



Captive Wild Animal Report

February 2005

Human Fatalities:

- Gerd Kohl, male, age 39. Elephant keeper was crushed to death by a 4-year-old bull elephant. Vienna, Austria. Vienna Zoo.

Human Injuries:

- Bambi Gammel, female, adult. Injured while feeding a leopard at her father's facility; animal was quarantined. Cut and Shoot, TX. Animal Extravaganza, exhibitor.
- Phil Gallant, male, age 43. Hospitalized after being bitten by pet rhinoceros viper. Bucyrus, OH. Private owner.
- Gary Sladen, male, age 29. Hospitalized in intensive care after being bitten by pet western diamondback rattlesnake. Snake was confiscated (below). LaPorte, IN. Private owner.
- Sandra Hopps-Caraballo, female, adult. Bitten on the hand by a baby tiger at the Tampa Bay Auto Mall; victim was having her picture taken with the cub. Zoo Dynamics (based in Dallas), exhibitor.

Animal Fatalities:

- 1 parrot, Izzy. An intoxicated man bit off the parrot's head while at a party at a neighbor's home; assailant was later arrested. New Smyrna Beach, FL. Private owner.
- 1 baby chimpanzee. Starved/dehydrated during an attempt to smuggle animal from Egypt to Nigeria (below). Nairobi, Kenya. Trafficker.
- 1 chimpanzee, Koby, male, age 29. Undiagnosed prior heart attacks contributed to heart failure when given an anaesthetic for a routine checkup. Asheboro, NC. North Carolina Zoo.
- 1 Bengal tiger, Ravi, female, age 18. Euthanized after a condition producing lesions in the mouth worsened. Knoxville, TN. Knoxville Zoo.
- 1 Bengal tiger, Tuffy, adult. Shot by authorities after being seen loose near residential areas and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library for several days (more info below). Simi Valley, CA. Private owner.

Animal Escapes:

- 1 Bengal tiger, Tuffy, male, adult. Tiger was seen loose in Simi Valley and shot by authorities (above). The animal was later determined to belong to Abby and Emma Hedengran (below), who had told authorities the animal had died earlier. Owners were later arrested on suspicion of making false statements to police, submitting false records, destroying evidence with the intent to influence a federal investigation, obstruction of justice and witness tampering and violation of the animal welfare act. Simi Valley, CA. Private owner.
- 1 Bengal tiger, Tristan, male, age 4. Escaped after a woman failed to properly secure animal's enclosure after feeding him; was loose for two hours before being tranquilized and returned. Wellington, FL. Panther Ridge Sanctuary, exhibitor.
- 1 python, approx. 13 feet in length. Found on highway; captured and taken by county animal control. Englewood, FL. Unknown private owner.
- 1 caiman, possibly American alligator. Seen loose in Lake Washington inlets near residential areas. Medina, WA. Unknown private owner.

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Animals Confiscated/Displaced:

- 22 exotic animals, mainly large cats, were ordered moved from their current location within three days. Owners Abby and Emma Hedengran were cited for failure to license the animals and inadequate enclosures. One tiger apparently escaped before move (above). Moorpark, CA. Private owner.
- 2 wolf hybrids. Confiscated after numerous complaints from neighbors that they were not being given food or water; animal control was authorized to seize the animals after photographing their living conditions. Cameron, WV. Private owner.
- 6 baby chimpanzees, 4 guenons. Seized by Kenyan officials during an attempt to smuggle them onto a airplane en route from Egypt to Nigeria; one died (above), the rest rehomed by Kenya Wildlife Service. Nairobi, Kenya. Trafficker.
- 93 exotic birds. Confiscated with 117 dogs and cats from the home of the owner of Sandie's Pets and Supplies. Owner was charged with animal cruelty. Westminster, GA. Private owner/dealer.
- 1 western diamondback rattlesnake. Confiscated after biting owner (above); authorities say snake will likely be destroyed. LaPorte, IN. Private owner.

Other incidents:

- **Stolen animal:** An eight-month-old Capuchin monkey was stolen from its owners during a home break-in. Glen Burnie, MD. Private owner.
- **Trafficking:** Elephant parts (22 legs, 8 tusks, 8 ears, 3 tails, a skull and one complete hide) were confiscated by Dutch authorities at Schiphol airport, from a shipment originating in southern Africa. Investigations are underway. Amsterdam, Netherlands. Trafficker.