



Inspection Report

Deer Forest Exotic Animal Sanctuary
6800 Indian Lane
Coloma, MI 49038

Customer ID: 331334

Certificate: --

Site: 001

DEER FOREST EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 25-MAY-2014

2.1(a)(1)

REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION.

The applicant has Fallow deer, Bobcats, caviies, llama/alpaca, goats, pigs, Watusi and rabbits on exhibit to the public at their amusement facility. Applicants husband stated that they had called around and couldn't get any answers so they decided to exhibit the animals.

Any person operating or intending to operate as a exhibitor, except persons who are exempted from the licensing requirements under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, must have a valid license.

A USDA, APHIS, AC license must be obtained to exhibit animals to the public.

2.40(a)(1)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The facility employs a veterinarian under part-time or consulting arrangements. The written program of veterinary care was not available at the time of inspection. Written veterinary guidance for the care and well being of the various species at the facility has not been provided by the applicant. Animals may be mishandled and mistreated without current applicable guidelines for their care and treatment. For example, two Patagonian caviies died last December at the facility when they were housed outdoors without a heated nest box. Each exhibitor shall employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements, which shall include a written program of veterinary care in the case of a part-time or consulting veterinarian. A written program of veterinary care, including appropriate guidance for each species at the facility, must be documented and implemented.

2.40(b)(2)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The adult female bobcat is thin and seems reluctant to move around. The young bobcat ran away when startled, while the adult simply got up, turned around, then laid back down. She coughed once which sounded moist and congestive. Her breathing appeared heavy. Applicant stated the attending veterinarian viewed the bobcat in her enclosure five days previously. A comprehensive physical exam with diagnostic testing was not conducted at that time. The bobcat shows signs of illness which if left unaddressed may progress causing suffering or even death.

Prepared By: CARRIE BONGARD, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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Appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries must be utilized. The bobcat must be seen by a knowledgeable licensed veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment. Documentation of the veterinarian's assessment, treatment, and plan shall be maintained for examination by APHIS officials.

2.75(b)(1)

RECORDS: DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS.

The records are incomplete. Animals which have died or otherwise left the facility are recorded as present on the list of animals on hand. The fox which died earlier in the week and the cavy which died last winter do not have disposal dates recorded. Incomplete and inaccurate records make it difficult trace animals in the event of a disease outbreak. Every exhibitor shall make, keep, and maintain records which fully and correctly disclose the required information.

2.131(a)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

Since June, 2013 the applicant has been in charge of animal care at the facility and there have been numerous deaths of animals in their care. The list includes one ringtail lemur, 1 bobcat kitten, 2 adult watusi, 2 cavy, 1 fox, one peacock, one Chinese pheasant and two fallow deer. The applicants husband stated that the technician that was hired this spring supposedly had wild and exotic animal experience but they found out she had only worked at a dog kennel which is also the only experience that the applicants husband has with animals and the applicant also has not stated that she has any experience with wild or exotic animals.

All licensees who maintain wild or exotic animals must demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of the species they maintain.

The applicant must gain the appropriate knowledge and experience of any species of animal prior to acquiring the animal or hire someone with the proper knowledge and experience with the species involved.

2.131(b)(1)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

The 18 fallow deer on exhibit are very uneasy and nervous. The animals pace the back of the enclosure and hide in the off exhibit area. The public is allowed to enter the deer enclosure. Signs are posted to not proceed beyond this point but there is no physical barrier, leaving the deer an area where the public is not allowed but the food and water for the deer is in the area where the public is allowed. The public access further exacerbates the animals nervousness and may cause them to injure themselves.

Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma,

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overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

Measures must be taken to reduce the stress and anxiety of these animals when on exhibit to the public.

2.131(d)(2)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

The public is allowed hand feed animals on exhibit including: six pigs, two llamas, one alpaca, five goats, two cavy, two rabbits, a watusi, and eighteen fallow deer. The public may contact the animals during feeding. Employees or attendants are not present during these times of public contact. The only employees present were at the front admissions desk and one individual seen in the distance working on a tractor. Guests were viewed feeding plants which were not the food provided by the facility. Food thrown at a cavy caused it to freeze in apparent fear. Guests may enter the fallow deer enclosure unattended. The deer run back and forth across the back of their enclosure when they see people. Unattended public contact may result in physical injury to the animals by trauma or them eating unapproved items. The animals experience mental harm when they are subject to ignorant and inappropriate human contact. A responsible, knowledgeable, and readily identifiable employee or attendant must be present at all times during public contact.

3.125(a)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

The applicant had a fox housed in an inadequate shelter. The fox dug out underneath the primary enclosure fence that had no perimeter fence and was found dead in the horse enclosure. The bobcat kitten recently escaped its enclosure by finding a space between the side wall fencing and the roof fencing. The enclosure housing 2 adult pigs and 4 piglets, the enclosure housing the 4 female goats, the enclosure housing the single male goat and the enclosure housing the 3 llama/alpaca has numerous areas of wire fence that are broken and in disrepair. One of the three shelters for the pigs has a door that is off its hinges and has screws that go through to the other side. These screws are rusty and have very sharp points.

The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

All animals must be contained in an enclosure that is appropriate for the species to prevent injury and/or death of the animals. Replace or repair the fence so that it does not cause injury and so that it contains the pigs, llama/alpaca and goats. Replace or repair the door so that it does not cause injury to the pigs inside the enclosure.

3.125(c)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

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The storage shed with the bags of all purpose sweet feed and deer pellets has an open bag of food in it. There is evidence of mice in the form of mouse droppings on the floor of the shed. The bobcat shelter has a storage area attached to it. The facility is keeping horse and tortoise food in this area. The bags of food are open and sitting on the floor. These open bags of food may draw rodents into the area.

Supplies of food and bedding shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect such supplies against deterioration, molding, or contamination by vermin.

Any open bags of food must be kept in a container with a lid to prevent infestation and contamination by mice.

3.127(b)

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

The watusi is housed with three donkeys and a horse. These animals share a leanto for shelter. The leanto has a roof and one side.

This is not a sufficient shelter for the watusi. It does not protect the animal from wind and rain in the summer and wind and snow in the winter.

A shelter with at least three sides must be constructed or two walls added to the current structure to protect the animals and prevent discomfort.

3.127(d)

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

The applicant put a fox in an enclosure that did not have a perimeter fence. The fox dug out under the primary enclosure fence and was found dead in the horse enclosure. The two cavy are in an enclosure that does not have a perimeter fence.

On or after May 17, 2000, all outdoor housing facilities (i.e., facilities not entirely indoors) must be enclosed by a perimeter fence that is of sufficient height to keep animals and unauthorized persons out. Fences less than 6 feet high for other animals must be approved in writing by the Administrator. The fence must be constructed so that it protects the animals in the facility by restricting animals and unauthorized persons from going through it or under it and having contact with the animals in the facility, and so that it can function as a secondary containment system for the animals in the facility. It must be of sufficient distance from the outside of the primary enclosure to prevent physical contact between animals inside the enclosure and animals or persons outside the perimeter fence. Such fences less than 3 feet in distance from the primary enclosure must be approved in writing by the Administrator.

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A perimeter fence must be erected around any enclosure housing a wild or exotic animal to act as secondary containment and to prevent death of the animal by a predator.

3.129(a)

FEEDING.

There was a small amount of poor quality hay in the llama and goat enclosures and there was no hay in the storage barn. The animals that did not have hay but require hay are the cavies, rabbits, Watusi and the fallow deer.

The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health.

Provide all animals with a sufficient amount of hay daily to maintain the health of the animals.

3.130

WATERING.

The water in three of the enclosures is dirty. Excess algae, dirt, and leaves are present in the water containers for the the Llamas/alpaca, male goat, and Watusi. A layer of green/brown material is covering the insides of these containers, contaminating the animals' water. Dirty water may harbor disease hazards which pose a health risk for the animals. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

3.131(c)

SANITATION.

There is a large board with nails sticking out of it on the ground in the enclosure housing 2 llama and 1 alpaca. There is a styrofoam coffee cup with a lid in the enclosure housing housing the male goat.

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. Accumulations of trash shall be placed in designated areas and cleared as necessary to protect the health of the animals.

Remove all trash and debris from the primary enclosures to prevent injury and protect the health of the animals.

3.131(d)

SANITATION.

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There is mice feces in the sweet feed and deer pellet storage shed.

A safe and effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

A program to eliminate mice must be developed and maintained.

3.132

EMPLOYEES.

With the number of husbandry citations it shows that there is not a sufficient number of employees on staff to care for the animals on hand. The applicants husband stated that everyone was complaining about him working with the animals and that he has nothing saying he can't and admits working with the animals regularly.

A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Such practices shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.

A sufficient number of employees must be utilized to maintain a professional level of animal husbandry for the animals' optimal health and well being.

Exit conducted with applicant.

NO REGULATED ACTIVITIES MAY BE CONDUCTED UNTIL A VALID USDA LICENSE IS OBTAINED..

Additional Inspectors

Mchenry Kerry, Veterinary Medical Officer

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
331334	na	001	DEER FOREST EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY	25-MAY-14

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000005	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000018	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
000002	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000002	<i>Lama glama</i>	LLAMA
000001	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000002	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000002	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	EUROPEAN RABBIT
000006	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000039	Total	