

### United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

CDIGESUALDO INS-0000947355

#### **Inspection Report**

Oak Meadow Productions, LLC 440 Red Top Rd Valley View, TX 76272 Customer ID: 600228

Certificate: 74-C-1123

Site: 001

Oak Meadow Productions, LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 12-MAR-2024

2.131(c)(1) Repeat

#### Handling of animals.

The facility continues to advertise and allow the public to "HUG a sloth". This allows the public to hold a sloth in a manner that places the sloth's mouth next to the person's neck. According to the facility's web page about experience and pricing (https://www.oakmeadowranch.com/what-we-do), under Chef Dinner and Exotic Animal Experience it states, "You get to HUG a sloth!!!"

In a post on Facebook dated Feb 18, 2024, an individual talks about a surprise visit his wife booked at the facility for Valentine's Day. The post states, "I think the highlight for us was to get to hold the Sloth" In a photo from the same post a woman was seen "hugging" the sloth with the sloth's mouth next to her neck.

In a post on Facebook dated Feb 19, 2024, an individual talks about "girls trip 2024" to the facility. The post states that she and a friend "have been searching for a place closer than Roatan to hold a sloth. She finally found Oak Meadow Ranch in Valley View Texas". Photos from the same post show multiple women holding the sloth and transferring the animal between them.

The sloth could easily bite someone on the neck, head, or face. Sloths have the potential to inflict serious bites that can easily become infected and/or serious scratches with their long claws if they become agitated or scared. There is also the potential for the sloth to become injured if a child or adult accidentally drops the animal. Furthermore, there is the possibility that local public health authorities could require rabies testing of an animal that bites someone, which would require euthanasia of the animals.

During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public. The facility needs to discontinue allowing the public to hold the sloth.

3.77(g) Repeat

#### Sheltered housing facilities.

The facility continues to allow primates to sit on the head and shoulders or near the face of visitors. In a post on Facebook dated Feb 18, 2024, an individual talks about a surprise visit his wife booked at the facility for Valentine's Day. In that post there are pictures of a lemur on his shoulder and a lemur on her arm very near her face.

When allowed to sit and climb on the visitors in close proximity to their head and neck, nonhuman primates can easily bite or scratch the visitors on the head, face, or neck before a person can consciously respond to control them. There is also the possibility of injury to the animal due to defensive reactions from members of the public should the animal decide to attack. Furthermore, there is the possibility that local public health authorities could require rabies testing of an animal that

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
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Date:
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bites someone, which would require euthanasia of the animals.

Nonhuman primates used in uncaged public exhibits must be under the direct control and supervision of an experienced handler or trainer at all times when the public is present. Regardless of the type of "direct control" the facility uses, primates should not be allowed on the heads and shoulders or near the face of visitors.

The facility needs to discontinue allowing primates on heads, shoulders, and near faces of visitors.

The facility fleeds to discontinue allowing primates of fleads, shoulders, and flear faces of visitors.
This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.
Additional Inspectors:
BEVERLY HICKS, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Prepared By: CYNTHIA DIGESUALDO Date:

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL

OFFICER

Received by Title: Licensee Date:

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# **Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
600228	74-C-1123	001	Oak Meadow Productions, LLC	12-MAR-2024

Count 000001 000012 000004 000001 000006 000002 000001 000002 000001 000002 000004 000003 000002 000001	Scientific Name Caracal caracal Ovis aries aries Dama dama Leptailurus serval Lemur catta Choloepus hoffmanni Dolichotis patagonum Giraffa camelopardalis Camelus dromedarius Equus quagga Bubalus bubalis Bos taurus Osphranter rufus Bison bison Eulemur fulvus	COMMON NAME CARACAL SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS FALLOW DEER SERVAL RING-TAILED LEMUR HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA GIRAFFE DROMEDARY CAMEL BURCHELL'S / GRANT'S / CHAPMAN'S / PLAINS ZEBRA ASIATIC WATER BUFFALO CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI RED KANGAROO AMERICAN BISON BROWN LEMUR
000001 000001	Vulpes zerda Varecia variegata Hystrix cristata	BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000003 000001	Aonyx cinereus Nasua narica	ORIENTAL SMALL-CLAWED OTTER WHITE-NOSED COATI
000005 000002	Boselaphus tragocamelus Callithrix jacchus	NILGAI COMMON MARMOSET
000002 000001 000001	Dromaius novaehollandiae Ara severus Ramphastos sulfuratus	EMU CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW / SEVERE MACAW KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN
000063	Total	