** A woman was taken to a hospital for treatment after a chimpanzee named Conner latched on to her arm with his teeth. The woman lost 6 to 8 inches of skin. Conner was one of two chimpanzees who escaped from the home of Jeanne Rizzotto and ran to a neighbor's yard, where they were seen chasing cats up trees, swinging from the roof of the house, and getting into cars and trucks. One of the chimpanzees was also seen crossing a highway. The bite victim had been trying to prevent Conner from entering a home. The animals were recaptured, and Conner was quarantined at Rizzotto's home.

**September 24, 2008/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** An 18-pound macaque monkey bit and then mauled the hand of a University of Pittsburgh laboratory technician. The macaque grabbed a pole that the technician was using to test the animal's water system, pulled the woman's hand into the cage, and bit her palm. "My hand was in its mouth," the woman said. "It was clamping down on it and munching on it for up to a minute. I had no choice but to pull my hand out in shreds." The animal's teeth penetrated to the bone, and the woman sustained bone, tendon, and nerve damage. She underwent three surgeries to treat recurring infections and was released from the hospital after eight days, at which time she still had no feeling in two fingers and was awaiting results of blood tests on the monkey to determine if she had been exposed to hepatitis B or other infections.

**August 8, 2008/Bend, Oregon:** A 120-pound chimpanzee at Chimps, Inc., escaped from an unlocked enclosure and bit an intern. The intern was treated at the scene by firefighters and then driven to a hospital.

**August 2008/Cincinnati, Ohio:** A white-handed gibbon escaped from a cage at the Cincinnati Zoo and made his way to the parking lot where he bit a visitor on the leg. The gibbon was quarantined, and the zoo decided that he would no longer be allowed outdoors.

**July 2008/Orange Park, Florida:** A Japanese macaque was spotted running loose in a subdivision. Wildlife officials attempted to capture the animal with a trap and warned the public that macaques have sharp teeth and are prone to biting.

**June 27, 2008/Devore, California:** A chimpanzee named Moe escaped from a cage at Jungle Exotics, surprised construction workers when he wandered into a house next-door, and then continued on into the San Bernardino National Forest. After more than a month, search efforts were called off because of mounting expenses. Eight months later, Moe had still not been found.

**June 11, 2008/Michigan City, Indiana:** A spider monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Washington Park Zoo by using a garden hose to scale the wall of the moat. The moat had been emptied of water and was being cleaned by workers. The monkey was recaptured at a nearby boat dealership.

**June 5, 2008/Queens, New York:** A 22-month-old girl had her finger bitten off by a neighbor's "pet" capuchin monkey when she stuck her fingers through her backyard fence and into the pen of the monkey who was caged next to the fence. Doctors worked for 12 hours attempting to reattach the girl's finger but were unsuccessful. The monkey was euthanized in order to be tested for rabies.

**May 17, 2008/Los Angeles, California:** A 29-year-old orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo punched a hole in the mesh of an exhibit and escaped into a holding area behind a cage. Zoo officials ushered visitors to the zoo exit while the orangutan was sedated by zookeepers.

**May 17, 2008/Tampa, Florida:** A 10-year-old orangutan escaped from an enclosure at Busch Gardens by scaling a 12-foot wall and climbing onto the roof of an exhibit, where she was just feet away from zoo visitors. The public, including a group of nearby children, was evacuated from the area. The orangutan was lured back to the enclosure nearly one hour after she escaped.

**April 21, 2008/Polk County, Florida:** Fifteen patas monkeys escaped from Safari Wild by swimming across a 60-foot-wide moat and then climbing a 28-foot fence. One monkey was shot to death, and it took nearly eight months to recapture the rest of them.

**April 11, 2008/Trenton, Michigan:** A 6-year-old girl was bitten on the finger by a "pet" Java macaque who was being walked on a leash near the church where the girl was playing. The girl had to undergo several



## Primate Incidents in the United States

tests as a result of the bite, and the monkey was expected to be euthanized.

**April 5, 2008/Addison, Texas:** Two lemurs at the Trager Snake Farm were quarantined after biting or scratching a child.

**March 21, 2008/Fresno, California:** A black-and-white colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The eastern portion of the zoo was closed to the public as zoo staff members attempted to recapture the monkey. Two and a half hours after the escape, he was shot with a tranquilizer dart and taken to the zoo hospital to recover.

**March 14, 2008/Virginia:** A 6-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, injured a woman by biting and/or scratching her face and shoulder. Mikey had bitten another woman five months earlier (see the incident titled "October 23, 2007").

**March 2008/New Albany, Indiana:** A child visiting a home was bitten by the owner's "pet" capuchin monkey. The monkey was quarantined while county officials worked to obtain information about the animal's health.

**February 29, 2008/Gilbert, Arizona:** A 3-year-old boy was bitten on the wrist by his family's "pet" lemur. According to a local official, the emergency crew that responded to the incident reported that the bite was down to the bone. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment.

**February 28, 2008/Spokane, Washington:** A "pet" macaque monkey who escaped from his owners' home chased some boys who were walking a dog and bit one of the boys on the thumb; charged at a woman, grabbed her leg, and bit it; and bit an 18-year-old girl on the leg. The monkey was quarantined to be monitored for disease and ultimately euthanized to be tested for rabies.

**December 2, 2007/Rutherford College, North Carolina:** A grocery store clerk was bitten by a customer's 18-inch-tall "pet" monkey when she reached out to pet the animal. The monkey bit and scratched her right cheek just below the eye. The victim was treated at a local hospital for the bite and put on strong antibiotics.

**November 8, 2007/Columbia County, Georgia:** A 17-month-old boy was bitten by a baboon with the Eudora Farms petting zoo at the Columbia County Fair. The boy's father lifted him to feed the animal through the cage, and the baboon bit the child's hand.

**November 6, 2007/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A worker at Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility, was bitten by a chimpanzee named Ginny while she was handing blankets to the animals through a feeding tray. Ginny reached through a rusted hole in the tray and grabbed the worker's hand. When the woman was able to pull her hand out of the cage, one of her fingers was gone and two others were nearly severed. After multiple surgeries, including transplants and skin grafts, her hand is still disfigured and curls into a ball. The victim amassed more than \$100,000 in medical bills.

**October 23, 2007/Maryland:** A 5½-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, bit a woman's arm while posing for photographs with studio employees.

**September 28, 2007/Dallas, Texas:** An elderly spider monkey escaped the enclosure that she shared with two other monkeys at the Dallas Zoo. The monkey was loose for approximately 20 minutes.

**September 22, 2007/Columbia, Missouri:** A woman known for carrying her "pet" rhesus macaque into stores and to public events took the animal to a local park where the macaque bit a 7-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. The woman quickly left the park and was sought by local health officials for questioning.

**August 13, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** For the second time in two weeks, a white-faced capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo. He was found the following day, approximately 4 miles from the park, and returned to the zoo. One man was bitten on the hand during the attempt to capture Oliver. This was Oliver's third escape (see the incidents titled "July 31, 2007," and "2001").

**August 8, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A 1-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey bit a 21-year-old woman on the thumb at a beer garden and then eluded police for an hour before being recaptured. The monkey was declared dangerous by the Madison Environmental Health Services Department and was quarantined to be monitored for disease, and the owner was ordered to remove the animal from the city upon release from quarantine. The monkey had previously bitten at least one other person (see the incident titled "July 11, 2007").

**July 31, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from a cage at Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo and eluded capture for nearly a week before being recaptured. Zoo staff warned the public that Oliver would bite. This was Oliver's second escape (see the incident titled "2001").



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**July 11, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A "pet" capuchin monkey was placed under home quarantine after biting someone.

**June 30, 2007/Cherokee, North Carolina:** A capuchin monkey at Santa's Land theme park escaped from the island where the monkeys were kept and was loose overnight before being recaptured the next evening. It was believed that the animal used low-hanging tree limbs to scale the wall and the high-voltage wire that surrounded the island.

**June 5, 2007/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Metrolina Wildlife Park by running past a worker as she entered the cage. The monkey was chased around the zoo grounds by the zoo owner before being recaptured.

**April 24, 2007/Rankin County, Mississippi:** A "pet" macaque monkey attacked an IRS agent. Although the monkey's canine teeth had been removed, the agent sustained bites and scratches on her face and arms.

**April 8, 2007/Otis, Oregon:** A 12-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey escaped from a cage, ran through the neighborhood, attempted to attack residents, and cornered one man in his garage before being recaptured.

**2007/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A rhesus macaque scratched a girl at Burnette's Pet Farm. According to Inspector Stacey Short of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, 80 to 90 percent of macaque monkeys carry the herpes simian B virus, a disease that can be spread through scratches and is almost always fatal to humans.

**December 25, 2006/French Settlement, Louisiana:** An 8-year-old boy was bitten twice on the arm and shoulder and suffered cuts and bruises when a "pet" ring-tailed lemur leapt from a roof and attacked him. The lemur was kept on a large estate, where the animal roamed freely and could not be located after the attack. The boy underwent four rounds of injections to prevent rabies and more than two weeks after the incident still had a fever and periodic headaches.

**December 1, 2006/Nahunta, North Carolina:** A "pet" Japanese macaque belonging to Frankie Piscopo escaped from Piscopo's home and was on the loose for almost two months before being recaptured more than 11 miles away.

**October 28, 2006/Marquette County, Wisconsin:** A woman was taken to the hospital after being bitten by a lemur at an exotic animal farm.

**September 22, 2006/Horn Lake, Mississippi:** A "pet" bonnet macaque knocked out the window frame of a cage and escaped into the neighborhood. He ran for one and a half blocks and attacked an animal control officer before being recaptured.

**August 28, 2006/Chicago, Illinois:** A 15-year-old girl was hospitalized in serious condition after being attacked by a "pet" rhesus macaque monkey. The girl's arm was reportedly "bitten to the bone." The agitated monkey attempted to escape from the house as animal control officers worked to recapture him.

**June 1, 2006/Naples, Florida:** A mustached guenon at the Naples Zoo swam from the island where she and a male companion were housed and escaped to a wooded area of the zoo.

**March 8, 2006/Bell County, Texas:** A person bitten by a "pet" rhesus macaque was taken to the hospital for treatment. The monkey was killed to be tested for rabies.

**February 3, 2006/Columbus, Ohio:** A zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo was bitten while feeding a grape to an adult bonobo, also known as a "pygmy chimpanzee." The zookeeper lost the tip of her finger and was treated at a hospital. All the zoo's bonobos were isolated for 14 days to be monitored for health issues.

**December 29, 2005/unknown location:** A capuchin monkey who was being exhibited by Patricia Dawdy bit and/or scratched an 8-year-old boy, causing one or more injuries that required ongoing medical attention.

**December 1, 2005/Covington, Kentucky:** A "pet" monkey escaped and led authorities on a two-day chase through the neighborhood before being recaptured. A primate expert was concerned that the animal might suffer from frostbite while on the loose, and an animal control officer noted that the animal appeared to suffer from a cough. A monkey had been loose on the same block one year earlier.

**November 14, 2005/Arizona:** Several children were attacked and two were bitten when a "pet" monkey escaped from a cage and tore through a neighbor's birthday party.

**October 6, 2005/Eureka, California:** Bill, the solitary chimpanzee at the Sequoia Park Zoo, escaped from a cage and wandered one and a half blocks from the zoo before it was discovered that he was missing. Bill was coaxed back to the cage by one of the zookeepers. This was Bill's second escape from the zoo—about 10 years previously, the door to Bill's cage was left open and he wandered off.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**September 10, 2005/Royal, Nebraska:** Workers at Zoo Nebraska failed to properly lock a chimpanzee cage after cleaning, and all four animals in the cage made a break for freedom. The chimpanzees confronted zoo visitors, and at least one of the animals—possibly all four—walked into the town of Royal, where they attempted to enter businesses and where one chimp allegedly chased a 15-year-old boy into his home and another threw a grill at a van. When the animals tried to enter the building where zoo visitors and employees had taken refuge, three of the four chimpanzees were shot and killed. The surviving chimpanzee was transferred to an exotic-animal dealer in Missouri.

**August 29, 2005/Springdale, Ohio:** A monkey with the Hendricks Bros. Circus was frightened by a train whistle and fled into a nearby wooded area. He was found the next day, damp and hungry, huddled in the roof area of a picnic pavilion at a park.

**August 27, 2005/San Antonio, Texas:** A young chimpanzee escaped through a hole in the chain-link fencing of a cage at Primarily Primates, where many of the cages for the more than 600 primates were secured with only a small piece of wire.

**July 20, 2005/Racine, Wisconsin:** Max, a 19-year-old orangutan at the Racine Zoo, escaped into a hallway that connected to other zoo exhibits and three hours later was lured back to a cage with food.

**July 11, 2005/Caldwell, Ohio:** Two "pet" monkeys belonging to Hollis McIntiurff escaped their cage. One was recaptured after running loose for several hours. The second, a rhesus macaque, attacked a 20-year-old man who stopped his truck in order to avoid hitting the monkey on the road. The monkey jumped in the truck and bit him on the leg. The man was treated at a hospital and received a tetanus shot. Ten days after escaping, the monkey remained on the loose.

**July 5, 2005/Chicago, Illinois:** A 350-pound male silverback gorilla attacked an intern working in a habitat at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The gorilla shoved the woman down and "mouthed" her, pressing his lips and teeth against her back. She sustained puncture wounds and scratches as well as a sprained ankle and was treated by paramedics before being taken to the hospital.

**June 2005/Morehead, Kentucky:** A monkey reached through a car window and grabbed and bit a clerk's hand at the drive-thru window of a Viking BP Mart while his owner, Jamie Dehart, was picking up an order.

**May 7, 2005/Huntington, West Virginia:** A leashed "pet" monkey who had been taken to a shopping

center bit a 13-year-old girl in the parking lot. A woman holding the leash had indicated that the animal was friendly, but when the girl and her father approached to pet the monkey, the monkey jumped on the girl's leg and bit her kneecap and finger. She was treated at a hospital.

**March 3, 2005/Caliente, California:** Four adult chimpanzees escaped from their cage at Animal Haven Ranch. The two male chimpanzees attacked a couple who were visiting their "pet" chimpanzee at the facility. The woman's thumb was bitten off, and her husband was severely mauled. The chimpanzees bit off his nose, an eye, part of his cheek, lips, most of his fingers, both testicles, and much of the flesh from his buttocks, face, and left foot. According to a medic at the scene, "His face was gone." The chimpanzees who attacked, both former "show biz" chimps raised at Bob Dunn's Animal Services, were shot and killed. The gunfire frightened the two female chimpanzees who ran into the hills and were on the loose for several hours before being recaptured. Three months and a dozen surgeries later, the man was pulled out of a medically induced coma.

**December 9, 2004/Detroit, Michigan:** A student was bitten by a cinnamon ringtail cebus monkey at a wildlife show-and-tell at Wayne State University. The monkey was part of a menagerie brought by Chicago-based Bill Hoffman's Animal Rentals.

**November 26, 2004/Evansville, Indiana:** An ambulance was called to the Hadi Shrine circus at Roberts Stadium after a circusgoer was bitten on the cheek by a chimpanzee belonging to Zoppe-Rosaire Chimpanzees while posing for pictures. The patron was treated at the hospital for a puncture wound.

**November 12, 2004/Palm Springs, California:** A 16-year-old chimpanzee from Dan Westfall's private menagerie escaped and ran loose in a residential neighborhood, banging on windows and pounding on doors. Police steered him back to Westfall's home.

**October 14, 2004/Fresno, California:** The Chaffee Zoo evacuated visitors after an orangutan unraveled the netting on a cage and crawled out. She was loose for 10 minutes.

**October 9, 2004/Gentry, Arkansas:** A woman feeding animals at the Wild Wilderness Drive-Thru Safari was bitten by a chimpanzee who reached through the bars of the cage, grabbed her, and bit off much of her hand, including two fingers.

**August 1, 2004/Brooklyn, New York:** A 5-year-old macaque, used as a so-called "service animal," attacked and bit a 2-year-old boy being wheeled by his grandparents in a shopping cart at a grocery store.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**July 14, 2004/St. Louis, Missouri:** A zookeeper at the Saint Louis Zoo was taken to the hospital after she was bitten by an orangutan while feeding the animal.

**July 6, 2004/St. Charles, Minnesota:** Two people agreed to undergo a series of rabies shots after they were bitten by a capuchin monkey who escaped from the Staples Safari Zoo during an appearance at the Winona County fairgrounds. The monkey was quarantined for 28 days.

**May 26, 2004/Rochester, New York:** A baboon at the Seneca Park Zoo escaped from a cage and climbed into nearby trees before he was tranquilized.

**March 18, 2004/Dallas, Texas:** A 300-pound gorilla named Jabari escaped from an enclosure surrounded by a 16-foot concave wall at the Dallas Zoo and attacked four people. A 3-year-old boy was critically injured as a result of multiple bites to his head and chest. The gorilla bit the boy's mother on her legs and threw her and the toddler against the wall. Another woman suffered injuries to her arms when she shielded several children from the gorilla. The fourth injured person was a child who was treated at the scene. Police evacuated 300 people and fatally shot the gorilla after he charged at officers. Some children had reportedly been teasing Jabari before the incident.

**January 19, 2004/Los Angeles, California:** The Los Angeles Zoo evacuated 9,000 visitors after an 80-pound chimpanzee named Gracie escaped from her enclosure for the fifth time. She was loose for 45 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**January 8, 2004/Denver, Colorado:** A gorilla named Evelyn escaped from an enclosure at the Denver Zoo and entered the keepers' area, where she spent 45 minutes before being tranquilized. Evelyn was originally from the Los Angeles Zoo and had escaped several times while at that facility.

**December 27, 2003/St. Leonard, Maryland:** A man was taken to the hospital for treatment after being bitten on the thumb by a pigtailed macaque who was being kept as a house "pet."

**October 30, 2003/Savannah, Georgia:** Exhibitor Brian Staples was cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the escape of a spider monkey at the Georgia Coastal Fair. The monkey ran through the fair midway, a public area, before being recaptured.

**October 19, 2003/Stamford, Connecticut:** A 170-pound "pet" chimpanzee bolted from his owner's sport utility vehicle in a busy downtown street. A dozen police cruisers were called to the scene as the

chimpanzee charged officers and the crowds. He was recaptured two hours later.

**September 28, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts:** A gorilla named Little Joe escaped from an enclosure in Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, grabbed a toddler from a young woman's arms, then threw the child to the ground and jumped on her. Little Joe led more than 50 police officers and zoo staff members on a massive two-hour chase through darkened woods and along a nearby street outside the zoo. He finally collapsed after being shot repeatedly with tranquilizer darts and was returned to the zoo. The toddler required several stitches for a gash in her head. The gorilla also bit a zoo visitor on the back and attempted to attack other zoo staff members who were huddled in fear inside the ticket booth. Little Joe had also escaped during the previous month.

**August 26, 2003/Rochester, New York:** The Seneca Park Zoo evacuated visitors after a 300-pound orangutan escaped from a cage. During his 15-minute escape, the orangutan picked up a zoo volunteer, carried him into the cage, and then pushed him back out.

**August 13, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts:** Little Joe, a gorilla at Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, scaled a 20-foot rock wall and escaped from the ape enclosure. He was recaptured 10 minutes later.

**August 8, 2003/Chicago, Illinois:** A "pet" monkey who escaped from her home was chased for much of the day by police and animal control officers before being cornered in a stairwell and captured in a net. An animal control officer was bitten by the monkey during the capture.

**July 11, 2003/Southborough, Massachusetts:** A squirrel monkey escaped from the New England Primate Research Center and was found 17 days later having been struck and killed on a road 10 miles away.

**May 3, 2003/Fountain Hills, Arizona:** A "pet" capuchin monkey broke out of a cage, turned the key on the front door, and took off on a three-day rampage. He was spotted by neighbors in the trees, in garages, and inside several cars.

**April 19, 2003/Green Bay, Wisconsin:** A "pet" capuchin monkey purchased on the Internet escaped when the owner brought him, perched on her shoulder, into a tavern.

**September 10, 2002/Northwest Montana:** A "pet" macaque taken to malls bit at least three people. One incident occurred at a restaurant, a second at a fruit stand, and a third at the owner's residence. The





## Primate Incidents in the United States

monkey was quarantined, and two victims went for medical treatment.

**September 8, 2002/Hillsboro, Oregon:** A female rhesus macaque escaped from the Oregon National Primate Research Center while being transferred between buildings. Police warned area residents not to approach the animal. She was recaptured two days later.

**August 7, 2002/Racine, Minnesota:** A volunteer at BEARCAT Hollow animal park was attacked by a monkey as she entered the cage. The monkey grabbed her hair and bit her on the finger. The volunteer needed five stitches and rabies shots.

**August 4, 2002/Davenport, Iowa:** A monkey with the Texas-based Gerald Eppel's Monkey Business act performing at the Mississippi Valley Fair went berserk and jumped on a woman, hitting her head and biting her as she posed for a photograph. The woman filed a \$5,000 lawsuit against the fair and the animal exhibitor.

**June 23, 2002/Magnolia, Texas:** A "pet" Java macaque attacked and bit a 9-year-old boy and a woman and severely scratched a firefighter, sending all three to the hospital for treatment.

**May 13, 2002/Frankfort, Indiana:** A lemur jumped on and scratched a keeper's arm as she retrieved a food dish from a cage at a petting zoo at the TPA park. The keeper needed seven stitches in her arm, and the monkey was quarantined.

**April 3, 2002/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A Honolulu Zoo employee was attacked by a Siamang gibbon as she cleaned the animal's sleeping area. The woman suffered cuts and bites to both legs and received 45 stitches.

**January 10, 2002/Knox County, Tennessee:** A "pet" Japanese snow macaque escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a neighbor, biting his back and hand.

**November 23, 2001/Cleveland, Ohio:** A "pet" capuchin monkey who had been taken to a restaurant attacked, bit, and scratched a patron, inflicting 16 puncture wounds. A subsequent lawsuit seeking more than \$25,000 in damages for injuries and anxiety described the monkey as mischievous, ferocious, and/or vicious.

**September 10, 2001/Danville, New Hampshire:** A search party was organized after at least 10 monkey sightings were reported, including by the fire chief. The monkey, believed to be an escaped "pet," was seen running across streets and into bushes and was

described as being 8 feet long from his tail to his hands. Experts feared that the monkey would perish if not captured before winter.

**July 27, 2001/Martinsburg, West Virginia:** A "pet" monkey kept in a trailer park, believed to be a rhesus macaque, escaped and bit two children and a teenager. The bite victims underwent testing for herpes, tuberculosis, HIV, and other conditions.

**June 14, 2001/Seattle, Washington:** Woodland Park Zoo officials euthanized a 20-year-old lion-tailed macaque who tested positive for the herpes B virus.

**June 9, 2001/Omaha, Nebraska:** A squirrel monkey roaming freely and mingling with zoo visitors in an exhibit at Henry Doorly Zoo bit a woman's finger, causing an infection, after she offered the animal a cookie.

**May 12, 2001/Lakeland, Florida:** Health officials searched in vain for a woman who brought a "pet" monkey on a leash to a festival after the monkey bit and scratched a man on the arm. The man was treated for herpes B for fear that he might have contracted the deadly virus.

**April 22, 2001/Ventura, California:** According to a Ventura County Animal Bite Record, a 2½-year-old male chimpanzee named Mr. P belonging to Sid Yost's Amazing Animal Actors was ordered to be quarantined for 30 days after lunging at and biting a 12-year-old boy on the left hand.

**April 19, 2001/Jefferson County, Missouri:** Three chimpanzees with Chimparty, a company owned by Connie and Mike Casey that supplies primates for parties and TV commercials, escaped from an unlocked cage. A teenage boy shot and killed one of the chimpanzees.

**February 4, 2001/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** A crowd of 250 people cowered for 45 minutes inside a building at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium after a 150-pound female gorilla crossed a moat, scaled a 14-foot wall, and began to wander around the zoo. Zookeepers lured the gorilla into a restroom and tranquilized her.

**January 30, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A 1-year-old female chimpanzee named C.J., belonging to Monica Riddell's Xotic Stars of Las Vegas, bit a person on the finger during a public exhibition.

**2001/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped and ran amok on the grounds of Tupelo Country Club before being captured and returned to the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**December 2, 2000/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A 5-year-old "pet" capuchin, who was taken on a shopping trip to Home Depot, attacked and bit a teenage shopper on the leg.

**September 29, 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A 4-year-old girl required hospital treatment after she was bitten or scratched on the cheek by a monkey who had been brought to a motel.

**September 25, 2000/Maryville, Tennessee:** A girl was treated at a hospital for a bite wound to her arm inflicted by her stepfather's "pet" Japanese snow macaque.

**September 23, 2000/Jarratt, Virginia:** Three escaped monkeys threw fruit at vehicles traveling the interstate. After police arrived at the scene, the monkeys dashed across the interstate and disappeared into the woods.

**August 29, 2000/Washington, D.C.:** A 260-pound orangutan, Junior, climbed down a tower at the National Zoo and wandered the zoo grounds for 45 minutes while nearly 100 zoo visitors were herded into buildings. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**August 15, 2000/Sprague, West Virginia:** A "pet" chimpanzee escaped from a cage for three hours, biting a teenager on the hand and biting a neighbor who had tried to restrain the 150-pound animal. The same chimpanzee had escaped in July 1998 and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.

**August 12, 2000/Jessamine County, Kentucky:** A woman who was eight months pregnant was hospitalized after one of her two "pet" rhesus macaques suddenly turned violent while a cage was being cleaned and bit the woman's nose. The woman was given an anti-viral medication, which was a hazard to her pregnancy, in case the monkey tested positive for herpes B. She had been inspired to purchase "pet" monkeys when, as a child, she saw monkeys riding bicycles in a circus.

**August 8, 2000/San Angelo, Texas:** A capuchin "went crazy" and bit his owner. The owner shot the monkey seven or eight times, killing him. This is the same monkey who bit a neighbor on January 9, 1998.

**August 3, 2000/Southwest Ranches, Florida:** A "pet" spider monkey escaped from a cage and attacked two teenage girls. The girls were treated at the hospital for scratch and bite wounds to their faces, heads, and arms. The monkey was captured the next day. The same monkey had attacked a woman six months earlier.

**August 1, 2000/Dover, Wisconsin:** A "pet" Japanese macaque got loose and attacked two people. The monkey grabbed a neighbor around the waist and inflicted four bite wounds to the leg. Moments later, the monkey bit a postal carrier on the hand. The monkey was captured and killed.

**July 24, 2000/Dallas, Texas:** A chimpanzee was electrocuted after escaping from a habitat at the Dallas Zoo. She scratched a zookeeper, who required hospital treatment, and climbed a telephone pole. The zookeeper fired at the great ape with a shotgun, and a veterinarian fired a tranquilizer at the animal, causing her to fall. She was electrocuted as she grabbed for a power line.

**July 18, 2000/Jefferson City, Missouri:** A 7-year-old boy, riding his bicycle, was attacked by a neighbor's "pet" rhesus macaque, who jumped from a tree and bit the boy's arm. The child was subjected to a two-month ordeal involving doctors, needles, tests, and the fear of contracting the deadly herpes B virus. The boy later received a \$148,000 settlement from a lawsuit filed by his family.

**July 2000/Los Angeles, California:** Jim, a 350-pound 12-year-old gorilla, jumped across the 12-foot moat in an exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo. He started to walk toward a group of schoolchildren and was squirted with water to steer him into another enclosure.

**June 1, 2000/Columbia, Maryland:** An escaped 2½-foot-tall spider monkey chased a woman who had just stepped outside her home and bit her on the thigh, then ran away.

**May 31, 2000/Pensacola, Florida:** An orangutan at The Zoo escaped from an unlocked cage and attacked a zookeeper. The keeper was treated at a hospital for bruises and five bite wounds. The orangutan was lured back to the cage 45 minutes later with food.

**May 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A monkey bit a boy in a pet store.

**April 9, 2000/Franklin, Tennessee:** A chimpanzee named Angel, brought by Sid Yost (also known as Ranger Rick Kelly) to Blockbuster Video for photo ops and to promote a Critter Gitter movie, fiercely bit a 9-year-old girl on the hand after posing for a photograph. The girl's hand swelled and required stitches. Yost left the state before the chimpanzee could be quarantined and was issued a citation for violating Tennessee's exotic-animal law. Yost failed to show up in court and never paid the fine. The girl's parents filed a \$50,000 lawsuit against Yost, Critter Gitters, and Blockbuster, claiming that the defendants



## Primate Incidents in the United States

should have been aware of the danger inherent in subjecting Angel to a crowded area with so many children. None of the parties named in the lawsuit offered to pay for medical expenses.

**February 13, 2000/Lansing, Illinois:** A "pet" Java macaque attacked his owner, inflicting 6-inch-deep bites and cuts on her head, arms, and legs and causing her to lose 1½ pints of blood. She underwent three hours of surgery and 12 weeks of physical therapy. The monkey was killed for rabies tests.

**January 14, 2000/Palm Harbor, Florida:** A "pet" spider monkey escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a dog who was being walked by a neighbor. The dog went into shock and suffered serious artery and tendon damage.

**2000/Jackson County, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's adult "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, injured a teenage girl by lifting her by the ankles and tossing her to the ground.

**December 28, 1999/Des Moines, Iowa:** A rhesus macaque found wandering the streets on November 23, 1999, bit an animal control officer.

**December 15, 1999/Rancho Bernardo, California:** An escaped 3-foot-tall spider monkey led police on a two-hour chase, frightened residents, and bit a police officer.

**November 1, 1999/Euless, Texas:** A "pet" capuchin monkey attacked and bit an elderly woman.

**October 4, 1999/Evansville, Indiana:** A child was bitten on his finger by a macaque at Mesker Park Zoo. Two of the zoo's six macaque monkeys selected at random tested positive for the herpes B virus.

**September 1, 1999/West Covina, California:** A "pet" chimpanzee bit off the fingertip of a woman visiting the owner's home. This is the same chimpanzee who attacked four people on August 19, 1998.

**August 5, 1999/Bellevue, Nebraska:** A police officer was sent to the hospital after a macaque with a history of biting people bit him on the leg.

**July 31, 1999/Kissimmee, Florida:** A "pet" capuchin escaped and attacked a boy, scratching his leg. The monkey bit one police officer on the leg and pulled the hair of another before he was recaptured.

**June 20, 1999/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** An orangutan at the Philadelphia Zoo escaped from the exhibit he was in and ran loose in the zoo for 25 minutes before he was tranquilized by a veterinarian.

**May 11, 1999/Idaho Falls, Idaho:** A woman went to the hospital after a caged "pet" monkey bit her.

**April 15, 1999/Punta Gorda Isles, Florida:** A police officer used a 12-gauge shotgun to shoot and kill a 2-foot-tall rhesus macaque. The monkey had been running loose and acting aggressively toward residents for a month.

**April 1, 1999/Glen Burnie, Maryland:** A 2-year-old bonnet macaque bit a woman on the lip at a tavern, touching off a brawl in which two other people were bitten. Animal control had instances on file in which seven other people had been bitten or scratched by the 9-pound "pet" monkey. The owners ignored animal control orders not to take the monkey out in public. One of the injured parties filed a \$25,000 lawsuit.

**February 27, 1999/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Chip, Happy, and Tammy, chimpanzees at Hogle Zoo, escaped from a cage and attacked two zoo staff members. One employee, who was in serious condition, was hospitalized for nearly four weeks after one finger, part of a second finger, and part of his nose were bitten off. His left ear was also partially severed, and he suffered severe lacerations on his face, head, arms, and chest. A second employee was treated for cuts and scrapes. Chip and Happy were shot with shotguns by zoo employees and later euthanized. The USDA issued an official warning against the zoo for failure to securely contain primates. The zoo later settled a lawsuit brought by the seriously injured employee.

**January 13, 1999/Hillsborough, Florida:** A "pet" capuchin attacked her owner, biting her 50 times on the hands and legs.

**December 7, 1998/Kansas City, Missouri:** A male orangutan, Joe, used a tire to climb over the wall of an outdoor pen and escape from an exhibit at the Kansas City Zoo. Zoo visitors noticed him after he made his way to the sheep barn. He was tranquilized and recaptured.

**November 28, 1998/Dallas, Texas:** A 340-pound gorilla, Hercules, escaped from an open cage at the Dallas Zoo and attacked a zookeeper, dragging her down a hallway and biting her on her arm and side. Hercules was shot with a tranquilizer dart, and the zookeeper was hospitalized. The USDA fined the zoo \$25,000 for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

**November 1, 1998/Euless, Texas:** A spider monkey bit a student at an elementary school.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**October 4, 1998/Slidell, Louisiana:** An escaped "pet" vervet ran wild in a house, knocking over a lamp and attacking two women, biting one on the arm and slashing the legs of the other with teeth and claws. A police officer who responded to the frantic 911 call was also attacked. The monkey threw a picture frame at him, then jumped on him and bit him. Both women needed stitches. The monkey was killed.

**August 19, 1998/West Covina, California:** A "pet" chimpanzee escaped from a cage and went berserk, biting four people and denting a police car with his fists during a three-hour rampage. One officer required three surgeries on his hand at a cost of \$250,000.

**July 6, 1998/Sprague, West Virginia:** A "pet" chimpanzee escaped from an enclosure and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.

**May 1, 1998/Wichita, Kansas:** A macaque bit a child and a teenager at a store during a promotional event.

**April 13, 1998/Atlanta, Georgia:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that four lab workers who handled monkeys had become infected with monkey viruses.

**January 28, 1998/Los Angeles, California:** An employee was bitten by an orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo. As the keeper stooped down to speak to the animal, she held onto the chain-link fence between them. The orangutan grabbed her finger and bit the tip, which subsequently required amputation.

**January 9, 1998/San Angelo, Texas:** A "pet" capuchin bit a 19-year-old neighbor, who underwent rabies shots.

**January 5, 1998/Madison, Wisconsin:** Henry Vilas Zoo announced that its 150 macaques had been exposed to herpes B. One-third of them were infectious carriers and were considered to pose a public health risk.

**December 28, 1997/Charlotte County, Florida:** A 6-year-old girl visiting Octagon Exotics was attacked by a caged baboon, who pulled out chunks of her hair and attempted to bite her.

**December 10, 1997/Atlanta, Georgia:** A Yerkes primate researcher died of herpes B after she was splashed in the eye with bodily fluids from a rhesus macaque.

**October 6, 1997/South Barrington, Illinois:** A baboon at a petting zoo bit a 4-year-old girl.

**August 15, 1997/Elburn, Illinois:** A baboon with a traveling zoo scratched a 15-year-old girl's leg during a parade.

**August 8, 1997/Hartford, Connecticut:** A "pet" Java macaque got away while being taken for a walk and attacked an elderly neighbor, grabbing her hair and biting her arm.

**July 12, 1997/Glen Burnie, Maryland:** A 6-year-old girl who had been bitten in the face by a "pet" bonnet macaque while at a carnival was treated at a nearby hospital for her wound and received six shots to her face, arms, and legs.

**July 7, 1997/Bridgton, Maine:** State game wardens seized a "pet" squirrel monkey after the animal bit and scratched a woman standing in a supermarket checkout line. This same monkey had bitten a child the previous year (see the incident titled "February 1, 1996").

**June 29, 1997/Bourbonnais, Illinois:** A vervet with a traveling zoo bit a 3-year-old girl's face at a festival.

**May 27, 1997/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A 375-pound gorilla, Rocky, and a 180-pound gorilla, Tammy, escaped from a cage and entered a work area at the Little Rock Zoo.

**April 24, 1997/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A chimpanzee named Sydney pried back a steel bar on a cage and escaped from the Charlotte Metro Zoo, scaring neighbors as he roamed free for a week. Animal control officers spent 115 hours searching for the great ape. Sydney was finally captured in a neighbor's yard and taken back to the zoo, but as he was being returned to the cage, he broke free and bit a television news camera operator twice on the arm. The bite went through the man's wrist to the bone, severing tendons and damaging nerves; the photographer was permanently injured and suffered excruciating pain for a year.

**March 1, 1997/Houston, Texas:** An 8-year-old capuchin turned on his owner and nearly killed her, severing her thumb and part of her index finger and cutting her legs.

**September 28, 1996/Los Angeles, California:** Actor Elizabeth Hurley reeled back in shock when she was bitten on the ear by a chimpanzee while appearing on Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*.

**September 22, 1996/Palm Beach, Florida:** A pigtailed macaque who tested positive for herpes B bit a 4-year-old girl on the shoulder while he was being taken for a walk. The "pet" monkey had been kissed



## Primate Incidents in the United States

and held by hundreds of people. Authorities confiscated the animal.

**May 18, 1996/Staten Island, New York:** Four heavily armed emergency service police officers chased a capuchin monkey through a residential neighborhood for 45 minutes. The monkey escaped, fleeing into woods near the Staten Island mall.

**April 1996/Dahlonoga, Georgia:** A zoo visitor was bitten by a lemur after being allowed to enter the enclosure that was holding lemurs at the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve.

**April 6, 1996/Alice, Texas:** Two monkeys imported into a research facility were infected with the deadly Ebola virus. One monkey died, and the other was killed.

**March 24, 1996/Gainesville, Florida:** Residents were warned not to catch, feed, or touch a rhesus macaque who had been exposed to the herpes B virus. The macaque had escaped from a research farm.

**February 28, 1996/Metairie, Louisiana:** A "pet" vervet was impounded after biting an animal control officer during a home inspection. The monkey had earlier scratched the owner's 2-year-old son.

**February 12, 1996/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Six chimpanzees at the Tulsa Zoo escaped by scaling a wall, forcing an evacuation of the zoo that lasted five hours.

**February 1, 1996/Bridgton, Maine:** A squirrel monkey bit a child during a school demonstration.

**1996/Stamford, Connecticut:** Sandra Herold's "pet" chimpanzee, Travis, bit a woman and tried to pull her into a car. The woman had to get rabies shots.

**November 14, 1995/Acadiana, Louisiana:** A zoo worker at the Zoo of Acadiana was attacked and bitten on the leg by a monkey who escaped during a medical exam. The employee was off work for several days with an infected leg.

**September 8, 1995/Royal Oak, Michigan:** The owner of a 3-year-old spider monkey received 17 stitches in his lower lip after the monkey attacked him.

**July 16, 1995/Los Angeles, California:** A Los Angeles Zoo volunteer was placing popcorn in the monkey exhibit when a monkey mauled her. She sustained lacerations, puncture wounds, and deep cuts, leaving her disfigured and permanently disabled. A lawsuit was filed against the zoo.

**June 3, 1995/Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania:** An escaped "pet" monkey grabbed a kitchen knife and cigarette lighter, holding police at bay for nearly two hours. The monkey ran through the house and bit two women. Animal control caught the monkey with a snare. The monkey later died in a cage.

**April 10, 1995/Asheboro, North Carolina:** Tammy, a chimpanzee at the North Carolina Zoological Park, escaped from an enclosure that was surrounded by moats and a 12-foot concrete wall. The zoo was evacuated as Tammy walked around for 20 minutes before being coaxed back to the enclosure.

**January 7, 1995/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A chimpanzee, Reggie, escaped by pulling a wire on a cage at the Baton Rouge Zoo. Reggie was being transferred to another exhibit after he had been attacked and injured by another chimpanzee. He was tranquilized and recaptured.

**January 1, 1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** A "pet" chimpanzee bit a 7-year-old girl, causing her to have to undergo rabies treatment. Authorities had received numerous complaints that the chimpanzee ran loose and had attacked several people.

**1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, was taken into custody by Kansas City animal control officials after they investigated reports that she had bitten humans.

**November 30, 1994/Boca Raton, Florida:** A 5-inch "pet" marmoset, smuggled into a restaurant in a bag, escaped and bit a diner on the ear.

**November 11, 1994/San Francisco, California:** The San Francisco Zoo alerted area residents to be on the watch for an escaped patas monkey.

**Fall of 1994/Festus, Missouri:** A chimpanzee escaped from James Michael "Mike" and Connie Casey's chimpanzee-breeding compound and attacked a dog before entering a home in which four adults and three children were sitting on a couch looking at photos. The chimpanzee grabbed a 2-year-old girl by her ponytail and dragged her across the floor. A man who attempted to retrieve the girl from the chimpanzee resorted to beating the animal on the head with a skillet. The man and the girl were both scratched and bruised and were treated at the hospital.

**August 20, 1994/Covington, Louisiana:** Residents began calling authorities after spotting monkeys near their homes. The monkeys were among 28 pigtailed macaques who had escaped from the Delta Regional Primate Research Center.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**August 9, 1994/Surprise, Arizona:** A 4-year-old boy developed an eye infection after being bitten and scratched by two macaques. The boy's mother had obtained the monkeys as "pets" three weeks earlier.

**August 2, 1994/Knoxville, Tennessee:** Residents were warned that an escaped "pet" spider monkey might bite. The animal got loose in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**August 2, 1994/New Smyrna Beach, Florida:** Five Japanese macaques donated to Ashby Acres Wildlife Park by the Pittsburgh Zoo were found to be infected with herpes B.

**June 30, 1994/Phoenix, Arizona:** A "pet" Java macaque escaped from a backyard cage and ran throughout a residential neighborhood for 17 hours before he was recaptured.

**May 13, 1994/St. Paul, Minnesota:** Casey, a 400-pound gorilla, scaled a 15-foot concrete wall and wandered around the Como Zoo for 45 minutes while a group of kindergarten students were ushered to safety. Casey was shot with a tranquilizer and returned to the enclosure.

**February 1, 1994/Kansas City, Missouri:** A "pet" chimpanzee jumped on a man and bit him, causing injuries that needed medical treatment.

**July 11, 1993/Rolling Meadows, Illinois:** A leashed guenon grabbed an 11-year-old girl's leg and inflicted three bite wounds that required stitches. Animal control had tried unsuccessfully to confiscate the monkey years earlier after police alleged that the animal had bitten several people.

**July 9, 1993/Niagara, New York:** A man was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, where he received stitches to close bite wounds from his "pet" patas monkey.

**June 18, 1993/San Diego, California:** An orangutan, Indah, climbed a wall in an enclosure and entered a viewing deck containing about 30 zoo visitors at the San Diego Zoo. Indah was tranquilized and recaptured 30 minutes later.

**May 17, 1993/Seattle, Washington:** A 300-pound orangutan, Towan, escaped from an enclosure at the Woodland Park Zoo and remained in a holding area. He was recaptured nearly two hours later, after being shot with a tranquilizer dart.

**January 21, 1993/Los Angeles, California:** Three chimpanzees, Toto, Bonnie, and Gracie, escaped from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo by scaling

a moat using a rope that had been tossed into the enclosure by a visitor. Frightened zoo visitors fled to safety. Two of the chimpanzees were coaxed back into their cage within 45 minutes, and the third was tranquilized and recaptured.

**October 12, 1992/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A 180-pound chimpanzee bent the bars of a cage and escaped from Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility. The animal bit a 15-year-old boy and threw a 77-year-old woman to the ground. Sheriff's deputies and an animal control officer returned the chimpanzee to the ranch. The boy was treated for a bite to the hand at a minor-emergency clinic, and the elderly woman suffered facial injuries.

**September 28, 1992/Bronx, New York:** Kongo, a 500-pound gorilla at the Bronx Zoo, escaped while he was being transferred from one cage to another. He bit one keeper on the thigh and a second on the shoulder. Both keepers required hospitalization. The gorilla was tranquilized and dragged back into the cage.

**September 28, 1992/Miami, Florida:** A 400-pound gorilla named Jimmy at the Miami Metrozoo unlatched a lock on a cage, entered a holding area, and harassed and bit a keeper, who required hospital treatment.

**August 24, 1992/Welford, South Carolina:** A 78-year-old woman hanging sheets on a clothesline in her backyard was attacked twice by one of three chimpanzees who had escaped from Hollywild Animal Park. The woman was repeatedly knocked to the ground and rolled around by the 100-pound chimp. She was treated for minor injuries at a medical center.

**July 15, 1992/New York, New York:** A leashed monkey slapped and scratched a subway clerk on the head when a man attempted to bring him into the subway station.

**July 6, 1992/Miami, Florida:** Police warned area residents of rogue rhesus and Java macaques who had bitten a toddler, attacked a police officer, and terrorized a suburban parking lot. One monkey was shot and killed.

**June 22, 1992/San Diego, California:** Mema, a 400-pound gorilla, escaped from an enclosure through a door that had been left open at the San Diego Zoo and roamed free for two and a half hours before he was tranquilized.

**May 8, 1992/Norcross, Georgia:** A 2-year-old squirrel monkey kept in a cage at a pet shop bit a teenager.



## Primate Incidents in the United States

**March 23, 1992/Los Angeles, California:** For the second time in three days, chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, Gerrard, and Bonnie used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. The chimps were recaptured within an hour.

**March 21, 1992/Los Angeles, California:** Chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, and Gerrard used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. The zoo was closed for an hour while the chimps were recaptured.

**February 1, 1992/Fashion Island, California:** A man's "pet" monkey bit a woman. The man was accused of trying to sell tiger and lion cubs from the back of a convertible.

**1992/Festus, Missouri:** James Michael "Mike" Casey was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when he entered a cage at his chimpanzee-breeding compound. The chimpanzee grabbed the back of Casey's head, hit him twice on the shoulders, and bit off a good portion of his nose. Casey was treated at a hospital, where his nose had to be reconstructed by grafting part of his forehead onto it.

**December 29, 1991/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** An 80-pound chimpanzee named Candy escaped from a local amusement park for an hour, disrupted traffic, and injured two people. She was shot with a tranquilizer gun.

**October 24, 1991/Seattle, Washington:** Three frightened Woodland Park Zoo volunteers were trapped for 40 minutes in an exhibit with a 300-pound male orangutan named Towan after he, three female orangutans, and a baby orangutan escaped from a pen. The volunteers escaped, and the five orangutans climbed onto the roof of the exhibit, where they stayed for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured. Zoo visitors, including 55 children from a local elementary school, were evacuated.

**July 25, 1991/Jefferson, Arkansas:** An animal handler filed a \$100 million claim against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services because he allegedly contracted a deadly virus when he was scratched by a macaque while working at the National Center for Toxicological Research.

**June 26, 1991/Tampa, Florida:** Nearly 100 spectators were evacuated from the Lowry Park Zoo after Rudy, an 80-pound orangutan, scaled the wall of an exhibit, bounded over a ledge, crossed a sidewalk, and climbed to a nearby rooftop during an escape that lasted 10 minutes. Zookeepers coaxed her from the roof.

**June 10, 1991/Little Rock, Arkansas:** At the Little Rock Zoo, two chimpanzees named Kim and Jodie escaped from a cage through an unlocked door. About 800 zoo visitors had to be evacuated from the premises for an hour.

**October 23, 1990/St. Petersburg, Florida:** An escaped "pet" capuchin ran into a neighbor's home, grabbed food in the kitchen, darted outside, and bit a woman as she grabbed him.

**July 7, 1990/Southeast Portland, Oregon:** Two leashed and collared chimpanzees went out of control during a Circus Gatti performance. They dragged the trainer into the stands and pulled a child from her seat and onto the arena floor, then mauled her.

**June 6, 1990/Kansas City, Missouri:** A 127-pound orangutan named Cheyenne unscrewed four bolts to escape from a cage at the Kansas City Zoo. Visitors screamed as mothers pushed their children in strollers to safety. Cheyenne was tranquilized and taken back to the cage 20 minutes later.

**June 1990/Detroit, Michigan:** A chimpanzee escaped from an exhibit at the Detroit Zoo. Zoo visitors had to be evacuated from the premises for an hour while staff members attempted to recapture her.



# Quarterly Board Report

First Quarter 2016

### Inside this issue:

Message from Shyanne	1
Emerging Developments	1, 2
Upcoming Events	2
Statistics	3

### Message from Shyanne

Happy Spring! All of the staff here at WCRAS are bracing for the increase in service calls as the weather warms up. Unfortunately, the calls for animals locked inside of hot vehicles as well as loose dogs take a sharp increase when the temperature rises. The good news is that WCRAS is integrating key elements of prevention such as education, community-based programs and raising awareness of issues relative to animals. Although we will never eliminate all animal control issues, we believe that a well-planned, proactive approach can make a substantial difference in the lives of both the animals and people who care for them in our community.

### Emerging Developments

-We updated our facility to adopt a more welcoming atmosphere with clear, directional signage as well as animal inspired messaging as part of our re-brand. The picture below illustrates a sample of the animal inspired, educational messaging throughout the public areas of the facility.





## Emerging Developments Continued

-WCRAS recently received our Facility and Operations Assessment Report from Code 3 Associates. This assessment is required every 5 years per the PSA. Read the report [here](#)

-WCRAS will be kicking off a new program in May for homebound, low-income seniors with pets. The program aims to provide free basic veterinary check ups and vaccines for the pets of homebound seniors in their homes. More updates to come on this program as we kick off.

-WCRAS and NHS are partnering to provide free dog and cat food for the pets of seniors at a designated location every month. See our website for more information [here](#).



WCRAS volunteer Jim Rummings assisting with pet food distribution to seniors.

## Upcoming Community Events

4/29/16	Older American's Month, Education Table, 9 am– 1 pm, Senior Services, 1155 E. 9th
4/30/16	Paws In The Park, Free Microchipping, 10 am—4 pm, Rancho San Rafael Park
5/3/16	WCRAS Low Cost Vaccination/ License Clinic, 3 pm - 7pm, 2825 Longley Ln.
5/7/16	Low Cost Vaccination/License Clinic, 10 am - 2 pm, Miguel Ribera Park
5/17/16	FREE Vaccination/License Clinic for Pets of Seniors, 8 am - 11am, Hidden Valley Park
6/4/16	Low Cost Vaccination/License Clinic, 10 am - 2 pm, Paradise Park.
6/7/16	WCRAS Low Cost Vaccination/ License Clinic, 3pm - 7pm, 2825 Longley Ln.
6/21//16	FREE Vaccination/License Clinic for Pets of Seniors, 8 am - 11 am, Sparks Senior Center, 97 Richards Way

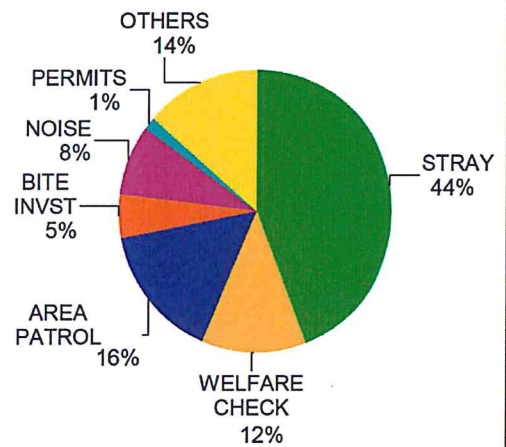
# WCRAS Service Statistics

## ACTIVITIES, INTAKES AND OUTCOMES FROM 1/1/2016 TO 3/31/2016

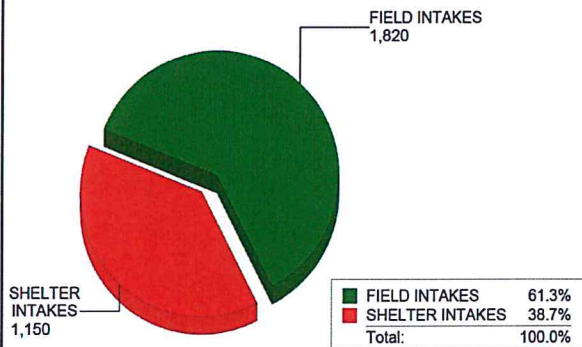
### FIELD ACTIVITIES ENTERED BY JURISDICTION

	Total	WASHOE	RENO	SPARKS	OTHER
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,128</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>37</b>
STRAY	3,582	1,105	1,742	733	2
WELFARE CHECK	1,010	258	565	184	3
AREA PATROL	1,264	247	583	434	0
BITE INVST	397	93	214	83	7
NOISE	652	134	357	160	1
PERMITS	117	47	49	21	0
OTHERS	1,106	238	663	181	24

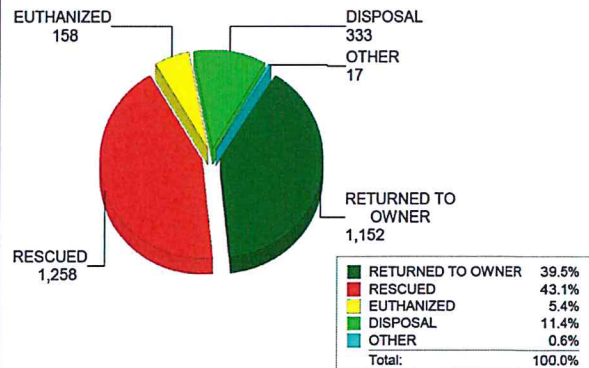
### ACTIVITY TYPES



### SHELTER & FIELD INTAKES



### ALL OUTCOMES





licensing and permits; control of animals running at large; vaccination/ inoculation against rabies; rabies control; livestock; fee collection for animal services; dangerous and vicious dog regulation; adoption of unclaimed or abandoned animals; impoundment of stray, injured or abandoned animals; exotic animal control; providing for a poundkeeper; prohibiting animal cruelty; and other matters relating to the care and control of animals.

3.4 The Parties have drafted animal services and animal control ordinances that standardize and blend the Cities and County code provisions to provide careful and appropriate regulation of animals and animal owners. These unified ordinances provide for regulation of animals based upon differences between urban and rural areas of the region.

3.5 Regionalization and consolidation of animal services and animal control functions will be effected in two phases as set forth in Article 4. As part of the first phase, the County will enact and enforce the first of these unified ordinances wherein the County assumes jurisdiction for animal control throughout the unincorporated area of Washoe County and the incorporated area of the City of Sparks. As part of the second phase, the County will enact and enforce the second of these unified ordinances wherein the County assumes jurisdiction for animal services and animal control functions countywide, including both Cities.

SUMMARY: An ordinance amending the Washoe County Code by repealing and enacting section 800 of Chapter 55 relating to animals and fowl regarding animal control in Washoe County

BILL NO. 1639

ORDINANCE NO. 1460

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WASHOE COUNTY CODE REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 55 RELATING TO PENALTIES ESTABLISHED FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL PROVISIONS AND BY ENACTING PROVISIONS REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL IN WASHOE COUNTY BY SETTING FORTH UNLAWFUL ACTS RELATING THERETO, PROSCRIBING CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL PROVISIONS, BY ALLOWING THE UTILIZATION OF WASHOE COUNTY'S CIVIL ENFORCEMENT PROCESS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO.

SECTION 1. Purpose and intent.

1. NRS 244.189 provides that the board of county commissioners may exercise such powers and may enact such ordinances not in conflict with Nevada statutes for, inter alia, the control and protection of animals. NRS 244.359 provides that the board of county commissioners may by ordinance impose a civil liability in favor of the county for the violation of particular ordinances enacted pursuant to NRS 244.359, in an amount not to exceed \$500, instead of a criminal penalty. It is the intention of this Ordinance to repeal in total and enact new language in section 800 of Washoe County Code Chapter 55 to provide for decriminalizing most violations of the animal control ordinances and to create a civil penalty process for those violations.

SECTION 2. Section 55.800 of the Washoe County Code is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth in section 4 of this ordinance.

SECTION 4.

55.800 Penalties:

(1) Except when a civil penalty is imposed pursuant to NRS 244.359 as provided below, any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000, or by both fine and imprisonment. Failure to appear in the proper court to answer to such misdemeanor citation is a separate offense.

(2) Each day that a violation occurs constitutes a separate offense.

(3) For any second conviction for violation of the same provision of this chapter, such person violating that provision shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail



for not more than 6 months, or by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, or both fine and imprisonment.

(4) In lieu of all or part of the criminal penalty which may be imposed pursuant to this section, the convicted person may be sentenced to perform a fixed period of community service pursuant to the conditions prescribed by law.

(5) Except as prohibited by NRS 244.359, and in lieu of any criminal penalty which may be imposed for the violation(s) of any ordinance enacted pursuant to NRS 244.359(3), a civil penalty in favor of the county may be imposed in an amount not to exceed \$500. In order to impose a civil penalty as authorized by NRS 244.359, a peace officer or an animal control officer shall serve upon a person a "Notice of Civil Penalty" (NCP). The NCP shall contain the information required in WCC 55.800(8) and will be adjudicated in accordance with WCC 55.800(6) through 55.800(16) inclusive. A NCP is a civil infraction in nature and is not to be considered a criminal offense for any reason. All civil penalties collected pursuant to WCC 55.800 shall be payable directly to Washoe County and shall be placed in the County's general fund.

(6) Violation—Civil Infraction. It is a civil infraction for which a civil penalty may be imposed against an animal owner and in favor of the County, for an animal to be found in violation of any of the animal ordinances which are set forth in WCC 55.010 through 55.800 to the extent allowed by law.

(7) Notice of civil penalty. Whenever any animal is found in violation of the animal ordinances which are set forth in WCC 55.010 through 55.800, a NCP may be issued. In lieu of issuing a NCP, a written warning may be served upon the owner of the animal by affixing the warning to the place of residence in a conspicuous place. The written warning shall be imprinted so as to advise the owner that the owner has violated the animal control ordinances, which animal control ordinances the owner violated, but that it carries no civil or criminal penalty.

(8) Notice of civil penalty - Form. The NCP authorized by WCC 55.800(5) must be on a form which is provided by Washoe County Regional Animal Services and must contain the following information or as much of the following information as reasonably possible:

- (a) The name and address of the alleged violator;
- (b) The location at which the violation occurred together with the date and approximate time of the violation;
- (c) The description of the animal found in violation of WCC 55.010 through 55.800 together with the section(s) of the Washoe County Code allegedly violated;
- (d) The name of the peace officer or animal control officer who issues the notice of civil penalty;
- (e) Information which advises of the manner in which the violation occurred, and the time within which, the NCP should be answered;

- (f) Information that Washoe County Regional Animal Services Center (WCRASC) is the Washoe County agency where the alleged violator shall appear. The NCP shall also contain the address, telephone number and the hours of operation of WCRASC;
- (g) The amount of civil penalty imposed together with a statement that the NCP shall not be considered a criminal offense for any purpose and that a person who commits the infraction shall not be arrested as a result; the NCP shall also inform the person served that failure to respond to the NCP within 30 days of the date of issuance shall be deemed an admission of liability and a waiver of any right to a hearing and will result in the imposition of an additional \$25.00 administrative assessment;
- (h) The NCP shall also advise the individual that the Washoe County Board of Commissioners authorizes animal services to accept as payment in full for the civil penalty, one half of the authorized penalty indicated on the NCP if the individual pays that amount within 30 days of issuance.

(9) Issuance. The notice of civil penalty may be issued by any peace officer or animal control officer. The NCP may be issued by the peace officer or animal control officer based upon a written and signed statement of a complaining party. In such a case, the complaining party must appear at a hearing subsequently scheduled pursuant to WCC 55.800(13) (d) below, to testify. If the complaining party does not appear at the hearing in the case, the NCP will be dismissed and the respondent released from liability.

(10) Filing. The notice of civil penalty and/or an electronic facsimile thereof, must be filed with and retained by Washoe County Regional Animal Services and is deemed to be a public record of matters which are observed pursuant to a duty which is imposed by law and is prima facie evidence of the facts which are alleged therein. The notice of civil penalty must be served on the person to whom it is issued as provided in section 55.800(11).

(11) Service. The notice of civil penalty may be served upon the owner of the animal by personal service, regular US Postal Service mail to the last known address of the owner, or by affixing the notice to the place of residence in a conspicuous place. Service of the notice of civil penalty by mail or affixation has the same force and effect and is subject to the same penalties for the disregard thereof as if the notice of civil penalty were personally served on the owner.

(12) Liability. The owner of an animal is liable for all of the civil penalties which are imposed pursuant to this chapter. The following civil penalties are hereby authorized by the Board of County Commissioners:

- (a). For the first NCP relating to an ordinance: \$100.00
- (b). For second or subsequent NCPs issued for the same ordinance, as follows:



- (1) Second NCP- \$200.00
- (2) Third or subsequent NCP- \$400.00

(c). A peace officer or animal control officer may issue a criminal citation for a fourth or subsequent violation by the owner of the same ordinance within a three year period.

(13) Notice of civil penalty—Duties of animal owner/respondent.

- (a). A person who responds (“the respondent”) to a notice of civil penalty must either:
  - (1) "Admit" the commission of the civil infraction and pay the civil penalty imposed on the NCP, or
  - (2) "Deny" liability for the civil penalty.
- (b). A person may "admit" pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this section by paying the amount of the civil penalty which is appropriate for the violation and which has been approved by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners.
- (c). A person may "deny" liability pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this section by appearing in person at or by telephone contact to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Center within 30 days of the date of issuance of the NCP to request a hearing, at which time, a date for a hearing and assignment of a hearing officer on the NCP shall be scheduled.
- (d). Assignment of the hearing officer to each case will be on a fixed daily rotation basis, but the hearing officer must be chosen from a list of hearing officers approved by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners. Only one hearing officer will be so assigned per day to hear scheduled cases. The assigned hearing officer is subject to disqualification for bias, prejudice, conflict of interest, or for any other reason for which a judge may be disqualified in a court of law. At the hearing, the hearing officer shall have the authority to require every witness to declare, under penalty of perjury, that he will testify truthfully, by oath or affirmation, administered by the hearing officer. An affirmation is sufficient if the witness is addressed in the following terms:
  - “Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the evidence you shall give in this matter now pending shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”Assent to this affirmation shall be made by the answer “I do”. The hearing officer shall not accept evidence from any party that does not assent to the affirmation.
- (e). At that hearing, any witness may present relevant evidence regarding the infraction and the issuance of the NCP. If the hearing officer finds that the civil infraction has not occurred or a civil infraction has been committed but the respondent asserts and

proves one or more legal defenses to the NCP, the hearing officer may dismiss the NCP and release the owner from liability.

- (f). If the hearing officer finds that a civil infraction has been committed and no defense exists, the hearing officer may, in the interest of justice and on behalf of the County, enter into an agreement for the timely or periodic payment of the applicable civil penalty.
- (g). In a contested hearing, the respondent against whom the hearing officer has entered a finding of liability and has assessed a civil penalty, by default or otherwise, may, if the assessed fine has been paid, seek judicial review thereof by filing a petition for a writ of mandate in the district court within 30 days of the hearing officer's findings.
- (h). If the person served with a NCP fails to respond as set forth in this subsection, animal services may serve on the violator by mail or by personal service, an overdue notice which shall contain payment instruction including the address to which payments should be mailed or personally delivered. The overdue notice shall also state that payment of the civil penalty in accordance with WCC 55.800(8)(h) is no longer available to the violator and that the entire amount of the civil penalty indicated on the NCP shall be paid. In addition, the overdue notice shall inform the violator that an additional administrative assessment of \$25.00 will also be charged.

(14) Judicial enforcement. Judicial enforcement of a notice of civil penalty must be by way of civil suit in the appropriate Justice's Court. A certified copy of the notice of civil penalty constitutes a prima facie showing that a civil infraction occurred.

(15) Commencement of civil action - Procedure. The civil action authorized in WCC 55.800(14) may be commenced at any time after the expiration of 60 days following the date on which the notice of civil penalty was served pursuant to WCC 55.800(11) or 60 days following the hearing officer's findings, by the filing of a complaint in the name of Washoe County and the issuance of a summons with respect thereto. Service of such complaint and summons on the defendant must be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the registered owner of the animal at the owner's last known address, as indicated by any animal identification or in any other manner which is authorized by law. The proceedings in the Justice's Court for actions commenced pursuant this chapter shall be governed by the appropriate Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure.

(16) Time limit. Civil actions pursuant to this chapter may only be commenced within one year after the date on which the civil penalty occurred, and the standard of proof which is applied is the preponderance of the evidence. The County has satisfied its burden of proof if it shows that a civil infraction occurred and that the animal was owned by, registered to, or in the custody of the defendant on the date the NCP was served, unless either of these elements is satisfactorily rebutted by the defendant. The defendant



may assert and prove defenses as allowed by law and the court may dismiss the notice of civil penalty if it finds that a defense has been proven by the respondent.

(17) Administrative Enforcement Authority. In addition to any criminal or civil penalties which are authorized by this chapter, in the sole discretion of Washoe County Regional Animal Services and in lieu of the process contained in WCC 55.800(5) through 55.800(16), any animal control officer is authorized to utilize the administrative enforcement procedures contained within WCC Chapter 125 in appropriate cases.

[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business]

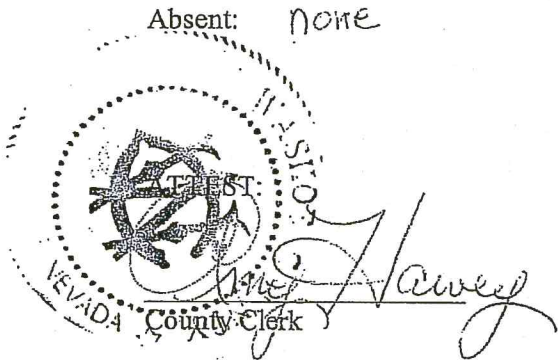
Proposed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.  
Proposed by Commissioner Jung  
Passed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2011.

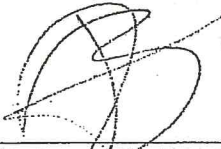
Vote:

Ayes: Breternitz, Weber, Humke, Jung, Larkin

Nays: none

Absent: none



  
Chairman Washoe County Commission

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2011.



1997 Southview Drive, Sparks, NV

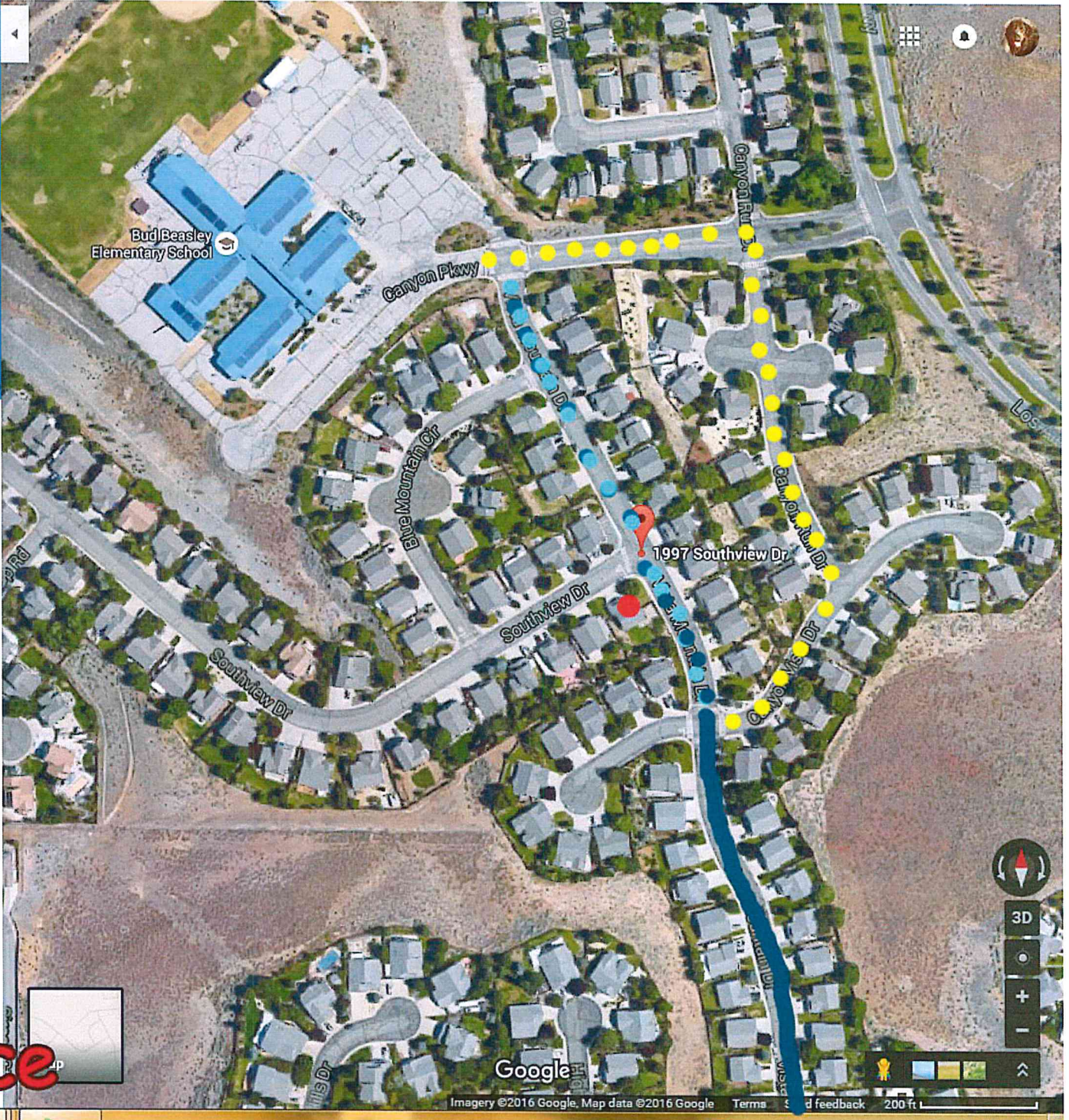
# Legend

blue dots  
1997 Southview Dr  
Sparks, NV 89436

serve most  
students  
& walkers.

Yellow is the  
detour most  
take..

Red is  
Dog over fence











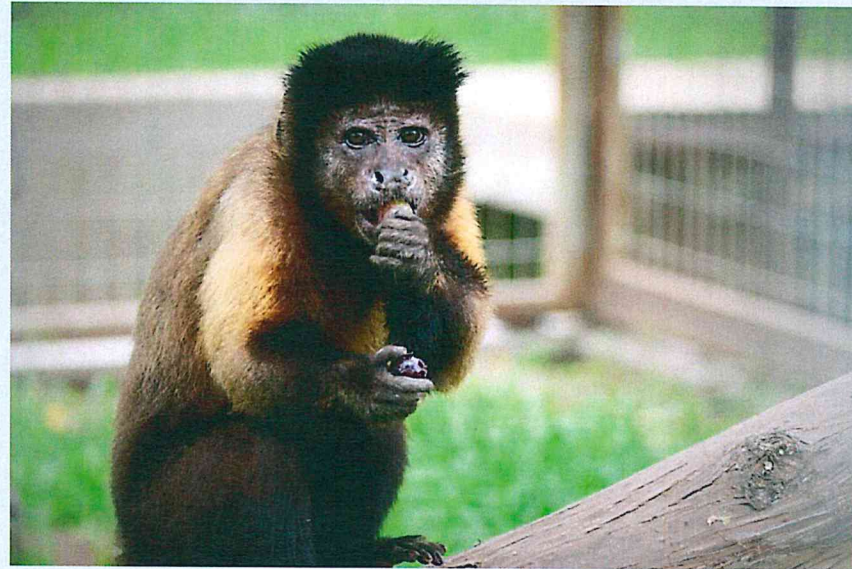
# **55.650 Exotic Animals; Application for permit to keep**





# Revision

- Public Safety
- Animal Welfare
- Public Health
- Language Clarifications







# Opposition Concerns

- Code is essentially elimination of exotic ownership
- Targets exotics unfairly creating a bias standard-in comparison to Dangerous Dogs
- Animal Permit Changes do not include any exotic experts
- Proposed Code demonstrates lack of knowledge with exotics
- Inability to transition from private to business (excessive liability insurance requirements)
- Incidents with Exotics are minimal in comparison to dogs



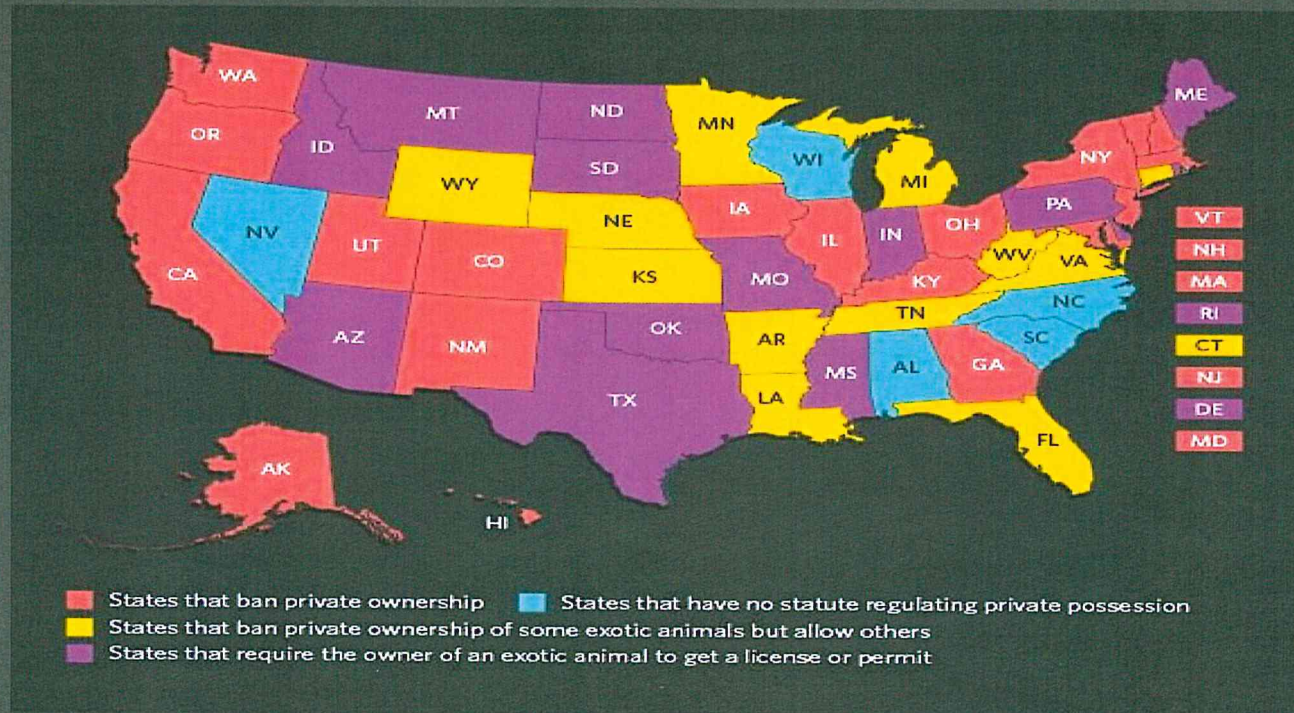




# Public Safety

## Exotic Animal Laws

Nineteen states ban private ownership of dangerous exotic animals. Others have partial bans or allow owners to keep them if they get licenses or permits. Five states have no law regulating ownership.



Source: Born Free USA  
© 2015 The Pew Charitable Trusts





# Animal Welfare



- Diet
- Habitat
- Handling
- Adequate Exercise
- Stress
- Enrichment







# Public Health

- Many exotics are carriers of herpes B, salmonellosis, monkeypox and rabies
- Environmental risks associated with invasive, non native species





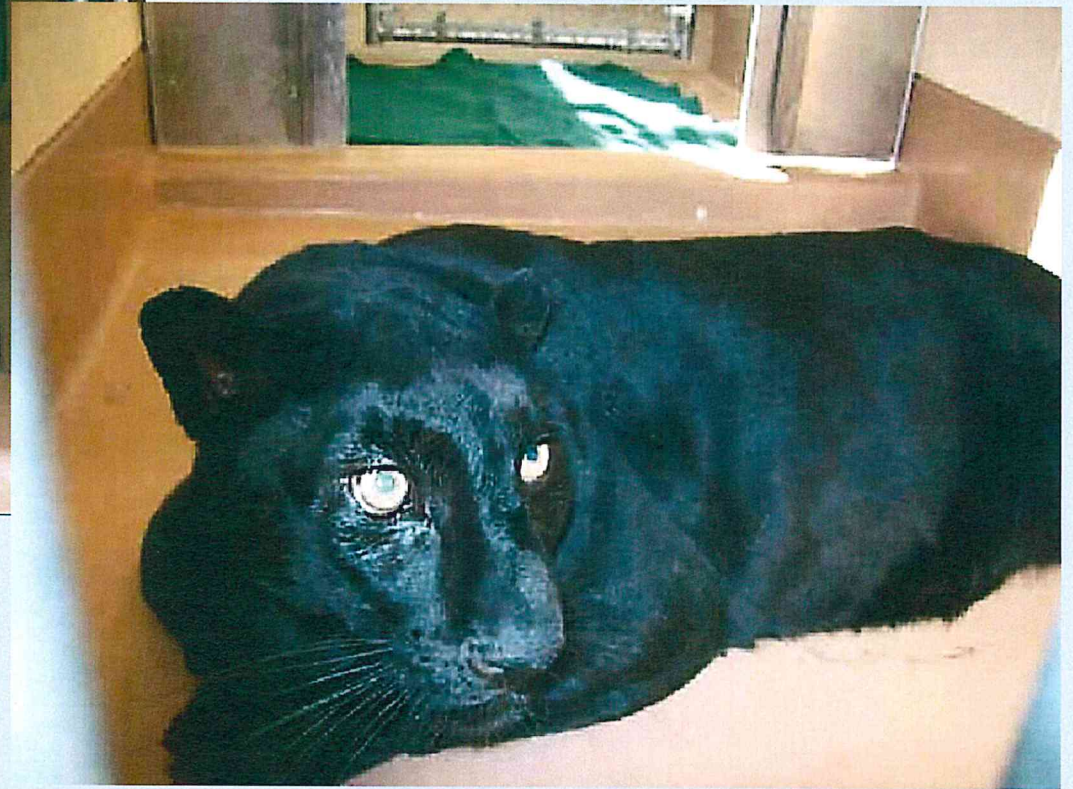
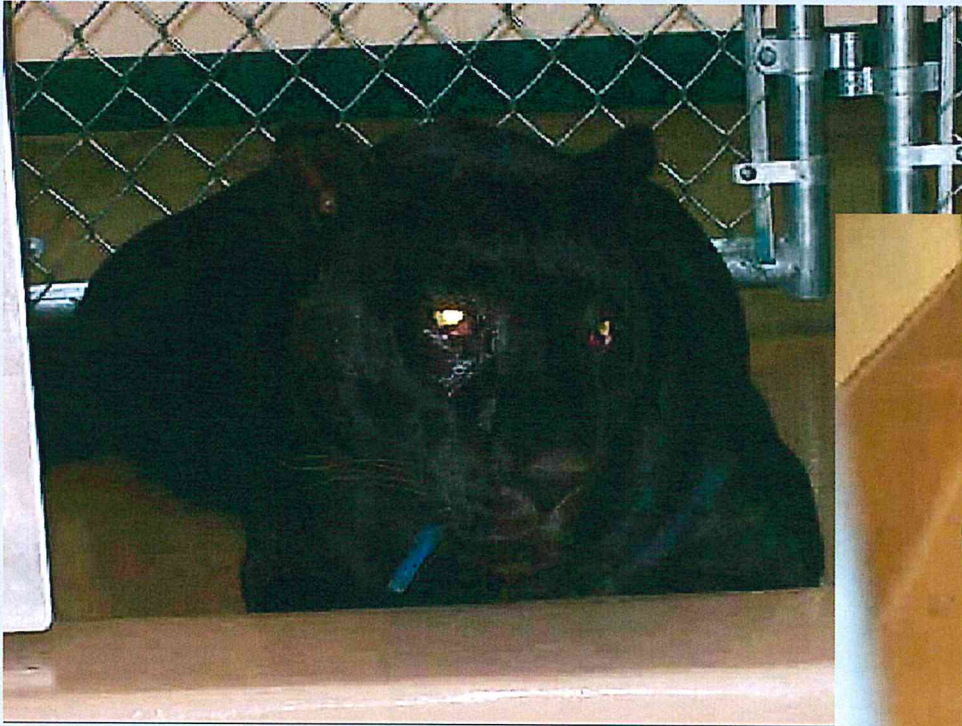
# Current Code

- Exotic animal includes any bear, canine, feline, hoofed animal, marsupial, primate, raptor and reptile
  
- NRS 414





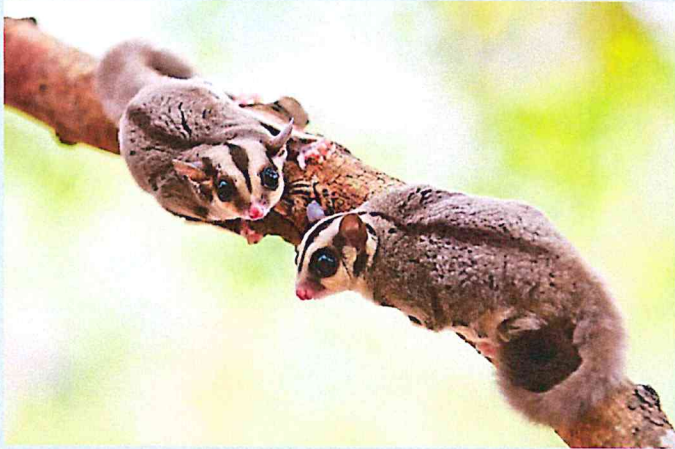
# Washoe Valley 2008







# Allowed without a permit







# Allowed with a permit in the congested areas







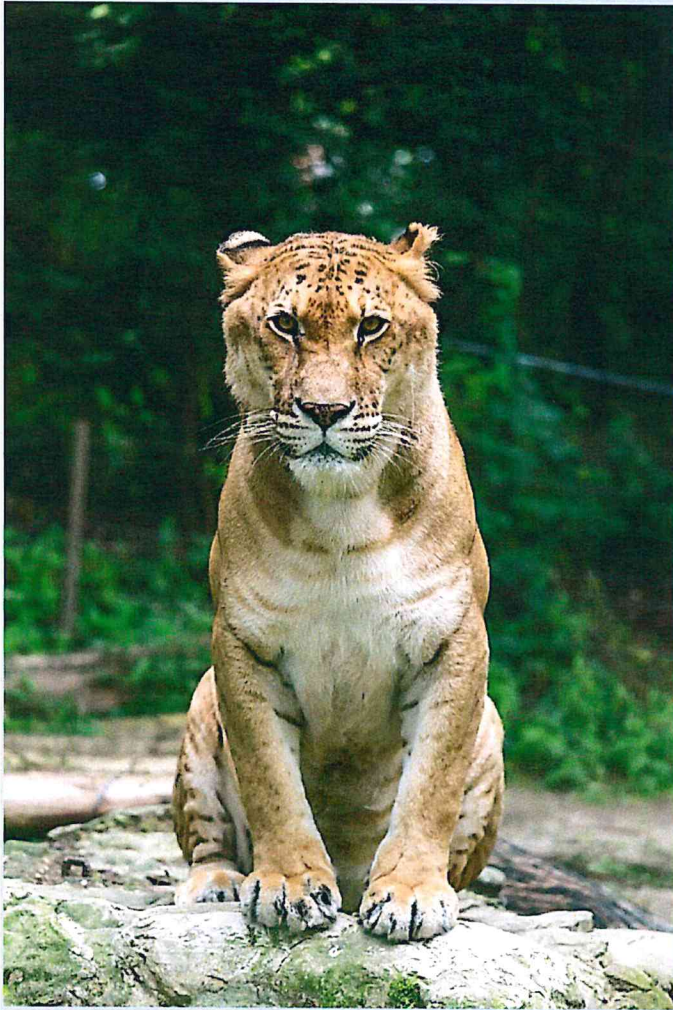
# Prohibited in the congested areas







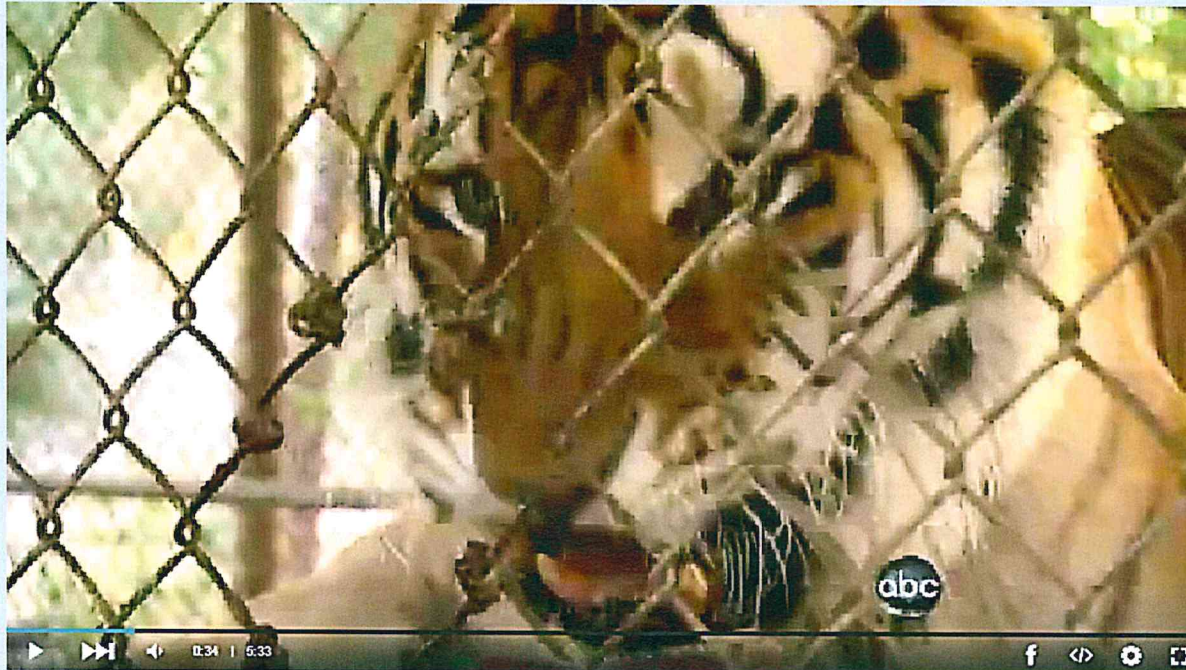
# Hybrids







# Liability Insurance



[Watch the TV report on ABC News.](#)







# Liability Insurance

## \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 Coverage

Animal	Cost Per Year
Chimp	\$3,000 to \$5,000
Tiger	\$2,500 to \$3,500
Wolf	\$1,800 to \$2,100
Serval	\$1,375 to \$1,700

## \$50,000 Coverage

Animal	Cost Per Year
Serval	\$900 to \$1,100
Burmese Python	\$600 to \$800



# Policy Direction

- **Snake Size**
- **Spay/Neuter requirement**
- **Prohibited list for Congested areas**
- **Hybrids**
- **Liability Insurance**





# Snake Size

**Staff Recommendation:  
10 feet and 30 LBS**

**Request:  
12 feet and 100 LBS**



**Burmese Python 11 feet and  
approximately 60 LBS**





# Direction

- **Size requirement to trigger a permit for constrictors**
  - What should the size requirement be that would trigger a permit for constrictors?





# Spay/Neuter Requirements

- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - Spay/neuter all exotics
  - Exemptions for those not normally spayed/neutered
  - Exemptions for accredited breeding program
- **Request**
  - No spay/neuter requirement





# Direction

- **Spay or Neuter requirement**
  - Should there be a spay/neuter requirement for exotic animals that are not part of a nationally or internationally recognized endangered species breeding program?  
(Exempted animals as previously noted)





# Prohibited Species for Congested Areas

- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - Inherently dangerous prohibited species
  - SUP process
    - Uncongested areas only
  
- **Request**
  - Not necessary to establish separate list. Allow through permit process.





# Direction

- **Prohibited in the congested areas list**
  - Should there be a list of prohibited exotic species in the congested areas of Washoe County?
  - Should we follow the SUP process in conjunction with Animal Services permitting?





# Hybrids

- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - All wild/wild breed hybrids shall require a permit
  - First generation domestic/wild hybrids shall require a permit
- **Request:**
  - No permit for domestic/wild hybrids





# Direction

## ■ Hybrids

- Should we allow first generation domestic/wild hybrids without a permit?
- Should we require permits for all Domestic/wild hybrids?
- No permit required for hybrids?





# Liability Insurance

- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - \$250,000 for prohibited in congested areas
  - \$50,000 for permitted in congested areas
    - Provides coverage for damages
- **Request:**
  - No insurance requirement
  - To costly
  - Difficult to obtain





# Direction

- **Liability insurance**

- Should we require owners of exotic animals to purchase liability insurance?