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USA: Captive Exotic & Wild Mammal Related Human Fatalities by the Type of Facility and Animal since year 2007, when the CWSA, Captive Wildlife Safety Act, was implemented.

SYNOPSIS: Since 2007, (7.5 years) 15 people died in the USA (2 per year) by captive exotic & wild mammals. AZA zoos and sanctuaries (type of facilities unfairly exempted from captive wild & exotic animal bans) accounted for 60 % of human fatalities (9 people). According to AZA, the total number of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums is 229, (but only 217 are in USA) which is about 10% of all USDA licensed facilities in USA, but they account for 40 % of human fatalities. The majority of large mammals like big cats, bears and elephants (except killer whales) are in non AZA facilities.

Table 1: Captive Bear, Big Cats, Elephants, Killer Whales, Exotic Canines and Non-Human Primates Related Human Fatalities in USA, 2007 – September 2014

FACILITY/ ANIMAL	AZA ZOOS: USDA	NON AZA FACILITIES: USDA	SANCTUARIES: most are USDA licensed	PET OWNERS: no USDA	TOTAL
BEARS	0	2	0	2*	4
BIG CATS	2	1	2	0	5
ELEPHANTS	2	1	1	0	4
KILLER WHALES	1	0	0	0	1
NON HUMAN PRIMATES	0	0	0	0	0
EXOTIC CANINES	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	6	4	3	2	15
PERCENTAGE OF FATALITIES	40 %	26.7 %	20 %	13.3 %	100%
AVERAGE HUMAN DEATHS PER YEAR (2007-2014)	0.8	0.54	0.4	0.26	2

*In the 2010 Ohio case, the owner just lost his USDA license, but was still state licensed



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- AZA, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, is a private group accrediting big city zoos. It is expensive to join, but AZA accreditation so far guarantees the zoo an exemption from wild and exotic animal bans. AZA facilities are required to be USDA licensed.
- USDA, US Department of Agriculture, requires a federal license needed for anybody engaging in public display and/or in any commercial wild and exotic mammal breeding, selling, trading and exhibiting. Examples would be circus, small private zoo, magic acts, etc...Some nonprofit wildlife sanctuaries are not USDA licensed, which is legal in some states, but only IF they do not exhibit to the public.
- USDA regulations do not require non commercial aka 'pet' owners to be licensed, but many states and localities mandate a USDA license for wild & exotic animal ownership.

Table 2: Captive Bear Related Human Fatalities in the USA by State, Yearand the Type of the Bear, 2007 – September 2014

YEAR/ STATE	RELATIONSHIP TO BEAR	COMMENTS
2012 - MT	Employee/trainer at a state & USDA licensed facility was killed by a Syrian brown bear	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2010 - OH	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
2009 - PA	Woman killed by her pet black bear. Her husband is an exotic pet dealer operating on an expired state license at the time of the attack	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2008 - CA	Movie trainer in the USDA licensed facility was killed by a male grizzly bear during a training session.	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public

Table 3: Captive Elephant Related Human Fatalities in the USA by Stateand Year, 2007 – September 2014

YEAR/ STATE	RELATIONSHIP TO ELEPHANT	COMMENTS
2014 - ME	Maine elephant sanctuary founder trampled to death by former circus elephant	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2013 - MO	Dickerson Zoo worker dies after elephant crushed him against the floor AZA, USDA	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2011 - TN	Knoxville Zoo worker dies after African elephant pushes her into stall, AZA, USDA	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2010 - PA	Circus worker was accidentally killed when the elephant got spooked by an electric wire, USDA	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public



Table 4: Captive Killer Whale Related Human Fatalities in the USA by State and Year, 2007 – September 2014

YEAR/ STATE	RELATIONSHIP TO KILLER WHALE	COMMENTS
2010 - FL	A Sea World (AZA) trainer was killed during a show by a whale that had killed a human before. All US captive killer whales are in AZA facilities	Voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public

Table 5: Captive Big Cats Related Human Fatalities in the USA by State,Year and the Type of the Cat, 2007 – September 2014

YEAR/ STATE	RELATIONSHIP TO CAT	COMMENTS
2013 - OR	Cougar kills employee/keeper at Oregon sanctuary	Occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2013 - CA	African lion kills a volunteer at California facility	Occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2008 - OK	Handler killed by sanctuary liger, USDA	Occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
2007 - CA	Visitor killed by a tiger out of her cage, but still on the SF Zoo property, 2 visitors injured, AZA, USDA	The surviving victims and family of the man killed reached a settlement with the zoo. The zoo director resigned, and is now working at the Honolulu, HI, zoo.
2007 - CO	AZA zoo keeper killed by a jaguar, USDA	Occupational hazard. It was not clear why she was in the jaguar's cage which is against the zoo's rules

Table 6: Captive Exotic Canines Related Human Fatalities in the USA byState and Year, 2007 – September 2014

YEAR/ STATE	RELATIONSHIP TO PAINTED DOG	COMMENTS
2012 - PA	A 2-year-old boy fell into an exhibit of African wild painted dogs and was fatally mauled by the animals, AZA, USDA	Still under USDA investigation



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CONCLUSION:

Since 2007 there is no record of a member of the general public in the USA dying as a result of a captive bear, elephant, big cat, non-human primate, exotic canine or killer whale at large, meaning, unsupervised and OFF the property where the animals were kept. An animal out of the cage, but still on owner's or zoo property, (as in San Francisco, CA, AZA Zoo incident) is not considered AT LARGE for our analysis.

Instead, all victims were voluntarily on the property where the animal was kept, be it owner(s), handlers, employees, friends or visitors wanting to see the animals.

Captive keeping of wild and exotic mammals might be a slight voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard in the USA, but it is NOT a public safety issue. Since 2007, (7.5 years) 15 people died in the USA (2 per year) by captive exotic & wild mammals. AZA zoos and sanctuaries (type of facilities unfairly exempted from captive wild & exotic animal bans) accounted for 60 % of human fatalities (9 people). AZA zoos accounted for 40% of human fatalities (6 people), sanctuaries 20% (3 people), non AZA facilities 26.7% (4 people) and pet owners 13.3% (2 people in 2 facilities that just lost their USDA licenses were killed by bears.

There are no human fatalities attributed to the captive non human primates in the USA. To give perspective, dogs kill 20-30 people per year, traffic accidents up to 125 people each day.

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