

'24' STAR'S TV DAUGHTER BITTEN BY COUGAR



Kiefer
Sutherland
and his TV
Kid Elisha
Cuthbert

PRODUCTION on the hit drama "24" came to a roaring halt after a mountain lion attacked Kiefer Sutherland's screen kid and she was rushed to the hospital.

Elisha Cuthbert, 20, was readying to shoot a scene with a cougar in the Malibu, Calif., hills when something went terribly wrong.

"She was getting acquainted with the animal before filming," a source on the Fox set tells GLOBE. "At first, everything was fine - the cougar was real tame and Elisha seemed to enjoy petting her co-star.

"But then something frightened the creature and its jaws clamped down on her hand. Elisha screamed and the trainer tried to calm the cougar down. Finally, the animal let go.

"The bite left a deep puncture and blood was

pouring out. Everyone ran to Elisha's side and, after someone wrapped her hand, she was taken to the hospital."

Luckily, the young star's injuries were not severe and she was expected to return to the set in a week.

Cuthbert, who plays Sutherland's daughter Kim on the thrill-a-minute series, got her showbiz start in 1997 as a globetrotting correspondent for TV's *Popular Mechanics for Kids*.

And next year, she'll appear on the big screen opposite Luke Wilson and Vince Vaughn in the movie *Old School*.

Now, she can add survivor to her credits.

"Elisha was remarkably calm about the whole thing," says the source, "even though you could see she was worried about having been bitten."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI