



Inspection Report

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35863 Huston Rd
Wilkesville, OH 45695

Customer ID: **23308**
Certificate: **31-C-0259**
Site: 001
CYRIL VIERSTRA

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 31-MAY-2017

2.4 CRITICAL

NON-INTERFERENCE WITH APHIS OFFICIALS.

The licensee interfered with the inspection process by providing false statements and false documentation to the inspector during the inspection.

On 5/31/2017 the inspector completed a routine inspection at the facility. At that time of inspection, the inspector was notified by the Licensee that three Canadian Lynx had died since the last inspection. According to the licensee, "wild dogs" had penetrating the perimeter fence and fought with the Lynx fencing of the primary enclosure killing all 3 lynx. During the inspection, the licensee was asked about the events repeatedly and in significant detail without changing this story. When the inspector went back to the facility on 6/2/2017 to complete an exit interview the Licensee stated that the details provided on 5/31/2017 were incorrect and that the three Lynx were killed by his personal dog (details below). He stated that he was upset by the incident and didn't want to admit that it had been his personal dog. There were no disposition records present at the facility for these deaths.

In addition, on 5/31/2017 an APHIS 7020 Animal Disposition form was present at the facility for two female Lynx showing that they were donated to a non-USDA licensed individual in Indiana on October 18, 2016 and/or November 17, 2016 (there were two dates on this document). The Licensee did not have any acquisition documentation for these animals. When the licensee was asked about these animals, he provided the breeders name and USDA License number that he supposedly obtained the animals from verbally. In addition, he stated that they animals had been acquired one day prior to transferring them to the Indian facility. There were no written animal acquisition records for these animals. When the inspector returned on 6/2/2017, the licensee stated that the acquisition and disposition information he had provided on 5/31 for these animals was incorrect. He had now stated that he had never seen or taken possession of the animals listed on the APHIS Form 7020. He stated that he had falsely created these documents for the facility in Indiana. He stated that he created these documents with hopes of eventually obtaining them from the Indian individual. The licensee stated that he thought that this would allow him to replace two out of the three lynx that were killed in December before anyone had realized that the three Lynx were no longer at the facility. However; he was not able to obtain these animals and has not heard anything further about these animals.

Providing complete and accurate information is essential to the inspection process. Making false or fraudulent

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statements and/or providing false documents to USDA Officials interferes with the inspection process and may prevent officials from determining compliance with the AWA. Although the licensee eventually provided an account of events that appears reasonable, this was only after repeated questioning. Ensure that for all future inspections, all statements made to APHIS Officials and documentation provided are accurate.

Correct By: Providing correct and accurate information, both written and orally, to APHIS officials from this day forward.

3.125(a) CRITICAL

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

On 6/2/2017, the inspector was informed by the Licensee that the three Canadian Lynx died after being attacked by a personal dog. He stated on or around December 14-16 of 2016 he returned home about midnight to find that "Ray", a male Irish Wolf Hound, had not come to greet him as usual. When he went looking for Ray, he found he was inside the Lynx enclosure. Ray had gotten through the perimeter fence and into the Lynx enclosure. He stated that the lock was still on the primary enclosure door, however, the door was pushed inward at the hinge. He speculated that the hinge of the door must have been worn or rusted allowing it to turn or pushed inward, which in turn provided the dog access into the enclosure. The licensee stated that when he discovered this incident, Ray was lying next to one of the Lynx bodies with one paw/leg over the body and tugging on the scruff portion of the Lynx back/shoulder area with his mouth. That Lynx and both others were already dead.

Based on the statements made by the licensee, it appears that the primary enclosure was not structurally sound or maintained in a manner to protect the lynx from injury or in this instance being killed. Failure to construct enclosures with sufficient structural strength and maintain them in good working condition can result in animal escape, injury or as in this case the entrance of predators. All primary enclosures must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. In addition the enclosure shall be maintained in a manner to protect the animals from injury and/or death. The licensee must ensure that this enclosure and all others are constructed in a manner that it can be properly secured and protect the animals contained therein from injury and or death.

Correct By: Prior to housing any future animals within this enclosure and not later than 6/9/17.

3.127(d) CRITICAL

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

This facility is constructed so that each primary enclosure is contained within a separate perimeter fence. These individual perimeter fences are typically locked with a chain and/or padlock, however, on 6/2/2017, the Licensee informed the inspector that he had stopped locking the perimeter fence gate for the Lynx enclosure prior to the

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incident described above and that he had started securing the gate with a bungee cord. He stated that the bungee cord made it easier and quicker for him to get in and out of the Lynx perimeter fence. The licensee stated that on or around December 14-16 of 2016, all three Lynx were killed by one of his personal dogs "Ray". As a result of the perimeter gate not being properly secured, "Ray" was able to access the primary enclosure and kill the tree Lynx contained therein.

On 5/31/2017 and 6/2/2016, the enclosure that previously contained the Lynx in question was available for inspection, however, the corresponding perimeter fence was not. The Licensee stated on both occasions that the perimeter fencing for this enclosure had been taken down after the incident and the materials had be re-purposed. At this time, there is no way to evaluate the perimeter fence as it appeared at the time the incident occurred. Based on the statements made by the licensee it is clear that the perimeter fence failed to prevent entry of the licensee's dog from entering and ultimately killing the Lynx.

Licensees must ensure that perimeter fencing (including gates) are sufficient and properly secured in order to ensure that all animals within the facility are protected from predators, wild animals and unauthorized persons. This enclosure must have an appropriate perimeter fence as required prior to using it to house any more animals. Additionally, the perimeter fences (including gates) for all enclosures must be properly secured at all times to prevent unauthorized access to the animals.

Correct By: 6/7/2107 and prior to housing any additional animals in this enclosure.

The inspection and records review were conducted on 5/31/2017 with the Licensee.

The inspector went back to the facility on 6/2/2017 and obtained further information for the report.

The Exit interview was conducted on 6/6/2017 with the Licensee.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
23308	31-C-0259	001	CYRIL VIERSTRA	31-MAY-17

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>	BARBARY SHEEP
000002	<i>Ateles chamek</i>	BLACK SPIDER MONKEY
000001	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>	DROMEDARY CAMEL
000009	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000002	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	TIGER
000005	<i>Sapajus appella</i>	BROWN CAPUCHIN / TUFTED CAPUCHIN
000001	<i>Varecia rubra</i>	RED RUFFED LEMUR
000003	<i>Varecia variegata</i>	BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR
000024	Total	