

Lion Mauls 4-Year-Old Russian Girl in Circus, Victim Hospitalized

November 01, 2018



Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency

A four-year-old girl has fallen into a coma after being attacked by a lioness during a circus performance in southern Russia's Krasnodar region last week, the girl's father told local media.

The circus holds a prestigious place in Russian national culture, with many acts traditionally involving circus animals. Animal rights activists in Russia have [argued](#) that circus animals are often mistreated.

Related article: [Activists vs the Circus: Fighting Animal Cruelty in Putin's Russia](#)

The girl was mauled by a lioness while sitting in the front row during a live circus performance. The child was admitted with deep wounds to a local hospital where she underwent a medical operation.

“The operation was completed, but the child remains in a coma. Extensive wounds. Ripped skin. The rest will be known after she comes out of the coma,” the girl’s father was [cited](#) as saying by the local Kuban24 news website.

A video of the attack posted on social media shows the lioness jumping into the crowd and dragging the girl into the ring.

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After the incident, the director of the circus was detained by police and [given](#) two months of house arrests.

“I will definitely keep in touch with the girl’s parents, we will definitely help,” the director told local media, [describing](#) the incident as a tragic coincidence.

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