

## Animal Behavior has been a Hot Topic in the Media Lately

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A Zoo is an establishment that maintains a collection of wild animals, typically in a Park or Garden for study, conservation or display to the guest. Just recently at a Cincinnati Zoo a four year old boy fell into the Gorilla enclosure and the animal was shot to death to save the child.

The gorilla dragged and threw the boy around. Children are inquisitive and don't realize how dangerous wild animals can be. Many have mixed emotions about killing the Gorilla because the Western Lowland Gorilla is becoming an endangered species according to CNN.Com. If the Zoo Officials didn't act quickly it could have been a different outcome.

In a Florida Luxury Resort, four alligators were killed after a boy was dragged from a Orlando Disney Resort. The 2 year old was killed by the alligator in front of his Parents. According to Nick Wiley with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, it's rare for people to be attacked by alligators.

Let's not forget animals are taken out of their natural habitat when placed in Zoos. Zoos restrict the natural behavior of animals by being placed in cages and not being able to roam around freely. Captivity often leads to self- destructive behavior such as bar biting, head bobbing and self-mutilation.

Zoos are educational establishments and a form of entertainment for tourists. Many families takes their children to Zoos. The children are excited and once again inquisitive and want to interact with the animals. Children must be taught these animals are wild, dangerous and the Parents must use safety precautions.

Lastly, Zoo Officials and Parents should work together to ensure a pleasant and safe visit to the Zoo.

Happy and Safe Travels

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**Received** July 01, 2016; **Accepted** July 01, 2016; **Published** July 08, 2016

**Citation:** Scott S (2016) Animal Behavior has been a Hot Topic in the Media Lately. J Tourism Hospit 5: 229. doi:[10.4172/2167-0269.1000229](https://doi.org/10.4172/2167-0269.1000229)

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