

WILDCAT CONSERVATION LEGAL AID SOCIETY

**SUMMARY OF STATE CASE LAW**

<b>PARTIES/CITATION</b>	<b>CASE SUMMARY</b>
<p><b>PEOPLE V. WEINHART E038595 2007 CAL. APP. UNPUB. LEXIS 2072</b></p>	<p>Defendant appeals from the judgment entered after a jury found him guilty of numerous felony and misdemeanor charges which stemmed from defendant's operation of a facility called Tiger Rescue. At the facility, defendant housed various exotic animals including tigers and leopards under permits issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and United States Department of Agriculture. Background of charges: DFG agents and animal control officers obtained and executed a search warrant of defendant's property and found: carcasses of numerous dead animals including 30 tigers, in varying stages of decomposition, a broken refrigerator on the back patio of defendant's house was full of decomposing dead animals, a juvenile tiger had mange (a parasitic infection) that was in a four-foot square cage on the patio, another young tiger secured to the patio by a chain no more than four feet in length. Veterinarian who examined the tigers was of the opinion that both animals were malnourished and had been subject to needless suffering as a result of fecal waste and urine contaminating the areas in which they were confined. In freezer compartments of refrigerators officers found a total of 58 frozen tiger and leopard cubs. Veterinarian pathologist who examined the frozen cubs was of the opinion that the cubs were between three and five days old when they died and cause of death was starvation. A search of the attic revealed nine infant tiger cubs and two infant leopard cubs, all were lethargic, cold, dehydrated, and hypothermic—conditions which are life threatening. Judgment of the trial court was affirmed.</p>