

Noah's Ark Statements
Vs
USDA Inspection Report Findings
From
March 12, 2024

1. *“Everyday, we work hard to build a sustainable organization that will not only continue our services into the future but will also expand our ability to rescue and protect exotic, wildlife and domestic animals.” – September 28, 2022 email from the Board to volunteer*

USDA: “The facility does not have adequately trained employees that have adequate experience in the husbandry and care of birds or knowledge in recognizing concerning signs of welfare and psychological distress. This includes the following areas:

- The employees did not recognize that the parrots were overheating and did not have established protocols to monitor heat and cold that may negatively impact their birds.
- The employees did not notice the poor condition of feathers or injury to the wing of the single budgie housed in with the cockatiels and did not provide adequate perching or nesting for this bird. The facility provided nesting material on the ground not recognizing Budgies as cavity nesters.
- The staff does not have adequate experience to manage birds that are self-plucking or plucking conspecifics and there is no additional enrichment, nesting boxes or visual barriers that may prevent the birds from further self-harm.
- The staff is not recognizing the need to provide perching that would naturally wear down a blue and yellow macaw's nails that are overgrowing into the foot pad, in the building housing food storage. This is despite the veterinarian's guidance to provide all birds with textured perches to help keep nails filed. Inadequate employee knowledge and experience could result in inadequate care which could negatively impact animal welfare. The facility must work to maintain a professionally acceptable level of husbandry and handling practices. Such

practices must be conducted under the supervision of a bird caretaker who has appropriate experience in the husbandry and care of birds that are being managed in a given setting. – 3.159 ‘Employees’ (page 4 of part)

2. *“Our goal is to create an environment at Noah’s Ark where animals can thrive.” – Press Release February 22, 2023*

USDA: “There was a dead rat in the entryway to the small hallway connecting two enclosures each housing a scarlet macaw. The grass in these enclosures was overgrown which could be living areas for pests. The shelter box for lemurs adjacent to these two bird enclosures had rodent feces inside and many large rodent holes were seen around the concrete pad beneath the box. Rodents are pest that can transmit diseases, cause sanitation issues and overall, negatively affect the animal’s health.” – 3.158 (d), ‘Cleaning, Sanitization, Housekeeping, and Pest Control’ (page 4 of part 2)

3. *“We are making sure that all of our animals are provided with compassionate care, medical treatment, nutrition and custom habitats to meet each animal’s specific needs.” – Press Release March 4, 2023*

USDA: “The bottom section of the metal shift door in the enclosure housing one Japanese snow macaque Kenya is still rusted and pitted with sharp edges. The facility did some maintenance that did not resolve the issue. There are still substantial gaps in some areas, as well as jagged surfaces which have impacted the structural integrity of the shift door...” – 3.75(c)(1)(i), ‘Housing Facilities, General’ REPEAT VIOLATION (page 2 of part 2)

4. *“We are dedicated to ensuring every animal receives the specialized care they need for good health at Noah’s Ark.” – Enewsletter, May 2023*

USDA: “Calvin, a capuchin monkey, is being treated for a heart condition. One of his medications, Sotalol, had been expired since 02/14/2024, but was still being given at the time of inspection, about 4 weeks past that

date. Inadequate diagnosis of animal conditions could result in delay in proper veterinary attention as well as undue animal pain/distress. Expired medications may lose functionality or could become detrimental to the health of the animals. The currently affected animals need to be seen by a veterinarian for an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan.” – 2.40(b)(2) Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care, DIRECT VIOLATION (page 1 of part 2)

5. *“These animals are receiving a much higher quality of consistent and proactive care than they have in their entire lives.” – January 10, 2024 Atlanta News First Statement*

USDA: “The brown lemur shelter boxes for both enclosures near the admission building were not being spot cleaned daily. During the inspection, the facility was asked to open the boxes. The singly housed primates’ box, Pd’s box, could not be opened because of a lack of a shift door while the box for the two lemurs housed together had to be pried open by removing the lock with bolt cutters. When opened, it was evident that the shelter area with the only heat source for the two lemurs during these cold winter months had not been cleaned for an extended period. In the left far corner, there were disintegrated remnants of bedding creating a large pile of decaying black fabric. A wet dirty blackened decaying towel was adhered to the flooring. The bed provided was caked with dirt and feces. There was a large pile of feces at the entrance of the box and more smeared on the floor in the right far corner near the fallen feed bucket. There were rodent feces mixed in with lemur feces throughout the box and along the sides. There wasn’t a clean area for the primates who had to use this shelter...” – 3.75 (c)(3), ‘Housing Facilities, General’, DIRECT VIOLATION (page 2 of part 1)

6. *“Noah’s Ark now has a highly professional and experienced vet of record, who works with the team weekly.” – page 12, internal document titled “Noah’s Ark’s Response”, Spring 2023*

USDA: “During inspection, the following animals were identified in need of veterinary care:

- A black pig with a white abdomen was limping on the right front limb.**
- The top of both the Patagonian cavy’s ears were thickened, crusty and had an irregular margin. The tip of the right ear was missing. Black crusty material could be seen inside both ears. Discharge was seen draining from the left ear creating a wet track leading to his jaw.**
- A Peach-faced lovebird in the large cockatiel aviary had many of the feathers on the right side of his face and neck plucked off. The skin underneath appeared reddened. The right eye was abnormal and all that could be seen was a small black dot where the eye should be.**
- A marmoset housed in the primate indoor housing/kitchen area was seen once pulling hair from his tail. There was an approximately 2-inch-long section on the inside of his tail that was missing hair. The licensee had not identified the conditions affecting these animals, therefore had not contacted the veterinarian for guidance on care. Failure to promptly identify animal conditions delays treatment and may cause undue pain or distress in situations such as these. A more rigorous method of daily observation of all animals must be implemented to properly assess their health and well-being. Direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian is required for timely diagnosis and adequate medical attention. The currently affected animals need to be seen by a veterinarian for an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan.” – 2.40 (b)(3), ‘Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care’ REPEAT VIOLATION (page 1 of part 2)**