

## U.S. police to look into shooting of zoo gorilla

2nd June, 2016



Police in the US state of Ohio are going to look into the shooting of a 17-year gorilla at Cincinnati Zoo. They will investigate the facts around the killing of Harambe the gorilla after a four-year-old boy fell into the ape's

enclosure on Saturday. Video footage showed the gorilla dragging the boy through shallow water in his cage for up to ten minutes. Some people who were at the zoo said they were worried about the little boy's safety. Other people said the gorilla was trying to protect the child and that the animal was becoming upset by the noise from the crowds of people looking at the event. Zookeepers made a decision to shoot the gorilla because they feared for the boy's life.

Animal rights groups are very angry that the gorilla was shot and killed. They say zookeepers should have used a tranquilizer gun on the animal to put it to sleep. Zookeepers say it would have taken too long for the 200kg gorilla to be sedated. They say this would have been too dangerous. There is now an online petition that 300,000 people have signed to hold the boy's mother and the zoo accountable for Harambe's death. Many people say the mother should have looked after her son better to stop him from falling into the gorilla's area. The mother said no parent in the world can watch their children every second. She said: "As a society, we are quick to judge how a parent could take their eyes off their child."

Sources: *BBC.com / CNN.com / NY Times.com*

## Writing

Animals do not belong in zoos. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

police / shooting / investigate / facts / video / cage / safety / upset / decision / gorilla / animal rights / zookeepers / dangerous / online / petition / parent / society / judge

## True / False

- The gorilla that was shot was 7 years old. T / F
- The little boy jumped into the gorilla's enclosure. T / F
- The water the gorilla dragged the boy through was not deep. T / F
- The gorilla was upset by the noises of the crowd. T / F
- Zookeepers said a tranquilizer gun would never sedate a big gorilla. T / F
- An online petition blaming the mother was signed by 300,000 people. T / F
- The mother said some parents can watch their children every second. T / F
- The mother said society is quick to judge parents. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. look into   | a. pulling     |
| 2. enclosure   | b. drugged     |
| 3. dragging    | c. frightened  |
| 4. protect     | d. area        |
| 5. upset       | e. risky       |
| 6. angry       | f. investigate |
| 7. sedated     | g. responsible |
| 8. dangerous   | h. criticise   |
| 9. accountable | i. furious     |
| 10. judge      | j. safeguard   |

## Discussion – Student A

- How difficult was it for zookeepers to decide to kill Harambe?
- Do you agree with the animal rights groups?
- How can we stop gorillas from being killed in the wild?
- Why do people blame the zoo for the gorilla's death?
- Why do people blame the mother?
- How has social media changed events like this?
- Are we quick to judge other people?
- What questions would you like to ask the zookeepers?

## Phrase Match

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. They will investigate         | a. water             |
| 2. shallow                       | b. groups            |
| 3. the gorilla was trying to     | c. life              |
| 4. becoming upset by the noise   | d. petition          |
| 5. they feared for the boy's     | e. to judge          |
| 6. Animal rights                 | f. zoo accountable   |
| 7. an online                     | g. the facts         |
| 8. hold the boy's mother and the | h. every second      |
| 9. watch their children          | i. from the crowds   |
| 10. we are quick                 | j. protect the child |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about this story?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of zoos?
- What could zookeepers have done instead of shooting Harambe?
- What would have happened if the gorilla had not been killed?
- What do you know about gorillas?
- Should we be more concerned about gorillas being hunted and killed?
- How can zoos help gorillas?

## Spelling

- video eoogtaf
- through asolwhl water
- worried about the little boy's ayefts
- becoming esutp by the noise from the crowds
- Zookeepers made a nicdseoi to shoot the gorilla
- they rfeaed for the boy's life
- animal itrghs groups
- to be datdees
- an online tnteopii that 300,000 people have signed
- tbcanalucoc for Harambe's death
- falling into the gorilla's eraa
- we are quick to egujd

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. b	8. e	9. g	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Elephants

You think elephants are the best animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): cows, gorillas or dogs.

### Role B – Cows

You think cows are the best animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): elephants, gorillas or dogs.

### Role C – Gorillas

You think gorillas are the best animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): cows, elephants or dogs.

### Role D – Dogs

You think dogs are the best animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): cows, gorillas or elephants.

## Speaking – Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the best animals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| • gorilla  | • dog   |
| • elephant | • panda |
| • cheetah  | • koala |
| • rabbit   | • cow   |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.