



## Inspection Report

Rustic Retreat Deer Park LLC  
N9463 county road H  
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

Customer ID: **6010466**

Certificate: **35-C-0411**

Site: 001

Rustic Retreat Deer Park LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 25-SEP-2024

### 2.40(b)(2)

#### Direct

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

A 4-year-old white-tailed deer buck named Rusty was found to be toe-touching lame on its left front leg. He was reluctant to get up or walk and when encouraged to do so, was slow to move and had a severe limp on the left front leg with visible swelling in the foot. He was isolating himself and seeking shelter under a low hanging tree branch within the pasture. According to the facility representative, Rusty had been injured in a fight with a 5-year old buck on September 9th. The facility representative was carrying out food and water to him regularly and monitoring his recovery progress. However, Rusty had not received any care from a veterinarian at the time of the inspection. (Note- Prior to the exit interview, the facility representative contacted his attending veterinarian about Rusty and was following the AV's treatment plan until an exam can be conducted.)

A brown doe fawn was observed to have abnormal amounts of loose brown fecal matter under her tail and anal region and was in thin body condition. According to the facility representative, this fawn has had diarrhea for a few weeks and has always been on the thin side even though it is drinking from its mother. This fawn had not received any veterinary care prior to the inspection.

Providing prompt and adequate veterinary care to diagnose and treat any injuries and illnesses is necessary to prevent unnecessary pain and suffering. Additionally, there must be a plan for providing veterinary care for emergencies, weekends, and holidays. Correct by ensuring Rusty and the fawn are examined and diagnosed by a veterinarian and that the treatment plan is followed according to their instructions.

Expired drugs and medications including 1 bottle of enrofloxacin and 2 bottles of atipamezole were present during the inspection. The enrofloxacin had been used to treat an antler infection in a white-tailed deer buck a few weeks prior to the inspection. Expired medications may not be safe or effective and are not an appropriate method for the treatment or prevention of animal health issues. The facility must ensure that methods of treatment, including the medications maintained for use in AWA-regulated animals, are appropriate. Correct by ensuring that all medications maintained for use in regulated animals are appropriate methods for the treatment, control, or prevention of disease.

\*\*\*Correct by 5pm, Friday 9/27/24.

Prepared By: BRIANNA WALDROP

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Date:

01-OCT-2024

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

01-OCT-2024



## Inspection Report

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### 2.131(c)(1)

#### Handling of animals.

A photograph was posted online on 5/19/24 of a young woman holding out a coffee can of grain and feeding a bison within the primary enclosure. There is no barrier between the woman and the bison. The facility representative stated that the bison is Brandy, a 3.5 year old bison cow that was hand-raised and is tame, but this practice was stopped in June 2024 and is no longer done. 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 public. Allowing the public to directly interact with the bison does not ensure the safety of the animals and the public. Correct by ensuring that the bison are exhibited with sufficient distance and barriers between the animals and public to assure the safety of the animals and public.

\*\*\*Correct starting 9/27/24.

### 2.131(d)(2)

#### Handling of animals.

During the scheduled tour, there were multiple instances where there were members of the public in the primary enclosure housing 18 white-tailed deer without an attendant. As part of the tour, 9 members of the public were in the enclosure with coffee cans of grain, hand-feeding and interacting with the mature bucks, does, and fawns. The attendant was very knowledgeable, but did not stay in with the general public at all times, periodically leaving for a bit and then returning. At one instance the inspector noted that the group was unattended for over 9 minutes. Allowing the public free access without an attendant may lead to injuries. Correct by ensuring that a responsible, knowledgeable, and readily identifiable employee or attendant must be present at all times during periods of public contact to protect the animals and members of the public.

\*\*\*Correct starting 9/27/24.

### 3.125(a)

#### Facilities, general.

The primary enclosure pasture housing 18 white-tailed deer and 3 bison had a fence post that was broken near the ground causing the top of the fence to lean inward about a foot at rest. The inspector observed Benny, a 2.5 year old bison bull, lean on the fence for scratching in that area and the top of the fence line leaned out about two feet then bounced back after the weight was removed. Having a damaged post that affects the strength of the fence increases the risk of animal escapes. Correct by ensuring that the fence is structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect and properly contain the animals.

\*\*\*Correct by 9/30/24.

### 3.154

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

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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The licensee is missing a complete species-appropriate environmental enhancement plan that is required for birds. They currently have 2 Trumpeter swans on the property. They are providing some enrichment to the birds including a natural pond and regular feeding and interaction with guests on the tour, but lack a written plan approved by the attending veterinarian. A species-appropriate plan for environmental enhancement is necessary to promote the psychological well-being of the birds on the premises. Correct by developing, documenting, and following a plan that, at minimum, addresses social grouping, environmental enrichment, special considerations, restraint devices, and exemptions for all AWA-regulated birds.

\*\*\*Correct by: October 25th, 2024.

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

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**Prepared By:** BRIANNA WALDROP  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

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01-OCT-2024

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**Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6010466	35-C-0411	001	Rustic Retreat Deer Park LLC	25-SEP-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000003	<i>Bison bison</i>	AMERICAN BISON
000004	<i>Canis lupus X C. familiaris</i>	WOLF/DOG HYBRID
000018	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	WHITE-TAILED DEER
000002	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	TRUMPETER SWAN
000027	<b>Total</b>	