



Inspection Report

Noahs Ark Animal Rehab Center and Sanctuary Inc
712 L G Griffin Road
Locust Grove, GA 30248

Customer ID: **3157**

Certificate: **57-C-0037**

Site: 001

NOAHS ARK REHABILITATION
CENTER

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 15-DEC-2022

2.40(a)(2)

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

There are some aspects of veterinary care as well as general animal care that the attending veterinarian has not been given proper authority to oversee adequacy:

- Facility representatives and the attending veterinarian do not remember when the veterinarian last walked through the entire facility to assess the health and husbandry of every single animal. Both sides explained that such a visit does not occur regularly and has not happened in a long time, at least more than one year. Without regular, thorough, and complete visits, the veterinarian cannot fully assess the animals' living conditions and therefore does not oversee the adequacy of all aspects of animal care and use.

- The facility has received guidance on animal care from other consultants and consulting veterinarians but did not inform or receive approval from the attending veterinarian. The attending veterinarian confirmed not having been made aware of any of the following occurrences:

o A Bengal tiger, Sheila, has 2 small circular red hairless lesions on her left hind limb. They are both approximately the size of a penny, one on her thigh and the other at the top of her foot (hock). A consulting veterinarian pointed this out to a

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facility representative and indicated it might need further investigation.

o A white-faced capuchin named Calvin is being given medications every 6 to 8 hours instead of every 12 hours as indicated in the instructions. Per a facility representative, a consulting veterinarian approved this change in time interval.

o The Bengal tiger Sheila is now being fed mostly boneless meat per the guidance of a consultant since per a facility representative she did not eat the bone and seemed to have some difficulty eating bone-in meat. All the other wild cats are now fed a mix of boneless and bone-in meat instead of all bone-in meat per the recommendation of the same consultant.

o The black bear, Tuffy, is being given medications in peanut butter sandwiched by 2 graham crackers again per the recommendation of a consultant.

- The attending veterinarian also stated not having reviewed or approved the diet composition or supplements currently fed to any of the wild cats housed at the facility.

When the veterinarian is not given the appropriate authority, the provision of veterinary care may be inadequate or inappropriate. The licensee must assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use. To be corrected by January 26, 2023.

2.40(b)(3)

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

Communication between the facility and the attending veterinarian is overall insufficient and indirect in conveying information on animal health and well-being. Most of the conversation is being held via email and the following failures in communication have occurred:

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- A facility representative and the attending veterinarian have both expressed experiencing a lack of responsiveness from the other on aspects relating to animal care.

- A male brown lemur has a golf ball sized circular mass on the left side of his neck. The attending veterinarian explained requesting a keeper's assistance from the facility in order to restrain the primate and perform an aspirate of the mass. The facility planned on scheduling the procedure but due to scheduling issues, failed to do so. No further communication was had on the topic and the primate remained as is with a facility representative explaining that they are monitoring the condition.

- The facility identified certain animals in need of care and planned on consulting on some items with other veterinarians but did not communicate the findings with the attending veterinarian. The attending veterinarian was not aware of the following:

- o The lion liberty being overweight. A consulting veterinarian stated having discussed this with the facility.

- o A black and white pot belly pig with his abdomen hanging very low, almost dragging on the ground. The facility identified this condition and scheduled an appointment with another consulting veterinarian for examination.

- Ongoing communication with the attending veterinarian about the progress or change in condition of animals with chronic ailments is not occurring. The current state of the tiger Sheila and the black bear Tuffy, both with pre-existing chronic conditions, have not been communicated with the attending veterinarian for the establishment of a plan for future treatments or ongoing progress updates:

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- o The tiger Sheila was prescribed by the attending veterinarian a supplement for arthritis approximately 3 months ago. Since, per a facility representative, Sheila is more mobile, but her gait continues to be abnormal. During inspection, she was seen walking slowly, deliberately, putting one paw down completely before lifting the other. While walking, Sheila's back was hunched and the top of her hind feet (the hocks) were dropped on both sides, touching the ground with each step. The attending veterinarian was not aware of this gait and explained it to be different from what she had seen before. She expressed the need to examine the animal for diagnosis and to develop a treatment plan.
- o The black bear Tuffy was also prescribed by the attending veterinarian medication for his arthritis approximately 3 months ago. Per a facility representative, he is more mobile and active but he continues to have an abnormal gait. During inspection, the bear was seen walking slowly with his left front foot in a continuous state of extension and swaying his head slightly after every step and when standing. Tuffy's right eye was also abnormal with some whiteness within the pupil and a cloudy white ring around the Iris. When asked, the facility representative explained that he has and always had cataracts. The attending veterinarian explained not having examined the bear in a long time and could not recall what his eye looked like last and did not know if the condition had changed. She also did not know if the bear's gait changed since prescribing the medication.

Communication with the attending veterinarian on newly identified animal problems is necessary to establish a plan of action. Furthermore, ongoing communication on pre-existing conditions is crucial in order to communicate the current state of an animal for the establishment of a new treatment plan if needed or a progress update schedule. The lack of frequent and direct communication between the facility and the attending veterinarian could lead to a delay in treatment for animals in need. A more rigorous as well as effective mechanism of direct and frequent communication must be

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established so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. To be corrected by January 26, 2023.

3.127(d)

Facilities, outdoor.

The chain link perimeter fence surrounding the outdoor enclosures containing mainly dangerous animals, such as tigers and bears, had multiple sections in disrepair and was less than 8 feet or even 6 feet in height in many areas.

On the east side of the facility, a very large tree was downed over an approximately 10 foot section of fence. The fence immediately below the fallen tree was destroyed and almost at ground level while the areas surrounding were crumpled, reduced to less than 8 feet in height. On the same side, due to ground erosion, there was a dip in a large section of fence which sunk to a height of approximately 4 feet.

On the south side of the facility, another large tree was downed, resulting in an approximately 6 foot section of fence at about 5 feet in height. On the same side, two additional areas of damaged fence were identified, one 5 feet in height while the other was 4 feet in height. The gate on the south side, also part of the perimeter fence, was only about 5 feet in height.

On both the south and east side, there are areas of vegetation overgrowth from the outside of the facility leaning on top and across the fence. In addition, against a large section on the east side, many large plastic bags containing mulch were stacked up approximately 4 to 5 feet high and propped up against the fence. These further compromises the effectiveness of the fence in making it easier for animals to climb and come through the perimeter fence from both sides.

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The lack of an adequate perimeter fence presents a safety risk to the animals within the facility in that there isn't an adequate secondary containment system to hold animals that may escape their primary enclosures or a sufficient barrier to keep animals and unauthorized persons out. The facility must ensure an 8-foot-high perimeter fence for dangerous animals and a 6-foot-high fence for non-dangerous animals as well as non-human primates. Such fence must be at least 3 feet in distance from the primary enclosure for outdoor housed animals. To be corrected by January 27, 2023.

3.129(a)

Repeat

Feeding.

During inspection, feeding inadequacies were observed in 2 areas:

- Approximately the top 1/3 of the round bale of hay in the "motley crew" enclosure was damp and dark brown in color.

The inner parts of the top layers were rotten and mainly black in color with some small areas of white-fuzzy mold like material. This bale was the only source of hay for the 10 goats and 5 pigs within the enclosure.

- Per the directions for use of the carnivore supplement (a source of calcium among other nutrients) added to the diet, the facility is underdosing the wild cats, the foxes, and the wolf-dog hybrid. For most of those animals, the facility is providing approximately a little less than half of the required amount of supplement which per the directions for use half would suffice if the animals were fed all bone-in-meat. However, per a facility representative, the animals' diet is an equal mix of boneless and bone-in meat. In addition, a Bengal tiger named Sheila is also being given less than half the required amount of supplement even though she is mostly being given a bone-less diet since per a facility representative she does not eat bone. Therefore, this supplement is the main source of calcium for Sheila yet she is being given a severely low dose for her requirements. The bone content in the diet as well as the amount of supplement added for each animal was not discussed with or approved by the attending veterinarian.

Feed contaminated with rot or mold may be unwholesome as well as unpalatable to the animals and could result in illness. Underdosing animals on supplements containing vital nutrients such as calcium without prior consultation with a

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veterinarian may negatively impact their health and overall well-being of the animals. The facility must ensure the food given to the animals is wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health.

3.132

Employees.

On November 15th, 2022, an employee incorrectly administered an oral medication to the black bear Tuffy resulting in a bite to their hand that required hospitalization for medical intervention. The employee had the bear take the medication hidden in food directly from her hand instead of placing it on the ground as is customary for the facility. The employee, a longtime volunteer, was only recently hired and occupied this position for approximately 1 month before this incident. Per the employee, she had never administered medications to the animals before, she was never trained to do so, and mentioned never having observed another employee giving medications in her time at the facility. A facility representative explained that the newly hired employee volunteered to give medications because the keeper responsible for the task was out on leave that day. The lack of training lead to the inadequate administration of medications which resulted in significant injury to the employee and could have severely harmed the bear as well. It is the facility's responsibility to adequately train their employees and assess their qualifications before allowing them to conduct any task especially those involving animal interaction. The facility must ensure that there is a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain an acceptable level of husbandry practices while under the supervision of someone with a background in animal care. To be corrected by January 13, 2023.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

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Additional Inspectors:

Madeline Anna, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3157	57-C-0037	001	NOAHS ARK REHABILITATION CENTER	15-DEC-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000005	<i>Sapajus appella</i>	BROWN CAPUCHIN / TUFTED CAPUCHIN
000002	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	WHITE-HEADED / WHITE-THROATED CAPUCHIN
000001	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>	JAPANESE MACAQUE / SNOW MACAQUE
000002	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000001	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	HAMADRYAS BABOON
000001	<i>Hylobates lar</i>	LAR GIBBON
000001	<i>Symphalangus syndactylus</i>	SIAMANG
000006	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000002	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000001	<i>Panthera leo</i>	LION
000001	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000001	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000002	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000003	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	NORTH AMERICAN BLACK BEAR
000001	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	BROWN BEAR
000001	<i>Potos flavus</i>	KINKAJOU
000001	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
000011	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000005	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	TIGER
000002	<i>Ateles chamek</i>	BLACK SPIDER MONKEY
000001	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	COMMON MARMOSET
000001	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY
000006	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>	RUFIOUS BROWN LEMUR / RED BROWN LEMUR
000001	<i>Canis lupus X C. l. familiaris</i>	WOLF/DOG HYBRID
000059	Total	