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OHIO: Captive Exotic & Wild Animal Related Human Fatalities (22-year period, 1990-2011)

TABLE 1: Captive Exotic & Wild Animal Related Human Fatalities (yearly average 1990-2011) vs. Total Numbers and Odds of Dying by Cause (3-year period, yearly average 2006-2008)

Comparing human fatalities in Ohio caused by captive exotic and wild animals (yearly average 1990-2011 <http://www.rexano.org//Education.htm>) to deaths caused in everyday life (yearly average 2006-2008). REXANO, www.rexano.org, only used fatalities numbers since all deaths are reported and there is only one degree of death. Injuries in all walks of life range from life threatening to simple Band-Aid fix, and many go unreported. The average life expectancy of 77 years was used to calculate the lifetime odds. The odds are statistical averages for the whole Ohio population. Those killed by exotic animals in Ohio were the trainers, handlers and owners. The real chance of a member of the general public getting killed by an exotic animal is lower than the averages in the table below; the same way a non alcoholic is not likely to be killed by excessive alcohol consumption.

Cause of Death	Average # of Deaths per Year	One Year Odds	Lifetime Odds
Captive non-human primate	0	0	0
Captive Alligator, Crocodile	0	0	0
Captive Gharial/Gavial	0	0	0
Captive Caiman	0	0	0
Captive Komodo Dragon	0	0	0
Captive Rhinoceros	0	0	0
Captive Hippopotamus	0	0	0
Captive elephant	0	0	0
Captive Grey Wolf, excluding hybrids	0	0	0
Captive Hyenas	0	0	0
Captive African Wild Dog	0	0	0
Captive Cape Buffalo	0	0	0
Non venomous snake	0.045	1 in 256,554,466	1 in 3,331,876
Captive big/exotic cat	0.045	1 in 256,554,466	1 in 3,331,876
Captive bear	0.045	1 in 256,554,466	1 in 3,331,876
Captive venomous reptile	0.090	1 in 128,277,233	1 in 1,665,938
Accidental Discharge of Firearms	17	1 in 679,114	1 in 8,819
Accidental Drowning & Submersion	99	1 in 116,615	1 in 1,514
Accidental Exposure to Smoke& Fire	128	1 in 90,194	1 in 1,171
Homicide by Other Means	214	1 in 53,948	1 in 700
Assault (Homicide) by Firearms	417	1 in 27,685	1 in 359
Suicide by Firearms	652	1 in 17,706	1 in 229
Suicide by Other-Unspecified Means	675	1 in 17,103	1 in 222
Falls	980	1 in 11,780	1 in 152
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1,334	1 in 8,654	1 in 112
Accidental Poisoning (Drugs, etc...)	1,435	1 in 8,045	1 in 104
Influenza and Pneumonia	1,925	1 in 5,997	1 in 77
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	24,999	1 in 461	1 in 6
Diseases of the Heart	27,317	1 in 422	1 in 5.5

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics/Census Bureau as processed through Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, animal attack news reports. U.S. Census Bureau Population, 2011 estimate 11,544,951

TABLE 2: Captive Exotic & Wild Animal Related Human Fatalities - Details: 1990-2011

YEAR	RELATIONSHIP TO ANIMAL	COMMENTS
2010	Employee/volunteer at a state licensed facility, that recently lost its USDA license, was killed by a black bear	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2006	Owner was killed when his 13-foot Burmese python wrapped around his neck	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2004	Woman/owner was bitten in her home by Urutu pit viper, drove herself to the hospital and later died at a hospital	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2003	Man/owner was bitten at his home by an African rhino viper. The anti-venom was found/delivered too late and he died at the hospital	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
1992	Safari park keeper killed by liger, USDA	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public

TABLE 3: Captive Exotic & Wild Animal Related Human Fatalities by Type/Taxon: 1990-2011

ANIMAL TAXON/ YEAR	2010	2006	2004	2003	1992	% OF DEATHS BY TAXON	YEARLY AVERAGE HUMAN DEATHS BY ALL TAXONS 1990-2011	TOTAL DEATHS IN 22 YEARS
BEARS	1	0	0	0	0	20%	0.04545 person	1
BIG CATS	0	0	0	0	1	20%	0.04545 person	1
VENOMOUS REPTILES	0	0	1	1	0	40%	0.09090 person	2
NON VENOMOUS REPTILES	0	1	0	0	0	20%	0.04545 person	1
TOTAL ALL EXOTIC DEATHS	1	1	1	1	1	100%	0.227 persons	5

TABLE 4: Total Number of Death per Year by All Causes vs. Captive Exotic and Wild Animals

Total Number of Ohio Resident Deaths in 2008 by ALL Causes	109,750
Ohio Population in 2008	11,485,910
Yearly Average Human Deaths Caused by All Captive Exotic and Wild animals in Ohio: 1990-2011	0.227 person dies per year

Source: National Center for Health Statistics/Census Bureau as processed through Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health

CONCLUSION: In the last 22 years, only 5 people died in Ohio due to all exotic & wild animals (0.227 people per year). All fatalities happened to the owners, friends and handlers who voluntarily accepted the potential, small, hobby/occupational risk associated with keeping and handling wild & exotic animals. No uninvolved member of the public was killed by captive exotics in Ohio at least since 1990. Captive keeping of exotics is NOT a public safety issue. Ohio's proposed exotic ban will be a waste of taxpayers' money. There is nothing in the bill preventing any employee or volunteer from an (illegally) exempt facility accredited by private clubs (AZA, ZAA, GFAS) to open the cages and intentionally release the animals the same way Terry Thompson released his. It was not caging that failed in Zanesville, it was intentional release. Ohio residents have a better chance of winning Ohio Jackpot 1 in 175,711,536 (ohiolottery.com), than being killed by captive big cat, bear or non venomous snake (1 in 256,554,466 per each taxon).

REXANO RECOMMENDATION: KILL THE PROPOSED EXOTIC ANIMALS BILLS IN OHIO

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