

# Fact Sheet

## **Recent Exotic Animal Incidents in Ohio Demonstrate Risks to Public Health and Safety, Animal Welfare**

October 2011 (Muskingum County): 48 animals, including wolves, bears and tigers escaped from a Zanesville property.

September 2011 (Green Camp): A man was hospitalized after being attacked and repeatedly punched in the face and upper body by a kangaroo at an exotic animal breeding farm.

August 2010 (Lorain County): A man died after being attacked by a black bear he was reportedly feeding. The owner's USDA license had been revoked but 8 bears, 4 tigers, 1 lion, and 12 wolves remained on the property.

August 2010 (Cuyahoga County): An 8-foot Burmese python was found loose near a picnic area.

July 2010 (Medina County): A truck driver's pet monkey escaped when the truck went into a ditch. Troopers eventually coaxed the monkey down from a utility pole.

July 2010 (Summit County): A 2-foot alligator was caught in Summit Lake, but a larger one got away. Another alligator was captured there in 2007.

June 2010 (Franklin County): A 4-foot alligator was found outside a Columbus company. An alligator was also found under a vehicle in Columbus in 2008.

May 2009 (Columbiana County): A 10-year-old girl visiting a friend was bitten by a mountain lion being kept as a pet and had to be airlifted from one hospital to another for treatment.

November 2008 (Marengo): A pet bear escaped and went to the home of a neighbor who encountered the bear on his porch. The bear was shot and killed after being tracked by law enforcement officials using night-vision goggles to search for the animal.

September 2008 (Mt. Gilead): A pet bear who had a history of escapes and aggressive behavior was shot and killed after the animal escaped and attacked a sheriff's deputy.

February 2008 (Licking County): Firefighters found a tiger in a pen behind a burning garage.

February 2008 (Montgomery County): U.S. marshals serving a search warrant found two alligators in a Dayton home, along with drugs and rifles.

November 2007 (Pike County): A pet lion escaped and was seen chasing cars on a roadway.

September 2007 (Knox County): The county took possession of four tigers and two lions, sending them to sanctuaries. Their owner had been evicted from the property.

December 2006 (Hamilton County): A man with experience handling reptiles was killed by his pet python.

December 2006 (Tuscarawas County): A boy lost part of his finger when he put his hand into a bear's cage at his grandfather's ranch.

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October 2006 (Butler County): A man was bitten by his pet macaque monkey, who he received that day.

July 2006 (Licking County): Three wolves kept as pets escaped their pen and attacked a neighbor's dog.

May 2006 (Ashtabula County): A bear escaped from a breeder, entered a neighbor's home, and severely mauled a woman.

2006 (Akron): A veterinarian was attacked by a tiger at an exotic menagerie. The tiger reached outside the cage, grabbed the woman's arm, pulled her toward the cage, and started mouthing the woman's arm.

July 2005 (Noble County): A pet macaque escaped from an enclosure, jumped into a truck, bit a man, and fled.

September 2004 (Lake County): A caiman thought to be an abandoned pet was pulled from a pond.

September 2004 (Hamilton County): A woman was killed by a venomous snake she kept as a pet.

May 2004 (Butler County): A woman put her arm into the cage of her father's lion, and the lion bit to the bone; the lion had to be shot and killed to release her.

August 2003 (Montgomery County): Animal control officers confiscated a tiger cub from a private home, the second such capture in less than three weeks.

August 2003 (Montgomery County): A Dayton firefighter died after being bitten by his pet African rhino viper, a venomous snake.