

"I saw something in the bushes and quickly grabbed my phone to get a video. It looked like it could have been a lion, but I'm not sure."

The story began with a video that was shared online. The Brandenburg police felt that it may have shown a lioness and the search began.

Some people were initially sceptical that a lion was on the loose including this circus director, Michel Rogall, who said this to local media.

"I think it's a type of dog. If it's a lion I will eat a broom."

"The rules about keeping dangerous animals are not always very clear. It is possible that this could be somebody's pet lion."

This was a view shared by some news outlets as the search continued. All local zoos and circuses reported that their lions were accounted for.

Analysis of the video by experts concluded that it was unlikely to be a lioness in the video. Its back and tail were thought to look more like a boar than a lioness.

"The video does not look like a lion to me. Its back is curved and its tail looks different to a lion's."

"My window was open, and I heard the sound of a lion's roar!"

The sounds of lion roars were heard during the search. They were played through bluetooth speakers by a group of teenagers. Police said it was, 'neither helpful for the police, nor the local community.'

"When I looked online, I saw pictures of the lion walking through the middle of the city. I can't believe they haven't caught it yet!"

Several AI images and videos were shared on social media platforms during the search.

Several social media accounts made this joke about global warming.

"This is happening because of global warming. Lions are starting to move into Germany because it is as hot as their normal habitat."

"I don't know why people think it's a lion. It's clearly just a house cat with a cool haircut."

This story was predictably at the centre of plenty of jokes shared on social media, such as this one.