

Taiwan zoo fined after birth of 'ligers'

16 August 2010

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This photo taken by Huang Kuo-nan, the owner of Taiwan's "World Snake King Education Farm" in Kujien, shows two baby "ligers" -- hybrids of lions and tigresses -- bred at the farm. Huang will face a fine of up to 50,000 Taiwan dollars (1,600 USD) for breeding wildlife animals without prior approval from the authorities.

A private zoo in Taiwan has become the first on the island to see the birth of "ligers", hybrids of lions and tigresses, with the owner facing a fine for violating wildlife rules, officials said Monday.

The three cubs were born Sunday at the "World Snake King Education Farm" in the south, but one of them died almost immediately, the farm's owner Huang Kuo-nan told AFP.

"The pregnancy of the tigress caught me totally unprepared," Huang said. "The [lion](#) and the tigress have been kept in the same cage since they were cubs more than six years ago, and nothing happened."

But the Tainan county government said Huang will face a fine of up to 50,000 Taiwan dollars (1,600 US dollars) for breeding wildlife without prior approval from the authorities.

According to the Taipei-based Apple Daily, there are only around 10 surviving ligers in the world, with adult ligers capable of growing much larger than average lions.

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