

United States Zoological Association Says This Was Not a Tiger Attack

Written by Australian Business

WYNNEWOOD, OK, October 10, 2013 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- The United States Zoological Association (USZA) wishes to convey their heartfelt sympathy to the employee, her family and co workers of the Garold Wayne Interactive Zoo (GW Zoo) in Wynnewood, Oklahoma during this trying time.

The GW Zoo is an Accredited Member of the USZA and, as such, is governed by our strict guidelines for animal care, animal safety, and public safety.

Our preliminary investigation concludes that the incident that occurred on Saturday, October 5, 2013 was a tragic accident caused by human error. This employee had been trained in the proper protocols, and was experienced enough to follow them. The initial investigation shows that she disregarded her training and caused this accident herself. It is the first accident of this type at this, or any other USZA Accredited Facility.

USZA cautions the media not to misrepresent this accident as an "attack" or "mauling". These words infer more than what actually happened. There was no animal escape, there was no vicious mauling. In fact the keeper was able to remove her arm on her own.

We are reminded that the job of caring for exotic animals is a labor of love that comes with a certain inherent danger. Owners and Keepers worldwide accept this risk because of the huge emotional rewards. Many Industries have the same risks yet receive much less scrutiny when an accident occurs.

Yesterday in the NFL alone several players, who play the game they love, received serious season ending injuries. Yesterday in Houston a race car driver, 13 fans, and a race official were injured during the Grand Prix there. Inherent risks are often taken because of the huge reward. Will they receive the same calls to shut them down that this accident has?

The lesson to all is that following proper protocols lessens the risks involved. We sincerely hope this employee recovers fully, and can return to her job quickly.