



Inspection Report

BJ Reece Orchards
9131 Highway 52 East
Ellijay, GA 30536

Customer ID: **324659**

Certificate:

Site: 001

RACHEL REECE

Type: RE-LICENSE INSPECTION

Date: 27-APR-2023

2.40(a)(2)

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

The attending veterinarian was not provided authority to oversee the adequacy of care of the juvenile kangaroo and the porcupine. The applicant did not discuss enclosure, husbandry, diet or medical care plan for these animals with the attending veterinarian or with any other veterinarian. Overall, a program of veterinary care was not established for the kangaroo and the porcupine. Without an adequate care plan overseen by a veterinarian, the provision of veterinary care may be inappropriate which could result in animal illness or discomfort. In conjunction with the attending veterinarian, the applicant must establish an all-inclusive and adequate care plan for the juvenile Kangaroo and the porcupine. In addition, the applicant must always assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.

2.40(b)(3)

Direct

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

During inspection, the following animals were identified in need of veterinary care:

- A white and grey rabbit was seen with heavily matted and muddy fur on the hind end and on both hind feet. The matts were pedunculated, pulling at the skin beneath. The rabbit squirmed and seemed to experience pain when the matts were

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gently tugged. The rabbit had difficulty hopping/walking with the matts and was seen biting at the matts when sitting down.

The rabbit also had many small scabbed over wounds on both ears and on the right side of the neck.

- Another white rabbit was seen with many ulcerated areas as well as small scabbed over wounds inside both ears. Red scratches and small wounds could also be seen on the external portion of the left ear.

- Two female goats in the hayride area seemed to have hoof issues. A gray and white goat had overgrown hooves in all four feet. She stood with the hooves on the hind feet spread out, walked with a slight limp on the hind feet and would shift her weight by alternately lifting one then the other when standing. A white and black goat had overgrown hooves on the hind legs and was seen lifting up/not putting weight on the right hind foot. She was reluctant to move, and the bottom of the right hind foot was impacted with dirt/mud.

- The 5 adult goats in the enclosure near the hayride area all had overgrown hooves extending beyond the toe and starting to curve inward.

The applicant did not identify the conditions affecting the above-mentioned animals and therefore did not seek veterinary medical care. In addition, a juvenile black goat with a white spot, was seen holding his right forelimb up when standing and limping on that leg when walking. The facility representative explained having noticed this condition on this goat before but did not treat or contact the attending veterinarian for treatment.

Failure to promptly identify diseases/injuries as well as neglecting to seek veterinary guidance once problems arise delays treatment and may cause undue pain/distress in animals with conditions such as these listed here. A more rigorous method of daily observation of all animals must be implemented in order to assess their health and well-being. Direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian is required for timely diagnosis and adequate medical attention.

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The currently affected animals need to be seen by a veterinarian for an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan. To be corrected by May 6th, 2023.

2.75(b)(1)

Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

The acquisition information for the 6 rabbits, the 10 adult goats, the 3 adult sheep, the 3 pigs, the 4 alpacas and the 2 adult zebu were not documented. Without records which fully disclose the animal's acquisition information, legal and medical information traceback is not possible. Develop and maintain records disclosing the required acquisition information including the date, name, address, and USDA number if applicable of the person from whom the animal was acquired from. The records shall include any offspring born of any animal while in his or her possession or under his or her control.

2.131(a)

Handling of animals.

About 4 weeks ago, the applicant acquired a juvenile red kangaroo, not yet weaned, and an African crested porcupine. The applicant does not have prior experience with these animals. Information on the care for these animals is being acquired from google, the sellers and the feed supply store employees. The following areas showed the applicant's lack of knowledge of the species:

- The enclosure for the porcupine was not set up taking into consideration how strong of a burrower the species is. The porcupine was able to damage the chain link metal dig barrier provided creating sharp points and there was only a thin layer of dirt over the barrier. The enclosure was set up to prevent climbing, yet this species is not known to be particularly inclined to climb and to be more terrestrial.

The porcupine enclosure was not provided with a den or bush or items of the sort that would allow the animal's natural

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tendency to remain in areas that offer security especially while asleep during the day.

The applicant did not know of common medical conditions to monitor for a porcupine and did not have a prevention plan.

- The applicant was not aware of the psychological impact of imprinting on hand reared male kangaroos and did not have a plan to prevent the development of abnormal/aggressive behavior.

The applicant had not started feeding soft hay or greens to the kangaroo during the process of weaning and did not have a plan on how to have him develop his adult digestive system into a foregut fermenter.

The applicant did not have a specific plan for feeding once the kangaroo was weaned.

Insufficient knowledge or experience of acquired exotic animals, can lead to the use of inappropriate housing, diet, and husbandry measures. The applicant must consult with the attending veterinarian and must acquire the necessary knowledge needed to develop a complete plan for hand raising a kangaroo and for caring for a porcupine. The applicant needs to have adequate experience and knowledge of any wild or exotic animals she plans to acquire.

3.52(b)

Facilities, outdoor.

6 rabbits were housed outdoors in two adjacent enclosures that did not provide sufficient shelter from the rain. The enclosures did not have a roof. Instead, along the entire length of the front and far side of the enclosures there was an approximately 1-foot-wide board overhead leaving the majority of the top of the enclosures open. The floor of both enclosures was completely wet from the rain and the coat of all the rabbits except for one appeared wet. This enclosure does not provide sufficient shelter to allow the rabbits to remain dry during rain. This could lead to illness as well as animal discomfort. Rabbits kept outdoors shall be provided with access to shelter to allow them to remain dry during rain or snow.

3.54(b)

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Feeding.

The food and water receptacles are not being sanitized per a facility representative and some caking of food pellets was seen in all 3 rabbit feeders. Without adequate cleaning and sanitization there is a higher risk of large numbers of harmful germs remaining on the surfaces which creates a health hazard for the rabbits. Sanitization can be achieved by washing with hot water (180 °F) and soap or detergent as in a mechanical cage washer, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant, or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with live steam or flame. Primary enclosures must be sanitized at least once every 30 days while food and water receptacles must be done at least once every 2 weeks.

3.125(a)

Facilities, general.

The pig, goat as well as porcupine enclosures had damaged metal fencing resulting in many sharp points protruding into the enclosures. In both the enclosure housing 3 pigs and the enclosure housing 3 goats, a large number of sharp points were protruding inwards from the bottom of the fence line. The sharp points originated from the back fence of the pig enclosure and from the side fence of the goat enclosure. The fence lining the bottom of the porcupine enclosure was damaged and creating sharp points protruding upwards. Sharp points protruding inside animal housing areas may result in injury while damaged fencing may fail to adequately contain the animals. The indoor and 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.

3.127(b)

Facilities, outdoor.

At the time of inspection, it was raining heavily, and the temperature was 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Several of the shelters for the animals housed outdoors were not appropriate for the species, or the age of the animals given the local climatic conditions.

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- Two lambs, 3 zebu calves, and a cria, not yet weaned, were housed in stalls beneath an overhead roof, with open sides that did not provide shelter from the cold. Young, not yet weaned animals are just starting to learn to regulate their body temperature and therefore require shelter from the cold to stay in good health. Furthermore, the enclosure housing a white zebu calf and a cria did not have sufficient shelter to protect the animals from the rain as well as from the cold. The floor of the enclosure was completely wet from the rain, while the cria had a wet coat along the back/hind legs and the calf was seen shivering.
- The metal shelter in the enclosure housing 3 pigs did not provide the animals a dry space to escape the rain. The floor beneath the shelter was covered in large water puddles. The small section without puddles was muddy.
- The shelter for the goats and sheep in the hayride area is made up of an overhead roof with open sides that does not provide shelter from the cold as needed for these species.

Inadequate shelter from the rain and cold could result in illness as well as animal discomfort. 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.

3.127(c)

Facilities, outdoor.

In the outdoor enclosure near the hayride area where 3 sheep, 7 goats, 4 alpacas and 2 zebu cows are housed, the flooring leading to the hay bale and to the shelter where the goats were resting, was significantly muddy with a honeycomb appearance and some standing water. The animals had to walk through the mud in order to access the hay and their chosen shelter. Enclosures that do not drain effectively and in which the ground is largely muddy with no dry path to the food source, or the shelter can cause animals to develop hoof or skin issues due to excessive moisture and

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mud exposure. Correct by ensuring that a suitable method is provided to rapidly eliminate excessive water within animal enclosures and ensure that animals can access their feed and shelter without walking through mud.

3.127(d)

Facilities, outdoor.

The outdoor enclosures for the juvenile kangaroo and the porcupine are not enclosed by a continuous 6 feet tall perimeter fence on all sides. The fence on the side of the kangaroo enclosure is more than 6 feet tall but is not 3 feet away from the primary enclosure. In addition, the gates on both ends of that fence are cattle gates, about 4 feet tall, with large gaps in between the metal poles. The fence behind the pig enclosure and the one to the side of the goat enclosure are about 4 feet tall. Furthermore, the outdoor enclosure for the juvenile kangaroo located at the applicant's house is not surrounded by a 6 feet tall perimeter fence. The lack of an adequate perimeter fence presents a safety risk to the animals within the facility in that there isn't an adequate secondary containment system to hold animals that may escape their primary enclosures or a sufficient barrier to keep animals and unauthorized persons out. The facility must ensure that the primary enclosures for the kangaroo and the porcupine being housed outdoors are enclosed by a 6-foot perimeter fence at least 3 feet in distance from the primary enclosure.

This is a 1st Re-License Inspection for a Class "C" license. The inspection and exit briefing were conducted with the applicant.

All items must be in compliance within 2 more inspections or by July 4th, 2023 or the applicant will forfeit the license fee and must wait 6 months to reapply. Please contact your inspector to schedule your next Re-License Inspection.

Regulated activity can continue under your existing USDA license until it expires.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
324659		001	RACHEL REECE	27-APR-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000005	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>	SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000005	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>	ZEBU
000014	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000002	<i>Lama glama</i>	LLAMA
000003	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000001	<i>Osphranter rufus</i>	RED KANGAROO
000006	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000004	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000041	Total	