

Tiger, gator removed from Harlem apartment

Police: Tenant charged with reckless endangerment

NEW YORK (CNN) --A man who kept a 400- to 500-pound Bengal tiger and a 3-foot alligator as roommates in his Harlem apartment was in custody Sunday, charged with reckless endangerment, police said.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said the tale began Wednesday, when police officers responded to a call of a dog bite at the 19-story public housing apartment building. They found Antoine Yates, 31, in the lobby, with injuries to his right arm and right leg that he told police *had been caused by* a pit bull, Kelly said.

Thursday, an anonymous caller told police that "someplace in the city, there was a large wild animal," Kelly said. The tipster called back Friday night, saying that the "wild animal" was at Yates' apartment, Kelly said. When police returned Saturday to the apartment building to investigate, a resident told them the tenants included a tiger. Yates -- who *had checked himself out* of the hospital -- was nowhere to be found. Police talked with a neighbor who said the man in the apartment owned a tiger. A fourth-floor resident complained that urine *had seeped* through her ceiling from Yates' apartment, Kelly said.

Still trying to determine what they were dealing with, police cut a hole in Yates' door." An officer who was guarding the apartment looked through the hole and indeed saw the large tiger pass by the open hole," Kelly said. Then officer Martin Duffy was assigned to shoot a tranquilizer dart from outside. Once at the window, he tapped on it with his shoe to get the tiger's attention. The tiger lunged. "I got pretty nervous, I'm not going to lie," Duffy told reporters later. "He broke the glass when he charged at me." The police ensured the animal was sedated before they entered the apartment through the door. The alligator was nearby. Both animals were taken to an animal shelter.

Yates, who surfaced later Saturday night was taken into custody and charged with reckless endangerment, police said.

"This is an only-in-New-York story," Kelly said.

Police suspect Yates got the tiger when it was a cub and *had lived* with it for as long as two years.



Match the words with their definitions. Write the appropriate letter on the line.

1. RECKLESS _____
2. SURFACE _____
3. TIPSTER _____
4. TENANT _____
5. LUNGE _____

A.

A person who makes a practice of giving or selling private hints or information, esp. for use in gambling upon the probable outcome of events. as horse races. (noun)

B.

Any sudden forward movement; plunge.
(noun)

C.

heedless or careless, headstrong; rash.
(adjective)

D.

To emerge after concealment.
(noun)

E.

a person or group that rents and occupies land, a house, an office, or the like, from another for a period of time. (noun)

DISCUSSION



Should wild animals be kept as pets?

Should snake owners or poisonous spider owners obtain special license for their pets?

Use the following words while supporting your opinion with arguments.

STUDENT A:

charge at

reckless

animal shelter

STUDENT B:

police

investigate

endangerment

ANIMAL IDIOMS

Complete the idioms with the names of the animals.

a) Don't look a gift _____ in the mouth

Don't complain when accepting a gift.

b) like a _____ to the slaughter

without resistance

c) you can lead a _____ to water, but you can't make it drink

You can offer someone something but you cannot insist that they take it (e.g. advice).

d) look what the _____ dragged in

A humorously derogatory comment on someone's arrival.

e) let the _____ out of the bag

To tell a secret - usually accidentally.

