

LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation

Risk Assessment Survey Results

Data was collected during the latter part of 1998 via an anonymous survey distributed via the LIOC-ESCF Newsletter, two exotic animal industry publications, and the Internet. Completed questionnaires were received from 126 private owners with a combine total of over 5000 cat-years of experience. The data gathered allowed quantification of the risk private husbandry presents to the owner, family members/employees, and the general public in various situations including, authorized contact, unauthorized contact, and escape. Three levels of injury severity were recognized; requiring first aid, professional care, and fatal. In order to allow comparison to other activities, risk was calculated in injuries per cat-year of exposure. Attachment 1, summarizes the results.

Conclusion: Based on the data available as a result of this survey, the risk of injury associated that private captive husbandry of wild felines appears to be comparable to the risk associated with other more common and widely accepted activities such as ownership of domestic dogs and operation of motor vehicles.

For example, for privately held non-domestic cats the overall risk of injury (to owners, their family/employees, and the general public) requiring professional care is 1.2 E-2 per cat-year while for domestic dogs the probability is 1.5 E-2 . (Source: January 1998, Journal of the American Medical Association) . It is postulated that the added level of caution normally exercised in the handling and containment of non-domestic cats, beyond that which is normally exercise with domestic dogs, accounts for this result.

The probability of an injury to a member of the general public requiring professional medical attention was 7.6 E-4 per cat-year. For comparative purposes the probability of an individual other than the driver/passenger (general public) being injured by a motor vehicle is about 1.7 E-2 per vehicle-year. (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA) No injuries to a member of the general public resulting from the escape of a privately held non-domestic cat were reported as part of this survey.

No fatalities were reported by those responding to the survey. This suggests the risk of fatal injury resulting from private captive husbandry of non-domestic cats is less than $<1.9 \text{ E-4}$ per cat-year exposure. The actually risk may in fact be lower but there was insufficient data to make this determination. For comparison the risk of being fatally injured by a motor vehicle in the U.S. is about 1.8 E-4 per vehicle-year. (Source: NHTSA)

Attachment 1

LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation Private Wild Feline Captive Husbandry Safety Survey March 1999					
Category	TOTAL	AVG.	RISK *	MAX	MIN
Responses	126				
Cat Years Experience	5241	41.6			
Cat Years Experience with Large Cats	1985	15.8		207	0
Cat Years Experience with Small Cats	3256	25.8		875	0
Years of Breeding Experience	2411	19.1		884	0
Injuries of All Types	635	5.0			
Injuries Requiring First Aid	573	4.5			
Injuries Requiring Professional Care	62	0.5			
Fatal Injuries	0	0.0			
Number of Escapes	75	0.6			
Injuries to Owner	491	3.9			
Injuries to Family Member/Employee	120	1.0			
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact	17	0.1			
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact	7	0.1			
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape	0	0.0			
Injuries to Owner Requiring First Aid	453	3.6	8.6E-02	100	0
Injuries to Owner Requiring Professional Care	38	0.3	7.3E-03	6	0
Injuries to Family Member/Employee Requiring First Aid	104	0.8	2.0E-02	15	0
Injuries to Family Member/Employee Requiring Professional Care	16	0.1	3.1E-03	2	0
Fatal Injuries to Family Member/Employee	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact Requiring First Aid	13	0.1	2.5E-03	2	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact Requiring Professional Care	4	0.0	7.6E-04	2	0
Fatal Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact Requiring First Aid	3	0.0	5.7E-04	1	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact Requiring Professional Care	4	0.0	7.6E-04	1	0
Fatal Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape Requiring First Aid	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape Requiring Professional Care	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Fatal Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0

* Risk = Injuries per cat-year exposure.