



Captive Wild Animal Report

January 2005

Human Fatalities:

- Pierre Spenle, male, age 40. While preparing a trailer for transport, Spenle fell and was trampled to death by three elephants in the trailer. Death occurred following Fort Wayne Mizpah Shrine temple's annual circus. Fort Wayne, IN. Tarzan Zerbini Circus, exhibitor.

Human Injuries:

- Bill Marcin, adult male. Bitten on the hands, arms and back by a wolf hybrid while defending his pet Pomeranian from attack. The victim's dog died in the attack; the wolf hybrid was shot (below). Dunlap, IN. Private owner.
- Unnamed female, age 20. Bitten on the hand by a pygmy rattlesnake. Fenton, MI. Private owner.
- Unnamed male, age 38. Bitten by pet sidewinder, hospitalized for two days. Snake was confiscated (below). Bronx, New York, NY. Private owner.
- Unnamed male, age early 30's. Bitten by Siberian tiger after climbing a barrier and reaching into animal's enclosure. Sioux Falls, SD. Great Plains Zoo.
- Unnamed female, age 8. Bitten by a lion cub while visiting Creature Features pet store. The cub was also visiting and was not for sale at the store. Baraboo, WI. Private owner.

Animal Fatalities:

- 1 wolf hybrid. Shot by police after fatal attack on a neighbor's dog and injury to the neighbor (above). Dunlap, IN. Private owner.
- 1 tiger, Anna, female, age 19 years. Euthanized after declining health worsened. Galt, CA. Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary.
- 7 Nile lechwe (waterbucks), female, and 2 sandhill cranes. Died in a barn fire, cause unclear. Omaha, NE. Henry Doorly Zoo.
- 1 African elephant, Peaches, female, age 55. Euthanized after being found collapsed with labored breathing; cause unclear. Chicago, IL. Lincoln Park Zoo.
- 1 lion, Massina, female, age 14. Killed by companion male lion in their enclosure. Sacramento, CA. Sacramento Zoo.
- 1 Asian elephant, Susie, female, age 55. Died after a period of declining health; necropsy to be performed. Birmingham, AL. Birmingham Zoo.
- 1 serval, age approx. 2 years. Euthanized due to a broken back after being captured (below). Vero Beach, FL. Unknown private owner.
- 1 red-tailed boa constrictor. Found outside (below), died of exposure before or shortly after discovery. Fort Rouge, Manitoba, Canada. Unknown private owner.
- 1 grey wolf, Akela, age 15. Animal stopped eating in December and began to experience kidney failure; on Jan 5 and again on Jan 7, a veterinarian recommended euthanasia but was overruled by executive director Susan Sergiojan. Staff members contacted the USDA's animal-inspection division; two inspectors visited on Jan 10 and had the animal euthanized. Sergiojan has since resigned and the USDA is investigating claims that the animal was forced to suffer needlessly against veterinary recommendations. Tenino, WA. Wolf Haven International, exhibitor.
- 1 raccoon. Killed in a garage fire at a home being used as an unaccredited wildlife rehabilitation facility. Dozens of birds, lizards, and a 4 1/2-foot iguana had to be evacuated outside. Owner has all applicable permits and no animals will be confiscated. Brookhaven, GA. Private owner/unaccredited rehabilitator.

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Animal Escapes:

- 1 red kangaroo, found loose in 30-degree weather. Captured by the Sheriff's department and transferred to Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison. Dodgeville, WI. Unknown private owner.
- 2 tigers, females, under 1 year of age. Found loose in adjacent counties; captured by animal control. Gaston and Cleveland Counties, NC. Unknown private owner.
- 1 serval. Seen loose, photographed wearing a collar and tags. Still missing. Hollywood Hills, CA. Unknown private owner.
- 1 wolf, juvenile. Found loose near a highway; captured after five hours by animal control, police and firefighters. Taken to local animal shelter. Newport, DE. Unknown owner.
- 1 Bengal tiger, India, adult. Owner drove tiger into the Arkansas wilderness and abandoned it. The tiger was loose for four days before finding its own way home. Owner then relinquished tiger to a refuge (below). Buffalo River, AR. Private owner.
- 1 serval, age approx. 2 years. Captured after being found loose near Dodgertown sports complex; euthanized (above). Vero Beach, FL. Unknown private owner.
- 1 red-tailed boa constrictor. Found on a residential roof, either dead or dying (above); unknown if animal escaped or was abandoned. Fort Rouge, Manitoba, Canada. Unknown private owner.

Animals Confiscated/Displaced:

- 1 sidewinder rattlesnake. Confiscated after biting owner (above). Taken to a wildlife rehabilitator in Long Island. New York, NY. Private owner.
- 1 caiman. Confiscated for illegal ownership; expected to be taken to a rescue agency. Toledo, OH. Private owner.
- 1 Bengal tiger, India, adult. Relinquished to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge after owner Mike Conner's attempt to abandon the animal failed (above). Eureka Springs, AR. Private owner.
- 45 sugar gliders and several tortoises. Confiscated from a residence after officials declared it uninhabitable. Owner charged with one count of animal hoarding/failure to provide care. Lake Zurich, IL. Private owner.

Other incidents:

- **Trafficking:** Four members of a ring engaged in smuggling endangered animal parts were arrested. All are associates of known animal smuggler Sansar Chand. Confiscated in the bust were: 39 leopard skins, 42 Otter skins, 2 tiger skins, 14 tiger/leopard teeth, approx. 135 Kgs. porcupines quills, approx. 60 Kgs. tiger/leopard paws, 3 Kgs leopard/tiger claws, 10 pairs tiger/leopard jaws, and 40 small tiger/leopard bones. Delhi, India.