ŠKOFIJSKA KLASIČNA GIMNAZIJA

READING DIARY – BRALNI DNEVNIK

Avtorica: Julija Maurer, 1. a

Mentorica: Prof. Katja Gorjup

Šolsko leto: 2020/21

187 Reading: Florida leopard attack put humans—and big cats—in a terrible situation

Basic article information:

Title: Florida leopard attack put humans – and big cats – in a terrible situation

Source: National Geographic site,

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/10/florida-leopard-attack-put-humans-and-

big-cats-in-a-terrible-situation/

Published: 2nd November, 2020 Access Date: 4th November, 2020

Article:



A wild black leopard rests in a tree in Nagarhole National Park, in India. A man in Florida was recently mauled by a captive black leopard, after he paid \$150 to enter its cage.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILLIP ROSS, FELIS IMAGES, NATURE PICTURE LIBRARY

ANIMALS | WILDLIFE WATCH

Florida leopard attack put humans and big cats—in a terrible situation

Online videos from roadside zoo owners create the false impression that it's safe to play-fight with adult big cats. It's not.

5 MINUTE READ







IN LATE AUGUST, Dwight Turner paid \$150 to get inside a cage with a black leopard at a house in Florida. Almost immediately, the leopard attacked, ripping his right ear in half with its teeth and tearing into his head. His wife had to press a dangling flap of his scalp back in place.

The incident, which took place at the home of animal dealer Michael Poggi in Davie, Florida, occurred during what was supposed to be a "full-contact experience" with the leopard, in which Turner would rub its belly and take photos with it.

The attack is a stark reminder that big cats are dangerous to people—a reality that's become muddled through the lens of social media. Many big cat owners have shot to fame through Netflix's hit docuseries *Tiger King*, and on platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram by posting videos of themselves play-wrestling and swimming with their adult tigers and lions, creating a false impression that these encounters are safe.

"These are animals whose brains are literally designed to be ambush predators," says Imogene Cancellare, a National Geographic Explorer and conservation biologist studying snow leopards. "There is no scenario in which entering a [space] with a big cat is going to be 100 percent safe, even if it's been hand-raised," she says, as the majority of big cats in roadside and backyard zoos around the country have been.

66

The mystique of it all, like, 'Wow, they have their own lion pride!' can drive someone to want to do it too, not realizing that it's a totally artificial creation. This man isn't a lion whisperer—it's completely unnatural.

SIOBHAN SPEIRAN, PH.D. CANDIDATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Hand-raised big cats are still genetically wild, and they've been conditioned to interact with owners only as a function of being fed by them, she says. "At the end of the day, in my professional opinion, there is nothing you can do to make a tiger or lion or jaguar love you enough to overcome its predatory instincts that can turn on a dime."

An illegal encounter

After the attack, <u>first reported</u> by Local 10 News in Florida, Turner underwent two surgeries and got 22 staples in his head. He's still at risk of losing his right ear, according to a <u>report</u> filed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), which investigated the case. Turner intends to <u>file a lawsuit</u> against Poggi, the owner of the leopard, his lawyer told Local 10 News.

Poggi did not respond to a National Geographic request for comment by time of publication.

He is licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an animal dealer, and he owns the leopard legally. But Florida law prohibits letting a visitor have full contact with a big cat larger than 25 pounds. FWC charged Poggi with "allowing a member of the public full contact with an extremely dangerous full grown black leopard" and "maintaining captive wildlife in an unsafe condition," according to the police report. Poggi is set to appear in court on December 2 and faces penalties of up to a year and a half in jail, and \$1,500 in fines.

Federal regulations also <u>state</u> that barriers <u>must exist</u> between the public and big cats <u>12 weeks or older</u>. For this reason, adult big cat encounters are rare at U.S. roadside zoos. The margin of error in these interactions, says National Geographic Explorer Andrew Stein, founder of <u>CLAWS Conservancy</u>, a nonprofit focused on mitigating human-wildlife conflict, "is the difference between having a safe encounter and possibly dying."



Animal breeder Michael Poggi keeps his black leopard in this cage in the backyard... Read More

PHOTOGRAPH BY FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Nonetheless, these tourist
encounters are commonplace in
other countries, especially in
Southeast Asia, and are normalized
by many Insta-famous big cat
owners, who interact with their own
animals in social media videos.

The allure of social media fantasy

There's "this Jungle Book-esque romanticism in communing with animals," says Siobhan Speiran, a Ph.D. candidate in environmental

studies at Queen's University in Ontario, who has spent the last three years researching social media's influence on people's perceptions of wild animals.

Popular exotic animal owners like Kody Antle, Kevin "The Lion Whisperer" Richardson, and Eduardo Serio of Black Jaguar White Tiger in Mexico all have acquired millions of followers by regularly posting videos of themselves wrestling with their big cats—like modern-day Mowglis.

These posts and videos "create a mythology around animal handlers—especially men," Speiran says. "The mystique of it all, like, 'Wow, they have their own lion pride!'" can drive someone to want to do it too, she says, "not realizing that it's a totally artificial creation. This man isn't a lion whisperer—it's completely unnatural."

But people buy into it, wanting to be close to these animal whisperers "like I want to be close to Jane Goodall," Speiran says, noting that admiration for people who seem to share bonds with animals is probably a universal feeling for any animal lover.

The social media worlds these big cat owners create, however, make it difficult for the average person to tell the difference between someone who keeps, breeds, and sells access to exotic wildlife, and a conservationist, like Goodall, who works to save them, she says.

Adding to the confusion is the fact that many roadside zoo owners and breeders bill themselves as rescuers or advertise that their businesses help fund conservation. Kody Antle's family runs a charity that purports to raise money for wild tiger conservation; Poggi describes his business as an animal sanctuary (legitimate sanctuaries typically do not allow public contact with

wild animals, according to the Global Federation for Animal Sanctuaries). These are common marketing tactics used in the private zoo industry so customers feel like the money they're paying to interact with wild animals is helping them.

Welfare issues at roadside zoos have been well-documented. In addition to speed-breeding tigers so there are always cubs for tourists to cuddle, some fail to provide adequate food, enclosures, and veterinary care. Just last month, Doc Antle, Kody's father and the owner of the family's Myrtle Beach Safari roadside zoo, was charged with wildlife trafficking and animal cruelty. Another *Tiger King* character, Jeff Lowe, lost his license to exhibit animals after authorities documented numerous cases of animal suffering.

"Folks probably think if [private big cat ownership] is really that bad, it would be illegal," Speiran says. But "animals are, in many ways, the last frontier of social justice."

Cancellare, Speiran, and Stein all say that the Public Big Cat Safety Act, a bill that aims to federally prohibit commercial breeding, public handling, and ownership of big cats as pets, could make a difference in curbing big cat ownership and backyard breeding in the U.S., protecting animals and people alike.

3 vprašanja, ki se mi porajajo ob naslovu članka:

- 1. Is the leopard okay now?
- 2. Who did the leopard attack?
- 3. Why did the leopard attack them?

10. novih besed:

1	encounter	Noun; a meeting with a person or thing, especially a casual, unexpected, or brief meeting: Our running into each other was merely a chance encounter.	srečanje
---	-----------	---	----------

2	mitigate	verb (used with object); mit·i·gat·ed, mit·i·gat·ing. to lessen in force or intensity, as wrath, grief, harshness, or pain; moderate. to make less severe: to mitigate a punishment.	ublažiti
3	commune	verb (used without object); com·muned, com·mun·ing. to converse or talk together, usually with profound intensity, intimacy, etc.; interchange thoughts or feelings. to be in intimate communication or rapport:to commune with nature.	komunikacija
4	conservation	Noun; the act of conserving; prevention of injury, decay, waste, or loss; preservation:conservation of wildlife;conservation of human rights. official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources in order to preserve and protect them through prudent management.	Ohranjanje
5	purport	verb (used with object); to present, especially deliberately, the appearance of being; profess or claim, often falsely:a document purporting to be official. to convey to the mind as the meaning or thing intended; express or imply.	domneva
6	sanctuary	Noun; plural sanc·tu·ar·ies. a sacred or holy place.	svetišče
7	curbing	Noun; the material forming a <u>curb</u> , as along a street. curbstones collectively.	zajezitev
8	welfare	Noun; the good fortune, health, happiness, prosperity, etc., of a person, group, or organization; well-being:to look after a child's	blaginja

9	frontier	Noun; the part of a country that borders another	meja
		country; boundary; border.	,
10	breeder	Noun; an animal, plant, or person that produces offspring or reproduces. a person who raises animals or plants primarily for breeding purposes.	vzreditelj

Summary and opinion:

I chose this article, because I saw a picture of a big cat. Cats are my favorite animals, that's why I wanted to see, what the leopard was in trouble for.

The article writes about how a leopard attacked a man that paid to be in his cage. Man's name is Dwight Turner. Leopard almost bit his ear off, and the man had to get two surgeries and many staples in his head.

Turner paid \$150 to enter leopard's cage and get some pictures with him, perhaps give him a belly rub, but leopard had different plans. Quite soon after Turner stepped into the cage, leopard attacked him and hurt him pretty badly.

The rest of the article talks about how wild animals can't and will never be tamed. It even says, that you can never befriend it to the point it will choose you over it's wild instinct.

I believe Turner was stupid, if he expected to casually approach a leopard and give him belly rubs without a surprise attack. Wild animals, such as this leopard, shouldn't be living in cages, unless it's the only way of keeping it alive and well (and also happy).

Turner intends to file a lawsuit against Poggi (leopard's owner). The fault is on both, Turner and Poggi, none of them were acting really wise. Poggi is going to jail, because he let Turner get in contact with the leopard.

2nd Readling: Denmark to cull 15 million mink after coronavirus spillover into humans

Basic article information:

Title: Denmark to cull 15 million mink after coronavirus spillover into humans

Source: National Geographic site:

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/11/denmark-mink-culling/

Published: 4th November, 2020

Access Date: 5th November, 2020

Article:



Denmark plans to cull all 15 million mink farmed in the country to help protect people from contracting the virus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADS CLAUS RASMUSSEN, RITZAU SCANPIX, AFP, GETTY IMAGES

ANIMALS | WILDLIFE WATCH

Denmark to cull 15 million mink after coronavirus spillover into humans

Danish authorities say new research suggests need to cull all the mink on its 1,200 farms.



PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 4, 2020

ALMOST 400 HUMAN cases of coronavirus appear to be linked to sick minks on fur farms in Denmark, officials announced at a press conference today. The revelation suggests that mink-to-human transmission is more pervasive than previously thought, though most of the coronavirus cases were likely passed from humans exposed to sickened farm workers and their contacts in the community—not from exposure to infected animals.

Danish authorities said that they now want to cull all 15 million mink at the country's roughly 1,200 fur farms as a precautionary step to protect people from contracting the virus. A total of 207 fur farms in Denmark house minks that have tested positive for the coronavirus. The decision is sparked by findings from the country's public health authority, the State Serum Institute, which suggested that the virus strain circulating between minks and humans may have mutated enough to compromise future vaccine effectiveness, prompting the need to take immediate action.

In the press conference, Danish Health Minister Magnus Heunicke said that genomic analysis of Danish human cases of coronavirus indicates half of the 783 human cases of coronavirus in the northern part of the country are related to mink, according to the <u>Associated Press</u>. Danish officials did not immediately respond to National Geographic's request for comment.

Denmark is the world's second-largest producer of mink pelts after China, so the culling of all its remaining mink will have huge implications for the fur industry. The Netherlands—the third largest producer of mink—announced in June that it planned to speed up the timeline for shutting down its mink industry as a result of widespread coronavirus infections among its animals and research suggesting that at least two farm workers had gotten coronavirus from minks. Before the pandemic, the Netherlands had planned to wind down its mink industry by 2024, but now it is expected to shut down all operations by early 2021. China has made no announcements about any changes to its mink industry.

The U.S. situation

The United States, too, has confirmed that minks have contracted coronavirus on fur farms in Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan, though so far there is no evidence that the minks are making humans sick in the U.S. "These investigations are ongoing, and we will release data once available," says Jasmine Reed, a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spokesperson.



Minks at 207 of the almost 1,200 fur farms in Denmark have been infected with coronavirus. Government workers have culled more than a million mink.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADS CLAUS RASMUSSEN, RITZAU SCANPIX, AFP, GETTY IMAGES

_

3 vprašanja, ki se mi porajajo ob naslovu članka:

- 1. How did the minks catch the virus?
- 2. What did they have the minks for?
- 3. Did the breed them for their fur?

10. novih besed:

1	mink	noun (pl. minks) [countable, uncountable] a small animal with soft brown fur, or the very valuable fur of this animal which is used to make coats, hats etc.	kuna
---	------	--	------

2	spillover	noun [countable, uncountable] the effect that one situation or problem has on another situation	prelivanje
3	transmission	[uncountable] formal the process of sending or passing something from one person, place, or thing to another	prenos
4	pervasive	adjective spread throughout: The corruption is so pervasive that it is accepted as the way to do business.	prodorno
5	spokesperson	noun a person who speaks for another or for a group.	govornik
6	wind down	phrasal verb wind something ↔ down to gradually <u>reduce</u> the work of a <u>business</u> or <u>organization</u> so that it can be <u>closed</u> down completely	zaustavljati
7	pelt	noun [countable] the fur or hair of a living animal	koža, krzno
8	genomic	adjective relating to all the genes that are found in one type of living thing	genomsko
9	timeline	noun [countable] a plan for when things will happen or how long you think something will take	časovna premica
10	culling	verb [transitive] to kill animals so that there are not too many of them, or so that a disease does not spread	izločanje

Summary and opinion:

This article, too, was about animals. I chose it because of the title. I wanted to know, what happened to the minks, and how were there so many infected. They don't really live in such large groups in the nature.

The article says that people got infected because of those little furry creatures. This happened because minks somehow caught the virus.

Next thing the article says is, that danish authorities was to kill 15 million minks, just to keep people safe. This means all the minks in about 1 200 fur farms.

A total of 207 fur farms in Denmark house minks that have tested positive for the coronavirus, so many more would die that just the ones from Covid positive farms.

I think that it's not the minks' fault, because people weren't really careful in the first place, but I also think, that they should definitely shut down the fur farms, because it's animal torture. I surely wouldn't buy anything made from their fur. I still

feel bad that they will have to die. They can't even let them go in the nature or wait for them to get over Covid, simply because it's cheaper and easier to just kill them. Apart from that, those minks probably wouldn't survive in the nature, therefore the furry creatures die either way.

Reading: Juno Oscar Nominee Elliot Page Comes Out as Transgender: 'My Joy Is Real, But It Is Also Fragile'

Basic article information:

Title: Juno Oscar Nominee Elliot Page Comes Out as Transgender: 'My Joy Is

Real, But It Is Also Fragile'

Source: PEOPLE, https://people.com/movies/elliot-page-comes-out-as-trans/

Published: 1st December, 2020 Access Date: 3rd December, 2020

Article:



PEOPLE.COM > MOVIES

Juno Oscar Nominee Elliot Page Comes Out as Transgender: 'My Joy Is Real, But It Is Also Fragile'

Elliot Page came out as a trans person with the pronouns he/they on Tuesday

By Alexia Fernandez December 01, 2020 12:51 PM









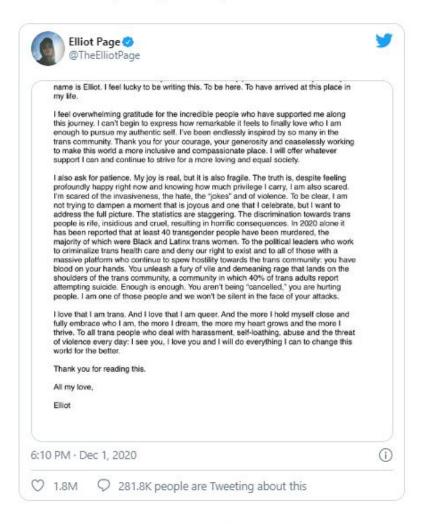
Elliot Page is living his truth and coming out as trans.

The 33-year-old Oscar nominee released a lengthy, heartfelt statement on his Twitter page Tuesday.

"Hi friends, I want to share with you that I am trans, my pronouns are he/they and my name is Elliot," he wrote. "I feel lucky to be writing this. To be here. To have arrived at this place in my life."

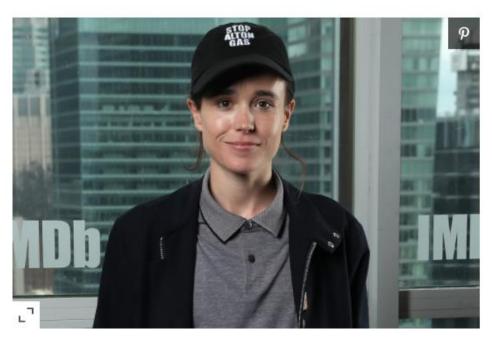
Page, known formerly as Ellen from the 2007 breakout film *Juno*, said he was feeling "overwhelming gratitude for the incredible people who have supported me along this journey."

"I can't begin to express how remarkable it feels to finally love who I am enough to pursue my authentic self. I've been endlessly inspired by so many in the trans community," he said. "Thank you for your courage, your generosity and ceaselessly working to make this world a more inclusive and compassionate place. I will offer whatever support I can and continue to strive for a more loving and equal society."



"I also ask for patience. My joy is real, but it is also fragile. The truth is, despite feeling profoundly happy right now and knowing how much privilege I carry, I am also scared," he wrote. "I'm scared of invasiveness, the hate, the "jokes" and of violence."

The actor continued, "To be clear, I am not trying to dampen a moment that is joyous and one that I celebrate, but I want to address the full picture. The statistics are staggering. The discrimination towards trans people is rife, insidious and cruel, resulting in horrific consequences."



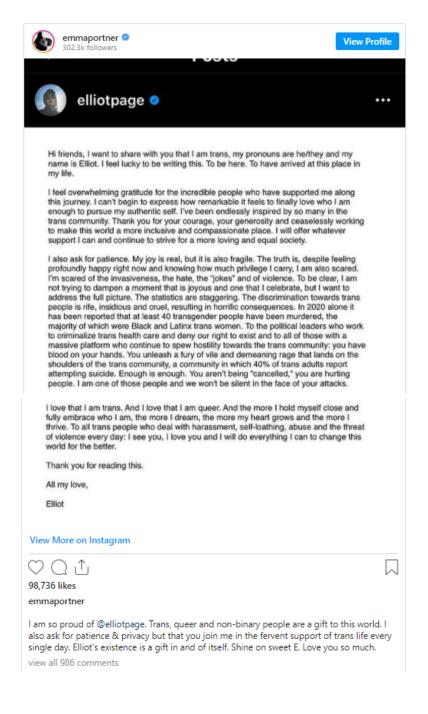
Elliot Page | CREDIT: RICH POLK/GETTY

"In 2020 alone it has been reported that at least 40 transgender people have been murdered, the majority of which were Black and Latinx trans women," Page wrote. "To the political leaders who work to criminalize trans health care and deny our right to exist and to all of those with a massive platform who continue to spew hostility towards the trans community: you have blood on your hands. You unleash a fury vile and demeaning rage that lands on the shoulders of the trans community, a community in which 40% of trans adults report attempting suicide. Enough is enough. You aren't being "cancelled," you are hurting people. I am one of those people and we won't be silent in the face of your attacks."

RELATED: Ellen Page Was 'Forced' to Wear Dresses Before Coming Out: 'People Cannot Know You're Gay' Despite the fear he is feeling, Page said, "I love that I am trans. And I love that I am queer. And the more I hold myself close and fully embrace who I am, the more I dream, the more my heart grows and the more I thrive."

"To all trans people who deal with harassment, self-loathing, abuse and the threat of violence every day: I see you, I love you and I will do everything I can to change this world for the better," he wrote, before signing off with, "Thank you for reading this. All my love, Elliot."

Page's wife, dancer Emma Portner, share his statement on her own Instagram account, writing, "I am so proud of @elliotpage. Trans, queer and non-binary people are a gift to this world. I also ask for patience & privacy but that you join me in the fervent support of trans life every single day. Elliot's existence is a gift in and of itself. Shine on sweet E. Love you so much."



Last year, Page revealed he had tied the knot with Portner, 26.

In February 2019, Page opened up about the pressure to hide his sexuality when he started working as an actor in Hollywood.

"I was distinctly told, by people in the industry, when I started to become known: 'People cannot know you're gay," the actor, who came out in 2014, recalled during an interview with *PorterEdit*.

Page went on to reveal that he was also "pressured — forced in many cases — to always wear dresses and heels for events and photo shoots," although he went on to dismiss the stereotype that gay women follow a strict dress code, adding, "as if lesbians don't wear dresses and heels."

"I will never let anyone put me in anything I feel uncomfortable in ever again," the actor, who's currently starring in the Netflix series *The Umbrella Academy*, said.

3 vprašanja, ki se mi porajajo ob naslovu članka:

- 1. What are their pronouns now?
- 2. Did their family accept them?
- 3. How did they come out?

10. novih besed:

1	gratitude	Noun (uncountable) the feeling or quality of being grateful: deep/eternal gratitude She sent them a present to show/express her gratitude.	hvaležnost
2	ceaselessly	adverb in a way that does not stop, or seems to have no end: Musicians work ceaselessly to improve. He was ceaselessly resourceful, cunning, and inventive.	nenehno
3	profoundly	adverb deeply or extremely: Society has changed so profoundly over the last 50 years.	globoko
4	dampen	verb to make <u>feelings</u> , <u>especially</u> of <u>excitement</u> or <u>enjoyment</u> , less <u>strong</u> : Nothing you can say will dampen her <u>enthusiasm</u> .	navlažiti
5	staggering	adjective very <u>shocking</u> and <u>surprising</u> : It <u>costs</u> a staggering \$50,000 <u>per</u> <u>week</u> to <u>keep</u> the <u>museum</u> <u>open</u> to the <u>public</u> .	osupljivo
6	rife	adjective If something unpleasant is rife, it is very common or happens a lot: Dysentery and malaria are rife in the refugee camps.	polno/poln

7	spew	Verb If something spews liquid or gas, or liquid or gas spews from something, it flows out in large amounts: The volcano spewed a giant cloud of ash, dust, and gases into the air.	izbljuvati
8	tie the knot	to get married	zavezati vozel
9	invasive	adjective moving into all <u>areas</u> of something and <u>difficult</u> to <u>stop</u> : an invasive <u>disease</u>	invaziven
10			

Summary and opinion:

I chose this article because I had previously heard some news about Eliot coming out, but I haven't had time to do more research due to all the tests we had this week.

The article starts with clarifying who Eliot is, and then tells us about the tweet he made on Tuesday, 1st December.

In the tweet Eliot first tell us his new pronouns (he/they) and real name. Later on, he tells us that he is very happy that he came out, but is also scared of the dangers and "jokes" about transgender people. He then writes about all the attacks on transgender people and that he will do everything he can to fight for their rights and safety.

After his tweet, article shows us a post of Eliot's wife Emma Portner, the support and acceptance she shows him.

I am incredibly happy for Eliot, it must have been really hard to keep his gender by himself and be called the wrong pronouns, especially in the past few years. I appreciate his bravery, how he wrote about problems of transgender people in this apparently conservative and violent world.

It's horrible how many people get bullied, made fun of or even murdered for simply being their true self. This shows us, that we still have a lot to fight for.