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'Tiger King' Joe Exotic in coronavirus quarantine



"Joe Exotic" in Tiger King. (Netflix)

Netflix

By **CNN.COM WIRE SERVICE**

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The man made famous as “Joe Exotic” in the Netflix documentary series “Tiger King” is reportedly in quarantine in a Fort Worth prison.

Joe Exotic — Joseph Maldonado-Passage, 57 — was transferred recently from Oklahoma’s Grady County Jail to the Fort Worth FMC, a medical center operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, TV station KTVT reported.

Dillon Passage says his husband is being held on 14-day quarantine.

Passage told “Variety Live” that he believes Maldonado-Passage does not have coronavirus but was transferred because some inmates at the Oklahoma facility tested positive for the virus. He said he has not been able to speak to his husband since the transfer.

The former zoo owner was found guilty of trying to hire someone to murder Carole Baskin, an animal rights activist and the founder of Big Cat Rescue animal sanctuary in Tampa, Florida. He was sentenced to 22 years in prison for two counts of murder-for-hire, nine counts of violating the Endangered Species Act, and eight counts of violating the Lacey Act by falsifying wildlife records.



Dillon Passage. (Netflix)

Passage, 24, also did a call-in appearance Wednesday on “Andy Cohen Live.” He said he will remain faithful to Maldonado-Passage.

Passage said his incarcerated husband “doesn’t want me to be alone, but he also doesn’t want me to move on. ... I have no intention on leaving and I’ve reassured him of that for the past year and a half.”

He also had some words of praise for the docuseries, saying the producers “put the story together very, very well.”

“They stayed true to the entire storyline,” Passage said. “I even learned a lot of things I didn’t know.”

“Tiger King” has become a cultural phenomena and Passage told “Variety Live” his showman husband is enjoying all the hoopla surrounding it.

“Joe’s the type of person, he loves the attention obviously,” he said. “Any kind of fame or spotlight that he has, it was greatly appreciated.”

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