



Captive Wild Animal Report

Big Cat Incidents, United States, Jan 2004 – Aug 19, 2005

August 2005 (through Aug 19)

- **Human Fatality:** Haley Hilderbrand, female, age 17. High school student was killed while posing for a photo with a Siberian tiger. Mound Valley, KS. Lost Creek Animal Sanctuary Foundation and Animal Entertainment Productions, exhibitor.
- **Human Injury/Animal Escape:** Frances Applegate, female, age 6, was pounced on by an escaped Siberian lynx. The lynx released the child's head after being struck by a brick; the girl did not sustain serious injury. Clackamas, OR. Private owner.
- **Animal Death:** 1 tiger, male, age 7. Shot after fatally attacking Haley Hilderbrand (above). Mound Valley, KS. Lost Creek Animal Sanctuary Foundation and Animal Entertainment Productions, exhibitor.
- **Animal Death:** A Siberian lynx was shot by sheriff's deputies after attacking Frances Applegate (above). Clackamas, OR. Private owner.

June 2005

- **Human Injury:** Russell Lala, male, age 10. The boy was attacked by a tiger when the tiger's owner opened the cage and the animal pushed its way out. When the owner went to the boy's aid, a lion also escaped from the cage and joined the attack. The child suffered major brain injuries and a severed spinal cord, and is expected to be quadriplegic and dependent on a respirator for life. Little Falls, MN. Private owner.
- **Human Injury:** Unnamed adult, male. A veteran park employee was bitten by a bobcat while working in its enclosure. Southmont, NC. Don Nicholas Park, exhibitor.
- **Animal Death:** 1 tiger, 1 lion. Euthanized following the attack on Russell Lala (above). Little Falls, MN. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape/Death:** 1 lion. Was shot by officials after escaping. Underwood, MN. Arcangel Wildlife Farm, exhibitor.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 bobcat. Following the death of its owner, the cat escaped when a relative came to pick it up. It was recaptured the following day. Johnson City, TN. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 9 tigers. Confiscated following the escape of a lion (above) from the same facility. The facility had a prior record of human injuries. The owner has been charged with 12 counts of animal neglect. Underwood, MN. Arcangel Wildlife Farm, exhibitor.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 2 tiger cubs, 5 weeks old. Confiscated from a man who was attempting to smuggle them into Mexico from Texas. The man was fined \$500 and released. Falcon Dam Border Station, TX. Private owner/trafficker.
- **Animal Displacement:** 3 lions, 3 tigers, 4 cougars. Their owner was ordered to remove the animals within six months because she does not have a permit or the proper zoning. Punta Gorda, FL. Lions, Tigers, and Bear, unaccredited sanctuary.

May 2005

- **Animal Escape/Confiscation:** 1 serval, male, adult. A declawed, neutered serval wearing a collar was tranquilized and captured by animal control officers. Spencer, OH. Unknown private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 lion cub, male, age 13 weeks. Was taken from his owner after developing a life-threatening infection; is recovering in Florida. Town not given. MN. Unnamed private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 2 leopards, age approx. 5 months. The animals were confiscated after authorities were called to the home on charges of domestic violence. The owner was charged with assault against his wife in addition to child endangerment for leaving four children under the age of 10 with the animals. Dix Hills, Long Island, NY. Private owner.



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- **Human Injury:** Allison Asher, female, age 37. Listed in serious condition after being attacked by four tigers she was helping care for. In 2003, a tiger was euthanized after biting a woman at the same facility. Red Wing, MN. Tiger Zone, exhibitor.

March 2005

- **Human Injury:** 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.
- **Human Injury:** 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). Pahrump, NV. All Acting Animals, exhibitor
- **Animal Escape:** 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.
- **Animal Escape:** 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.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 tiger, 1 panther, both months old. Confiscated from David Piccirillo, a traveling magician, and removed to McCarthy Wildlife Sanctuary. Piccirillo was previously the person responsible for Arcangel Wildlife in Minnesota (see injury above). Confiscated occurred at a Motel 6 in The Acreage, FL. Private owner/exhibitor
- **Animal Confiscation:** 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.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 3 lions. 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

February 2005

- **Human Injury:** Bambi Gammel, female, adult. Injured while feeding a leopard at her father's facility; animal was quarantined. Cut and Shoot, TX. Animal Extravaganza, exhibitor.
- **Human Injury:** 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 Death:** 1 Bengal tiger, Ravi, female, age 18. Euthanized after a condition producing lesions in the mouth worsened. Knoxville, TN. Knoxville Zoo.
- **Animal Escape/Death:** 1 Bengal tiger, Tuffy, adult. Shot by authorities after being seen loose near residential areas and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library for several days. 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.
- **Animal Escape:** 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.



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- **Human Injury:** Unnamed male, adult. Bitten by tiger after scaling fence and putting his hand into enclosure. Sioux Falls, SD. Great Plains Zoo.
- **Animal Death:** 1 tiger, Anna, age 19. Died of apparent natural causes. Galt, CA. Performing Animals Welfare Society sanctuary.
- **Animal Death:** 1 lion, Massina, female, age 14. Killed by companion male lion. Sacramento, CA. Sacramento Zoo.
- **Animal Escape/Confiscation:** 2 tiger cubs, approx. 6 months of age. Captured after being found loose in adjacent counties. Cleveland and Gaston Counties, NC. Unknown private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 serval. Seen loose in the Hollywood Hills, wearing a collar with tags. Los Angeles, CA. Unknown private owner.

December 2004

- **Human Injury:** Unnamed adult female. Circus employee bitten by caged Bengal tiger. Great Circus of China, exhibitor. Laredo, TX.
- **Animal Escape/Death:** 1 cougar, adult. Found dead in Mercer County, unknown origin. New Boston, IL.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 cougar, 2 bobcats, 5 servals. Confiscated, owner arrested for child endangerment for leaving 9- and 7-year-old alone with animals. Animals transferred to a wildlife rehabilitation center. Private owner. Phoenix, AZ.

November 2004

- **Human Injury:** Unnamed male, adult. Injured by jaguar after jumping fence to approach enclosure. Salisbury, DE. Salisbury Zoo.
- **Human Injury:** Angela Pruitt, female, age 36. Injured after reaching into tiger cage. Gentry, AR. Wild Wilderness Drive Thru Safari, exhibitor.
- **Human Injury:** Curtis LoGiudice, male, age 42. Injured after intervening when tiger jumped on bystander (below). St. Johns County, FL. County Fair, on exhibit from Catty Shack Ranch, exhibitor.
- **Human Injury:** Unnamed male, age 14. Slightly injured by tiger walking on leash at County Fair. St. Johns County, FL. On exhibit from Catty Shack Ranch, exhibitor.
- **Animal Death:** 1 cheetah, male, age 12. Euthanized for complications from diabetes. Washington, DC. National Zoo.
- **Animal Escape/Death:** 1 serval, adult. Shot by hunter after escape from exhibitor. Bristow, OK. Wilderness Safari, exhibitor.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 serval, Nyla, female, age 18 months. Escaped less than one week after being recaptured following a previous escape; still missing. Columbia, TN. Private owner.

October 2004

- **Animal Death:** 1 cougar. Dumped next to road after death in a suspected attempt to make it appear cat was killed by a motorist. Cougar was declawed, canine teeth filed. Shawnee County, KS. Unknown private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 serval. Captured after it was found loose downtown. Las Vegas, NV. Unknown private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 cougar. Seen loose; presumed to be escaped pet. Sumpster, MI. Unknown private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 serval, Nyla, female, age 18 months. Recaptured after three weeks. Columbia, TN. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 7 Bengal tigers transferred to Wild Animal Orphanage after previous owners were charged with endangerment and animal abuse. Gravois Mills, MO. Ozark Nature Center, exhibitor.



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September 2004

- **Human Injury:** Nancy DeFiesta, female, age 60. Seriously injured by one or more lions in enclosure. Chicago, IL. Lincoln Park Zoo.
- **Human Injury:** Unnamed male, age 46. Zoo employee seriously injured by leopard. Trenton, ME. Acadia Zoological Park.
- **Animal Confiscation/Death:** 2 leopards. Died after being confiscated; owner charged with animal cruelty; cause of death unknown. Columbia, MO. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 large cat, possible cougar. Sighted repeatedly near Lynwood, IL. Remains at large. Unknown owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 serval, Cleo, female, age 1 year. Still missing. Keystone, FL. Private owner/exhibitor.

August 2004

- **Animal Confiscation/Death:** 4 cougars found dead on a farm; fifth cougar confiscated. Cougar was found caged, no food, water tainted with algae. Owner may be charged with neglect, failing to dispose of dead animals. Malcom, IA. Private owner.
- **Animal Death:** 1 Amur tiger, Sheba, female, age 12. Died after short illness; possible intestinal infection. Detroit, MI. Detroit Zoo.
- **Animal Escape:** 3 bobcats. Animals' enclosure sabotaged. 1 recaptured; 2 still missing. Spencer Township, OH. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Bengal tiger. Sighted several times around Fort Polk Army base. Fort Polk, LA. Unknown owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 African cat, Jabri, male, age 8 months. Escaped through back door; recaptured. Boynton Beach, FL. Private owner.
- **Animal Trafficking:** Nancy L. Kraft and Kenneth G. Kraft, owners of B.E.A.R.C.A.T. Hollow wildlife park, were arrested and charged with 55 federal violations for buying and selling endangered and protected species between 1999 and 2003. The indictment alleges trafficking in tigers, grizzly bears and leopards.

July 2004

- **Animal Death:** 1 lion, Clyde, age 2. Found dead during transit by train from Arizona to California. Fresno, CA. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.
- **Animal Escape/Death:** 1 tiger, Bobo, male, age 6. Killed by wildlife officer after escape from home of Steve Sipek. Loxahatchee, FL. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 snow leopard, Magic, male, age 2. Escaped during transfer between cages. Recaptured 9 days later. Shepherdsville, KY. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 large cat, possible cougar. Sighted in Zanesville, OH. Unknown owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 tiger, Apollo, male, age 7. Escaped near Jackie Robinson Parkway; ensuing panic caused traffic accidents injuring 4 adults and 1 child. Recaptured. Queens, NY. Cole Bros. Circus.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 3 cougars, adult, 2 cougar cubs, 2 bobcats. Confiscate; owner charged for unlawful ownership.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 cougar, age 8 weeks. Owner ticketed for possession of a wild animal. Milwaukee, WI. Private owner.

June 2004

- **Animal Death:** 1 tiger, euthanized for disease (possible cancer) at undisclosed sanctuary after confiscation from L&L Exotic Animal Farm. NC.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 15 adult tigers, 2 spotted leopards, 1 black leopard, 8 African lions, 1 cougar, 1 lynx. Confiscated after owner failed to install proper waste management system. Copley, OH. L&L Exotic Animal Farm, breeder/exhibitor.



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- **Human Injury:** Unnamed male. Finger bitten off by jaguar. Albuquerque, NM. Rio Grande Zoo.
- **Human Injury:** Lisa Peters, female, age 28. Mauled by parents' pet lion; owners shot and killed lion. The owners' second lion was sent to Noah's Lost Ark sanctuary. Liberty Township, OH. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Large cat, possible cougar. Seen roaming loose. Franklin County, OH. Owner unknown.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Canadian Lynx. Captured after getting trapped in cyclone fencing. North, SC. Owner unknown.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Serval. Second escape in two months. East Brainerd, TN. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Lynx, male, adult. Escaped from cage; recaptured by owner. Buckhead, GA. Breeder.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Large cat, black, approx. 50 to 60 pounds; possibly with cub. Seen loose, unknown origin. Whitpain Township, PA. Owner unknown.

April 2004

- **Human Injury:** Unnamed actress, female, adult. Injured by tiger. Spokane, WA. Cat Tales, exhibitor.
- **Human Injury:** 1 adult. Pounced on by pet tiger but escaped serious harm. News reports list conflicting information about victim; possible second incident. Indio Hills, CA. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Bobcat, male, age 2. Recaptured one week later; surrendered to Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. Knoxville, TN. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Serval, male, age 6. Recaptured one day later. Fort Salonga, NY. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Bobcat, male, age 9. Still missing after one month. Port Angeles, WA. Private owner.
- **Animal Escape:** 1 Serval. Missing for over one week. East Brainerd, TN. Private owner.

March 2004

- **Human Injury:** Tom Cahall, male, adult. Injured after cougar escaped from pen on fenced farm. Cougar was recaptured. East Limestone, AL. Private owner.
- **Human Injury:** Aubrey Swart, female, age 4. Mauled by caged cougar owned by victim's grandmother. Messena, NY. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 5 Tigers, 1 Cougar. Moved to exhibitors outside Tarrant County after owners convicted of illegal ownership. Roanoke, TX. Zoo Fare, exhibitor.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 Cougar, female, under 1 year of age. Taken to Exotic Feline Rescue Center after cat grew too large for owner. Unspecified city, IL. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 African Lion, female, under 1 year of age. Confiscated; illegal ownership. Cosby, TN. Private owner.

February 2004

- **Human Fatality:** Allison Brent Abell, male, age 52. Killed by pet lion. Elizabethtown, IL. Private owner.
- **Human Injury:** Julie Miles, female, age 33. Severely mauled by pet leopard; leopard was shot to death. Port Sulphur, LA. Private owner.
- **Animal Death:** 4 Tigers, 1 Camel, 1 Ostrich. Found dead at breeding ranch. Pelican Rapids, MN. Yor Exotics breeder.
- **Animal Death:** 1 Lion, male, age 20. Died of immunodeficiency virus. New Orleans, LA. Audubon Zoological Garden.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 2 Cougars, adult. Confiscated from owner without permit. Jones, MI. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 Lynx, 2 skunks, 11 sugar gliders. Confiscated; owner was legally barred from owning animals for previous neglect conviction. Raritan, NJ. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 5 Tigers. Man convicted of having 8 tigers with permits for only 3; current whereabouts of excess tigers not listed in reports. Red Wing, MN. Tiger-Zone breeder/dealer.



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January 2004

- **Human Injury:** Stacy Stevens, female, age 14. Mauled by one of father's four pet tigers. Lowgap, NC. Private owner.
- **Animal Death:** 1 Lion, age 15, euthanized after 2 years of unknown illness. Racine, WI. Racine Zoological Gardens.
- **Animal Escape/Death:** 1 Cougar, male, age 4. Shot by police after escape. Fort Wayne, IN. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 10 Lions, tigers, and leopards. Confiscated from exhibitor following earlier tiger escape. Peabody, KS. McDonald's Farm.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 1 Bobcat. Confiscated from owner without correct permit. Zeeland, MI. Private owner.
- **Animal Confiscation:** 2 Cougars, adult. Confiscated from owner without permit. Jones, MI. Private owner.