



Captive Wild Animal Report

March 2005

Human Injuries:

- St. James Davis, male, age 62. When four chimpanzees escaped their enclosure, the two males attacked Davis, severing his foot, testicles, all ten fingers, and tearing or biting off part of one buttock, his nose, parts of his lips and cheeks, and one eye. Over a month later Davis remains in a medically induced coma; reconstructive surgery has been unsuccessful. Caliente, CA. Animal Haven Ranch, sanctuary.
- LaDonna Davis, female, age 64. Lost a thumb when two chimpanzees attacked her and her husband (above). Caliente, CA. Animal Haven Ranch, sanctuary.
- Heather Mueller, female, age 34. Attacked by two gray wolves at the wildlife park where she worked; was listed in critical but stable condition. Animals were quarantined. Camp Verde, AZ. Out of Africa Wildlife Park, exhibitor.
- Stephanie Truesdell, female, age 16. Bitten and clawed while petting a tiger through the bars of its cage. Out of concern for the animal, the victim misreported the cause of the injury and a subsequent infection required 3 surgeries. The facility involved is under investigation for neglect and cruelty. Underwood, MN. Arcangel Wildlife, exhibitor.
- Sandy Allman, female, adult. Lost a finger when she was bitten by a leopard she was helping care for; animal was later taken to a sanctuary (below). Pahump, NV. All Acting Animals, exhibitor.
- 22 cases of E. Coli infection were confirmed to have originated at various petting zoos in Florida; 35 more cases were under investigation. All of the infected zoos obtained animals from Ag-Venture Farm Shows, based in Plant City. Orlando (Central Florida Fair), Tampa (Florida State Fair), and Plant City (Florida Strawberry Festival), FL. Exhibitors.

Animal Fatalities:

- 2 chimpanzees, Buddy (male, age 167) and Ollie (male, age 13). Shot by sanctuary worker in order to stop attack on LaDonna and St. James Davis (above). Caliente, CA. Animal Haven Ranch, sanctuary.
- 1 Asian elephant, Tinkerbelle, female, age 39. Euthanized after collapsing, following the progression of degenerative joint disease. San Andreas, CA. Performing Animal Welfare Society, sanctuary.
- 1 alligator, very young. Hit with a golf club after frightening a 10-year-old boy; was one of two loose alligators of unknown origin (below). Rehoboth, MA. Unknown private owner.

Animal Escapes:

- 4 chimpanzees; 2 male, 2 female. Escaped from their enclosure and attacked LaDonna and St. James Davis (above). Two of the three latches on the chimps' enclosure had not been secured and the chimps were able to disable the final latch. The two males were shot (above); both females were recaptured 5 hours later. Caliente, CA. Animal Haven Ranch, sanctuary.
- 1 panther. Residents reported seeing a large cat loose, possibly a black panther. Its origin is unknown and authorities have not been able to confirm reports. Middlefield, OH. Unknown private owner.
- 1 Colobus monkey, Alley, female. Escaped from its exhibit and was recaptured by zoo staff. Wichita, KS. Sedgwick County Zoo, accredited zoo.
- 1 serval, Isis, female, age 2. Broke free of her harness during a walk ran away. Animal was recaptured 5 ½ hours later. Reading, PA. Private owner.
- 2 alligators of unknown origin. One was killed by a boy (above), a second alligator the boy reported seeing remains unaccounted for. Rehoboth, MA. Unknown private owner.

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Animals Confiscated/Displaced:

- 6 tigers, 2 leopards. Animals were removed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and taken to the Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) in San Antonio, Texas. The woman responsible for them, Sandy Allman (see injury above), was unable to adequately care for them following the imprisonment on theft charges of the cats' owner, Karl Mitchell. Pahrump, NV. All Acting Animals, exhibitor.
- 3 lions, 4 wolves. Animals were removed from an unnamed private owner by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and taken to the Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) in San Antonio, Texas. Las Vegas, NV. Private owner.
- Dozens of exotic animals, including but not limited to: Rhinoceros vipers, sugar gliders, and tortoises, one estimated to be over 100 years old. The animals' owner had died the previous summer and his widow was unable to adequately care for the animals. Confiscated by animal control officers. San Antonio, TX. Private owner.
- 1 tiger, 1 panther, both months old. Confiscated from David Piccirillo, a traveling magician. Piccirillo was previously the person responsible for Arcangel Wildlife in Minnesota (see injury above). The animals were confiscated at a Motel 6 in Orlando, FL, and taken to McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary. Private owner/exhibitor.
- 66 exotic animals, including but not limited to: 2 cobras from India, 1 South American viper, spiders, scorpions and geckos. Removed from a home after the body of their owner was discovered in the home. The owner apparently died of natural causes. Albuquerque, NM. Private owner.

Other incidents:

- **Trafficking:** 14 people were charged with over 400 counts of misdemeanor illegal sale or purchase of protected reptiles; all 14 pleaded guilty or no contest, and were fined a total of \$58,000. The convictions followed the 2003 investigation dubbed "Operation Slither." Various cities, MI.
- **Illegal display:** The Malaysia Department of Wildlife and National Parks ruled that a shop owner was violating the law by displaying two cross-bred tiger cubs at his store in a shopping mall. The animals were not confiscated. Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. Exhibitor.