



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



CAPTIVE WILDLIFE INJURY BITE ESCAPE FORM

COUNTY: SUMTER INCIDENT #: FWNE09OFF5425 TYPE: Fatal Injuries due to Escape IBE #: 09-023

REPORTING INVESTIGATOR: JANICE P. JONES
COMPLAINT OFFICER (S): FWC Lt. David Adams

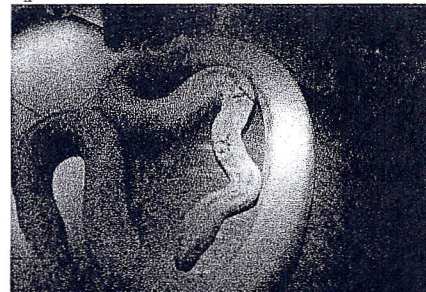
DATE REPORTED: 07/01/2009
REPORT DATE: 09/24/2009
INCIDENT DATE: 07/01/2009

VERIFICATION TYPE:

Personally observed snake loose inside the residence.

ANIMAL TYPE INVOLVED:

1.0-8.5' ALBINO BURMESE PYHTON
Python molurus bivittatus



Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: () - _____
City State Zip

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 1515 CR-466, Oxford, FL 34484
☐ OTHER
LAT/LONG: N28° 55.632' W82° 4.695'

LOCATION OF ESCAPE/RELEASE:

Snake escaped from enclosure inside the residence.

OWNER'S Name: JAREN HARE
Phone: () -

SITUATIONAL ORIGIN:

Threat to public? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
Permitted: ☐ -No ROC License to Possess

INCIDENT NARRATIVE:

On 07/01/2009, I FWC Investigator Janice Jones was notified by FWC Lt. Steve DeLaure that Sumter County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) was conducting a homicide investigation involving a small child and a large snake, believed to be a Burmese python. Incident had occurred at 1515 E CR-466 in Oxford, FL and deputies were on scene. Lt. DeLaure advised that SCSO was in the process of obtaining a search warrant to enter the residence, and requesting FWC assistance with securing the snake from the residence.

Precious Boatwright, Administrative Assistant II with the Investigations/Captive Wildlife Division was notified and requested to search the FWC License/Permit DATA Base for any records for Charles Darnell or Jaren Hare, or any other person being permitted or licensed to possess reptiles of concern (ROC) at the above listed location. Ms. Boatwright advised that there was no record of Darnell, Hare or any other persons permitted to possess reptiles of concern or any other regulated species of captive wildlife at the above listed address. License and permits issued through FWC are location specific.

FWC Lt. Don McMillen and I proceeded to the scene. Upon arrival we were advised by FWC Lt. David Adams that the residence had been secured, and the snake was still inside the residence. Information obtained from SCSO personnel on scene that the snake was believed to be approximately 12' in length and it was yellow and white in color. From the description given it was believed to be an Albino Burmese Python. Information given was that Charles Jason Darnell (W/M, advised that he had found the snake loose inside the residence at about 0030 hours that morning.

Darnell placed the snake inside a bag and put it back inside its enclosure. When he awoke later in the morning he noticed that the snake was not inside its enclosure and found it inside the child's crib wrapped around the child. Darnell had grabbed a knife and stabbed the snake in order to get it off the child. EMS was notified and the child later identified as

) was pronounced dead on the scene after their assessment. Other person's names provided that were in the residence when the child was found were the child's mother, Jaren Ashley Hare (W/F, Both Darnell and Hare were currently at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office. Request was made from SCSO for someone to assist their detectives with Florida Statutes and Administrative Codes that may have possibly been violated reference the possession of this type of reptile. I requested FWC Lt. Rick Brown, who was still enroute to the scene, to assist detectives at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in Bushnell.

At approximately 1641 hours Lt. Adams, Lt. Brown, Lt. McMillen and I along with SCSO personnel entered the residence. Upon entering the residence I observed a large aquarium in the living room. The aquarium was covered with a quilt that was safety pinned on the corners. The aquarium contained only a stainless steel bowl, white mesh bag and wood shavings. Lt. Brown proceeded down a hallway to the right of the living room and entered what appeared to be the child's bedroom.

Lt. Brown advised that he could see the snake on the floor of the child's room. Lt. Brown, Lt. McMillen and I secured the snake. The snake was identified as an Albino Burmese Python (*Python molurus bivittatus*) which is a reptile of concern. The snake had multiple lacerations on top of the back approximately 1' from the head. The snake was photographed and measured outside of the residence. It was determined to be 8.5' in length. Secondary search revealed a second aquarium on the left side of the living room with a homemade lid taped to the top. This enclosure contained a Columbian red tail boa constrictor. Detectives on scene provided me with original signed FWC release of ownership; both copies listed the Burmese Python and Colombian Red Tail Boa. The release of ownership was signed by both Charles Darnell and Jaren Hare.

At 1702 hours Lt. McMillen and I transported both snakes to Ocala Veterinary Hospital, 1279 East Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL. At 1800 hours Dr. Dion Osborne examined and determined that the snake would not need to be euthanized due to the injuries, advising that he would need to keep the snake overnight for observation. Dr. Osborne began treatment and evaluation of the snake (Report is attached). Snake was also scanned with a microchip reader by Dr. Osborne, with no results. At this time, I contacted Wildlife Supervisor Tim Frisch from Silver Springs Attraction and asked him to come to the Ocala Veterinary Hospital so we could discuss the housing of the python at their permitted facility for evidentiary purposes. The Columbian red tail boa was turned over to Tim Frisch at the Ocala Veterinary Hospital. (Signed transfer of ownership attached)

On 07/02/2009 at about 1030 hours Dr. Osborne implanted a passive integrated transponder (PIT) which I provided #9851211797983. Snake was scanned with microchip reader and the PIT was confirmed to be operational. I took possession of the Burmese python and delivered it to Silver Springs Attraction Wildlife Unit, which is located off exhibit. ROC License holder Joanne Zelif, Wildlife Manager for Silver Springs, took possession of the snake and secured it in a locked enclosure in the Wildlife Hospital Unit.

On 07/03/2009, Wildlife Supervisor Tim Frisch called and advised that the media had contacted Silver Springs Attraction and implied that they knew the python was being housed at their facility. Upper management advised that they did not want any negative public relations and informed Mr. Frisch to make arrangements for the snake to be removed.

On 07/03/2009 at 1310 hours I took custody of the snake from Silver Springs Attraction. Arrangements were made with FWC Investigator Ken Holmes and FWC Dr. Mark Cunningham to store the snake at the FWC-FWRI Wildlife Research Lab, located at 1105 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL. Snake was turned over to Investigator Holmes at 1355 hours in Citra, FL for continued transport to the Lab.

On 07/13/2009 I provided the following information to SCSO Detective Mike Bishop reference violations Darnell and Hare may have committed:

- The following five violations of the Florida Captive Wildlife Regulations were found in connection with SCSO Case # 2009-033285 based on evidence and statements I have obtained to date:
 1. FS 379.305(2)-Allows a Reptile of Concern to escape through gross negligence, To wit: Burmese Python
 2. FS 379.372 (1)-Possession of Reptile of Concern without a license, To wit: Burmese Python (Python molorous).
 3. FS 379.372 (3)-Keep Reptile of Concern in a manner not approved as safe and secure, To wit: Burmese Python (Python molorous).
 4. FAC 68A-6.0023(1)-Maintain Captive Wildlife in unsafe/unsecure manner, To wit: resulting in escape of Burmese Python.
 5. FAC 68A-6.0072-Possession of Reptile of Concern for personal use without being permanently identified with PIT tag.

On 07/30/2009 at 0830 hours, I Investigator Janice P. Jones, attended a meeting with the Fifth Judicial Circuit State

Attorney Office, Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Department of Children and Families in reference to SCSO Case # 2009-033285. During this meeting information was obtained that Jaren Hare was the owner of the python and that she had had it for approximately four years. Charles Darnell had not owned snakes prior to knowing Hare. Possible charges were discussed reference Darnell and Hare. As a result of this meeting, I was tasked with obtaining an accurate weight, length and girth of the Albino Burmese Python (*Python molurus bivittatus*).

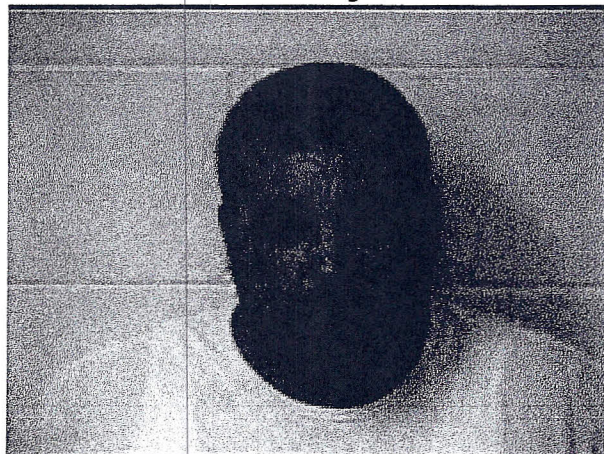
On 07/30/2009 at approximately 1500 hours, I with the assistance of Investigator Kenneth Holmes and FWC Officer James Umhoefer measured the Albino Burmese Python. To obtain an accurate measurement of the snake I used pink twisted mason line beginning at the tip of the snake's head and moving the string down the snake's back to the tip of the tail. Upon completion of this process the string was cut and measured, measurement obtained was 8' 6" (8.5 feet). Girth measurement was taken at the estimated widest width of the snake which was 9 inches. In order to obtain an accurate weight of the snake a five gallon bucket was placed on the scale and the measuring device was zeroed. The snake was placed in the five gallon bucket, the scale showed the weight of 6.145 kilograms. Conversion shown below shows the snake's weight as 13.5 pounds.

On 08/24/2009 Charles Darnell and Jaren Hare was arrested by SCSO for manslaughter, third-degree murder and child abuse. These charges are due to the gross-negligence that was involved in housing the reptile within the home in an enclosure that was not capable of confining it. While Hare was biological mother, Darnell still served as a primary caregiver to the child and therefore played an equally culpable role in the death of Shaiunna Hare.

Jaren Hare Booking Photo



Charles Darnell Booking Photo



INJURIES:**FATAL-Victim was bitten and asphyxiated by the snake.**

VICTIM'S Name: _____ e _____ DOB/AGE: _____
Address: 1515 CR-466 Oxford FL 34484
City State Zip
Medical Report attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Medical details: Dr. Wendy Lavezzi with the Fifth District Medical Examiner's Office in Leesburg determined the cause of death to be asphyxiation caused by a snake. The snake had bitten the child on her head, face, shoulder and arms.

ACTION TAKEN:

ANIMAL CAPTURED ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

CAPTURE METHOD:

By hand inside the residence.

DISPOSITION STATUS:

Snake is being retained as evidence by the FWC for the SCSO and the Fifth District State Attorney Office.

COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE: _____

REGION: Northeast

MILES: 525

TIME: 80 hours

INVESTIGATOR: Janice P. Jones

REVIEWED BY: _____