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MORE QUESTIONS

Where Is Vivi's Body? Cause Of Death Kept Secret

Dead Bengal Tiger Never Made It To State Autopsy Lab
SAL Political Snitch

Where is Vivi's Body?

* * *

State officials have confirmed the SAL report Thursday on the death of the locally celebrated and much beloved SA Bengal Tiger cub, Vivi, who died sometime in early July. ([See previous stories below.](#))

However, mystery still surrounds the death and officials at the Wild Animal Orphanage (WAO) are remaining tight-lipped about the circumstances.

Dr Malcomb "Gayne" Fearneyhough, associate director of the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, confirmed the tiger's death in a phone conversation with the Lightning. He also said only a tissue sample was provided for necroscopy.

He is prohibited, by law, from divulging the results, he said. That information must come from the "provider," which in this case means the sphynx-silent WAO.

So how did Vivi die?

Where is the body?

* * *

These questions are relevant because of the many WAO animals that have disappeared, or died, or both.

As to the body, it is well known that tiger pelts can bring big money on the blackmarket. According to a [BBC](#) report in 2005 "A tiger can sell for around \$1,500 (£800), but broken into body parts, the value can soar to \$50,000 (£26,500)."

We are not saying that scenario played a part in the disappearance of Vivi's body. We are also not saying that it DIDN'T.

More to follow.

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Previous Stories Below

EXCLUSIVE

Vivi, The SA Tiger, Is Dead

Latest In Strange Deaths At The SA 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.

UPDATE: The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab officially confirmed the death of the Bengal Tiger, reported by the Lightning on Thursday...The big cat's body never showed up for an autopsy...Cause of death and the whereabouts of the tiger's body remain mysteries. ..Friday at noon we will have a new update...It will be an eye opener and a heartbreaker....developing.

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 Veterinary 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 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 for archives.](#))

More to follow. ([Click here to save the planet.](#))

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