

# A rhino at an Austrian zoo kills a zookeeper and seriously injures her husband

September 12 2023

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An ambulance with rescue helpers of the Red Cross stands at the entrance of the Hellbrunn Zoo in Salzburg, Austria, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023. Police say a rhino at a zoo in Austria has attacked and killed a zookeeper and seriously injured another. The fatal attack happened early Tuesday morning at the Hellbrunn zoo in the western Austrian city of Salzburg. Police said in a statement that during routine work in the rhino enclosure, a 33-year-old animal keeper was attacked by

the animal 'for reasons that are still unknown'. Credit: AP Photo

A rhino at a zoo in Austria attacked a married couple working as zookeepers Tuesday, killing the woman and seriously injuring the man, authorities said.

The fatal attack happened at the Hellbrunn zoo in the western Austrian city of Salzburg.

Zoo director, Sabine Grebner, told reporters later on Tuesday that the 33-year-old woman, a German citizen from Bavaria, was assigned that day to put an insect deterrent on the rhino.

It was then that 30-year-old female rhino, Jeti, attacked the keeper though it was not clear why, Austria's APA news agency cited Grebner as saying.

Salzburg police said that "the woman succumbed to her injuries at the scene of the accident."

The other zoo keeper, a 34-year-old Austrian citizen, was also attacked and injured when he tried to chase the rhino away from his wife.

The [woman](#) suffered severe chest trauma because of the attack and died in the enclosure while her her husband had a fractured leg and was taken to the hospital, APA reported.

The names of the two zoo keepers were not given in line with Austrian privacy rules.

The zoo director said the fatally injured keeper was known to be "very



careful and thoughtful with the animals, and she had an extremely good sense" when dealing with them.



Rescue helpers of the Red Cross enter the Hellbrunn Zoo in Salzburg, Austria, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023. Police say a rhino at a zoo in Austria has attacked and killed a zookeeper and seriously injured another. The fatal attack happened early Tuesday morning at the Hellbrunn zoo in the western Austrian city of Salzburg. Police said in a statement that during routine work in the rhino enclosure, a 33-year-old animal keeper was attacked by the animal 'for reasons that are still unknown'. Credit: AP Photo

Grebner said the exact circumstances of how the accident occurred had yet to be determined.

"We don't know what exactly happened," she said. "We are deeply upset and shocked."

All [safety regulations](#) would get re-evaluated, she said, adding that there had been no previous incidents at the rhino enclosure which was set up nearly 30 years ago.

The zoo will remain closed on Tuesday.

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Citation: A rhino at an Austrian zoo kills a zookeeper and seriously injures her husband (2023, September 12) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-09-rhino-austrian-zoo-zookeeper-husband.html>

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