



## Inspection Report

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Houston Interactive Aquarium and Animal Preserve  
5440 N Sam Houston Parkway East  
Houston, TX 77032

Customer ID: **6002705**  
Certificate: **74-C-1129**  
Site: 002  
Houston Interactive

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 24-FEB-2022

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### 2.131(d)(2)

#### Handling of animals.

At the time of the inspection there were 10 people in the kangaroo encounter area with 3 kangaroos and only one attendant. The one attendant in this area was not able to simultaneously monitor multiple encounters with different kangaroos. Children were observed feeding /petting one animal while the attendant was busy with another animal. Facility employees stated that the protocol is to allow no more than 4-6 people with one attendant present during kangaroo interactions. The animals and/or the public can be injured if adequate supervision is not supplied during these types of encounters. During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public. An adequate number of attendants must be present to properly supervise public encounters. A facility representative stated they will increase the number of attendants in the encounter area going forward, whenever there are larger groups of people.

Correct by: March 4, 2022

### 2.131(e)

Direct

#### Handling of animals.

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Prepared By: GERVAIS EDMONDS-WIGGINS  
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Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Date:  
08-APR-2022

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:  
08-APR-2022



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At time of the inspection, one male 12 yr. old Lemur was observed shivering for minutes, multiple times by the inspector. The lemur was recently converted from an indoor to outdoor enclosure. Shivering is an indication that the animal is cold. The Lemur is housed in an outdoor enclosure with no source of heat. The ambient temperature outside of the enclosure at the time of this inspection was ~33 degrees Fahrenheit. A temperature gun reflected a reading of 52.9 degrees Fahrenheit on the ground inside the enclosure. Improper housing, especially considering climatic conditions, can negatively impact the well-being and health of the animal, and not only cause distress, but potentially lead to death. When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being, taking into consideration such factors as the animal's age, species, breed, overall health status, and acclimation.

The facility elected to move the lemur indoors temporarily until they determine a long-term solution.

Correct by: March 4, 2022

### 3.78(a)

#### Outdoor housing facilities.

At the time of the inspection, a 12 yr. old male lemur and 2 yr. old female Lemur were housed in individual outdoor enclosures. Both lemurs were recently converted from an indoor to outdoor enclosure. There is no heated shelter available to the animals and the ambient temperature was 33 degrees. A temperature gun indicated the temperature was 52.9 degrees on the ground of one enclosure. The attending veterinarian confirmed she had not determined that these animals were acclimated to low temperatures and had not approved their exclusive housing outdoors. Only non-human primates that are acclimated, as determined by the attending veterinarian, to the prevailing temperature and humidity at

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the outdoor housing facility during the time of year they are at the facility, and that can tolerate the range of temperatures and climatic condition known to occur at the facility at that time of year without stress or discomfort, may be kept in outdoor facilities.

Correct by: March 4, 2022

### 3.127(b)

#### Facilities, outdoor.

The shelter housing one adult, female capybara did not adequately protect and prevent discomfort to the animal as it allowed heat to escape and an air draft into it, through the many gaps between the single layer of wooden floor planks. There also was no bedding on the floor of the shelter, where employees stated that hay should have been added. Lack of appropriate shelter for the local climatic conditions can negatively impact the well-being of the animal and/or cause distress, and possibly death. 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. Individual animals shall be acclimated before they are exposed to the extremes of the individual climate.

Bedding hay was added at time of the inspection.

Corrected at time of the inspection.

### 3.129(a)

#### Critical

#### Feeding.

Since arriving at the facility, the young male giraffe was fed 3 – 5 pounds of produce (potatoes, carrots, cucumbers, kale, and apples), rye crackers along with free choice alfalfa hay and approximately 4 pounds of herbivore pellets. Romaine lettuce was fed by the staff and by members of the public throughout the day. Records indicate he did not consume all the pellets offered each day and that no additional browse had been provided once he ate what was growing in his enclosure.

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Approximately one month after arriving at the facility, he developed a life- threatening neurological condition which veterinary records indicate was diet related. A diet consisting of large amounts of produce with little browse and roughage is not an adequate diet for a giraffe and may result in health problems and death. Proper and adequate nutrition are essential to maintaining the health and well being of the animal. The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health. The diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal.

Correct by: March 4, 2022

### 3.132 Critical

#### Employees.

As cited in feeding, the employees were not knowledgeable about adequate nutrition for the animal who became ill. Not only was the animal not fed a proper diet for the species, but also measures were not taken when the employees saw he was not consuming adequate amounts of various types of feed to avoid any nutrition-related health problems. As a result, the animal nearly expired one month after his arrival. Adequately trained employees are vital to the overall health and well-being of the animals, as these animals can suffer deleterious effects, and possibly death, if acceptable levels of husbandry are not maintained. Enough adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices, and such practices shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.

Correct by: March 5, 2022

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No non-compliant items identified during this inspection.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Species Inspected

| Cust No | Cert No   | Site | Site Name           | Inspection  |
|---------|-----------|------|---------------------|-------------|
| 6002705 | 74-C-1129 | 002  | Houston Interactive | 24-FEB-2022 |

| Count  | Scientific Name                  | Common Name                             |
|--------|----------------------------------|---|
| 000001 | <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>    | GIRAFFE                                 |
| 000001 | <i>Bos taurus</i>                | CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI              |
| 000001 | <i>Camelus dromedarius</i>       | DROMEDARY CAMEL                         |
| 000003 | <i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>      | DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG |
| 000003 | <i>Lama pacos</i>                | ALPACA                                  |
| 000001 | <i>Hystrix cristata</i>          | AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE               |
| 000001 | <i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>    | WARTHOG                                 |
| 000002 | <i>Dama dama</i>                 | FALLOW DEER                             |
| 000005 | <i>Capra hircus</i>              | DOMESTIC GOAT                           |
| 000003 | <i>Osphranter rufus</i>          | RED KANGAROO                            |
| 000001 | <i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i> | CAPYBARA                                |
| 000005 | <i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>      | PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA                  |
| 000005 | <i>Varecia variegata</i>         | BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR            |
| 000009 | <i>Lemur catta</i>               | RING-TAILED LEMUR                       |
| 000007 | <i>Varecia rubra</i>             | RED RUFFED LEMUR                        |
| 000018 | <i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i> | RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL            |
| 000001 | <i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>     | SOUTHERN TAMANDUA                       |
| 000001 | <i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>        | SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO         |
| 000002 | <i>Choloepus didactylus</i>      | LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH               |
| 000001 | <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>       | WESTERN EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG               |
| 000001 | <i>Coendou prehensilis</i>       | PREHENSILE-TAILED PORCUPINE             |
| 000001 | <i>Philander opossum</i>         | GREY FOUR-EYED OPOSSUM                  |
| 000006 | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>     | DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT       |
| 000004 | <i>Cuniculus paca</i>            | LOWLAND PACA                            |
| 000002 | <i>Aonyx cinereus</i>            | ORIENTAL SMALL-CLAWED OTTER             |
| 000001 | <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>    | DOG ADULT                               |
| 000086 | <b>Total</b>                     |   |



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Customer: 6002705  
Inspection Date: 24-Feb-2022

**Species Inspected**

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