

Attack in Manitowoc spurs zoo safety call

By **JAMES E. CAUSEY**

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Two days after a 2-year-old Manitowoc boy was released from the hospital following a wolf attack at a Manitowoc zoo, zoos across the state said they are trying to make sure such an incident doesn't recur.

Zoo officials in Racine, Madison, Green Bay and Milwaukee said Thursday that they are careful to keep people and wild animals safely separated.

None of the zoos has changed procedures or barriers in the wake of the attack, but some said they've reviewed safety measures, and others said they've stepped up public education efforts.

Jared Mraz lost most of his right arm in a Dec. 20 attack by a timber wolf in the city-owned Lincoln Park Zoo in Manitowoc. He was released from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Wauwatosa Tuesday night.

Jared had made his way past a

wooden rail fence at the zoo and stuck his arm through the chain-link fence of the enclosure holding two female wolves.

He has undergone three surgeries and is expected to be fitted with a prosthetic arm in the near future.

"We have looked at and reviewed all of our barriers, and they are safe as long as people obey the rules," said Thomas Torhorst, a veterinarian at the Racine Zoo.

Dick Walter, supervisor at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, said zoo officials check fences everyday before the public is allowed in.

Laura Pedriani, public affairs director for the Milwaukee County Zoo, said she does not remember a case of anyone being injured by the animals there.

"I can't speak on behalf of the Manitowoc zoo, but our zoo is large and we have more space for our animals," she said. "They are usually separated by a moat or glass."