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# Odds and Ends

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By Devin D. O'Leary

**MARCH 28, 2000: Dateline**

**Dateline: Poland --** Police in Poland chased an escaped circus tiger through the streets of Warsaw last Tuesday, but ended up killing a veterinarian who tried to help. **Circus owners said three tigers appeared to have been deliberately released from their cages, perhaps by animal rights activists.** Two of the beasts were quickly recovered, but a third eluded capture for more than two hours in a crowded Warsaw suburb. **A local vet tried to shoot the tiger with a tranquilizing gun while it was trapped near a housing block just east of the capital city. Unfortunately, the animal turned on the vet. Police fired a volley of bullets, missing the Bengal tiger, but hitting the vet in the head. The 47-year-old vet died in the hospital.** Warsaw police chief Kazimierz Winiecki said the death was an unfortunate accident and offered his condolences to the family. The tiger was later shot by the armed police officers.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/677492.stm>

Tuesday, 14 March, 2000, 16:29 GMT

## Vet killed in escaped tiger blunder



The tiger was one of three that escaped  
Police in Poland have accidentally shot dead a vet who was being mauled by an escaped circus tiger.

The Bengali tiger had been cornered on wasteland in the Warsaw suburb of Tarchomin after two hours on the loose.

The vet had fired a tranquilliser shot to calm the animal down, but the tiger attacked him before the medication took effect.

Police opened fire on the tiger and the vet was hit in the head.

Polish TV footage showed the tiger chasing the man, jumping at him from behind and suddenly turning back at the sound of shots.

The vet was seen falling down, as if he had stumbled on something.

Deputy Warsaw police chief Kazimierz Winiecki, said: "It was an unfortunate accident." All officers taking part in the incident were being interviewed.

The animal itself was shot dead by police officers.

The vet was called in to recapture the tiger, which had escaped with two others.

The other two were recaptured before getting out of the circus, but the third ran out into the street.

A circus employee was injured by the tiger, but not seriously. The tiger was shot dead

Police had no information about how the tigers escaped, but circus employees told the Polish PAP news agency that someone must have opened the cage.

