



Pathology/Biology Section - 2016

H136 Human Fatalities Due to Animal Attacks: A Six-Year Study From 2009 to 2014 in the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra, India

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to evaluate the rise in occurrences of human fatalities caused by animals, particularly larger animals, whether wild or domesticated, such as tigers, leopards, bears, boars, dogs, and bulls.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by raising awareness for attendees and animal activists who encourage wild population animal growth of an increase in human/animal clashes as a result of shrinking green cover and unabated encroachment of forest fringe areas.

The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, India, is known for its forest and tiger population. Nagpur city has been rightly declared the tiger capital of India. The increase in the number of tigers, leopards, bears, wild boars, etc. in this region may be cause for animal activists to cheer, but the rise in human deaths due to incidents of man-animal conflict has been causing concerns to the authorities. Such a scenario might also be quite common in other regions worldwide.

News of people dying due to animals entering human settlements are on the increase. Recently, local people in forest areas have put pressure on officials to kill tigers and leopards that stray into their settlements. Similarly, there is a rise in the population of stray animals in rural and urban regions. Also, domestic and pet animals share a good percentage of the animal population interacting with human lives and during the handling of such animals, humans may get injured and some may even die.

This presentation will deal with the age and sex distribution of human fatalities corresponding to animal attacks. The common sites of attack and cause of death will be elaborated upon. The probable reason behind human and animal conflicts will be explored. Similarly, the injury pattern caused by different animals on human subjects will be analyzed. The medicolegal death investigator should become more familiar with the patterns of such injuries and deaths caused by these animal-human conflicts.

Human Fatality, Animal Attack, Investigation