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Vet killed in escaped tiger blunder



The tiger was one of three that escaped

Police in Poland have accidentally shot dead a vet who was being mauled by an escaped circus tiger.

The Bengali tiger had been cornered on wasteland in the Warsaw suburb of Tarchomin after two hours on the loose.

Deputy Warsaw police chief Kazimierz Winiecki

The vet had fired a tranquilliser shot to calm the animal down, but the tiger attacked him before the medication took effect.

Police opened fire on the tiger and the vet was hit in the head.

Polish TV footage showed the tiger chasing the man, jumping at him from behind and suddenly turning back at the sound of shots.

The vet was seen falling down, as if he had stumbled on something.

Deputy Warsaw police chief Kazimierz Winiecki, said: "It was an unfortunate accident." All officers taking part in the incident were being interviewed.

The animal itself was shot dead by police officers.

The vet was called in to recapture the tiger, which had escaped with two others.

The other two were recaptured before getting out of the circus, but the third ran out into the street.

A circus employee was injured by the tiger, but not seriously.

Police had no information about how the tigers escaped, but circus employees told the Polish PAP news agency that someone must have opened the cage.

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(BBC news)