Beat: Travel

DANISH ZOO PLANS TO PUBLIC DISSECT A YEAR OLD LION THAT IT HAS ALREADY KILLED

THE ZOO HAS TOO MANY FELINES

PARIS - COPENHAGEN, 13.10.2015, 07:53 Time

USPA NEWS - A Danish zoo is planning to publicly dissect a year-old lion that it has killed to avoid inbreeding. The Odense Zoo in central Denmark says the healthy young female lion was put down nine months ago because the zoo had too many felines. It said the animal, which has since been kept in a freezer,...

A Danish zoo is planning to publicly dissect a year-old lion that it has killed to avoid inbreeding. The Odense Zoo in central Denmark says the healthy young female lion was put down nine months ago because the zoo had too many felines. It said the animal, which has since been kept in a freezer, will be dissected Thursday October 15, to coincide with the schools' fall break.

The event has so far attracted several protests but has been mostly well received in Denmark, unlike similar plans at the Copenhagen Zoo in February 2014. That zoo faced international protests after a healthy 2-year-old giraffe named Marius, also killed to prevent inbreeding, was dissected in front of a crowd that included children and then was fed to lions.

Many Danes posted positive comments on Odense Zoo's Facebook page, with some agreeing that children will not be harmed watching the dissection, which happens often in Denmark and is often attended by school children. The Odense Zoo does it "once or twice a year" and promotes the event on its weekly program. There are no age restrictions for attending the dissections.

Shortly after the lion was born in October 2014, Wallberg Soerensen started looking via a European network for other zoos where the lion could be sent. He said the zoo decided to kill the lion after no other home was found.

Each year, thousands of animals are euthanized in European zoos for poor health, old age, lack of space or conservation management reasons. Zoo managers say their job is to preserve species, not individual animals.

In the U.S., however, zoos try to avoid killing animals by using contraceptives to make sure they don't have more offspring than they can house. Still, that method has also been criticized by some for disrupting animals' natural behavior.

"Americans are very uptight and easily get outraged while Danes are more open-minded," said Skyler M. Rowland, a 45-year-old from Los Angeles who lives in Copenhagen.

Source : AP

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-5756/danish-zoo-plans-to-public-dissect-a-year-old-lion-that-it-has-already-killed.html

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:
United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com