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Offers to sell wild cats are rarely legitimate

Susan Tepper Villanova, Pa.

The responses Steve Fagin received to his blog titled "[Psst, so you wanna buy a tiger?](#)" posted Feb. 5, are likely fake.

Those of us involved with legitimate big-cat ownership see such responses frequently online. Generally, the "buyer" pays a deposit or advances money - for a permit, shipping or such - but it's a scam.

In reality, the "seller" has no animals for sale. We have seen photos of our animals "for sale" online, along with those of our colleagues, lifted from our respective websites by scam artists claiming the images are their animals for sale.

In reality, exotic cats are almost impossible to import or export. Ours were born in U.S. from long lines of parentage born into domesticity. They are well cared for, healthy and happy. You can tell this when working closely with them, as you can tell when a family dog is happy.

The facts show that exotic animal incidents involving the public result when existing laws are broken, or when professional handlers, who have chosen their careers and knows the risks, are hurt.

As in any walk of life, there are good people who take good care of their animals - the majority, thankfully - and not-so-good people who don't.

Editor's note: The writer is director of marketing for Fercos Brothers Productions.
