

Mom Saves Her Son from the Lion

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. instinct /'instɪŋ(k)t/ the way people or animals naturally react or behave, without having to think or learn about it
Example: His instinct told him not to attend the party.
2. forensic /fə'ren.zɪk/ related to scientific methods of solving crimes, involving examining the objects or substances that are involved in the crime
Example: Forensic experts began to study the scene of the crime.
3. underneath /ˌʌn.də'ni:θ/ under or below
Example: The tunnel goes right underneath the city.
4. claw /klô/ one of the sharp curved nails at the end of each of the toes of some animals and birds
Example: Our cat likes to sharpen her claws on the lamp post.
5. tranquilizer /'traŋkwə,lɪzər/ a drug used to make a person or animal calmer
Example: The zookeeper shot the elephant with tranquilizer.



A woman in California has been recognized as a hero after fighting off a mountain lion that was carrying away her five-year-old son. Her motherly **instincts** took place as she dragged her little boy from the jaws of the big cat. She fought off the wild animal with her unprotected hands in the garden of her house on Thursday morning. Her son had been playing in the garden when the lion attacked.

The boy suffered bites and injuries to his head and upper part of the body, but is now in a stable condition in a local hospital. He is expected to make a full recovery. Patrick Foy, a spokesperson from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said: "The true hero of this story is his mom because she absolutely saved her son's life."

Officials reported that the mountain lion was young and was less than a year old. They said the attack probably happened because the creature was young and was practicing its

hunting skills. They shot a lion near the boy's home that was acting like it was ready to attack people.

The officials later stated: "Wildlife **forensics** scientists analyzed samples from **underneath** the **claws** of the suspect lion's dead body and some traces of human tissue and blood with a DNA profile that matched the young victim." They added: "Results were convincing that it was the attacking lion that was shot by the wildlife officer on scene." Another mountain lion was found at the scene. It was shot with a non-deadly **tranquilizer** and released.

DISCUSSION

1. Who are your heroes?
2. What do you think of the mother's actions?
3. Are there any wild animals living near your town?
4. What would you do if you saw a lion in your garden?
5. What is the world's most dangerous animal?
6. Has anyone ever come to your rescue?