



## Family's Legal Leopard Pets Stir Controversy in Pattaya

**Pattaya, September 6th, 2019** – In a surprising turn of events, a family in Pattaya has come under fire on social media for keeping a leopard as a pet in their home. [Nittaya Wongsin](#) and her husband, [Mario Kleff](#), are the owners of not just one but two leopards. Their domesticated big cats have sparked a heated debate online about the safety and ethics of keeping such dangerous animals as pets.

The controversy reached a peak this week, prompting local authorities and reporters to visit the Wandegroup owners' residence to investigate the situation. The scrutiny followed a wave of public outcry over the potential danger posed by these large, carnivorous mammals with their formidable teeth and strength.

Upon arrival, officials from the Wild Hawk animal authorities and local police conducted a thorough inspection of the premises. The inspection revealed that the keeping of these exotic animals was entirely legal. The couple has two leopards in total, with one currently undergoing treatment for illness in Chiang Mai. The healthy leopard residing in Pattaya is a four-year-old named Typhoon.



Despite the legality, concerns remain. Edwin Wiek, a prominent animal rights activist, described Typhoon as "potentially dangerous," echoing the sentiments of many who fear for public safety. As a result, authorities have mandated that Wongsin and Kleff complete additional documentation at a Sri Racha office and enhance the security of their property's fencing to ensure the leopard cannot escape.

While the couple has complied with these requirements, they have been advised that no further details about the situation could be disclosed to the public. The case highlights the ongoing debate over the private ownership of exotic animals and the balance between personal freedom and public safety.



In a related incident, a raid was conducted on the [Wandeegroup](#) office in South Pattaya following reports of leopard sightings. On Tuesday at around 5 pm, a dozen officials from the police, military, and local agencies raided the office only to find the leopards absent. The owner claimed they were visiting a Bangkok vet. However, a variety of other wildlife, including snakes, iguanas, and coral, were found at the building.

Local authorities were tipped off about the leopards after residents posted videos on social media showing the wild cats inside the building. Nittaya Wongsin explained to police that the leopards were sick and had been sent to an animal hospital in Bangkok for treatment. During the raid, officers discovered large glass terrariums filled with other wildlife.



“We are checking whether the owner has a permit,” Lt. Capt. Putthipong Chuenchom, the police officer in charge of the investigation. Nittaya told

reporters she had applied for permits to own these wild animals, including the two leopards. She could not be reached for further comment.

Putthipong emphasized that the police have not yet charged Nittaya with any violations. “We cannot charge people carelessly,” he stated. “We have to inspect the matter carefully first.”

It was later reported that the animals are legal, including the [two leopards](#). Ownership documents had been reviewed.

As the story develops, it remains to be seen how residents and authorities will respond to the continued presence of exotic animals in their community.

