



## Inspection Report

VERNON MILLER  
6255 NORTH 1000 WEST  
SHIPSHEWANA, IN 46565

Customer ID: **323233**

Certificate:

Site: 001

VERNON D MILLER

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 05-NOV-2024

**3.150(a) Critical Repeat**

### Facilities, general.

During inspection it was found that one duck was being housed in an enclosure with an open section of fencing. When approaching the enclosure, the facility representative reported that there were two ducks in the enclosure. When asked how the open fence secured the ducks, the facility representative reported that the ducks could roam. When asked to point out the second duck that was expected in the enclosure, the facility representative was unable to say where the duck was at. At the September 24th, 2024, inspection USDA inspectors counted 12 ducks. The facility sold 8 ducks on October 7th, 2024. There were only three ducks seen during this inspection.

At the time of inspection, a free flying duck could not be located at the facility because the facility had not securely contained all the birds. Failure to securely contain birds potentially exposes them to injury, predation, or death. Housing facilities for birds must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the species of bird housed in them. They must be kept in good repair, protect the birds from injury, and restrict other animals from entering that may negatively affect the welfare of the birds within. Housing facilities must employ security measures that contain all birds securely.

**2.40(a)(2)**

### Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

As part of the program of veterinary care the attending veterinarian has given recommendations on diet for most of the animals held at the facility. The attending veterinarian lists Happy Hopper as the main diet for the red kangaroo. There is no Happy Hopper at the facility. The facility representative declined to answer questions about diets.

Lack of an appropriate diet for each species held by the facility can lead to poor body condition, disease and organ damage.

Each dealer and exhibitor shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.

To be corrected by November 15th, 2024.

**2.40(b)(2) Critical Repeat**

### Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

On October 4th, 2024, three dachshund puppies were sold by the facility to a pet store. A fourth puppy from the litter was listed on the APHIS 7006 but was crossed off (microchip # 900215006398746), therefore, it was assumed that this puppy

Prepared By: KRISTIN RAY

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

22-APR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

22-APR-2025



## Inspection Report

---

was not shipped. On the cage card for that litter, the puppy that was not shipped was listed as having been sold on October 5th, 2024. There was, however, no APHIS 7006 for the sale of a puppy on that date provided to the USDA inspectors.

On October 15th 2024, a puppy from the litter (microchip # 900215006398743) was taken to the attending veterinarian for evaluation and relinquished to the veterinarian. The attending veterinarian reports that the puppy tested positive for parvovirus and was relinquished in order that treatment could be attempted. The attending veterinarian reports that the facility representative reported that the litter of puppies had been returned to him by the pet store on October 10th, 2024. The puppy later died under veterinary care. The attending veterinarian reports that they provided medication for at home treatment for two additional puppies from the litter that were ill.

A third puppy from the litter (microchip # 900215006398753) is listed on the cage card as having died on October 19th, 2024. The fourth puppy from the litter (microchip # 900215006398742) is currently housed with a group of other young puppies and appears recovered at the time of inspection.

At least two puppies (microchip # 900215006398753 and microchip # 900215006398743) from this litter did not receive timely or emergency veterinary care which led directly to the death of the two puppies and there is an absence of records for the disposition of a third puppy. Timely intervention can save the lives of puppies during a disease outbreak.

Additionally, the veterinarian that is listed as the backup veterinarian on the Program of Veterinary Care for all animals and birds except the dogs was not aware that they were being listed as the emergency veterinarian.

Having a backup veterinarian that is not able or willing to provide emergency care could prevent emergency and holiday care from being available.

A facility must have a program of veterinary care in place that uses appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care.

### 2.75(a)(2)

#### Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

The licensee is using cage cards to inventory puppies under 16 weeks of age. Twelve cage cards are incomplete. The cage cards are missing the USDA license number for the facility, the identification of the dam of the litter. Seven of the cage cards are missing the date of sale of the puppies. Additionally, the cage card for a dachshund puppy (microchip # 900215006398746) did not have an associated disposition record and the puppy was not at the facility during the inspection. There were 20 puppies on the September 24th, 2024 inspection, two puppies have died since then and three have been born and one has left without a disposition record. Eighteen puppies were seen at inspection. There are two missing puppies that are not accounted for in any way.

Without proper identification and information on the cage cards animals cannot be traced and tracked in the case of disease outbreak.

Each dealer and exhibitor shall use Record of Acquisition and Dogs and Cats on Hand (APHIS Form 7005) and Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats (APHIS Form 7006) to make, keep, and maintain the information required by paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

To be corrected by November 15th, 2024.

### 2.75(b)(1)

#### Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

The animal inventory provided to the inspectors was incomplete. There were no records for dates of birth or listed only a year for many of the animals that were listed as BOP or BP (born on premises) including 21 fallow deer, 5 elk, 6 babydoll

---

Prepared By: KRISTIN RAY

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

22-APR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

22-APR-2025



## Inspection Report

---

sheep, 3 lemurs, 4 fallow deer, 2 sheep, 1 eland, 5 chickens, 1 alpaca, 2 cows, and 3 ducks. There was incomplete acquisition source information, as required by 9 CFR 2.75 (b)(1)(i-iii), recorded for 1 porcupine, 1 spider monkey, 1 rhesus macaque, 2 eland, 3 camel, 4 nilgai, 2 raccoons, 1 wallaby, 3 fox, 1 African crested crane, 4 zebra, 1 goat, 1 whitetail deer, 3 alpacas, 1 zebu, 1 yak, 2 "javelina", and 1 squirrel monkey. The 16 ducks that were acquired from Culver Duck Farm also do not have complete source information.

An accurate animal inventory is required so that USDA inspectors can ensure all animals are accounted for and receiving adequate veterinary care. Records of animal acquisition and disposition, including births and deaths, must be kept by the facility to ensure animals can be traced in case of an animal disease outbreak and to ensure there are not high mortality rates in the animals.

An accurate inventory and records of animal acquisition and disposition, including births and death, must be maintained by the facility.

To be corrected by November 15th, 2024.

### 2.131(b)(1) Critical

#### Handling of animals.

During inspection, the left wing of a grey and white rhea in the central barn was seen to be hanging down by its side. When asked if it had been seen by a veterinarian, a facility representative reported that it had been. Review of veterinary records show that it was seen by the veterinarian on October 22nd and 31st, 2024. The veterinary report from October 22nd says "This rhea broke its left wing when they were moving it indoors. The humerus appears to be broken near the body". The veterinarian treated the rhea by taping the wing to the body and rechecked the rhea on October 31st. Handling of the rhea in a way that caused its wing to become broken has caused pain and distress for the rhea. Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Handling all animals, including the introduction of animals, must be done in a manner that does not cause trauma, behavioral stress or physical harm.

To be corrected from this day, November 12th, 2024, forward.

### 3.13(a)(3) Repeat

#### Veterinary care for dogs.

No current or past medical records for puppies born on premises recorded any dewormers given to puppies before six weeks of age. A facility representative reported that they start deworming puppies at six weeks of age. The Program of Veterinary Care states that Pyrantel Pamoate (Nemex) should be started at 2 weeks of age and then repeated every 14 days until adopted.

Puppies who are not dewormed are at a higher risk of intestinal upset, illness, and death.

Sampling and treatment of parasites must be done in accordance with a schedule approved by the attending veterinarian.

### 3.56(b)(1)

#### Sanitation.

The primary enclosure for the rabbits has a dirt floor and wooden walls that cannot be sanitized.

Primary enclosures for rabbits must be able to be sanitized to promote health and well-being and prevent diseases in rabbits from lack of sanitization.

---

Prepared By: KRISTIN RAY

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

22-APR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

22-APR-2025



## Inspection Report

---

Primary enclosures for rabbits shall be sanitized at least once every 30 days in the manner provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

To be corrected by November 15th, 2024.

### 3.131(a)

#### Repeat

#### Sanitation.

The primary enclosure housing two raccoons has a large accumulation of feces towards the front of the enclosure. The area of fecal material is approximately two feet by four to five inches.

The primary enclosure housing four zebra has wood chip bedding, greater than the half of the enclosure was covered with wet bedding. with feces mixed in and smelled of ammonia.

The primary enclosure housing three dromedary camels has wood chip bedding, greater than the half of the enclosure was covered with wet bedding with feces mixed in and smelled of ammonia.

Lack of cleaning of primary enclosures can lead to parasite infestation and other diseases.

Excreta shall be removed from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

### 3.153(a)(1)(viii)

#### Primary enclosures.

There are three ducks, one peacock and one turkey that are free roaming at the facility. The facility representative stated that these five birds do not have access to their own food and water and that they would have to go into another animals' enclosure for food and/or water.

Lack of readily available food and water can lead to malnutrition, dehydration and declining health or illness of the birds.

Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they provide all the birds with easy and convenient access to clean food and potable water.

To be corrected by November 15th, 2024.

This is a continuation of the report for the routine inspection conducted 05-November-2024 and contains the remaining non-compliances found during the inspection. An exit briefing for the items included on this report was not conducted per phone request by the facility representative on 12-November-2024 at 10:14 AM. This inspection was conducted with the facility representatives on 05-November-2024.

Additional Inspectors:

CARRIE BONGARD, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

---

**Prepared By:** KRISTIN RAY

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**

22-APR-2025

**Received by Title:** Facility Representative

**Date:**

22-APR-2025



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
323233		001	VERNON D MILLER	05-NOV-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Brachyteles arachnoides</i>	WOOLLY SPIDER MONKEY
000012	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000006	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	ELK / WAPITI
000004	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>	DROMEDARY CAMEL
000026	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
000003	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000001	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000002	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	RACCOON
000003	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000003	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000001	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000004	<i>Equus quagga</i>	BURCHELL'S / GRANT'S / CHAPMAN'S / PLAINS ZEBRA
000005	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	NILGAI
000018	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000018	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG PUPPY
000024	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIGEON INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000001	<i>Orthopsittaca manilatus</i>	RED-BELLIED MACAW
000005	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	COCKATIEL
000005	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	INDIAN PEAFOWL / COMMON PEAFOWL / PEAHEN / PEACOCK
000066	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	BUDGERIGAR / BUDGIE / COMMON PARAKEET / SHELL PARAKEET
000001	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	WHITE-TAILED DEER
000002	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	BARBARY DOVE / RINGED TURTLE-DOVE / RINGNECK DOVE
000001	<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>	SOCIETY FINCH / BENGALESE FINCH
000008	<i>Agapornis spp hybrid</i>	LOVEBIRD HYBRID
000001	<i>Ara macao</i>	SCARLET MACAW
000002	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>	TURQUOISE-FRONTED PARROT / TURQUOISE-FRONTED AMAZON / BLUE-FRONTED AMAZON
000001	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	GRAY CROWNED-CRANE / AFRICAN CROWNED-CRANE / GOLDEN CROWNED-CRANE
000006	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000005	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	EMU
000004	<i>Rhea pennata</i>	LESSER RHEA / DARWIN'S RHEA
000003	<i>Anas platyrhynchos domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC DUCK INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000004	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	COMMON ELAND
000001	<i>Meleagris gallopavo domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC TURKEY
000014	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000002	<i>Lama glama</i>	LLAMA
000038	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000003	<i>Bos grunniens</i>	YAK
000004	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	COLLARED PECCARY
000005	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC CHICKEN (INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS / TURKIN / COCK / HEN / ROOSTER)
000003	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	ASIATIC WATER BUFFALO
000001	<i>Bison bison</i>	AMERICAN BISON
000002	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	COMMON OSTRICH
000001	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	BLACK WILDEBEEST
000003	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
323233		001	VERNON D MILLER	05-NOV-2024
000001	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>		COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY	
000002	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>		GOLDEN PHEASANT	
000002	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>		ZEBU	
000005	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT	
000001	<i>Osphranter rufus</i>		RED KANGAROO	
000055	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>		SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS	
000389	<b>Total</b>			