



**TOTAL NUMBERS AND ODDS OF AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN THE USA BY CAUSE OF INJURY in 2005:** comparing human fatalities caused by captive exotic and wild animals (average from 1990 – 2008, <http://www.rexano.org/Education.htm> ) to deaths caused in every day life in 2005. REXANO, [www.rexano.org](http://www.rexano.org), only used fatalities numbers since all deaths are reported and there is only one degree of death. Injuries in all walks of life range from life threatening to simple Band-Aid fix, and many go unreported. The average life expectancy of 77 years was used to calculate the lifetime odds. The odds are statistical averages for the whole U.S. population. The vast majority of those killed by exotic animals are the trainers, handlers and owners. The real chance of a member of the general public getting killed by an exotic animal is lower than the averages in the table below; the same way a non alcoholic is not likely to be killed by excessive alcohol consumption.

Cause of Death in 2005	Number of Deaths per Year	One Year Odds	Lifetime Odds
Captive non-human primate	0*	0	0
Alligator, crocodile	0**	0	0
Captive bear	0.16**	1 in 1,901,875,000	1 in 24,700,000
Non venomous snake	0.44**	1 in 691,590,909	1 in 8,981,700
Captive elephant	0.72**	1 in 422,638,888	1 in 5,488,816
Venomous snake	0.88**	1 in 345,795,454	1 in 4,490,850
Captive big/exotic cat	1.1**	1 in 276,636,363	1 in 3,592,680
Fireworks discharge	4	74,126,765	952,786
Flood	12	24,708,922	317,595
Toys	20	14,825,352	190,557
Struck by or against another person	26	11,404,118	146,582
Bitten or struck by dog	33	8,985,062	115,489
Contact with hot tap-water	43	6,895,513	88,631
Lightning	48	6,177,230	79,399
Contact with hornets, wasps, bees	82	3,615,940	46,477
Drowning and submersion while in or falling into bath-tub	344	861,939	11,079
Alcohol	346	856,957	11,015
Fall on/from ladder, scaffolding	477	621,608	7,990
Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed	573	517,464	6,651
Drowning and submersion while in or falling into swimming-pool	607	488,480	6,279
Cataclysmic storm***	874	339,253	4,361
Fall involving bed, chair, furniture	899	329,819	4,239
Drowning and submersion while in or falling into natural water	1,603	184,970	2,378
Fall on and from stairs and steps	1,690	175,448	2,255
Exposure to smoke, fire, flames	3,197	92,745	1,192
Narcotics and psychodysleptics	11,050	26,833	345
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	16,692	17,763	228
Motor-Vehicle Accidents	45,343	6,539	84

Sources: U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, National Safety Council, National Center for Health Statistics, FBI, U.S. Census, animal attack news reports

\*In 1997 in Atlanta, Georgia, a Yerkes primate researcher supposedly died of herpes B after she was splashed in the eye with bodily fluids from a rhesus macaque; this can NOT be classified as animal 'attack', just like a nurse or doctor being accidentally infected with a blood from an AIDS patients can not be called a murder.

\*\* Based on 18 year average 1990-2008 numbers, since the fatalities numbers per year are low (statistically insignificant)

(\*\*\*) Includes hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, dust storms, and other cataclysmic storms