



## Inspection Report

THE WILDS  
14000 INTERNATIONAL ROAD  
CUMBERLAND, OH 43732

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

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 13-DEC-2022

---

**3.133**                      **Critical**                      **Repeat**

**Separation.**

Since September 2022 two adult male Sichuan Takin have died as a result of injuries consistent with traumatic wounds consistent with fighting. This includes:

\* Takin male (10 years old) ID # 112003 was on exhibit Sept 5, 2022 in pasture D when staff observed he was 3-legged lame. This animal was anesthetized the same day for examination by the Attending Veterinarian. Upon exam he was in good body condition but had a RF comminuted fracture of humerus. Due to extent of injuries, he was humanely euthanized. Pathology reports confirmed the fracture of the distal humerus and cubital joint as well as extensive bruising of the surrounding area. Medical records indicated that this Takin also had swelling of the left eye on Aug 4, 2022 which was suspected to be due to trauma (though a primary ocular cause was not able to be ruled out). Although this individual was described by the facility staff as the primary breeding male Takin for many years. Records indicate that as of August 2022 another male Takin was showing dominant behavior.

\* Takin male (8 years old) ID # 114007 was on exhibit Nov 7, 2022 in pasture D when staff reported the animal appeared lethargic and had lost body condition. Animal was anesthetized the same day for examination by the Attending Veterinarian who found a deep puncture wound on left caudal abdomen and suspected septicemia. This Takin was

---

**Prepared By:** ANDREA D AMBROSIO  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

**Date:**  
22-DEC-2022

**Received by Title:** Facility Representative

**Date:**  
22-DEC-2022



## Inspection Report

---

ethanized due to guarded prognosis and on necropsy the wound was further explored. On necropsy it was determined that this wound extended 20 cm in several directions and while it did not connect with the body cavity adhesions and scar tissue indicated that it likely did previously. This same animal had an abscess of the left shoulder in November of 2020 that is also consistent with prior fighting. This Takin was appropriately treated and recovered at that time.

Currently the facility maintains a large herd of Takin which is composed of approximately 20 males to 25 females. This group of animals is housed in an open pasture that is approximately 100 acres, is shared with other species, and has varying topographic features. Wild Takin originate from Asia where they inhabit rocky terrain, dense forest, and alpine areas. They usually are found in large social groups with females and offspring making up 98% of the herd. Both males and females have their own dominance hierarchy structure. Mature males enter a breeding period seasonally known as "rut" in which males often fight for dominance and the ability to breed with females. Non-dominant adult males are typically not found living with breeding groups and tend to be more solitary. During rut, young mature males may challenge the dominant male fighting for access to breeding females but typically the losing male will not remain with the herd after such a challenge.

During the inspection facility staff described that they typically have one primary breeding male and a small number of other males which may breed with fewer females. The facility currently maintains too many male Takin in the breeding enclosure/pasture and continues to have animals injured as a result of the lack of separation. As of December 2022, there is no separate area (or bachelor group) of non-dominant male Takin. The number and concentration of mature male animals is likely leads to an increased number of challenges to the dominant breeding male(s) by other mature subordinate males that are housed within the same area. Additionally, this concentration of males also likely leads to increased sparring and conflict between subordinate males as well. Although sparring and fighting or access to breeding

---

**Prepared By:** ANDREA D AMBROSIO  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

**Date:**  
22-DEC-2022

**Received by Title:** Facility Representative

**Date:**  
22-DEC-2022



## Inspection Report

---

females is a normal behavioral pattern in wild Takin, the traumatic injuries which lead to the deaths of these animals indicate that the co-housed animals are causing injury and discomfort. Given the number of co-housed males, the dominant male and his females also cannot easily move away from challengers and are left in a position to have to constantly fight challenging males during breeding season while also actively breeding females which can leave the dominant male exhausted, causing discomfort and interfering with his health. Having this many intact breeding males in one group with the breeding females is currently interfering with the compatibility of the herd. The facility still does not have a plan in place to be able to separate the established dominant male Takin and females from subordinate males to reduce these conflicts which are causing traumatic injuries to various animals.

Failure to ensure adequate separation of incompatible animals can result in behavioral stress, injuries, unnecessary suffering, and death. Correct by ensuring that all animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible and ensuring through daily observation that staff intervenes to ensure adequate separation when incompatibility arises.

This inspection was conducted with the Director of Animal Management and Vice President. The exit briefing was conducted with the Vice President, Director of Animal Management, Attending Veterinarian, and additional facility staff. The facility currently has time remaining for correction of the noncompliance cited under section 3.127(b) on the previous inspection.

Additional Inspectors:

DANA MILLER, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

---

**Prepared By:** ANDREA D AMBROSIO  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

**Date:**  
22-DEC-2022

**Received by Title:** Facility Representative

**Date:**  
22-DEC-2022



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2292	31-C-0052	001	THE WILDS	13-DEC-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000007	<i>Equus grevyi</i>	GREVY'S ZEBRA
000011	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	CHEETAH
000008	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	DHOLE
000019	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	WHITE RHINOCEROS
000002	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i>	BACTRIAN CAMEL
000078	<i>Elaphurus davidianus</i>	PERE DAVID'S DEER
000003	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	SABLE ANTELOPE
000005	<i>Oryx beisa</i>	EAST AFRICAN 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
000045	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>	TAKIN
000002	<i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>	CHINESE GORAL
000016	<i>Oryx dammah</i>	SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX
000010	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	AFRICAN HUNTING DOG / AFRICAN WILD DOG
000008	<i>Equus caballus przewalskii</i>	PRZEWALSKI'S WILD HORSE
000084	<i>Cervus hanglu</i>	TARIM RED DEER / BACTRIAN DEER
000016	<i>Equus hemionus</i>	ASIATIC WILD ASS / PERSIAN ONAGER
000357	<b>Total</b>	