

Taiwan zoo vet's forearm re-attached

by UPI

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan - Taiwan doctors successfully re-attached a zoo veterinarian's forearm, bitten off by a Nile crocodile that gave up its catch only after being shot twice.

Doctors at the Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan's second largest city worked six hours Wednesday to complete the procedure on Chang Po-yu, who remains under observation, reports the China Post.

The crocodile turned suddenly and chewed off Chang's forearm at Kaohsiung's Shou Shan Zoo as he tried to retrieve a tranquilizer dart from its hide, the report said. The reptile was to be tranquilized so vets could check why it had not been eating for a month.

After the attack, police had to fire twice to free Chang's arm from the animal's mouth, reports the Post. Later, officers were surprised to find the reptile had survived.

Doctors said Chang, who appeared to be in good spirits after the surgery, will remain under critical observation for two weeks and later undergo rehabilitation for about a year to ensure he regains the use of his arm.

The crocodile attack was the second animal attack at the zoo in a month. Earlier, a gorilla bit the finger of a 4-year-old boy, who required treatment.

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