



Inspection Report

Yellow River Animal House LLC
4525 US 78
Lilburn, GA 30047

Customer ID: **505308**
Certificate: **57-C-0370**
Site: 001
YELLOW RIVER ANIMAL HOUSE

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 11-JUL-2024

2.40(a)(1)

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

There was no written program of veterinary care for the birds maintained within the facility. A written program of veterinary care is needed to establish an adequate standard of veterinary care for the animals on hand. In coordination with the attending veterinarian, the facility must document a program of veterinary care for the birds. Correct by 7/31/2024.

2.40(b)(3) Direct

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

Inadequate communication between the facility and the attending veterinarian regarding the sloths' condition resulted in treatment delays.

- The information provided from the facility to the veterinarian lacked accuracy. In a text message, the veterinarian was told that the sloths were eating less and had lost some weight. At the time of inspection, the condition of the sloths was found to be more significant than described. Both sloths were skinny in appearance with an overall tubular body shape having lost the species' characteristic round abdomen. The bony structures of the back were prominent beneath the fur. They were very active (unusual for sloths) rapidly coming towards the door to interact with us expecting to be given treats, sweat potato and apples, as per usual during times of public interaction. Per a facility representative, for about a week, the sloths have not been eating their regular diet and have only been willing to eat the treats given during public feeding. The facility had documented significant weight loss of about 4 pounds for each Sloth. The records show a weight of 12.13 lbs on 03/22/2023 and a more recent weight of 9 lbs on the week of 07/07/2024 for the male. Per the attending veterinarian, these important details were not communicated to her, and she did not gauge the full extent of the situation.

- Communication between the facility and the veterinarian had not been sufficiently frequent for timely implementation of a treatment plan for the sloths. A fecal sample was submitted to the veterinarian for analysis that revealed the presence of tapeworms on 07/09/2024. At the time of inspection, 3 days after receiving the results, no treatment plan had been implemented with the facility waiting on the veterinarian's guidance. The facility reached out to the veterinarian via email and text message following inspection, but guidance still had not been received on a subsequent phone call, 7 days post results, on 07/16/2024. Per the attending veterinarian, she did not initially realize they were waiting on her for a treatment plan. Still not understanding the full extent of the situation, she did not rush to answer but replied when she could.

The lack of direct, frequent, and accurate communication between the facility and attending veterinarian has led to a continued state of poor health for the animals that may negatively impact healing and may result in further complications.

Prepared By: STEPHANIE MAYARD
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
18-JUL-2024

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
18-JUL-2024



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The facility must establish a mechanism of direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. The sloths need to be seen by a veterinarian in order to receive a complete evaluation and to establish an adequate treatment plan. Correct by 07/19/2024.

2.131(a)

Handling of animals.

Some knowledge gaps were identified regarding sloth husbandry and diet.

- The facility did not adequately ascertain the animals' body condition, noting weight loss but not recognizing the animals were skinny.
- The facility also did not recognize that the diet the sloths consumed was insufficient. The diet provided did not contain a sufficient amount of leafy greens and the sloths did not consume the commercial biscuits as well as browse provided contributing in addition to the sloths not consuming overall enough food. The facility did not recognize that these diet insufficiencies could lead to poor health, therefore did not consult with their veterinarian and did not search for alternative means to have the animals consume the necessary nutrients.

The lack of pertinent knowledge regarding the proper diet for these sloths, has likely largely contributed to their current skinny condition. The lack of husbandry knowledge in recognizing the poor body condition of the sloths, has led to inappropriate veterinary communication as well as delays in treatment. All licensees who maintain wild or exotic animals must demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of the species they maintain. The facility must consult with sloth specialist as well as the attending veterinarian in order to establish a husbandry plan to meet the needs of these specific sloths. Correct by 07/22/2024.

3.125(a)

Facilities, general.

Two areas were identified in need of repair.

- At the top of the porcupine ramp leading into the shelter, there was a large hole spanning the width of the ramp.
- There was an approximately 4 inches long by 2 inches wide hole in the metal platform making up the floor leading into the spider monkey's tunnel from the enclosure housing the 2 males.

Damaged areas such as these could result in animal injury. The animal housing facilities must be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to safely contain the animals. Correct by 08/17/2024.

3.127(d)

Facilities, outdoor.

A large number of items were seen stacked up and leaning against the perimeter fence behind the goat enclosure creating a possible path to go over the fence. In this way, the fence does not function as a secondary containment system for the animals within the facility. Outdoor housing facilities must be enclosed by a perimeter fence to keep animals as well as unauthorized persons out and to function as a secondary containment system for the animals within the facility. Correction started by the time of the exit briefing, to be completed by 08/07/2024.

3.129(a)

Direct

Feeding.

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The diet consumed by the sloths was not of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain them in good health.

- Some important diet items per professional standards were not provided in sufficient quantity. Since sloths are folivores, the bulk of their diet should consist of leafy greens. However, the bulk of the diet provided by the facility consisted mainly of non-leafy vegetables such as cucumbers, carrots and squash. The only leafy green provided was romaine lettuce but the facility indicated inconsistency as well as little consumption.

- Some important nutritional items were provided by the facility, mainly commercial biscuits and browse, however the sloths would not consume them. The facility had not tried alternative items or found effective ways of providing these items therefore the sloths were not receiving these important nutrients. The facility explained having tried to provide some browse with very little success and therefore only provided it occasionally and not free choice as professionally recommended.

- Overall, per a facility representative, both sloths together only routinely consumed a maximum of 1 lb and 4 ounces of vegetables. Professional standards indicate sloths should be fed 10% of their body weight, which would be closer to 2 lbs for both. The facility did not identify the amount of food consumed as being too little and did not consult with the attending veterinarian on what would be a better diet to give.

At the time of inspection, the sloths were skinny in appearance with an overall tubular body shape having lost the species' characteristic round abdomen. The bony structures of the back were prominent beneath the fur. Failure to provide the sloths with a nutritionally complete and species appropriate diet has likely largely contributed to the current skinny condition of the sloths. The facility must consult with sloth specialists and the attending veterinarian in order to establish an adequate diet with consideration for the special needs of these sloths. Correct by 07/19/2024.

3.154

Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being.

The facility does not have a written environmental enhancement plan for the birds on hand. A written plan is necessary to ensure that the overall health, well-being, and psychological needs of the birds are being appropriately met. The facility must develop, document, and follow a species-appropriate plan for environment enhancement adequate to promote the psychological well-being of the birds. The plan must be approved by the attending veterinarian and must address social grouping, environmental enrichment, special considerations, restraint devices, and exemptions. Correct by 08/17/2024.

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

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
505308	57-C-0370	001	YELLOW RIVER ANIMAL HOUSE	11-JUL-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000003	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	WHITE-TAILED DEER
000007	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
000002	<i>Canis lupus</i>	GRAY WOLF / GREY WOLF / TIMBER WOLF
000002	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	TURKEY VULTURE
000004	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER
000002	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	BLACK VULTURE / MEXICAN VULTURE
000007	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000004	<i>Varecia rubra</i>	RED RUFFED LEMUR
000001	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000002	<i>Canis latrans</i>	COYOTE
000026	<i>Afropavo congensis</i>	CONGO PEACOCK / PEAHEN / PEA FOWL
000001	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	REEVE'S MUNTJAC
000013	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000003	<i>Anas platyrhynchos domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC DUCK INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000001	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK
000003	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000010	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000002	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000003	<i>Ateles chamek</i>	BLACK SPIDER MONKEY
000001	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000002	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000001	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>	ZEBU
000005	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>	SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000002	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000009	<i>Bison bison</i>	AMERICAN BISON
000002	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	GREAT HORNED OWL
000001	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	NORTHERN/EURASIAN LYNX
000002	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	GRAY FOX / GREY FOX
000001	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	SERVAL
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000004	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	RACCOON
000004	<i>Potos flavus</i>	KINKAJOU
000131	Total	



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