

From: Jim Bartoo [mailto:Jbartoo@nashvillezoo.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 12:08 PM
To: 'Z'
Subject: RE: Lioness seized in drug raid? 2001

Hello.

Nashville Zoo has no knowledge of this. My recommendation is that you contact the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency who oversees this type of situation.

Thanks,
Jim Bartoo
Marketing and Public Relations Director
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From: Z [mailto:tiger@pahrump.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 10:59 AM
To: jbartoo@nashvillezoo.org
Subject: Lioness seized in drug raid? 2001

Hi,
I am researching details on responsible exotic animal ownership. Could you please give me more details about the story below? I can not find any details on any drug raids and exotic animals seizures in TN in that time frame. Please advice.
Sincerely
Zuzana Kukol, www.rexano.org

Is this true?
<http://www.bigcatrescue.org/cats/captive/lionsnikita.htm>

NIKITA Lioness

DOB 2/3/01

Nikita was found chained to the wall in a crack house during a drug bust in Tennessee. Because she had been confined to a concrete floor, she had huge swellings on her elbows that took months to heal. She was so thin that you could carry her under one arm. She would only eat white rabbits, so she had a plethora of nutritional issues to deal with as well. The authorities took her to the Nashville Zoo at Grasmere, but she had been

declawed and could not live with the zoo's other lions. They had to find a new home for her, so we received the call. Big Cat Rescue agreed to take Nikita in, as well as three other Bobcats who all arrived on 11/30/01.

Nikita has flourished under our care. She has grown into a tall, lanky, healthy lioness. She's extremely playful and loves to roll on her back and grab her paws or try to do somersaults whenever she has visitors stopping by to talk with her. Though we wish she had the freedom she deserves, we're so happy that she survived her earlier ordeals to enjoy the blissful days we try to provide for her here