

Family Lives with Lion Cubs

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. cub /kʌb/ a young lion
Example: The lion is fiercely protecting its cubs.
2. battle-torn severely damaged by a long battle, especially between different groups from the same country
Example: That country is battle-torn and would find it hard to recover.
3. smuggle /'smʌg.əl/ to take things or people to or from a place secretly and often illegally:
Example: She was caught trying to smuggle drugs into the country.
4. refugee /,ref.jə'dʒi:/ a person who leaves his or her home or country to find safety, esp. during a war or for political or religious reasons
Example: The refugees were packed shoulder to shoulder on the boat.
5. breastfeed /'brest.fi:d/ (of a woman) feed (a baby) with milk from the breast.
Example: Patricia breastfed all her children.



When most people tell you that they have a couple of cats at home, you probably don't expect them to have lion **cubs**, but it is true for one family in Gaza.

The cubs' names are Mona and Alex, and they were born in the **battle-torn** Gaza Strip to parents that were **smuggled** through a tunnel along the border with Egypt. Gazan **refugee** Saed Eldin al-Jamal bought the baby lions from a zoo after the economic situation forced the zoo owner to sell them.

The owner used to take the cubs back to the zoo every night to be **breastfed** by their mom, but recently they have been used to food other than their mother's milk and now live in the family home all the time. The cats also became part of the local community and children play with them when they go out for walks.

The cubs look quite at home with the family, but animal experts warned that having lions at home with children can be dangerous and that they will need a more suitable environment when they grow bigger.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you think it is right to keep wild animals? Why or why not?
2. Does your country have any dangerous wild animals?
3. Are there any animals which frighten you?
4. Do you think animals have rights? What sort of rights do they have?
5. Would you say zoos are a good thing for animals or not?
6. Have you ever been on safari in Africa? Would you like to one day?