



## Inspection Report

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THE WILDS  
14000 INTERNATIONAL ROAD  
CUMBERLAND, OH 43732

Customer ID: **2292**  
Certificate: **31-C-0052**  
Site: 001  
THE WILDS

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 30-AUG-2022

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### 3.127(b)

#### Facilities, outdoor.

The facility moves their herd of six Giraffe out to the pasture from May to mid-September. While out on pasture for approximately four months, the animals do not have access to their barn. The pasture they are housed within has tall shade structures which consists only of a tall central pole and umbrella-like top. There are no sides on this structure and there are no additional shelter structures in the pasture that provide protection from the elements and would allow giraffe the ability to get out of strong winds, rain or hail if they wanted. Cumberland OH has had at several severe storms since May 2022 including several days/nights with thunderstorms, winds in excess of 40-60 mph, heavy rain, and hail. Failure to provide adequate shelter may result in animal illness and unnecessary discomfort.

Adequate shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions which affords protection from the elements must be provided for to all animals. The shelter must be large enough for all individuals to access the shelter or multiple shelters must be provided.

Correct by September 30, 2022.

### 3.133                      Critical Separation.

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Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:  
12-DEC-2022

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:  
12-DEC-2022



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The facility received a male Indian rhino (ID# 121021) last fall. The rhino was housed all winter in the rhino barn adjacent to the females. He was then introduced to the females in a smaller pasture prior to the group moving to the large pasture on May 11, 2022 where the herd of one male and two females Bactrian camels lived. The male rhino lived in the pasture without incident as reported by the facility for two weeks, when they came in to find the male Bactrian camel (ID# 109040) dead on May 25, 2022. Pathology report indicated a 4 cm laceration on ventral right neck at thoracic inlet, tearing of multiple large veins, and death due to suspected exsanguination from this laceration.

Indian male rhinos become aggressive during a premating phase of breeding.

While another male rhino may understand the social cues and have methods to submit, avoid or evade a dominant male in breeding, a male from another species (such as the male Bactrian camel) may not. Male Bactrian camels can also be highly aggressive and dominant when they are in rut which is documented March-April. Male Bactrian camels rely on social cues to deter competitors. In the wild, the home ranges of these two species do not overlap, therefore, they may be unlikely to understand normal species specific social cues which have evolved to prevent conflict. Additionally, this rhino had previously not lived with a camel, again, making it unlikely they would understand social cues. As these are two very different species of ungulates, their social and behavioral cues do not coincide, and the camel did not have an effective manner to evade the male rhino and so the injury was likely caused by the rhino.

\*\*\* Records indicated that during 2021 and 2022, at least 5 male deer approximately 6-8 years of age were found dead from causes resulting from traumatic injuries as indicated in pathology reports. These deaths included:

- Male Bactrian deer ID# 114090: This 7-year-old male was found dead in the water of a pond on 9/18/2021 and had no prior medical concerns. Necropsy showed 30-50 liters of blood in the pleural cavity (around the lungs), clotted blood within

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the lungs, rhabdomyolysis and edema of the muscles, and hemorrhage and swelling within the spinal cord. The cause of death was attributed to exertional myopathy and trauma.

- Male Bactrian deer ID# 114050: This 7-year-old male was euthanized on 10/11/2021 after being found severely injured. Necropsy findings showed that there was a deep puncture wound to the right lateral chest which penetrated the chest cavity, a partial rupture of the attachment of the triceps including a torn muscle, hemorrhage into the chest cavity and pericardial sac (around the heart). These findings are consistent with severe traumatic injury.

- Male Pere David's deer ID# 114016: This 7-year-old male was found dead in the pasture on 6/23/2021. The prior day he was in rut and observed chasing other males in the same enclosure. Necropsy showed swelling, bruising, and necrotic tissue in the neck and hemorrhage in the lungs and heart.

Male Pere David's deer ID# 113030: This 8-year-old male was found dead 7/6/2021. The prior day he was noted to have appeared bright, alert, and reactive. It was noted that this was during the breeding season when males are in rut. Necropsy results showed a puncture wound to the right lower neck with significant areas of bruising, hemorrhage, and subcutaneous emphysema (accumulation of air under the skin) in the shoulder, neck, face, and large areas in the right chest. The jugular vein had been lacerated and there were areas of hemorrhage in the lungs. Death was attributed to trauma.

-Male Pere David's deer ID# 116008: This 6-year-old male was found in a lake in the pasture on 6/29/2022. Necropsy results showed extensive bruising and hemorrhage over the left face, neck, shoulder, and chest, hemorrhage into the chest cavity, 500-800 ml of hemorrhagic pericardial effusion (around the heart), broken incisors and lacerations to the

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lower lip, and little to no food in the gastrointestinal system. The cause of death was not definitive though findings showed both trauma and anorexia, insufficient food consumption.

Male Sichuan takin ID# 115006: This 7-year-old male was found dead in the pasture on 6/23/22. Necropsy results showed a large wound to the lower abdomen with a penetrating puncture into the abdominal cavity. There was severe cellulitis and hemorrhage around the puncture site and approximately a foot of intestine entrapped.

Currently the facility maintains herds of Bactrian deer (30 males and 38 females), a bachelor herd of 16 Bactrian deer, Pere David's Deer (21 males and 51 females) and Takin (23 males to 26 females). These groups of animals are housed in similar large open pastures with varying topographic features. Both deer species are known to enter a breeding period seasonally known as "rut" in which males often fight for dominance and the ability to breed with females.

While establishing dominance during rut, both species are known to fight and left unchecked these fights can lead to traumatic injuries and death. Fighting can also occur at other times of the year as dominant males fight to guard feeding areas or other preferred areas of pastures. The facility states that the area is large enough for the animals to avoid or escape from each other and there is variable terrain with the hills, however there are limited visual barriers within most pastures.

Additionally, there may be no easy access to alternate pastures for subordinate males to retreat to after dominance is established which would allow them to evade or avoid now dominant established males who are actively breeding females. Access to different pastures is managed by the facility at their discretion.

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The facility confirmed that the deaths of hoof stock in the 2021 and 2022 were typical and consistent with observations from prior years. Facility staff must ensure that all animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible and intervene to ensure adequate separation when incompatibility arises. The inclusion of visual barriers and/or safe retreat areas for subordinate males may help increase compatibility during times of the year when breeding behaviors are expected to increase competition between adult males, however, close observation of animals and intervention is necessary to ensure that animals are not housed with or near other animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort and/or death.

Failure to ensure adequate separation of incompatible animals can result in behavioral stress, injuries, unnecessary suffering, and death. Correct no later than 9/20/22 by ensuring that all animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible and that they do not interfere with the health of other animals and/or cause discomfort.

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

Additional Inspectors:

ANDREA D AMBROSIO, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

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### Species Inspected

| Cust No | Cert No   | Site | Site Name | Inspection  |
|---------|-----------|------|-----------|-------------|
| 2292    | 31-C-0052 | 001  | THE WILDS | 30-AUG-2022 |

| Count  | Scientific Name               | Common Name                    |
|--------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 000007 | <i>Equus grevyi</i>           | GREVY'S ZEBRA                  |
| 000017 | <i>Equus asinus africanus</i> | AFRICAN WILD ASS               |
| 000012 | <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>       | CHEETAH                        |
| 000008 | <i>Cuon alpinus</i>           | DHOLE                          |
| 000017 | <i>Ceratotherium simum</i>    | WHITE RHINOCEROS               |
| 000002 | <i>Camelus bactrianus</i>     | BACTRIAN CAMEL                 |
| 000001 | <i>Elaphodus cephalophus</i>  | TUFTED DEER                    |
| 000017 | <i>Equus asinus africanus</i> | AFRICAN WILD ASS               |
| 000078 | <i>Elaphurus davidianus</i>   | PERE DAVID'S DEER              |
| 000004 | <i>Hippotragus niger</i>      | SABLE ANTELOPE                 |
| 000005 | <i>Oryx beisa</i>             | EAST AFRICAN ORYX (BEISA ORYX) |
| 000005 | <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>   | INDIAN RHINOCEROS              |
| 000004 | <i>Cervus nippon</i>          | SIKA DEER                      |
| 000007 | <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i> | GIRAFFE                        |
| 000008 | <i>Bos javanicus</i>          | BANTENG                        |
| 000019 | <i>Taurotragus oryx</i>       | COMMON ELAND                   |
| 000049 | <i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>     | TAKIN                          |
| 000003 | <i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>    | CHINESE GORAL                  |
| 000016 | <i>Oryx dammah</i>            | SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX           |
| 000279 | <b>Total</b>                  |                                |