



Inspection Report

The Learning Zoo LLC
38 Pinepath Pl
The Woodlands, TX 77381

Customer ID: **6012438**

Certificate: **74-C-1142**

Site: 001

The Learning Zoo LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 11-APR-2024

2.131(c)(1) Critical

Handling of animals.

On February 24, 2024 (bird ID #: MU03) and March 6, 2024 (bird ID #: MU39), during public exhibition, two female parakeets (one on each day) died in the aviary after being stepped on by a guest. Inadequate handling of animals during periods of public exhibition can jeopardize the health and well-being of animals and the public alike. 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 to assure the safety of animals and the public. The licensee corrected this issue by creating and utilizing a deterrent for the birds to keep them off the ground in the area where the public stands.

Correct by: April 11, 2024

3.125(a)

Facilities, general.

At the time of the inspection, there was exposed gridwall, metal framework overlying the dirt of the entire African Crested porcupine (one male and one female) enclosure, whereby there were large gaps both between and underneath the framework. The exposed metal framework, as well as the surrounding gaps/holes (some of which were dirt holes dug by the porcupines) pose an entrapment/injury risk to the animals contained. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities must be structurally sound and must be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury.

Correct by: May 9, 2024

3.153(a)(1)(ii)

Primary enclosures.

Inside of the aviary was a large, industrial-style fan that was actively running at full speed with the cord dangling, whereby approximately forty free-flighted parakeets had direct access to – and were landing on – the fan and/or cord. Equipment within primary enclosures that is not designed and/or utilized in a safe manner, could directly injure the animals contained therein. Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they protect the birds from injury.

Prepared By: GERVAIS EDMONDS-WIGGINS
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Date:
16-APR-2024

Received by Title: Licensee

Date:
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Correct by: April 16, 2024

3.153(a)(2)

Primary enclosures.

A black metal cage, measuring approximately 40 (L) x 37 (W) x 20 (D) inches in size, housed thirty parakeets with insufficient perch space to accommodate all birds contained therein. A number of the birds were perching along the bars of the cage instead. Failure to include a sufficient amount of perch space could negatively impact the health and well-being of the animals via stress, compatibility, and injuries, among other things. If the enclosure houses birds that rest by perching, there must be perches available that are appropriate to the age and species of bird housed therein and a sufficient number of perches of appropriate size, shape, strength, texture, and placement to comfortably hold all the birds in the primary enclosure simultaneously, including birds that are ranked low in a dominance hierarchy.

Correct by: April 14, 2024

3.153(b)(3)

Primary enclosures.

At the time of inspection there were approximately forty free-flighted parakeets in the open aviary that were seen mating, however there were no nest boxes present. Lack of sufficient structures and materials to support species typical behavior can negatively impact the health and the well-being of the animals contained therein. When exhibitors breed their birds, such birds must be provided with structures (including a sufficient number of structures) and/or materials that meet the reproductive needs of the species during the appropriate season or time periods.

Correct by: April 25, 2024

3.156

Watering

The black cage in the aviary, which housed thirty parakeets, contained only one water bowl – located on the floor of the cage underneath the perches – which contained a significant amount (approximately 40-50% of the bowl) of feces. Accumulation of feces within the water bowl can negatively affect the health and well-being of the birds contained therein. Potable water must be provided in sufficient quantity to every bird housed at the facility and water receptacles must be kept clean and sanitized in accordance with 3.158 as often as necessary to keep them clean and free of contamination.

Correct by: April 12, 2024

3.158(a)(1)

Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control.

The wooden rafters throughout the aviary, as well as the black metal cage housing the thirty newer parakeets, had an excessive accumulation of feces on them, as the free-flighted parakeets would use them as perches. Accumulation of feces and lack of proper and frequent cleaning could increase disease hazards and soiling of the birds contained therein.

Prepared By: GERVAIS EDMONDS-WIGGINS
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Excreta must be removed from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent accumulation of feces, to prevent soiling of the birds contained in the primary enclosures, and to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests, and odors.

Correct by: April 18, 2024

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee.

Additional Inspectors:

William Snow, SUPERVISORY VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Gustavo Soberano, Assistant Director

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6012438	74-C-1142	001	The Learning Zoo LLC	11-APR-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000003	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000007	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000004	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG
000001	<i>Equus caballus</i>	DOMESTIC HORSE
000002	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000001	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>	ZEBU
000001	<i>Aratinga solstitialis</i>	SUN PARAKEET
000066	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	BUDGERIGAR / BUDGIE / COMMON PARAKEET / SHELL PARAKEET
000002	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	COCKATIEL
000002	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	INDIAN PEAFOWL / COMMON PEAFOWL / PEAHEN / PEACOCK
000091	Total	