



Inspection Report

Bridges For Brain Injury Inc
5760 Duke of Gloucester Way
Farmington, NY 14425

Customer ID: **321420**

Certificate: **21-C-0350**

Site: 001

Bridges For Brain Injury Inc

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 08-MAR-2023

2.40(a)(2)

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

When the facility initially reached out to the AV to discuss pulling the three-month-old male lemur, they led the AV to believe that the adult male was being aggressive to the offspring. The AV, in discussion with the inspector, stated that she worried what would happen to the baby if left with an aggressive adult male and so she approved the staff to pull the baby out of an abundance of caution. The staff stated to the inspector, that the adult male was acting aggressive towards the staff and sometimes the female, not specifically the baby. By not providing accurate information on the behavior of the animals to the AV, they compromised her authority in ensuring provisions of adequate care to the animals. The facility should provide direct and frequent communication to the AV per 2.40 (b)(3) but this information must be conveyed accurately to ensure adequate guidance and care is provided. Correct by ensuring accurate information is being provided to the AV, providing her with the authority to oversee the adequacy of all aspects of animal care and use.

Correct by: March 10, 2023

2.131(b)(1)

Handling of animals.

The staff at the facility intentionally chose to pull a juvenile lemur when he was three months old, with the goal of forming a bond with human staff to make him easier to handle for education programs. After removing the juvenile from his family

Prepared By: ANDREA D AMBROSIO

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:

10-MAR-2023

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

10-MAR-2023



Inspection Report

group, they housed him in an adjacent room where he could no longer visualize or hear other non-human primates. This separation caused unnecessary behavioral stress in the female and juvenile when the female began vocalizing for her offspring for extended periods of time and the baby would call for its mother. In unnecessarily separating a juvenile from its mother the facility caused unnecessary discomfort and distress. Additionally, the juvenile is now an isolated lemur housed in the adjacent room unable to see other nonhuman primates, unless staff chooses to walk him over. Handling must be done as carefully as possible for the overall welfare of the animal.

Correct by: March 13, 2023

3.85

Employees.

The staff at the facility are not trained nor under the supervision of an individual who has the knowledge, background and experience in proper husbandry and care of non-human primates, specifically the three Ring tail lemurs at the facility. The supervisor who had experience left the facility almost 11 months ago. The current staff does not know how to adequately train, crate, separate or manage a family group of lemurs. When last inspected September 16, 2022, the family group consisted of a male, female and infant male offspring born Sept 4, 2023. At the time of the inspection, intense discussion involved the family group dynamics, need to "baby proof" the enclosure in the next few weeks and strong recommendations to keep this as a family group for their psychological wellbeing and historical issue with the adult male being aggressive due to having been raised as an isolated animal.

During this inspection, only the male and female lemur were in the enclosure. When asked, the inspector was informed that the baby had been pulled at three months of age and was in another room. A staff member stated the adult male had been acting aggressive and they felt the need to pull the baby. Upon clarification, the facility confirmed that the male had been acting aggressive towards staff and the female, but not the baby. The facility pulled the baby unnecessarily, as

Prepared By: ANDREA D AMBROSIO
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
10-MAR-2023

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
10-MAR-2023



Inspection Report

opposed to separating the male they said was aggressive. The baby was then taken from the facility to a staff member's home nightly so he could not hear the mother vocalize and she could not hear him vocalizing. He is returned to the facility during the day and has been brought into the large mammal room to visually see the parents. The facility has expressed a desire to neuter him and attempt to reintroduce him to his family group.

As a highly social family species, male offspring will often live with the parents for up to a year and a half. For the psychological wellbeing of the animal, the baby should have stayed with the parents, removed at the appropriate time for neutering and quickly reintroduced. Because he was pulled at such a young age, a reintroduction back to the group has limited chance of success, requiring him to remain a solitary primate. Staff with adequate background in non-human primate behavior and husbandry should recognize that a male ring-tale lemur acting aggressive to the staff was in fact protecting his family group. If the male was aggressive to the female or offspring, then the adult male should have been separated per 3.81 (a)(1), keeping the female and offspring together. Additionally, the staff never addressed the enclosure wire spacing or adequately "baby proofed" the enclosure. According to staff, the baby escaped the enclosure, getting caught in some netting around the wires, causing the mother to be distressed. Instead of designing the primary enclosure to contain the baby securely, they chose to remove him from the family group and house him in a smaller enclosure. The staff has no observational records regarding the aggression of the adult male, distress vocalizations from the female, pulling of the infant or his behavior when taken to a staff member home. Due to the lack of records, timely and accurate information cannot be conveyed to the AV and staff cannot maintain the level of husbandry practices and care required for non-human primates. The facility must ensure that staff has a knowledge base of species they are caring for to provide good welfare for the animals.

Correct by: June 10, 2023

3.125(a)

Repeat

Facilities, general.

Prepared By: ANDREA D AMBROSIO

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:

10-MAR-2023

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

10-MAR-2023



Inspection Report

Wire-mesh shelving in the chinchilla enclosure has openings which can easily allow feet to slip through and lead to injuries. The facility has placed wire mesh shelving in the chinchilla enclosure that has 2"x2" wide holes. Holes this large are a potential hazard to the chinchilla if a leg were to get caught in the mesh and is not a safe area for the animal to rest on. These wide mesh shelves should be replaced with a piece of material that has smaller mesh to protect their feet or a solid platform. This needs to be addressed for the safety of the animals.

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

Prepared By: ANDREA D AMBROSIO
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
10-MAR-2023

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
10-MAR-2023



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
321420	21-C-0350	001	Bridges For Brain Injury Inc	08-MAR-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000002	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000001	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	NORTHERN/EURASIAN LYNX
000002	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>	GEOFFROY'S CAT
000002	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000001	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE
000001	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
000001	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG (MOST COMMON PET HEDGEHOG)
000001	<i>Canis lupus hallstromi</i>	NEW GUINEA SINGING DOG
000003	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000002	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
000002	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Octodon degus</i>	DEGU
000001	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	LESSER MADAGASCAR HEDGEHOG TENREC
000002	<i>Chinchilla lanigera</i>	CHINCHILLA
000002	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	VIRGINIA OPOSSUM
000001	<i>Tolypeutes tricinctus</i>	BRAZILIAN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000001	<i>Bettongia penicillata</i>	BRUSH-TAILED RAT-KANGAROO
000029	Total	



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
321420	21-C-0350	001	Bridges For Brain Injury Inc	08-MAR-2023