



## Inspection Report

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Incredible Bats Inc  
210 Elm Street  
New Lenox, IL 60451

Customer ID: **6018587**  
Certificate: **33-C-0533**  
Site: TRA  
Incredible Bats Inc

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 09-JAN-2026

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### 2.131(b)(1) Direct

#### Handling of animals.

The inspectors observed a traveling exhibition at the Bald Eagle Days event at the QCCA Expo Center in Rock Island, IL over two consecutive days (Friday, January 9th, and Saturday, January 10th). The inspectors observed that the two armadillos present at the exhibition (three-banded armadillo and screaming hairy armadillo) were not handled as carefully as possible and observed signs of behavioral stress as a result.

The inspectors observed the following actions taken by employees of the facility:

- Forcibly opening the three-banded armadillo to show guests the ventral side of the animal. The animal was in a defensive position (curled up).
- Removing the animals from the exhibit area and approaching the public while presenting the animal, including near the entrance where a cold draft was present (outside weather on Saturday, January 10th was 29-35 degrees Fahrenheit during the exhibition hours). The inspectors witnessed one armadillo in a defensive position (curled up) during this period.
- Lightly tossing the screaming hairy armadillo in a playful manner near members of the public.
- Presenting and allowing public handling while the animals were displaying fright behaviors such as vocalizing, hissing defensively, shaking, and curling up.
- Frequently holding and presenting the animals. The inspectors observed several different employees handling and presenting the armadillos in short succession, often observing the same animal get picked up minutes after it was put down by a different employee.

Handling the animals in such a manner as described led to overt signs of behavioral stress by the armadillos during the exhibition.

Upon intervention, the facility corrected the handling errors for the remainder of the exhibition on Saturday, January 10th, and Sunday, January 11th. From this day forward, January 12, 2026, continue to handle all animals as carefully as possible to avoid behavioral stress and unnecessary discomfort of the animals.

### 2.131(d)(1) Repeat

#### Handling of animals.

On January 9th and 10th, 2026, several animals were exhibited for periods of time and under conditions inconsistent with their good health and well being. The inspectors observed the following.

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Prepared By: ALEXANDRA FRIEDMAN  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title:

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12-JAN-2026

Received by Title: Facility Representative

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- The two straw bats were exhibited on Friday, January 9th, for 4 hours (4-8 pm) and on Saturday, January 10th, for 8 hours (10 am to 6 pm) in direct sight of the public without the opportunity to avoid the public's eye. They did not have any items in their temporary enclosure that they could hide in.
- The sloth, Rico, was exhibited for four consecutive hours on Friday, January 9th, and a total of 6.5 hours on Saturday, January 10th (8 hour exhibition with a 1-hour scheduled break followed by a 30 minute scheduled break). He was scheduled for another four hour exhibition on Sunday, January 10th. The licensee stated that Rico got multiple smaller, unscheduled breaks in his transport enclosure throughout the day, which the inspectors were unable to visually confirm due to the arrangement of the photo booth. However, for the last 2-3 hours of the day, the inspectors observed him to be deeply resting or possibly sleeping in a chair while the public was petting and taking photos with him, indicating that he was tired. Sloths are nocturnal and sleep on average 15-20 hours during the day.
- The two armadillos, which are also mainly nocturnal and sleep about 15-20 hours during the day, did not have a clearly observable opportunity to rest out of public eye during the aforementioned exhibition hours. They did not have the opportunity to express natural behaviors such as hide or burrow, but were periodically observed trying to hide under a bed on the floor of the enclosure.

Exhibiting animals under conditions and time periods inconsistent with their natural wake-sleep cycles, and without the ability to avoid potentially stressful public interaction, can affect their physical and psychological health.

Correct this by exhibiting animals for periods of time and under conditions consistent with their good health and well-being.

### 3.133

#### Separation.

Two incompatible armadillos of different species (three-banded armadillo and screaming hairy armadillo) were housed in the same temporary enclosure.

During a two-day inspection, two inspectors observed the animals mounting each other several times, followed by:

- The bottom armadillo unsuccessfully attempts to escape the top armadillo by attempting to burrow and hide under the bedding
- The bottom armadillo accidentally becomes flipped on their back, and unable to right themselves for a short period

The animals did not have opportunities in the enclosure to avoid each other. Armadillos are solitary individuals in their natural habitat. A facility representative stated that these animals are not permanently housed together at their home site, and this housing arrangement is for exhibition only.

Temporarily housing incompatible animals can cause the animals psychological stress and lead to injury.

The facility has since taken measures to avoid housing these animals together during exhibition in the future. Correct from this day forward (January 12th, 2025) by housing animals only with other animals that do not interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

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

Additional Inspectors:

Jessica Siegal-Willott

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6018587	33-C-0533	TRA	Incredible Bats Inc	09-JAN-2026

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Chaetophractus vellerosus</i>	SCREAMING ARMADILLO
000001	<i>Tolypeutes tricinctus</i>	BRAZILIAN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000002	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	STRAW-COLOURED FRUIT BAT
000005	<b>Total</b>	