



## Inspection Report

Sandy Oak Ranch, LLC  
12705 White Oak Avenue  
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Customer ID: **6016778**  
Certificate: **32-C-0293**  
Site: 001  
Sandy Oak Ranch LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 09-OCT-2024

### 2.75(b)(1) Repeat

#### Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

The facility did not have a complete record demonstrating the type and number of animals and birds on hand. Additionally, there were incomplete records of animal dispositions and no records of acquisition, births, hatchings or deaths for the animals and birds.

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/hatchings 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/hatchings and death, must be maintained by the facility.

### 2.131(b)(1)

#### Handling of animals.

On approaching one of the goat enclosures during inspection, a goat was observed to have its head stuck in a hay feeder. The feeder was a raised V-shaped feeder that had galvanized fencing added to the ends. There was a gap approximately eight inches wide between the fence on one end and the point of the V formed by the feeder. One of the goats had placed its head through the gap and had become stuck. Two facility representatives were required to free the goat from the feeder. The goat did not appear to be injured or markedly distressed by the entrapment.

A feeder designed and maintained that allows entrapment of the animals can cause unnecessary discomfort and puts the animals at a very significant risk of injury.

Handling, feeding and housing 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. This requirement includes designing and maintaining enclosures and the structures with in them, including feeders, so they do not entrap the animals within the enclosure.

Correction Date: October 16th, 2024

### 3.125(a) Repeat

#### Facilities, general.

Prepared By: KRISTIN RAY

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
15-OCT-2024

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:  
15-OCT-2024



## Inspection Report

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In the enclosure housing five yaks, a round plastic dish that is about one foot deep and 2 feet in diameter was laying on top of the single strand of hot wire that comprised the primary fence. This dish pushed the hot wire fence to the ground, potentially grounding out the entire primary enclosure fence and giving the yaks access to the area between the primary enclosure fence and the perimeter fence. The facility representative reported that the receptacle was used to provide grain to the yaks. The facility representative, further, reported that sometimes one of the yaks throws her food receptacle; this yak must have thrown the food receptacle onto the fence, knocking the fence over.

Animals that escape, roam free and require recapture pose a high risk for injury to the animals, employees, and the public.

The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals. Measures must be taken so that animals cannot structurally damage their fence with their feeder or in other ways.

### 3.131(d)

#### Sanitation.

There were spider webs covering about 50 percent of the top of the beaver shelter when the shelter access lid was lifted. Approximately one third of the shelter access opening had spider webs in a dense opaque sheet consistent with multiples layers of accumulated spider web. The spider webs were tan to grey, consistent with a dusty coating. The accumulation of spider webs made it hard to visualize the floor of the beaver enclosure and the beavers while in the shelter.

Spiders also suggests the presence of other insects as their food source. The presence of spiders may cause distress or discomfort and increases the risk of disease hazards.

An appropriate and effective program for pest control including clearing of spider webs shall be established and maintained to provide for the health and well-being of the animals.

To be corrected by: October 16, 2024.

### 3.152(b)

#### Facilities, outdoor

There were two pigeons housed in a hexagonal enclosure made of metal grid material with a metal roof. There was no additional shelter provided in the enclosure. The birds had wooden perches to roost on in the enclosure. However, the perches were not close enough to the roof to allow the birds protection from wind or severe weather. Further, uninsulated metal can increase environmental temperature through thermal radiation, making a hot environment even hotter.

Moreover, uninsulated metal provides little protection from the cold in cold conditions.

Lack of appropriate shelter for local climatic conditions can cause birds discomfort or distress and could lead to injury or illness.

Outdoor housing facilities must provide adequate shelter, appropriate to the species and physical condition of the birds, for the local climatic conditions to protect the birds from any adverse weather conditions. Shelters must be adequately ventilated in hot weather and have one or more separate areas of shade or other effective protection that is large enough to comfortably contain all the birds at one time and prevent their discomfort from direct sunlight, precipitation, or wind.

Correction Date: October 16th, 2024

### 3.153(a)(1)(iii)

Repeat

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### Primary enclosures.

During the inspection, multiple (5-10) owned and exhibited birds were observed outside of their intended primary enclosures. First, a pigeon was seen perching on the outside of its primary enclosure and flying around the area outside of its primary enclosure. The facility representative did not report how it had escaped its primary enclosure but said they would be able to capture it and return it to the primary enclosure it was perching on. Second, domestic ducks and chickens normally housed in the open-air enclosures were seen outside of their enclosures at various places around the grounds but within the perimeter fence. The facility representative reported that some of the birds can fly in and out of their open-air enclosures.

Birds that are outside of their enclosure are at increased risk of predation and injury. Furthermore, birds that exit their enclosure may be restricted in their access to food, water, and shelter.

Primary enclosures must be designed, constructed and maintained so that they contain the birds securely. If birds are free roaming they must be provided with food, water and shelter via a species appropriate egress.

### 3.153(c)

#### Primary enclosures.

The pools or aquatic areas in four of the duck enclosures were not deep enough for the ducks to perform normal postural or social adjustments such as bathing swimming and foraging type behavior. Further, these pools or aquatic areas were not large enough to comfortably contain all the ducks at the same time. Finally, one of the enclosures containing ducks and geese had no pool or aquatic area. The pool or aquatic area in the duck enclosures consisted of plastic trays that were about 5 inches deep, 4 feet long, and 2 feet wide. Two of the enclosures had more than ten ducks in them. The plastic trays in the duck enclosures also served as drinking water for both the aquatic birds and other nonaquatic birds housed in these enclosures.

The aquatic areas in the enclosures housing aquatic birds are either absent, not sufficiently deep, and/or not large enough to allow the birds to make normal postural and social adjustments. This deficiency can lead to malnutrition, poor condition, debility, stress, and/or abnormal behavioral patterns.

Primary enclosures housing wading and aquatic birds must contain a pool or other aquatic area and a dry area that allows easy ingress or egress of the pool or other aquatic area. Pools and other aquatic areas must be of sufficient surface area and depth to allow each bird to make normal postural and social adjustments, such as immersion, bathing, swimming, and foraging, with adequate freedom of movement and freedom to escape from aggression demonstrated by other birds in the enclosure. Dry areas must be of sufficient size to allow each bird to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement and freedom to escape from aggression demonstrated by other birds in the enclosure.

Correction Date: October 29th, 2024

### 3.154

#### Repeat

#### Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being.

The written environmental enrichment plan did not include the African grey parrot.

The African grey parrot is a social species. The parrot was housed by itself with no visual access to other psittacine (parrot type) birds. In addition, there were no enrichment devices present within the enclosures of the African grey parrot. Insufficient enrichment for birds can cause psychological distress to birds and can lead to aggression or self-injurious behavior.

Exhibitors must develop, document, and follow a species-appropriate plan for environment enhancement adequate to promote the psychological well-being of birds. The plan must be approved by the attending veterinarian and must be in

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accordance with the regulations in this subpart and with currently accepted professional standards as cited in appropriate professional journals or reference guides.

**3.156**

### Watering

In five of the enclosures housing aquatic birds, potable water was not available in sufficient quantity to the birds housed in those enclosures.

-In the swan, enclosure there was a pool for swimming but there was no separate dish for potable water. A facility representative reported that he had taken the water dish out a couple of days ago for cleaning and had not returned it. The water in the swimming pool was dark green in color indicating significant growth of algae and making the water in the pool insufficient as a source of potable drinking water.

-In four of the enclosures housing ducks and nonaquatic domestic type birds, plastic trays provided as aquatic areas for the aquatic birds in the enclosure also served as the only source of drinking water for the birds in the enclosures. The water in the trays was a muddy brown color and there was a layer of brown sludge and debris on the bottom of the tray. The facility representative stated that the trays containing water were cleaned daily but had not yet been cleaned for the day. When the inspectors ask to have one of the trays emptied and refilled, the peafowl in the enclosure all immediately started drinking the fresh water. As a result of the ducks using the water trays as aquatic pools, the water in the trays was not providing potable water in sufficient quantity and/or at sufficient frequency to ensure all the birds had enough potable water for drinking.

Lack of potable water can lead to disease and illness or may cause the animals to stop drinking water leading to dehydration.

Potable water must be continually available to the birds or offered to them as often as necessary to ensure their health and well-being. Water receptacles must be cleaned and sanitized as often as necessary to keep them clean and free of contamination. When needed, group-housed birds must have multiple water receptacles to ensure that all birds have access to sufficient water.

Correction Date: October 16, 2024

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

Additional Inspectors:

Bryan Voetberg, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6016778	32-C-0293	001	Sandy Oak Ranch LLC	09-OCT-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	RING-NECKED PHEASANT / COMMON PHEASANT
000002	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000002	<i>Osphranter rufus</i>	RED KANGAROO
000008	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000005	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000002	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	AMERICAN BEAVER
000002	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	RACCOON
000003	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>	ZEBU
000001	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>	BARBARY SHEEP
000015	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
000024	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	WHITE-TAILED DEER
000006	<i>Bos grunniens</i>	YAK
000003	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	ELK / WAPITI
000004	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000002	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	BLACK-BACKED JACKAL
000002	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	COMMON OSTRICH
000001	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	NILGAI
000002	<i>Bison bison</i>	AMERICAN BISON
000009	<i>Rhea pennata</i>	LESSER RHEA / DARWIN'S RHEA
000007	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	EMU
000021	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000002	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000020	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	INDIAN PEAFOWL / COMMON PEAFOWL / PEAHEN / PEACOCK
000002	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>	ARCTIC FOX
000002	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MUTE SWAN
000015	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	WOOD DUCK / CAROLINA DUCK
000003	<i>Anser anser domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC GOOSE
000002	<i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i>	REEVES'S PHEASANT
000001	<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>	LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT
000005	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>	GOLDEN PHEASANT
000013	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	COMMON SHELDUCK
000001	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MALLARD
000053	<i>Anas platyrhynchos domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC DUCK INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000035	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC CHICKEN (INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS / TURKIN / COCK / HEN / ROOSTER)
000014	<i>Meleagris gallopavo domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC TURKEY
000064	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIGEON INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000003	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	CHUKAR
000001	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	CONGO AFRICAN GREY PARROT / GRAY PARROT
000359	<b>Total</b>	



**Species Inspected**

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