



Inspection Report

Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary

378 Candy Kitchen Rd, HC 61 Box 28
Ramah, NM 87321

Customer ID: **3752**

Certificate: **85-C-0034**

Site: 001

WILD SPIRIT WOLF SANCTUARY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 25-MAR-2025

2.40(b)(1) Critical

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

The facility stated that the reason for failure to separate two wolf-dog hybrids "Celeste" (ID #306) and "Atlas" (ID #307) after an altercation on 01/04/2025 was the lack of sedative on hand. Although one component of the sedative combination usually used was unavailable for purchase due to manufacturer backorder (butorphanol), the facility did not have a backup restraint plan or seek an alternative method or sedation drug(s) from the attending veterinarian. Not only did the animals remain together because separation could not be achieved without sedation, but the animals ultimately had another altercation as detailed elsewhere in this report. Neither animal could be sedated to facilitate restraint for evaluation and timely provision of any required veterinary care for their injuries.

Failure to have an available method to restrain and/or sedate animals when necessary prevented timely and thorough evaluation of the animals' injuries and their physical separation, which would have prevented the subsequent fighting incident between the two animals that again resulted in injuries. The licensee must ensure the availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment and services to facilitate timely and appropriate care and actions, and when the need arises, seek adequate guidance involving the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization and euthanasia.

TO BE CORRECTED FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSPECTION ON 3/26/2025 AND GOING FORWARD.

2.40(b)(3) Critical

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

The Program of Veterinary Care does not provide specific authorization and instructions for fight wound trauma, but the facility did not seek veterinary consultation or care for two animals that sustained injuries from fight wounds, electing instead to treat the animals themselves without notifying the veterinarian and obtaining specific instructions on a case by case basis.:

On 02/17/2025, an adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Quinn" (ID #231) lost the end of his left ear flap from a bite wound; facility staff stated they cleaned the wound and used antibiotics they had on-hand.

On 06/15/2024, an adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Dorian" (ID #308) lost the majority of his left ear flap from a bite wound; facility staff again stated they cleaned the wound and used antibiotics they had on hand.

An adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Draco" (ID #205), has an irregularly shaped lesion on his forehead above the left eye and ear which appears to be approximately the size of his left eye or slightly larger; the lesion appeared to be non-active at the time of inspection and potentially only a scar. When the inspector inquired about this, facility staff confirmed

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their awareness of this and stated that the lesion is actually known to change in appearance, possibly opening or appearing wet sometimes, and then becoming dry and closed again. When asked about the duration and action taken, staff replied that these occasional changes in the appearance of the lesion occurred perhaps 15 times since this was first noticed and documented on January 9, 2025, but that the attending veterinarian was never made aware.

Failure to inform the attending veterinarian in a timely fashion when animals are noted to have issues that are affecting or could affect their health or well-being, delays veterinary evaluation and timely provision of treatment. This can prolong an animals' discomfort and lead to worsening of an animal's condition. The licensee must ensure that there is a mechanism of direct and frequent communication in place so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

TO BE CORRECTED FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSPECTION ON 03/26/2025

2.50(c)(1)

Time and method of identification.

On 01/15/2025, one adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Dorian" (ID #308) and one adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Hela" (ID #311) received abdominal tattoos of a design that was not approved by the Administrator for identification purposes. The tattoos are ~1.5" by 1.5"; "Dorian" received a tattoo of a "dodo bird" and "Hela" received a tattoo intended to resemble a popular comic book character with an antler-like headdress. The facility did not consult with their attending veterinarian concerning these additional procedures, and it was a different veterinary clinic that made the tattoos while the animals were anesthetized following surgical sterilization.

The tattoos these animals received are non-traditional in character and larger than such tattoos typically used for identification purposes or to indicate a neutered status. The extra skin involved with these tattoos requires a longer healing time, poses an increased risk for infection and inflicts additional, unnecessary discomfort. The facility must ensure that all dogs identified by means of a tattoo ensure that the tattoo is not only distinctive and legible, but also approved by the Administrator as set forth in Part 2, Subpart E, Section 2.50(b)(1)(ii).

TO BE CORRECTED FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSPECTION ON 3/26/2025

3.1(e)

Housing facilities, general.

There are pesticides, butane fuel and cleaning chemicals stored on a shelf directly over supplements intended for animal consumption. In another food storage area, there is black material resembling mold colonies on the wall directly behind the shelves where food is stored, and there is dirt caked on two of the crates used for food storage.

Potential leaking or spillage of toxic substances in food preparation areas represents a risk to the health and welfare of the animals, and unsanitary conditions in food storage and preparation areas can also lead to contamination of food by pathogenic microbes, leading to animal illness. The facility must ensure that supplies of food and bedding are stored in a manner that protects these supplies from spoilage, contamination and vermin infestation.

CORRECTED DURING THIS INSPECTION ON 3/26/2025

3.4(b)(4)

Outdoor housing facilities.

There is no bedding present in the shelters within the primary enclosure of an adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Tippy" (ID# 347). Temperatures in the early hours on the day of the inspection reached a low of ~30 degrees Fahrenheit. When

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asked about provision of bedding in cold temperatures, facility staff stated that they did not provide bedding the evening prior or on other days when the temperature was estimated to be even lower on previous nights.

Failure to provide bedding to animals in outdoor enclosures when temperatures are very low can result in discomfort, illness or even death when temperatures are below freezing and animals may not be able to sufficiently regulate their body temperatures. The facility must ensure that outdoor shelters contain clean, dry bedding material if the ambient temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, and additional clean, dry bedding when the temperature is 35 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

CORRECTED DURING THIS INSPECTION ON 3/26/2025

3.6(a)(2)(i)

Primary enclosures.

There are sharp points on cut, chain link material inside the enclosure for one adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Tippy" (ID #347). Some of the sharp points are found on a piece of cut chain link on the ground of the enclosure that is intended to prevent digging; there are additional sharp points on the cut edges of chain link that compose one side of the enclosure separating "Tippy" from another adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Lyca" (ID #238) and an adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Quinn" (ID #231).

There is also a segment of chain link fencing laid on the ground that is intended to act as a dig barrier; both pieces of chain link on the ground have spaces that are large enough for the animal's feet to pass through.

Sharp points pose a risk of cuts and punctures for the animals and the open spaces of the chain link material can cause injury due to entrapment. The facility must ensure that primary enclosures and their contents are constructed and maintained so that they have no sharp points, edges or other features that could injure the animals.

CORRECTED DURING THIS INSPECTION ON 3/26/2025

3.6(a)(2)(ii)

Critical

Primary enclosures.

Facility records indicate that four animals sustained injuries from bite wounds inflicted through fence lines by other wolf-dog hybrids in adjacent primary enclosures. There was, and currently is, no space or other type of sufficient barrier between these primary enclosures.

On 03/18/2025, an adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Blizzard" (ID #327) lost the majority of his tail from bites inflicted by a neighboring wolf-dog hybrid in the adjacent enclosure; the injury necessitated surgical debridement and additional amputation as part of the care provided by the veterinarian.

On 02/17/2025, an adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Quinn" (ID #231) lost the tip of his left ear from the bite of another wolf-dog hybrid on the other side of the fence line separating the two primary enclosures.

On 12/30/2024, an adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Hela" (ID #311) sustained injuries to her right front paw, including the loss of her 4th toe digit, which was found in the neighboring enclosure housing two other adult wolf-dog hybrids. "Hela" was treated by a veterinarian for the injury.

On 06/15/2024, an adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Dorian" (ID #308) lost the majority of his left ear flap when a neighboring wolf-dog hybrid in an adjacent enclosure bit him through the fence line separating the two primary enclosures.

It is inappropriate to use primary enclosures that are not constructed and maintained to prevent harm to the animals they contain. The facility must ensure that all animal enclosures are constructed and maintained so that they protect the

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animals from injury, contain them securely and prevent other animals from entering.
TO BE CORRECTED BY 04/28/2025

3.6(c)(2) Critical

Primary enclosures.

Facility records and facility staff input reveal that one adult male wolf-dog hybrid named "Atlas" (ID #307) and one adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Celeste" (ID #306) that shared a primary enclosure had four separate altercations resulting in mild to moderate injuries to both during the period between 03/08/2024 and 01/06/2025. Despite awareness of the apparent incompatibility between the two animals, facility staff separated and re-introduced the animals again after each of the first two incidents (on 03/08/2024 and 11/27/2024), and left the animals together in the same primary enclosure after the third fight (01/04/2025); facility staff stated the rationale for not separating was lack of sedative on hand due to unavailability of one component the facility routinely uses (as mentioned elsewhere in this report). "Celeste" and "Atlas" were not permanently separated until after a fourth altercation (01/06/2025).

Failure to separate these animals after repeated instances of incompatibility resulted in additional distress and injuries for these animals. The licensee must ensure that all animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible, as determined by observation.

TO REMAIN CORRECTED FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSPECTION ON 03/26/2025 AND GOING FORWARD.

3.9(a)

Feeding

When asked about feeding protocols, facility staff told the inspector that wolf-dog hybrid animals are not fed on a daily basis in an effort to approximate the feeding frequency of wolves in the wild, but there is no documentation to indicate the attending veterinarian's endorsement or justification of this practice in the interest of providing appropriate veterinary care or husbandry.

Failure to feed dogs at least once per day can result in discomfort from hunger, digestion abnormalities, illness from malnutrition and heightened susceptibility to illness. The facility must ensure that all dogs and cats are fed at least once each day, except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care, as deemed appropriate by the attending veterinarian. The food must be of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain the normal condition and weight of the animals, and appropriate for each individual's age and condition.

TO BE CORRECTED BY 04/04/2025

3.9(b)

Feeding

During the inspection, an adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Tippy" (ID #347) was seen finishing a piece of meat placed directly on the ground without use of a food receptacle; staff confirmed that dishes are not always used for feeding the wolf-dog hybrids at the facility.

Food receptacles help food remain palatable and protect it from contamination, as well as limit the amount of non-food and potentially harmful parasites or other pathogens an animal may inadvertently consume from eating directly off of the ground. The facility must ensure that food receptacles are used and are readily accessible to all dogs, and located so as to minimize contamination by excreta and pests, and be protected from rain and snow. Feeding pans must either be made of a durable material that can be easily cleaned and sanitized or be disposable. Non-disposable food receptacles must be

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kept clean and sanitized in accordance with Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.11(b), which is achieved by using one of the methods described in Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.11(b)(3). Disposable food receptacles must be discarded after a single use.

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3.10(a)

Watering

When asked about watering practices, facility staff confirmed that the water provided in metal buckets to all of the wolf-dog hybrids housed outdoors does freeze when the temperature drops low enough and that the ice in the buckets is broken when staff arrive in the morning. There is no mechanism to prevent freezing of the water, so these animals do not have access to water until the staff corrects the problem on those days.

There was a very small amount of uniformly brown, opaque water in the water bucket shared by adult wolf-dog hybrids "Kiara" (ID #274) and "Kovu" (ID# 273); a facility staff member corrected this during the inspection.

The water bucket shared by adult wolf-dog hybrids "Sox" (ID #255) and "Gambit" (ID #290) was empty, except for mud at the bottom; a facility staff member corrected this during the inspection and the animals did not exhibit an abnormal level of thirst when given fresh water.

Failure to provide a continuous supply of potable water can result in discomfort or illness from dehydration or contaminated water, and inappetence. The facility must ensure that potable water is made continuously available to dogs, unless restricted by the attending veterinarian or excepted as provided in the transportation standards during transport.

TO BE CORRECTED FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSPECTION ON 3/26/2025

3.11(b)(2)

Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control.

The inspector asked facility staff about frequency of sanitation for food and water receptacles and was told that water buckets are only dumped, perhaps rinsed and then refilled, and that at least twice weekly sanitation of water and food receptacles is not performed.

Food and water in receptacles that are not appropriately cleaned and sanitized can contaminate food and water from the presence of harmful microorganisms and parasites, resulting in animal illness. The licensee must ensure that used primary enclosures and food and water receptacles for dogs are sanitized at least once every two weeks (more often if necessary to prevent accumulation of dirt, debris, food waste, excreta, and other disease hazards) using one of the methods prescribed in Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.11(b)(3).

TO BE CORRECTED FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSPECTION ON 03/26/2025 AND GOING FORWARD

3.13(b)(2)

Veterinary care for dogs.

The facility had veterinary invoices but no veterinary records on hand for an adult female wolf-dog hybrid named "Hela" (ID #311) that sustained injuries to her right front paw and loss of a toe when bitten through a fence by another wolf-dog hybrid in an adjacent enclosure.

Veterinary records contain information that is vital for the care of animals that present with injuries or illnesses. It is important to have the veterinary record on hand to ensure that caregivers know exactly how and when to provide follow

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up care to animals, including details for post-procedural care, drug administration and any other instructions and follow up visits. This written information is very important to ensure that any follow up care provided to the animal is done according to the veterinarian's orders to help prevent unnecessary discomfort or harm to the animal and help ensure the best outcome. The licensee must keep copies of medical records for dogs and make these available for APHIS inspection; the records must include all of the information detailed in Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.13(b)(1-4).

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This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3752	85-C-0034	001	WILD SPIRIT WOLF SANCTUARY	25-MAR-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000003	<i>Canis latrans</i>	COYOTE
000002	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000002	<i>Canis lupus hallstromi</i>	NEW GUINEA SINGING DOG
000046	<i>Canis lupus</i> X <i>C. familiaris</i>	WOLF/DOG HYBRID
000001	<i>Canis latrans</i> x <i>C. familiaris</i>	COYOTE-DOG HYBRID / COYDOG
000054	Total	