



Captive Wild Animal Report

May 2005

Human Injuries:

- Unnamed female, age 13. Bitten by a monkey being led on a leash after the monkey's owner gave the girl permission to pet the animal. The monkey's owner agreed to follow them to the hospital, but drove away instead. Huntington, WV. Unnamed private owner.

Animal Escapes:

- 1 serval, male, adult. A neutered, declawed serval wearing a collar was captured in downtown Omaha and taken to the Humane Society. Omaha, NE. Unknown private owner.
- 1 emu. Captured after being found loose in a suburban neighborhood; later died (see below). Watchung, NJ. Unknown private owner.
- 1 armadillo. Presumed to be an escaped pet because armadillos are not found in northern Indiana; found dead (below). Portage, IN. Unknown private owner.

Animals Confiscated/Displaced:

- 1 lion cub, male, age 13 weeks. Transferred from his owner to a rehabilitator in Florida after becoming extremely ill; lion recovered and is expected to go to a facility in North Carolina. Minnesota. Unnamed private owner.
- 2 leopards, age five months. Officers responding to a domestic disturbance call found and confiscated two leopards from the basement of a home. In addition to various charges related to spousal abuse, the owner was charged with reckless endangerment for allowing his four children, ages between 2 and 8, to have contact with the animals. Officers described the leopards as "extremely aggressive." Dix Hills, Long Island, NY. Private owner.

Animal Deaths:

- 12 penguins. Suspected cause of death is chlamydia, possibly transmitted by seagull droppings. San Francisco, CA. San Francisco Zoo.
- 1 African elephant, Wankie, female, age 36. Euthanized after her health deteriorated following a transfer from Lincoln Park Zoo. Salt Lake City, UT. Hogle Zoo, exhibitor.
- 3 Francois langur monkeys. The cause of death was under investigation after the three animals died unexpectedly. Chicago, IL. Lincoln Park Zoo.
- 1 emu. Collapsed and died two hours after being captured (above). Watchung, NJ. Unknown private owner.

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Animal Deaths continued:

- 1 armadillo. Found dead by the roadside after presumed escape (above). Portage, IN. Unknown private owner.
- 1 polar bear, Churchill, male, age 18. Died during surgery after doctors discovered a blockage of cloth and plastic in the bear's stomach. St. Louis, MO. St. Louis Zoo.
- 1 alligator gar fish, age between 40 and 70 years. Died in transit to an aquarium in Denver; one suspected cause of death is liver disease. Detroit, MI. Detroit Zoo.

Other Incidents:

- Nearly 100 exotic birds were reported stolen from the backyard aviary of a woman who housed rescued birds. Ventura, CA. Private owner.

International Incidents

Animal Escapes:

- 1 corn snake. A five-year-old boy found the snake in a packet of cereal. An expert who examined the snake said he had "no doubt" the snake was an escaped pet. Shropshire, United Kingdom. Unknown private owner.
- 1 colobus monkey, male, adult. Escaped from his enclosure and was spotted in a nearby forest by residents; remained at large at the time of the report. Belfast, Ireland. Belfast Zoo, exhibitor.

Animals Confiscated/Displaced:

- Thousands of protected birds, monkeys and tyra-a wild dog were confiscated from an illegal wildlife trafficking operation. Two people were expected to be charged with 40 criminal offenses. Rio Claro, Trinidad.
- 2 pythons, 1 caiman. Discovered by officers investigating an apartment which flooded after the resident left the bath running. Police were considering legal action against the resident for keeping the animals illegally. Vienna, Austria. Unnamed private owner.

Animal Deaths:

- 9 bilbies. Ten bilbies were raised in captivity at Monarto Zoo and released into the wild to bolster existing populations; all but one died of starvation. Roxby Downs, Australia. Arid Recovery Reserve.