



EXCLUSIVE

## Vivi, The SA Tiger Is Dead Latest In Strange Deaths At San Antonio Wild Animal Orphanage

RG Griffing, SAL Staff, Copyright 7-16-2009

The 80-pound Bengal tiger, known as Vivi, and donated to the San Antonio Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) in February, has died, the Lightning has learned exclusively.

Vivi arrived in San Antonio in late February of this year.

On Friday, July 10th, sources reported the tiger's "body needed to be chilled" prior to transport to Texas Vet Medical Diagnostic Lab (TVMDL) in College Station for autopsy.

However, an insider at WAO earlier this week confirmed at least one caller to the SA facility asking about the cub had been told the tiger would be seen on the regular tour.

The caller was told by a WAO staffer "the baby tiger is not on this property. I think she's on the other (seperate WAO) property, but I'm not sure. I was instructed to tell anyone asking about the baby tiger to talk to my boss (Carol Asvestas)..."

Asvestas, director of WAO, was unavailable for comment to the Lightning.

The cause of Vivi's death is unknown. Several other big cats have died under unusual circumstances at the facility. Among them were eight cougars, one liger (lion-tiger mix), and now the tiger cub; all since from February 2009.

Questions about the operation of the nonprofit, and the mysterious disappearances and deaths of animals at the orphanage have surfaced in the last few years, have largely gone answered. ([Click](#)

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