

DMERSEREAU INS-0001368612

Inspection Report

Stephanie Angel 10215 Light Ave Hastings, FL 32145 Customer ID: 6018724

Certificate: 58-C-1315

Site: 001

Stephanie Angel

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 09-JUL-2025

2.40(a)(2) Critical

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

There are multiple incidents where that facility is not giving their attending veterinarian (AV) appropriate authority. This includes performing treatments without AV approval, failing to follow treatment plans provided by a veterinarian, and failing to communicate changes in patient condition with their AV.

•Latte, a 5 month old female capybara, presented to the emergency veterinary clinic (EVC) on December 4, 2024, with severe weakness rapid breathing, low body temperature, and low blood sugar. After treatment she was released. Latte "was sent home with husbandry recommendations, including feeding her separately from the three other capybaras she shares housing with and keeping her inside during winter nights. The owners brought Latte inside at night for the first three nights out of hospital but then returned her to her outdoor enclosure as the temperature at night had increased." On December 10, 2024, Latte was brought back to the EVC lateral and minimally responsive. She was humanely euthanized. •Beans, a 4 month old male capybara, was bitten multiple times by a capybara around April 10th. The facility flushed the wound and left it to heal without communication with a veterinarian. Beans was taken to the attending veterinarian on April 19, 2025, with an abscessed bite wound on the right flank. The AV treated the wound and discharged this animal. Beans then presented at the EVC on April 24, 2025 for lethargy, difficulty walking and an open wound on his left side. During his exam there was a "Large open wound on right flank with necrotic margins and steel suture secured into the lateral margins of the wound; additional ~8-10cm superficial laceration along left flank." The facility did not communicate this worsening of his condition to the AV. Following hospitalization, Beans was discharged on April 30, 2025. Beans died at the facility on May 3, 2025.

•Reese, a 9 month old male capybara, presented to the EVC on May 27, 2025, for lameness in the left front leg. Reese was sent home with pain medication. The facility called the EVC on June 7, 2025, stating that Reese's condition was worse, and the emergency veterinarian altered the treatment plan. During the call the facility was given instructions to contact the EVC or their AV "if Reese's condition worsened or other concerns arose." Reese returned to the EVC on July 2, 2025, "covered in urine, dehydrated, hypothermic, and cachectic, with marked decrease in body and muscle condition since his last assessment on 5/27/2025; since that time, he had lost 7 kg (20.6% of body weight). Additionally, Reese was found to have numerous wounds throughout his body, including full-thickness puncture wounds (suspected to be due to his history of conspecific bite trauma), superficial abrasion with and without hemorrhagic crusts (scabs; suspected to be related to this trauma), and ulcers in various pressure points throughout his body." The facility told the EVC that Reese had been attacked by a capybara resulting in multiple bite wound and they had cleaned with chlorhexidine and applied topical purple wound spray. This was not part of the treatment plan given by the EVC. Between June 7 and July 2, there was no communication with the EVC or AV regarding Reese's decline. Diagnostics done by the EVC showed chronic

Prepared By: DAVID MERSEREAU Date: USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL

OFFICER

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changes. Reese was humanely euthanized due to his condition.

The AV confirmed that he had no record nor was he informed of Latte or Reese. Additionally, the AV was not informed about the additional wounds and treatment to Beans.

Performing treatments without AV approval, failing to follow treatment plans provided by a veterinarian, and failing to communicate with their AV does not provide appropriate authority and prevents them from ensuring that the animals are cared for appropriately. This lack of authority given to the AV can lead to injury, pain, prolonged suffered, and death.

The licensee shall 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.

Correct from this date forward, July 21, 2025

2.75(b)(1)

Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

The licensee has incomplete acquisition records for 2 adult red lemurs. The acquisition records for these animals consist of an incomplete Form 7020A. The record does not list the address for the seller nor the date of the acquisition. Lack of required acquisition information prevents accurate tracking of animals to ensure their humane use. The licensee must establish a system of recordkeeping to ensure the creation and maintenance of acquisition and disposition records which fully and correctly disclose all of the required information for all animals on the inventory, including those born on premises.

Correct from this date forward, July 21, 2025

2.132(d)

Procurement of dogs, cats, and other animals; dealers.

The licensee purchased 2 coatimundi on June 6, 2025, from a person who is required to be licensed but who does not hold a USDA license. As a USDA-licensed exhibitor, the licensee is required to obtain animals from licensed persons, if those persons are required to have a license. The person supplying coatimundi to the licensee is required to be licensed, as they are supplying animals, and do not qualify for exemptions from the licensing requirements.

The licensee shall not knowingly obtain any dog, cat, or other animal from any person who is required to be licensed but who does not hold a current, valid, and unsuspended license.

Correct from this date forward, July 21, 2025

3.131(c)

Sanitation.

The kitchen area had an accumulation of dirt, debris, and dead insects on the floor around the refrigerator, in a black tub under the stainless-steel restaurant "sandwich station" cabinet, and under the canned food storage shelves. There was also a large amount of donated material (bags, toys, bedding) piled throughout the space. These piles provide a potential breeding ground and living area for pests and vermin. The dirt and debris are a potential source of contamination for the animals.

	DAVID MERSEREAU VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER	USDA, APHIS, Animal Care	Date: 21-JUL-2025
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Failure to clean and sanitize the kitchen area as required may prevent proper inspection for and prevention of pests and vermin, and increase the potential for disease hazards to the animals.

Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this subpart.

Correct by August 15, 2025.

3.132 Critical

Employees.

Four capybara under the age of 1 year have died at this facility between December 2024 and July 2025.

- Latte, a 5 month old female capybara, presented to the EVC on December 4, 2024, severe weakness rapid breathing, low body temperature, and low blood sugar. The EVC noted "Latte is much smaller than she should be while her body and muscle condition are decreased, her body is also much smaller than would be expected for a similarly aged capybara." On December 10, 2024, Latte was brought back to the EVC lateral and minimally responsive. She was humanely euthanized.
- Espresso, a 5 month old female capybara, presented to the EVC April 17, 2025 with low blood sugar, low body temperature, latterly recumbent and thin. Espresso was hospitalized but was unable to maintain her blood sugar. Her condition worsened and she was humanely euthanized April 19, 2025.
- Beans, a 4 month old male capybara, was bitten multiple times by a capybara around April 10th. Despite treatment with the AV and EVC Beans died at the facility on May 3, 2025.
- Reese, a 9 month old male capybara, under treatment for an open wound on his elbow. presented to the EVC on July 2 "covered in urine, dehydrated, hypothermic, and cachectic, with marked decrease in body and muscle condition since his last assessment on 5/27/2025; since that time, he had lost 7 kg (20.6% of body weight). Additionally, Reese was found to have numerous wounds throughout his body, including full-thickness puncture wounds (suspected to be due to his history of conspecific bite trauma), superficial abrasion with and without hemorrhagic crusts (scabs; suspected to be related to this trauma), and ulcers in various pressure points throughout his body." "He was reported to be minimally active, sitting in his urine and not rising to urinate for at least 5 days."

The circumstances of these deaths (thin body condition, low blood sugar, worsening infections recurrent bite wounds, skin ulcers) demonstrate that this facility does not have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices.

The facility needs to either train or hire employees to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry. Correct by August 21, 2025

3.133 Critical

Separation.

The facility is not ensuring that animals housed together are compatible.

- Beans, a 4 month old male capybara, was bitten multiple times by a capybara around April 10th. Beans died of complications from these wounds at the facility on May 3, 2025.
- Reese, a 9 month old male capybara, presented to the EVC on May 27, 2025, for lameness in the left front leg. Reese was sent home with pain medication. Reese returned to the EVC on July 2, 2025 for worsening medical condition. The facility reported to the EVC that approximately June 27, 2025 Reese was attacked by a capybara in his enclosure. Reese

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was humanely euthanized as a result of his worsening medical condition.

Housing incompatible animals together in the same primary enclosure can lead to stress, injury, and even death. Animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible.

Correct from this date forward, July 21, 2025

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

Prepared By: DAVID MERSEREAU

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care **Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL

OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6018724	58-C-1315	001	Stephanie Angel	09-JUL-2025

Count 000006 000002 000001 000001 000006 000002 000003	Scientific Name Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris Mustela putorius furo Atelerix albiventris Nasuella olivacea Procyon lotor Mephitis mephitis Capra hircus	Common Name CAPYBARA DOMESTIC FERRET FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG MOUNTAIN COATI RACCOON STRIPED SKUNK DOMESTIC GOAT
000003	Capra hircus	DOMESTIC GOAT
000001 000001	Tolypeutes matacus Notamacropus agilis	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO AGILE WALLABY
000023	Total	