



## Inspection Report

Mount Hope Auction Inc  
PO Box 82  
Mt Hope, OH 44660

Customer ID: **2156**

Certificate: **31-B-0031**

Site: 001

MOUNT HOPE AUCTION, INC.

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 12-FEB-2024

### 2.40(b)(2) Critical

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

At least forty-two animals were identified as not receiving adequate veterinary care during the September 14th-16th, 2023 and November 2nd-4th 2023 sales. Photos and videos submitted to APHIS officials clearly demonstrate that veterinary care was required for the animals listed.

APHIS officials spoke with the Attending Veterinarian (AV) of the facility who requested that all questions be sent and responded to through email. The Attending Veterinarian stated that the response was sent on the behalf of the veterinarians who work during these sales.

The Attending Veterinarian and associate veterinarians working at the facility could not recall seeing these animals or any specific treatments given to them. None of the veterinarians were able to confirm that any of the animals were evaluated or that any veterinary care was provided. In addition, there are no medical treatment records available for review and no other documentation to show whether a veterinary evaluation was requested or conducted.

The Attending Veterinarian stated that he does not consider consigned animals at the auction as patients of the auction's veterinarians. Additionally, the Attending Veterinarian stated that all treatment sheets or notes (if any were conducted / provided) would follow the animal to the new owner for follow-up treatment by the animal's veterinarian.

The facility could not demonstrate that the following animals at the September and November 2023 sales received adequate veterinary care in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

#### September 2023 Sale:

- Two Nilgai (Lot# 2751 and 2752) were severely emaciated with very prominent ribs, scapula, and pelvic bones. Individual vertebrae are visible and readily apparent indicating minimal fat deposits.
- Several cattle (including Lot #1127) were severely emaciated with very prominent ribs, scapula, and pelvic bones. Individual vertebrae are visible and readily apparent indicating minimal fat deposits.
- An alpaca (Lot # 1397) appears underweight and lethargic. The animal was seen lying sternally with the nose pressed

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into the bedding of the enclosure. The animal appears to not be responding to its surroundings despite being housed in a noisy environment in a group with other animals nearby. The animal exhibited prominent ribs and pelvis visible through the long fiber indicating that the animal was also underweight.

- Sheep (Lot # 2174) was underweight and had brown matted debris consistent with diarrhea adhered to the hind region of the animal and the back legs.
- Sheep (Lot # 769) was thin with prominent ribs with diarrhea adhered to the hind region and tail of the animal.
- Sheep (Lot # 779) was thin with an excessive amount of diarrhea present on the legs and tail of the animal.
- Sheep (Lot # 2721) had thick black diarrhea adhered to the hind region and tail of the animal.
- Sheep (Lot # 2189) was thin with the pelvis of the animal visible through the wool and had a dirty matted tail.
- Sheep (Lot # 2358) was thin and has diarrhea adhered to the tail.
- Sheep (Lot # 843) was thin with diarrhea adhered to the hind end and tail with bedding material present.
- A ranch fox (Lot # 6393) had ocular discharge in the area closest to the animal's nose in both eyes. The animal was recorded consistently head shaking appearing to be in discomfort.
- A Jacob's sheep (Lot # 2019) had a clear nasal discharge in both nostrils. A bubble was forming due to the discharge in the right nostril. Bedding material was adhered to the discharge on the left nostril.
- A splash polish chicken (Lot # 4339) had a swollen underside with feather loss and reddened skin.
- Two Zebu (Lot # 1083, 1189) had dark colored diarrhea adhered to the hind region and back of the legs of the animals.
- A llama (Lot # 1475) is thin and had hair loss on the back of the neck and over the spine in the lumbar region. The skin appears to be dry and flakey.
- Two Macaws (including Lot #4999) had feather loss on the neck, chest and/or legs.
- Two Senegal parrots (Lot # 6505) housed in a pair had feather loss on the neck and head. Most of the head of both individuals did not have feathers present.
- A silver chukar partridge (Lot #5250) had feather loss on the back near the base of the tail. The tail feathers were also damaged and unkept.
- Several llamas (Lot # 1361, 1469, 1471, 1472) had thick coats that were matted with bedding and other debris trapped in the coat.

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- A raccoon (Lot# 6644) showed stereotypic behavior in their enclosure. The animal was seen consistently pacing back and forth at the front of the enclosure.
- A ranch fox (Lot# 6395) showed stereotypic behavior in their enclosure. The animal was seen consistently pawing at the water receptacle and biting/pawing on the wire and wood material of the enclosure
- A coatimundi was photographed with brown/orange diarrhea on the food/water receptacle and throughout the enclosure.
- A Budgerigar that was housed in a group had feather loss on the wing with reddened skin.
- A cockatiel had feather loss on the back of the head and neck. There was dry scaly skin present on areas of feather loss.
- Several Emu housed in a group had feather loss on a large portion of the front of the neck.

### November 2023 Sale:

- A white park cow (Lot # 1203) was found to be emaciated. The animal had prominent ribs, spine, pelvis, and scapula indicating there were very little fat deposits.
- A crossbred sheep (Lots #784) appeared to have a prepuce that was swollen.
- A billy goat (Lot# 754) had white crusty ocular discharge in the left eye
- A painted desert sheep (Lot# 639) had white nasal discharge in both nostrils. Bedding material was adhered to the discharge.

The facility cannot demonstrate if these animals received adequate veterinary care. Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. Correct by ensuring that all animals receive adequate veterinary care. Correct by 08-March-2024.

### 2.76(a)

### Repeat

#### Records: Operators of auction sales and brokers.

During both the September and November 2023 sales, numerous records were not complete. At least 100 consignor records at both sales were found to be missing the USDA License number (if licensed) or the vehicle license number and driver's license or state issued ID if the consignor is not licensed under the AWA. Additionally, at least 6 disposition records from the September sale and at least 4 dispositions records from the November sale did not include the USDA license number for buyers that were USDA licensed, and none of the disposition records contained the sex and approximate age of the animal.

Failure to maintain complete records limits APHIS's ability to properly track animal movements and ensure the well-being

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of those animals. The auction shall make, keep, and maintain records/forms which fully and correctly disclose all the required information of each animal consigned for auction or sold. Correct by ensuring that all records contain the required information including: the USDA License number (if licensed) or the vehicle license number and driver's license or state issued ID if the consignor is not licensed under the AWA, and a complete description of the animal (species, breed/type, sex, date of birth or approximate age, color and distinctive markings).

**2.132(d) Critical Repeat**

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

During both the September 14-16, 2023 and November 2-4, 2023, sales, the auction accepted over 80 animals for consignment from un-licensed individuals who were required to be licensed. These individuals did not hold a valid USDA license or a one-time exemption. These included:

September Sale 14-16, 2023

- A consignor sold one ring-tailed lemur Lot # 8226 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold five flying squirrels Lot # 6761-6765 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold ten short tail opossum Lot # 6847-6853 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold one oryx Lot # 1680 and one Pere David's deer Lot # 1681 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold one Nilgai Lot # 2759 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold two Aoudad Lot # 1655-1656 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold one marble fox Lot # 6598 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold two red fox Lot # 5918 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold three skunk Lot # 7863-7865, five opossum Lot # 7866-7870, one red fox Lot # 7871 and did not have a USDA license. Two skunk Lot # 7868, 7869 were sold to a licensed facility.
- A consignor sold three red fox Lot # 7700, 7701, 7702 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold three skunk Lot # 8134-8136 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold four skunk Lot # 7751-7754 and did not have a USDA license.
- A consignor sold two skunk Lot # 7491-7492 and did not have a USDA license.

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•A consignor sold nine skunk Lot # 7505-7513 and one opossum Lot # 7514 and did not have a USDA license. One skunk Lot # 7511 was sold to a licensed facility.

•A consignor sold one skunk Lot # 7303 and did not have a USDA license.

November Sale 2nd-4th 2023:

•A consignor sold one kinkajou Lot # 10589 and did not have a USDA license.

•A consignor sold two coyote Lot # 10585 and did not have a USDA license.

•A consignor sold two javelina Lot # 1421-1422 and did not have a USDA license.

•A consignor sold six yak Lot # 1054-1059, one water buffalo Lot # 1053 and did not have a USDA license.

•A consignor sold three water buffalo Lot # 1010-1012 and did not have a USDA license.

•A consignor sold two water buffalo Lot # 1094-1095 and did not have a USDA license.

•A consignor sold fourteen bison Lot # 1018-1022, 1099, 1100, 1776, 1777, 1082, 1069-1070, 1039-1040 and two white elk Lot # 1411-1412 and did not have a USDA license.

APHIS officials were present in the consignment area during both auction events for much of the time that animals were being accepted. Inspectors have advised the facility how to check if a customer has an active license by using the public search tool. In addition, inspectors were conducting inspections with consigners in the check in/unloading areas and requesting USDA license numbers.

During the September Auction, facility staff were present when inspectors explained to a person that presented animals for consignment that they require a valid USDA license to sell foxes and that the license would be required for the auction to accept them. The auction staff were made aware that that individual did not hold a valid license. The person left the animal intake area and decided not to consign the animals at the time of inspection, however, the same individual returned later the same day and consigned foxes Lot # 7700, 7701, 7702. The facility staff accepted that consignment when inspectors were no longer present.

No dealer shall knowingly obtain any animal from any person who is required to be licensed but who does not hold a current, valid license or has not received a onetime exemption from USDA to sell the animals. Failure to ensure that consignors of animals which are required to be licensed have a valid license prevents APHIS from ensuring the well-being of those animals at their originating facility. Correct by ensuring that animals are only obtained from sources that hold a current, valid, and unsuspended licensed or from individuals that are exempted from licensure under the AWA.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the Facility Representative.

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Additional Inspectors:

Jonathan Tomkovitch, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

CARRIE BONGARD, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

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**Species Inspected**

| Cust No | Cert No   | Site | Site Name                | Inspection  |
|---------|-----------|------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2156    | 31-B-0031 | 001  | MOUNT HOPE AUCTION, INC. | 12-FEB-2024 |

| Count | Scientific Name | Common Name |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|
|-------|-----------------|-------------|

|        |       |      |
|--------|-------|------|
| 000000 | NONE  | NONE |
| 000000 | Total |      |



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