

WOLF BITE AT ZOO

Houston to pay for boy's injury

HOUSTON - The family of a boy whose fingers were bitten off by a wolf have reached an out-of-court settlement with the city zoo where the animal was on display.

A lawyer for the family said Wednesday that the city of Houston has agreed to pay the family about \$50,000 for the injury. The settlement ends years of legal wrangling.

Manuel Morua was 3 years old when a wolf bit off half his middle finger and parts of two others in March 1996. The boy had put his hand near a fence surrounding the Houston Zoological Gardens' Mexican wolf exhibit.

The family's attorney says the zoo has made changes in the exhibit as a result of the lawsuit.

A trial judge initially dismissed the city as a defendant in the case, citing a statute that limits injury liabilities at recreational facilities. But a court of appeals reversed the decision.

Mr. Singleton said doctors did an excellent job of minimizing scars, but the injury is clearly noticeable.

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