

Lioness hugs and kisses tourist before the safari park's owner pulls the animal away with his bare hands

Remarkable footage shows a three year old lioness hugging and kissing tourists at a safari park.

The predator called Lola goes for a cuddle with a man as he sits in an open-sided vehicle – with an unprotected child sitting inches away.

Then the big cat tries to kiss a girl whose nervous mother clutches her tight before the beast is pulled away with his bare hands by world famous lion whisperer Oleg Zubkov, 50, owner of the park.

The lioness also sought to cuddle a young woman who moved away as Zubkov – in a green shirt – pulled her off.

The animal – rescued two years ago from being put down by a private zoo in Russia – was reportedly ‘purring like a cat’ although this is something lions are supposed not to be able to do.

Two other male lions are nearby as the video was shot.

The astonishing scene was filmed at the Taigan Safari Park in Crimea, annexed by Russia from Ukraine in 2014.

Zubkov allows visitors to mix with big cats in scenes that defy normal health and safety rules and would be forbidden elsewhere.

‘If a giant lioness jumps into your arms while you drive around Safari park, and purrs like a cat, then you can be sure that this is Lola from Chelyabinsk,’ said Safari park director Tatiana Aleksagina.



