



WAO WATCH

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THE 'LYIN' QUEEN' DEFAMATION CASE UPROAR\_  
Top Cat At Wild Animal Orphanage Yowls 'Libel'  
Her Embellished Biography Wasn't A Lie...It was...Uh...?\_

Political Snitch, SAL Commentary 8-25-2009

Carol Asvestas, Director of the San Antonio area Wild Life Orphanage (WAO) is angry over a three-year long series of commentaries in the San Antonio Lightning Newspaper which criticized her management of the not-for-profit, \$Million-plus cash cow that she has been milking for years.

Asvestas has filed a lawsuit against the San Antonio Lightning for libel. ([Click to view suit.](#))

In particularly, a commentary entitled the "Lyin'Queen," has frosted her pumpkin. ([Click for commentaries.](#))

Asvestas, a public person who has thrust herself into the limelight as a local animal advocate, has some explaining to do.

We present, in her own words, some of the questionable things she has said.

Lying? *You* decide.

\* \* \*

In 2002, Asvestas published a "Biographical Sketch" on the WAO Website.

[Biographical Sketch From Wild Animal Orphanage Web Page 2002](#)  
[9 years of nursing in England Specialized in OR, ER, Terminal ward](#)  
[and RNMS \(Registered Nurse for the Mentally Subnormal\) \*Click for more\*](#)

However, in a losing lawsuit with a local printing company over a \$25,000 plus bill that she decided not to pay, the truthfulness of her bio came into question.

Below is part of a 13 hour (or so) deposition, in which 9 years of nursing becomes 4 years.

## Asvestas in sworn deposition during Williams Vs Asvestas 2004

### ACTUAL DEPOSITION

11 A. Yeah, I waitressed.  
12 Q. What else?  
13 A. I worked at a shoe shop for a while. To be  
14 honest with you, I can't remember what -- what jobs I  
15 did.  
16 Q. Okay.  
17 A. I know I was made to work. My mother needed  
18 help.  
19 Q. Then from age 22 you entered this nurse  
20 training program?  
21 A. Bromham Hospital, yeah.  
22 Q. And how long were you there?  
23 A. I think about four years maybe. I don't  
24 remember to be honest with you.  
25 Q. When you -- when you first mentioned it, I

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1 think you said seven years?  
2 A. Seven years. It might have been six or  
3 seven. I honestly cannot remember the ages I was when  
4 I did what.  
5 Q. Uh-huh.  
6 A. I'm 52. My memory is failing me.

### TRANSCRIPTION FOR CLARITY

A. Yeah, I waitressed.  
Q. What else?  
A. I worked at a shoe shop for a while. To be  
honest with you, I can't remember what --  
what jobs I did. \_  
Q. Okay. \_  
A. I know I was made to work. My mother  
needed help.  
Q. Then from age 22 you entered this nurse  
training program? \_  
A. Bromham Hospital, yeah.  
Q How long were you there? \_  
A. I think about four years, maybe. I don't  
remember to be honest with you. \_  
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think you said seven years? \_  
A. Seven years. It might have been six or  
seven. I honestly cannot remember the  
ages I was when I did what. \_  
Q. Uh-huh. \_  
A I'm 52. My memory is failing me.

The "bio" has since been removed from the website.

\* \* \*

Asvestas was born in 1952, in the UK. She graduated the public school system when she was 14. She says she spent the next few years doing song and dance, odd jobs; and In 1974, she says, she entered nursing. She came to the US in 1979 when she married a US military man. They divorced within the year.

As to a "registered nurse" no proof has been found, though she does say she was "registered" with the Bromham hospital.

More.

The current WAO front page, as of this writing, has Asvestas proclaiming she will post an autopsy report on the death of "Vi Vi" the tiger "within the week."

Note the date line.

## July 2009

Dear friend of our animals,

Thank you for your kind support, it is greatly appreciated. We are sorry to inform you, that sadly "Vi Vi" the tiger cub recently passed away. We had printed over 500,000 newsletters just before her death. She died of pre-existing medical problems from poor nutrition when she was being cared for by her former owner. The damage sustained when she was very young could not have been undone. She did not suffer. She passed quickly. We will all miss her. We will continue to send out the newsletter as planned so that the money that was spent will not be wasted. We hope you wear the t-shirt proudly in honor of her memory...

**We will be posting a complete veterinarian report on "Vi Vi" within the next week.** (Emphasis added.)

Sincerely,

Carol Asvestas  
President/Director

[\(Click for WAO website.\)](#)

\* \* \*

Final note: It does appear that ViVi died of brain lesions, and an investigation of that death by the USDA has been closed. The question of when the tiger's body actually showed up at the state lab is still unclear.

The latest USDA inspection, in July 2009, gave bad marks to WAO for sanitation. [\(Click for report.\)](#)

The Attorney General has been investigating the WAO for alleged deceptive trade practices. CID stands for Civil Investigative demands.

[CID: August 9, 2006](#)

[CID: November 16, 2007](#)

[CID: April 16, 2008](#)

More to follow.

- Developing -

\* \* \*

Previous Stories



QUESTIONS BRING MORE QUESTIONS

## Dog & Tiger Show

The Numbers Just Don't 'Add Up'

Did Wild Animal Orphanage

Rig San Antonio 'Press' Conference?

Most In SA Media Not Alerted

SAL Snitch, SALCommentary 8-21-2009

The murky situation surrounding dead and missing exotic cats at the Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) got even murkier Thursday, when a news conference was scheduled...but the folks who run the "animal sanctuary" neglected to alert the majority of news organizations in town.

[WOAI TV](#) and [KSAT 12](#) learned of the event only after it was tipped by an [SA Current](#) report.

Carol Asvestas, director of the not-for-profit facility in San Antonio, has been secretive and defensive about the number of large cats -- lions, tigers and cougars -- that have died or disappeared since December last year. She has also filed a defamation suit against the San Antonio Lightning over reports about WAO. ([Click for suit.](#))

The Lightning has been forbidden by Asvestas' husband Ron from contacting or visiting WAO, on threat of legal and physical action.

\* \* \*

Back to the "press conference."

Carol Asvestas seems to have her facts wrong on the number of unaccounted for cats. She told reporters 4 cougars have died. Sources say the following:

On 12-12-08 there were:

- 29 Tigers
- 14 Adult Mountain Lions

As of 7-1-09 there were:

- 25 Tigers
- 6 Adult Mountain Lions

If the unaccounted for animals didn't die, then where *are* they?

\* \* \*

More to follow.

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