

## **Animal escapes from zoo- attacks boy**

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### **A coatimundi escaped from the New River Zoo and bit a 5-year-old boy.**

The incident resulted in the second closure of the zoo in less than a year. While zoo owner Keith Stroud said the animal had been euthanized, it is up to the county commissioners as to when and if the zoo reopens. The animal, which is a member of the raccoon family with a long ringed tail, escaped by tunneling under the outer edge of its enclosure. Its rabies test came back negative. New River Zoo had just reopened in March after a leopard bit a woman on the arm when she tried to pet the animal. The woman needed surgery to correct her injuries. While the zoo has been open since 2001, this is the first time an animal has escaped, according to the owner. More than 60 species call New River Zoo home.