



Inspection Report

Noahs Ark Animal Rehab Center & 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-SEP-2022

2.40(a)

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

The facility has failed to provide APHIS officials required information per the regulations as to who their attending veterinarian is. There are several animals that have pre-existing or new conditions needing care or ongoing monitoring.

At least two members of the board at the head of the facility believe the previous attending veterinarian continues to have authority over the care of the animals. At least three other members believe the previous attending veterinarian no longer holds that position and have been seeking veterinary guidance from other veterinarians. When asked, the previous attending veterinarian was not sure either if she still held the position and described situations over the last month, where she encountered resistance as well as interference from the facility in allowing her to visit the grounds and care for the animals.

Per a facility representative, a tiger "Sheila" who was observed with an abnormal gait has arthritis and a bear "Tuffy" has anxiety problems. Both conditions require ongoing veterinary monitoring to adapt treatment so as to maintain animal well-being. During inspection, a snow macaque "Kyoka" was seen with a wet and dirty hind end. A consulting veterinarian provided guidance on treatment.

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Reliable and consistent veterinary care cannot be guaranteed without a clearly identified attending veterinarian that is granted complete authority over the care of the animals. Consulting veterinarians cannot provide the level of constant dedication needed for such a facility with so many exotic, dangerous and aging animals. The facility must employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements which shall include a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits to the premises. To be corrected by October 26, 2022.

2.134(a)

Contingency planning.

The current contingency plan needs to be updated because of a change in employees. The current plan lists many responsibilities for the previous attending veterinarian and the previous animal husbandry manager. Since those individuals are no longer in those respective positions, many aspects of the contingency plan are no longer valid. Failure to have a written contingency plan can result in lack of readiness for emergencies or disasters which is likely to negatively impact animal welfare. Facilities must develop, document, and follow an appropriate plan to provide for the humane handling, treatment, transportation, housing, and care of their animals in the event of an emergency or disaster. To be corrected by October 17, 2022.

3.75(c)(3)

Housing facilities, general.

A significant accumulation of fecal material, some old, dried and white in color, was noted on hard surfaces that the two rhesus macaque can come in contact with in the indoor portion of their enclosure. Notably, the feces could be seen in the corners and lining the walls on the concrete floor as well as on the wooden platform. A facility representative explained having hosed the enclosure which pushed the waste to the edges. Failure to adequately clean and remove feces could result in odor, pest issues and can increase the risk of animal disease as well discomfort. Hard surfaces with which

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nonhuman primates come in contact must be spot-cleaned daily to prevent accumulation of excreta or disease hazards.

To be corrected by October 5, 2022.

3.75(e)

Housing facilities, general.

In the kitchen/primate indoor housing area, where a marmoset and a capuchin currently reside, an open shelf was identified upon which was placed 3 containers of disinfectant and detergent. The shelving did not have doors, or a cabinet attached to allow for enclosed storage. Such substances can be toxic or harmful if animals are exposed to them. Without enclosed storage, there is insufficient means to prevent a chemical spill from coming into contact with the animals.

Substances that are toxic to the nonhuman primates but that are required for normal husbandry practices must not be stored in food storage and preparation areas but may be stored in cabinets in the animal areas. To be corrected by October 5, 2022.

3.81(b)

Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being.

Calvin, a white-faced capuchin, was being singly housed in the kitchen/indoor primate housing area while being trained to take his medication. The enclosure had two platforms but was otherwise devoid of enrichment. Per a facility representative, no other form of enrichment was provided during this time of isolation which started approximately 1 week ago. The veterinarian caring for Calvin did not exempt him from participation in the environmental enrichment plan which described the need to provide extra foraging and manipulative enrichment activities to individually housed primates. Not executing the plan as written as well as the lack of environmental enrichment items for Calvin while separated from his social group could result in distress and could negatively impact his psychological well-being. The physical environment in the primary enclosures must be enriched by providing means of expressing noninjurious species-typical activities. The facility must provide additional enrichment options for Calvin as prescribed in the enrichment plan and in accordance with

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the instructions of the attending veterinarian in order to maintain his psychological health while away from his social group. To be corrected by September 30, 2022.

3.85

Employees.

Animal care, including the care of the primates, is being carried out by 3 new employees hired approximately 2 months ago. A facility representative pointed out the assistant director as the supervisor for these individuals. When asked, the assistant director was not aware of this responsibility. Without adequate supervision, the new employees may not receive proper training and guidance on how to care for the animals. The employees who provide husbandry practices and care, or handle nonhuman primates, must be trained and supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of nonhuman primates to supervise others. To be corrected by October 3, 2022.

3.125(d) Critical

Facilities, general.

Indications of inadequate provisions for the removal of animal bedding and dead animals were seen in some of the enclosures:

- In two separate enclosures, one housing the tiger "Doc", and the other housing two bears "Anna Lou" and "Angus", remnants of decomposed vulture carcasses could be seen scattered on the ground around the catch pens. Bones and black feathers were all that remained of the carcasses. At the time of inspection, the facility was experiencing an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza which caused the death of the vultures
- The den for the tiger "Sheila" contained a large amount of soiled straw bedding. The center of the den was black in color seeming to be an accumulation of moist dirt, soiled bedding, and hair. Small pieces of bone could also be seen scattered around the opening of the den. Per a facility representative, the dens for the tigers and bears have not been cleaned out since they are awaiting an order of straw to arrive..

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Failing to remove the carcasses from the enclosures does increase the risk of disease transmission to the tiger and bears which could significantly negatively impact their well-being. Additionally, failure to adequately clean the dens and remove soiled bedding within, may result in animal reluctance to enter the shelter during inclement weather. Animals coming into contact with soiled bedding could also result in coat contamination as well as skin irritation. Provision shall be made for the removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, trash and debris. To be corrected by October 7, 2022.

3.127(c)

Facilities, outdoor.

In the outdoor "Motley crew" enclosure housing 10 goats and 5 pigs, the flooring leading to the hay bale was significantly muddy with a honeycomb appearance and some standing water. The animals had to walk through the mud in order to access their hay. Enclosures that do not drain effectively and in which the ground is largely muddy with no dry path to the food source can cause animals to develop hoof or skin issues due to excessive moisture and mud exposure. Correct by ensuring that a suitable method is provided to rapidly eliminate excessive water within animal enclosures and ensure that animals can access their source of hay without walking through mud. To be corrected by September 30, 2022.

3.129(a)

Feeding.

During inspection, food contamination was observed in 3 areas:

- In the "motley crew" enclosure housing 10 goats and 5 pigs, the surface of the large round bale of hay was wet and mostly made up of large black patches. Upon closer examination, all of the layers of the hay, from the surface to the inner core, were rotten and moldy. This hay bale was the only source of hay for the hoofstock within the enclosure.
- Sheila, a singly housed Bengal tiger, was seen eating pieces of raw meat completely covered in ants. A large amount of flies were also seen laying on top of the raw meat. The contaminated meat was the only source of food for this tiger at the

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time.

- In the kitchen, many of the shelled peanuts within one of the sealed containers were covered in fuzzy mold-like white material.

Feed contaminated with rot, mold or insects may be unwholesome as well as unpalatable to the animals. Eating contaminated feed could result in illness and may compromise the health of the animals. The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health. To be corrected by September 30, 2022.

3.130

Watering.

Two water receptacles from two different enclosures were in need of cleaning:

- The water tub in the "motley crew" enclosure had a thick layer of slimy green-brown fuzzy material coating the interior walls and the bottom. The water contained within had a brownish tint and a large amount of larvae could be seen swimming in the water. This was the only source of water for 10 goats and 5 pigs.

- The water through containing the only source of water for the black bear Baloo, had a layer of brownish fuzzy material at the bottom. There was a large amount of larvae swimming in the water.

Unclean and unsanitary drinking water can cause illness and discomfort to these animals. All water receptacles must be kept clean and sanitary. To be corrected by September 30, 2022.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

KURT HAMMEL, 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-SEP-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
000002	<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
000005	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000003	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000001	<i>Canis lupus</i>	GRAY WOLF / GREY WOLF / TIMBER WOLF
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
000010	<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
000053	Total	