



## Inspection Report

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Thomas Edmonds  
204 Mulberry Street  
West Union, IL 62477

Customer ID: **334782**

Certificate:

Site: 001

THOMAS F EDMONDS

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 10-MAR-2021

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### 2.40(a)(1)

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

The licensee does not have a formal arrangement with an attending veterinarian, nor a written program of veterinary care.

It is important to have a formal arrangement and written program of veterinary care to protect the regulated animals at the facility.

Each dealer and exhibitor shall employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements. In the case of a part-time attending veterinarian or consultant arrangements, the formal arrangements shall include a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits to the premises of the dealer or exhibitor.

To be corrected by: March 30, 2021

### 2.40(b)(2)

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

There is a short-tailed opossum that has brown scabs covering the tips of both ears. The issue has been occurring on and off since July 2020 and the attending veterinarian has not been contacted, and self treatments have not been successful. This animal is in the same area with other regulated animals and where the handling exhibitions are held with the public.

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The lack of timely veterinary care can cause an animal to be in unnecessary pain or discomfort.

The two tigers Tony (approx. 17 months old) approx. 500+lbs and Lilly (approx. 2yrs old) approx. 350+ lbs are obese according to body condition scoring. The spine, hips and shoulders are not visible and they have no waist line due to a large layer of fat. The belly of both tigers hang very low past the front elbows. During the inspection it was observed that both tigers were panting continually when they would take a few steps and then lay down. The temperature was in the mid 60's. The owner advised he would 'rather have the animals too heavy than too thin because people complain'. The owner did not feel the weight gain was a problem.

It is important to adjust the diet seasonally and with activity levels of tigers in order to prevent obesity. Overweight issues could potentially cause physical problems with the heart, kidney and skeletal parts of the body including possible mobility issues.

The diet and weight management of the tigers should be discussed and monitored by a veterinarian.

The licensee must contact a veterinarian to use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. The veterinarian should be consulted about diet and diet changes for seasonal care and weight management.

To be corrected by: March 30, 2021

The ears of the short tailed opossum appeared to be better after a visit from a veterinary technician before the exit interview on 3-16-21.

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2.75

Repeat

### Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

The 2020 acquisition and disposition records for the facility were not available during the time of the inspection. The licensee advised they are at the tax office. There was a partial inventory available, however it was missing the 'acquired from' addresses and the addition of four new domestic cats brought to the property.

The lack of updated and proper records can prevent proper management and traceability of the regulated animals coming and going at the facility.

All records must be made available to the inspector at the time of inspection for proper tracking of the animals arriving or leaving the facility, including all of the births and deaths. A broker is required to have all of their buying, selling and donating activities documented in order to assist with traceability or disease monitoring and management.

2.131(a)

Repeat

### Handling of animals.

The owner of the facility is allowing volunteers to engage in behavior that puts their personal safety at risk, due to their lack of experience and knowledge of tigers. The volunteers have posted photos of themselves being in the primary enclosure where two sexually intact male and female tigers reside together. The tigers range in size from 350+lbs for the female Lilly and 500+lbs for the male Tony.

The obesity of the two tigers due to the diet regimen they are currently on, has allowed these animals to become very obese which can cause serious health issues and increases the likelihood of long term health issues. The facility described the tigers weight as being 'mighty' and did not agree that the tigers were that over weight by more than a few pound, and that they would just lose it in the summer. This situation and their response highlight the lack of knowledge

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and experience in the raising and maintaining of tigers in a healthy weight range.

The risky behaviors include allowing the tigers to stand on their back feet putting their paws onto the volunteers' shoulders while they feed them a bottle. One photo shows a woman with a tiger standing in front of her with its paws on her shoulders as she stands against a wooden post, and the tiger is taller than her. This same volunteer is also shown feeding a tiger a boiled egg out of her mouth, encouraging/allowing the tiger to take the egg from her using its mouth.

There is a male volunteer who allows himself to be sandwiched between both the male and female tigers at the same time while he takes a photo. There are photos of this same man allowing a tiger to stand behind him and lick/mouth the top of his head.

While the owner chooses to routinely partake in these risky behaviors after continuous warning of the safety risks by the USDA, he advised inspectors one year prior that he would not allow his volunteers to do what he does. The owner stated that he now feels that he has adequate knowledge/experience to train the few volunteers he allows to do these activities because he raised the tigers from cubs and the older tiger is now 2 yrs old. The owner stated his training consists of him allowing the volunteers into the primary enclosure and watching his interactions with the tigers and talking to the volunteers. He stated it is a 'do as I say, not as I do kind of thing'.

The owner of the tigers has not received any recognized training with tigers since their arrival as cubs. He has two years of raising them, as he stated 'learning as he goes'. The manager has cub experience only and minimal experience with adult tigers. Neither owner nor manager demonstrate adequate experience or knowledge to maintain adult tigers.

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The response of the owner advising it is ok to allow and encourage some volunteers to partake in the same risky handling he practices, shows the lack of experience and knowledge of this dangerous animal by all those involved.

All licensees who maintain wild or exotic animals must demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of the species they maintain.

### 2.131(c)(1)

#### Repeat

#### Handling of animals.

During the inspection a tour was being conducted by a facility volunteer with a group of three adults and three children. The group was brought up to the cougar enclosure with a male cougar (Mercury), approximately 4 months old that was sitting on a shelf along the chicken wire fencing at the side of the enclosure. The young girl (approx. 7-9yrs old) put her fingers through the chicken wire to pet the cougar, while the keeper stood approximately 4ft away watching her. The cougar was biting at the wire and mouthing anything put through the fence. When the keeper observed the inspectors watching the child, he advised the group they were being 'spied on' and the one adult pushed the girls hand away from the cage. The girl promptly put her fingers through the wire again to touch the animal before they moved on.

At this time, the situation was pointed out to the licensee who advised he did not think it was a problem since the keeper was near by and the group was probably going in to pet the cougar later anyway. He felt there was no difference between the little girl sticking her fingers into the enclosure to attempt to pet the cougar than if she was going inside the enclosure to pet the cougar. It was explained that a young carnivore might view fingers coming through the wire in its enclosure quite differently than when a trained, knowledgeable person had direct control of it. And, if there are no barriers to prevent the public from coming into contact with the regulated animals, then the guides should not be allowing contact with dangerous animals that they have no direct control over. If the cougar decided to bite the fingers, there is nothing the

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guide could have done to stop it.

This is an example of the lack of experience and knowledge of the facility owner and volunteers when allowing the public to interact with dangerous animals. The requirement for the keepers to have direct control over the handling of dangerous animals during public contact has been discussed multiple times with the licensee and volunteers by several inspectors.

During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public. If there is direct contact with dangerous animals the keepers must have direct control and adequate knowledge and experience with those animals.

### 3.4(b)

#### Outdoor housing facilities.

There are 12 domestic cats being held in one enclosure that has only four small 'nest box' type shelters approximately 2' x 2' in size. There is one end of the enclosure that has some metal on top to help protect from rain/sun, however there are not enough shelters to allow all of the cats to get into to protect them from inclement weather. Four new domestic cats were recently obtained that had signs of upper respiratory infections (per the licensee) when they were brought to the facility. A veterinarian had seen the cats after arrival. The new cats were placed in the outside enclosure after the licensee felt they were better. During the inspection, one cat was still exhibiting upper respiratory signs (dark mucus discharge from both eyes). Weather in the past two weeks in the area has been rainy and cold ranging from 28.5 F to 65.8 F from 3/1/21 to 3/10/21, the low temp was in the 20s to 30s F for 9 of the 10 days via info from the internet (<https://visualcrossing.com/weather-history/west%union%2C%20illinois/us/2021-03-01/2021-03-10>).

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Adequate shelter from inclement weather is necessary to protect animals that are already sick. Not having adequate shelter could further compromise the health of sick animals.

The lack of enough shelter for the cats could be a source of stress from environmental elements that could cause or promote illness in the animal population.

Outdoor facilities for cats must include enough shelter structures that are accessible to each animal that are large enough to allow each animal in the shelter structure at the same time to sit, stand, and lie in a normal manner, and to turn about freely.

The licensee provided additional shelter boxes to house the remaining cats by the time of the exit interview on 3-16-21.

### 3.10(b) Direct

#### Watering

The main water bucket that was being used for the cats had sides that were too high (approx. 12 inches high with a water level of approx. 4 inches inside). The level of the water was too low for them to utilize, since a domestic cat will not tend to drop down over 4 inches into a container, placing their feet into the water to be able to drink. The other bowls in the enclosure used for food were empty and there was no water available in any of those bowls. When the licensee was asked to put water in a bowl and put it in the enclosure, over 6 cats surrounded the water bowl, with three immediately drinking from it while others waited their turn. One of the cats (the one still exhibiting upper respirator signs) drank for 5 minutes while another drank for 4 minutes and a 3rd cat for almost another 4 minutes.

Due to the reactions of multiple cats to the fresh water being brought in during the inspection, it is obvious that fresh,

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potable water is not being offered often enough, or in suitable containers for them to drink as often as necessary to ensure their health and well-being.

The lack of potable and accessible water can be a source of stress and possible illness and kidney issues if not provided as often as needed to the regulated animals.

If potable water is not continuously available to the cats, it must be offered to the cats as often as necessary to ensure their health and well-being.

Water was given at the inspectors request during the inspection and needs to be provided often enough from this day forward.

### 3.75(c)(1)

### Repeat

#### Housing facilities, general.

There are surfaces in multiple non-human primate primary enclosures that are made of unsealed wood materials. There is a buildup of old food, oils or dirt and debris that is soaked into the well used areas of some of the wood surfaces. It is impossible to clean/sanitize unsealed wood surfaces. The walls and nest boxes in the squirrel monkey and marmoset enclosure, the wall in the ruffed lemur and the shelves and perches in the Japanese snow macaque area have not been sealed and are made of raw wood. The painted/sealed wooden shelves in the enclosure of two ring-tailed lemurs has been chewed exposing raw wood areas that cannot be sanitized. The ropes that have been attached inside some of the enclosures are dark black and brown with grime and need to be cleaned or replaced. The licensee advised the ropes had been sitting in the dirt in the yard for a month and he put them in the enclosures as they were. The ropes have not been cleaned to remove the dirt and grime since they were put up.

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Unsealed wood or surfaces that are not impervious to moisture cannot be cleaned and sanitized properly. If they cannot be cleaned and sanitized appropriately, they must be replaced. Soiled surfaces can be a source of bacteria and cause possible health related issues if not cleaned or replaced regularly.

The surfaces of housing facilities - including perches, shelves, swings, boxes, houses, dens, and other furniture-type fixtures or objects within the facility - must be constructed in a manner and made of materials that allow them to be readily cleaned and sanitized, or removed or replaced when worn or soiled.

To be corrected by: April 15, 2021

The licensee washed the dirty ropes for the squirrel monkey and marmoset and painted the wood surfaces in the marmoset enclosure by the time of the exit interview on 3-16-21.

**3.78(e)**

**Repeat**

**Outdoor housing facilities.**

The Japanese macaque (snow monkey) (Dexter) was used for public handling over the summer/fall months of 2020 where the public was allowed full contact with the animal while not in direct control of a trained keeper. The macaque was allowed to move around the room, climbing onto peoples' laps, sitting on top of children's shoulders and get close to young children and adults in a face to face manner while a leash hung to the floor. There is no direct control of the monkey by a trained keeper during this exhibition.

The lack of direct control over a non-human primate during public exhibitions can be a potential for injury to the animal or

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public if the animal panics or gets overly excited while climbing onto peoples' laps, shoulders and within face to face contact of members of the public. There is no way to get control of the animal in a timely manner if the leash is hanging down onto the floor being pulled along by the animal without a trained keeper holding onto it.

When a nonhuman primate is allowed contact with the general public, it must be under the direct control and supervision of an experienced handler or trainer at all times when the public is present. Trained nonhuman primates may be allowed physical contact with the public, but only if they are under the direct control and supervision of an experienced handler or trainer at all times during the contact.

The licensee advised they are no longer conducting public handling interactions with the macaque.

### **3.81 Repeat** **Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being.**

The environmental enrichment and enhancement plans for the primates have been written up by the facility, however they have not yet been directed by the attending veterinarian. This is especially important for the primates that are being housed separately with no physical contact with other primates (marmoset and squirrel monkey) to assure that the animals are being housed in a manner that is physically adequate and meets behavioral needs of the animals.

A veterinarian directed, documented and adhered to enrichment/enhancement plan for the non-human primates is essential for their health and well being.

The licensee must provide a plan that is directed by the attending veterinarian that addresses all sections of this regulation, and it must be followed by the facility.

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### 3.127(b)

#### Facilities, outdoor.

There is a Geoffroy's cat and prehensile tailed porcupine that are housed in primary enclosures that do not provide any sort of hide or shelter box/log for the animal to seek shelter in. The porcupine's primary enclosure is a corn crib, and the primary enclosure for the Geoffroy's cat is open on two sides, so there is no protection from the wind, rain, snow or other climatic elements that could stress the animals.

There is a fenced area holding 5 goats (2 currently at a neighbors with their kids) and 1 pig with four babies and 2 rheas. There is only one wooden shelter box approximately 4'x8' by 2' in height to provide shelter to all of the animals in inclement weather or to provide shade. While the fenced enclosure has trees around the area, in the winter when the leaves are gone there is not another area of shade available under a shelter for all of the animals to fit comfortably.

There are two full grown tigers over 350-500 lbs according to the licensee, that have one shelter box that is too small for them to fit into comfortably without having to crawl or contort in order to get inside. This concern was mentioned one year ago as the tigers were showing signs of getting too big for that shelter box. The shelter box is shorter than they are tall and too small to allow for normal postural movements and does not allow for them to sit, stand and laydown comfortably. While their enclosure does have shade cloth on both ends on the top of the enclosure and metal sheeting on approximately 3-4ft wide on the south side(rd side) of the enclosure and a 12'x12' square on part of the roof area on the end of the second part of the enclosure, the current shelter box located in the middle of the first enclosure area is not large enough to appropriately protect the tigers from inclement weather conditions.

The lack of proper shelter to provide a windbreak, protection from the elements (including temperatures) can be a source

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of possible health or behavioral issues. The shelters must be large enough for the number of animals to all be able to fit into comfortably and be protected from the elements.

Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals.

To be corrected by: March 30, 2021 for the tiger shelter box

The licensee provided shelter for the Geoffroy's, prehensile tailed porcupine and an additional shelter box in goat/pig yard the following day on 3-11-21 and started working on making the tiger shelter larger.

### 3.127(d)

### Repeat

#### Facilities, outdoor.

The eight foot perimeter fence surrounding the facility is still under construction. The South and East sides of the facility are still completely open with no fence structure to prevent animals from escaping the property. The North and NW part of the property has a six foot perimeter fence, with the SW part of the property having an eight foot wooden fence behind the tiger, vervet and porcupine enclosures.

An eight foot perimeter fence is required for the two cougar and two tigers that are in outdoor primary enclosures on the facility property due to being considered dangerous animals.

There is no six foot perimeter fence completely surrounding the non-dangerous animals as required. This requirement is for animals such as the three badgers (bottom of the perimeter fence is not secured and open for animals to get under),

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the two coati, Geoffroy's cat, bobcat and non-human primates. While a six foot perimeter fence and partial eight foot perimeter fence surround over half the facility, the remaining South and East sides are open which can allow any of these animals to escape if they get out of their primary enclosures, and allow other animals or people to gain entry into the facility and make direct contact with the enclosures.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee.

Additional Inspectors:

REBECCA NANNEY, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

SUSAN KINGSTON

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
334782		001	THOMAS F EDMONDS	10-MAR-2021

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000004	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000001	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	FENNEC FOX
000002	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	SERVAL
000002	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	NORTHERN/EURASIAN LYNX
000002	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	TIGER
000003	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	AMERICAN BADGER
000002	<i>Nasua nasua</i>	SOUTH AMERICAN COATI
000002	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	VERVET
000006	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG (MOST COMMON PET HEDGEHOG)
000001	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	COMMON MARMOSET
000003	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000005	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000001	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000005	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RINGTAIL LEMUR
000001	<i>Coendou prehensilis</i>	PREHENSILE-TAILED PORCUPINE
000002	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000001	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY
000001	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>	JAPANESE MACAQUE / SNOW MACAQUE
000004	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000013	<i>Felis silvestris catus</i>	DOMESTIC CAT
000002	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	SPOTTED SKUNK
000008	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG
000001	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000002	<i>Eira barbara</i>	TAYRA
000001	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>	GEOFFROY'S CAT
000001	<i>Monodelphis domestica</i>	GREY SHORT-TAILED OPOSSUM
000001	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR
000002	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	COMMON BROWN LEMUR
000002	<i>Puma concolor</i>	PUMA / MOUNTAIN LION / COUGAR
000001	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000082	<b>Total</b>	



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Customer: 334782  
Inspection Date: 10-Mar-2021

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