



Inspection Report

MOUNT HOPE AUCTION INC

PO Box 82
Mt Hope, OH 44660

Customer ID: **2156**

Certificate: **31-B-0031**

Site: 001

MOUNT HOPE AUCTION, INC.

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 23-MAR-2023

2.131(c)(1)

Repeat

Handling of animals.

During the auction, members of the public were observed walking into a holding area containing caged, potentially dangerous, animals including skunks, raccoons, foxes, and bobcats. This area is behind secondary fencing which has posted signs stating, "please keep hands out of pens," and "danger very aggressive animals". Despite the signs, once within the secondary area, there were no additional barriers to keep members of the public a significant distance away from the animals. In addition to members of the public getting very close to enclosures and having direct contact with the skunks and foxes, the animals inside the cages were acting very stressed by the proximity of the public. A few foxes were circling in a repetitive abnormal behavior pattern that was a clear indicator of stress. The raccoons were stressed and rocking back and forth repetitively against the far side of the cage as people leaned over their cage. A bobcat was also stressed as it was observed loudly vocalizing and unable to get away from a member of the public who leaned down towards the animal and was only a few inches away. Animals must be exhibited so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and public and the facility must ensure that there are barriers with sufficient distance to assure the safety of both.

2.131(d)(2)

Repeat

Handling of animals.

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During the auction, members of the public were observed touching several mammals including a camel, fox, skunk, and a ring tail lemur. In these areas, although the facility had a readily identifiable employee on hand, the employees did not notice or stop members of the public from crossing under a rope barrier to have contact with the lemur or did not observe people in the identified dangerous animal area where people easily put hands on cages and touched the skunks and foxes. Employees who are engaged in other activities and not readily available to watch the public or act knowledgeable about the species they are supposed to be monitoring allow for unintended interactions which could lead to harm to the animals or members of the public. A responsible, knowledgeable, and readily identifiable employee or attendant must always be present during periods of public contact whether intended or not.

2.131(e)

Handling of animals.

In the warm room, a Patagonian Cavy was soaking wet as well as the bedding in the crate with him. The animal had recently been placed in the room and according to the facility representative, the animal was wet because it was raining outside. There were no facility representatives addressing the needs of the animal. Animals that get wet and have no way to effectively dry off can become stressed. When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. Correct by ensuring animals have access to dry areas and shelter from rain. Correct by March 31, 2023.

3.61(a)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live rabbits.

A majority of the primary transport enclosures for the rabbits did not contain easily accessible openings, projecting rims, or adequate handholds. Approximately, 90% of these enclosures did not contain openings to allow easy access in case of an emergency with the rabbit and also did not have projecting rims to ensure adequate ventilation is maintained or handholds to prevent tilting and contact with the animal. Sharp, broken wires, were also observed in several of the rabbit

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enclosures. A lack of appropriate openings, projecting rims, and handholds on primary transport enclosures can make it difficult to remove the animal in the case of an emergency, allow for inadequate ventilation if the cages are stacked, and can cause unintentional contact between the handler and the animal during transport. Sharp points or protrusions can also cause injury to the animals. All primary transport enclosure for rabbits must contain openings that are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of live animals, contain projecting rims or other devices on the exterior walls to prevent obstruction of the ventilation, and provide adequate handholds for lifting animals without tilting or risk of contact with the animal. Primary enclosures must also be free from any protrusions that could be injurious to the live rabbits.

3.61(c)

Primary enclosures used to transport live rabbits.

Several of the enclosures used to transport live rabbits were not large enough to transport the rabbit it contained. Multiple rabbits were observed in these enclosures where they could either not stand up, turn around freely or did not have sufficient space to make normal postural adjustments. Rabbits that are confined into smaller enclosures for extended periods of time as during the auction intake and sales process may experience additional levels of stress and must be provided with enclosures that meet their space requirements. Correct by March 31, 2023

3.61(f)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live rabbits.

About 50 % of the primary transport enclosures for the rabbits were not marked with the words "Live Animal" or had arrows indicating the correct upright position of the cage. Failure to clearly mark transport enclosures can allow for inappropriate handling of the cages as its contents and position may be unclear to the staff. Primary enclosures used to transport live rabbits must be marked with the words "Live Animal" in letters at least 1 inch in height, and with arrows or other markings to indicate the correct upright position of the container.

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3.66(c)

Repeat

Handling.

After being consigned to the auction, several of the rabbit enclosures were stacked 3-4 enclosures high and tightly packed together on large wagons with employees and consignors walking between these stacks. The way the enclosures were stacked with people walking and climbing among them in combination with the tilted enclosures can result in them almost falling. Inappropriate stacking of enclosures can allow for decreased ventilation and unstable structures which can impact rabbit health and safety. Primary enclosures used to transport rabbits must not be needlessly tilted or stacked in a manner which may result in their falling.

3.87(a)(3)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport nonhuman primates.

The transport enclosures used for the ring tail lemur and the squirrel monkey had standard wire frame doors with wide enough spaces that allowed the non-human primates to extend their hands and arms outside the transport enclosure. This allowed the lemur to physically contact guests in the area who approached the crate. Transport enclosures must be designed to allow the animal to keep all body parts inside the crate at all times for its safety and safety of the public.

3.137(a)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live animals.

Several of the primary transport enclosures for the small mammals, including degus, foxes, crested porcupines, skunks, bobcats, and raccoons, did not contain easily accessible openings, projecting rims, adequate ventilation openings or adequate handholds. Approximately 50 % of these enclosures did not contain openings or doors to allow easy access in case of an emergency with the live animal and did not have projecting rims to ensure adequate ventilation is maintained or handholds to prevent tilting and contact with the animal. A lack of appropriate openings, projecting rims, and handholds on primary transport enclosures can make it difficult to remove the animal in the case of an emergency, allow for

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inadequate ventilation particularly when the cages are stacked when placed on the cart to move between the auction floor and holding area, and can cause unintentional contact between the handler and the animal during transport. All primary transport enclosures for subpart F animals must contain openings that are always easily accessible for emergency removal of live animals, contain projecting rims or other devices on the exterior walls to prevent obstruction of the ventilation, and provide adequate handholds for lifting animals without tilting or risk of contact with the animal.

3.137(c)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live animals.

Several transport enclosures used did not allow the animal to turn about freely and make normal postural adjustments. A plastic enclosure housing a Kangaroo and another for a wallaby was not large enough for the animals to stand in a normal upright position. The macropods were hunched down due to the insufficient height of the enclosure. Additionally, a crate used to transport a red fox was too small and did not allow the animal to stand up in a normal posture, and a crate used for a crested porcupine did not allow for sufficient space for the animal to turn about freely. Animals that are confined into smaller enclosures for extended periods of time as during the auction intake and sales process (1-3 days) may experience additional levels of stress and must be provided with enclosures that meet their space requirements to reduce stress levels and for their health and well-being.

3.137(e)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live animals.

Few of the primary transport enclosures for the subpart F mammals including degus, foxes, skunks, bobcats, hedgehogs, and many other species, were marked with the words "Live Animal"/ "Wild Animal" or had arrows indicating the correct upright position of the cage. Failure to clearly mark transport enclosures can allow for inappropriate handling of the cages as its contents and position may be unclear to the staff. Primary enclosures used to transport live subpart F animals must

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be marked with the words "Live Animal" or "Wild Animal" in letters at least 1 inch in height, and with arrows or other markings to indicate the correct upright position of the container.

3.36(a)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live guinea pigs and hamsters.

Several of the primary transport enclosures for the guinea pigs did not contain easily accessible openings, projecting rims, or adequate handholds. Several lacked adequate structural strength resulting in one guinea pig escaping. Approximately, 50% of these enclosures did not contain openings to allow easy access in case of an emergency with the animal. Approximately 50 % of the enclosures also did not have projecting rims to ensure adequate ventilation is maintained or handholds to prevent tilting and contact with the animal. A lack of appropriate openings, projecting rims, and handholds on primary transport enclosures can make it difficult to remove the animal in the case of an emergency, allow for inadequate ventilation if the cages are stacked, and can cause unintentional contact between the handler and the animal during transport. All primary transport enclosures for guinea pigs must contain openings that are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of live animals, contain projecting rims or other devices on the exterior walls to prevent obstruction of the ventilation, and provide adequate handholds for lifting animals without tilting or risk of contact with the animal.

3.36(g)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live guinea pigs and hamsters.

Few of the primary transport enclosures for the guinea pigs were marked with the words "Live Animal" or arrows indicating the correct upright position of the cage. Failure to clearly mark transport enclosures can allow for inappropriate handling of the cages as its contents and position may be unclear to the staff. Primary enclosures used to transport live guinea pigs must be marked with the words "Live Animal" in letters at least 1 inch in height, and with arrows or other markings to

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indicate the correct upright position of the container words "Live Animal" in letters at least 1 inch in height, and with arrows or other markings to indicate the correct upright position of the container.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with a facility representative.

Additional Inspectors:

Jonathan Tomkovitch, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

ANDREA D AMBROSIO, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2156	31-B-0031	001	MOUNT HOPE AUCTION, INC.	23-MAR-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000076	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000004	<i>Axis axis</i>	AXIS DEER / SPOTTED DEER / CHITAL
000003	<i>Bison bison</i>	AMERICAN BISON
000008	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>	DROMEDARY CAMEL
000031	<i>Chinchilla lanigera</i>	CHINCHILLA
000005	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	ELK / WAPITI
000071	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
001300	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000393	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000162	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
000120	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000007	<i>Osphranter rufus</i>	RED KANGAROO
000029	<i>Lama glama</i>	LLAMA
000013	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	NILGAI
000011	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	ASIATIC WATER BUFFALO
000002	<i>Bos grunniens</i>	YAK
000002	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000007	<i>Equus quagga</i>	BURCHELL'S / GRANT'S / CHAPMAN'S / PLAINS ZEBRA
000021	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000001	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000021	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
000001	<i>Nasua olivacea</i>	MOUNTAIN COATI
000001	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY
000009	<i>Potos flavus</i>	KINKAJOU
000812	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>	SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000016	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	STRIPED SKUNK
000001	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000037	<i>Octodon degus</i>	DEGU
000006	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	CAPYBARA
000003	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	COMMON MARMOSET
000003	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000010	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000011	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000134	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	SYRIAN / GOLDEN HAMSTER
000010	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000005	<i>Muntiacus crinifrons</i>	BLACK MUNTJAC
003346	Total	



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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