



Inspection Report

Oswalds Bear Ranch LLC
13814 County Road 407
Newberry, MI 49868

Customer ID: **6012892**
Certificate: **34-C-0442**
Site: 001
Oswalds Bear Ranch LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 15-JUL-2025

2.40(b)(3) Direct

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

During the inspection, a female, cinnamon-colored black bear, approximately 18 months old, was showing abnormal behaviors while moving around the enclosure that served no obvious purpose. Especially while walking straight toward the fence or pacing along the fence, she would suddenly stop moving forward, throw her nose straight into the air, and abruptly change her direction of movement. The behavior was seen frequently between periods of play, scratching, foraging for apples, and moving around the enclosure, and occurred as often as 3 directional changes in 20 seconds when observed. The behavior was more pronounced during warmer weather and when there were many visitors around. The abnormal directional change was observed both away from the fence and along the fence, even when there were no visitors with apples in the area. Space did not appear to be a factor as she is housed in a large outdoor enclosure with plenty of space to roam, elevation changes, climbing structures and a waterfall/pond. The facility representative was aware of this abnormal behavior, but no changes have been made to decrease the signs of stress that the bear is showing. Additionally, the attending veterinarian had not been notified of the abnormal behaviors of the animal and veterinary care has not been provided to evaluate the bear's physical and mental health.

Daily observation of all animals shall be made to assess their health and well-being and promptly identify injuries, disease, and other medical conditions. A mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. Untreated injuries, infections, and other conditions can be painful and cause suffering to the animal, and frequent communications with the attending veterinarian are required to allow for the veterinarian to advise licensees on needed treatments for health concerns, which helps to mitigate the effects of adverse health conditions. Correct by ensuring that this female yearling bear, and any other bears showing abnormal behaviors, are evaluated by a veterinarian and that treatments and care instructions are followed as prescribed.

***Correct by 6pm Eastern time on Friday 7/18/25.

3.129(a)

Feeding.

The facility is feeding the cubs, yearlings, and adult black bears a mixed diet consisting of produce, meats, restaurant food scraps, bakery items, and some sweet treats. Some of the bears appear overconditioned for the current time of year

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
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suggesting that the diet may need to be adjusted. When consulting with the attending veterinarian, they were unaware of the content and amount of food being provided to the bears. Additionally, during the inspection, four 52-pound unopened bags and 2 bags in use were identified with a "best by" date of 10/21/22. Long outdated food may not be of sufficient nutritive value for the animals, and feeding a diet too high in calories, sugar, and fat can cause obesity in the bears. 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. Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.

***Correct by 8/15/25.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representatives.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6012892	34-C-0442	001	Oswalds Bear Ranch LLC	15-JUL-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000050	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	NORTH AMERICAN BLACK BEAR
000050	Total	