



**INSPECTION REPORT**

**SANDRA & KENNETH SMITH  
WESA-A-GEH ZOO**

**Customer ID: 4313  
Certificate: 43-C-0196**

**4581 STATE RD A  
WARRENTON, MO 63383**

**Site: 001  
WESA-A-GEH ZOO**

**Inspection  
Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: AUG-13-2003**

**2.126 ( a ) ( 5 )  
ACCESS AND INSPECTION OF RECORDS AND PROPERTY.**

(a) Each dealer, exhibitor, intermediate handler, or carrier, shall, during business hours, allow APHIS officials: (5) To document, by the taking of photographs and other means, conditions and areas of noncompliance.

When we were about to take photographs to document our inspection, the licensee became upset and angrily said that we could not take any photographs. Her attitude became much less cooperative and we ended the inspection at that time. Photographs are necessary to document compliances and non-compliances of the Animal Welfare Act. To be corrected by the next inspection.

**3.125 ( a ) REPEAT NCI  
FACILITIES, GENERAL.**

(a) Structural strength. 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.

The enclosure on the end in one of the central rows with the lion and tigers and another enclosure with the three lion cubs, had den boxes with wooden floor surfaces that were chewed and deteriorating. Wood fragments or sharp edges could injure the animals and wood surfaces in that condition can not be sanitized properly. The lion cub den box also has a hole in its wooden side. These boxes need to be repaired or replaced. The need to keep up with routine maintenance and repair has been discussed with the licensee during past inspections.

There are three enclosures housing lions and tigers where the bottom of the primary enclosure did not meet the ground leaving approximately a 6 inch gap. The animals can reach their front legs through these openings and possibly grab a person or animal in the vicinity of their enclosure. The animals may also dig through the dirt and gravel to enlarge these spaces allowing small animals to enter the enclosure at these openings. These spaces need to be eliminated to prevent escape or injury to people or the animals.

**Prepared By:** Jamilon Niemann, DVM  
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**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER , Inspector ID: 4054

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AUG-13-2003

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**3.127 ( b ) REPEAT NCI DIRECT**  
**3.127 ( d ) REPEAT NCI**  
**FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.**

(b) Shelter from inclement weather. Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals. Individual animals shall be acclimated before they are exposed to the extremes of the individual climate.

In the cougar pen containing 3 adult female cougars and 3 newborn cubs, there is only one igloo type shelter. There were two cougars in the shelter with the 3 cubs at the time of our visit, and though they all were inside, there was not enough room for them to stand, turn, and move around freely or lay down without touching of each other. There were not enough den boxes provided for all three cougars and the cubs. Housing three adult cougars and 3 newborn cubs together with one small den box may cause the cubs to be injured or crushed by three adults trying to fit into this one shelter. More den boxes should be provided or the nursing female and her litter should be moved to their own enclosure.

(d) 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. 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.

The perimeter fence is constructed of two rolls of wire fencing, one placed above the other, and supported by posts. The wire fencing used is a smaller gauge than common chain link fencing. There are many areas of the perimeter fence where I was able to easily push my foot underneath the wire fence and another area that had a hole dug under the fence. Additional wire ties have been added to secure the upper and lower fence sections to each other, but there were still some areas that lacked this attachment. Though some new post were added, there are portions of the fence that do not have additional supports between the existing posts which allows for movement of the perimeter fence and makes it weaker in these areas. As noted in 2.126 (a) (5) above, we were unable to obtain photographs of the perimeter fence to show visual documentation of this. The perimeter fence must be constructed in a way and of such materials to protect the animals from unauthorized people or animals entering, and to function as a secondary containment system in case any of the animals in the facility escape from their primary enclosures.

Along the side of the perimeter fence near the office, there is not 3 feet of distance between the perimeter fence and the primary enclosures of the foxes and a temporary enclosure housing a lion. A person from the outside of the perimeter fence could reach through the fence and directly into the primary enclosure with their hand or any device and injure the animal or be injured by the animal. The perimeter fence must be at least 3 feet away from any primary enclosure or be constructed of a solid and sturdy material (such as certain types of concrete, wood, plastic, or metal).

**3.129 ( a ) REPEAT NCI**  
**FEEDING.**

(a) The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to

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maintain all animals in good health. The diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.

The meat in the freezer is now being stored in plastic bins and garbage bags at a temperature of 10 degrees F. However, there was a foul odor of rotten meat noticed before the metal freezer door was opened. We were told by the licensee that this is a normal odor for meat with the hide that is not for human consumption. When we asked how they thaw the meat, she told us they have been feeding fresh meat received from various sources lately and that the meat in the freezer was excess. At the previous inspection in June, the meat in the freezer was thawing and dripping blood like fluid. As noted in the previous inspection there were maggots on the fluids at the entrance way of the freezer. [redacted] told us at that inspection that he turns the freezer off to begin thawing the meat for feeding. This repetitive thawing and refreezing will cause the meat to become contaminated with bacteria, and less palatable, wholesome, and nutritive, thus causing the foul odor. The freezer should be cleaned thoroughly to remove any old meat drippings or other sources of contamination. Any meat that may have been thawed should not be refrozen and fed to animals.

**3.131 ( b )**

**3.131 ( c )**

**SANITATION.**

(b) Sanitation of enclosures. Subsequent to the presence of an animal with an infectious or transmissible disease, cages, rooms, and hard-surfaced pens or runs shall be sanitized either by washing them with hot water (180 F. at source) and soap or detergent, as in a mechanical washer, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant, or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with saturated live steam under pressure. Pens or runs using gravel, sand, or dirt, shall be sanitized when necessary as directed by the attending veterinarian.

The metal swimming pool in the bear's enclosure had algae growth on its interior surfaces and algae blooms floating on top. When the bear got out of the pool, green tinted water was seen dripping from his coat. We were told by the licensee that the pool is dumped and cleaned every three days. The pool may need more frequent cleaning, sanitizing with an agent such as bleach, an animal-safe additive to prevent algae growth, or even placed under a shaded area where it will not accumulate algae as quickly. To be corrected by August 18, 2003.

(c) Housekeeping. 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.

Weeds and tall grass are growing along the fences of the primary enclosures of the wolves and bear. These could harbor pests such as rodents, hide damage to the fence, and inhibit adequate cleaning on the interior side of the enclosure. Weeds need to be kept trimmed to facilitate prescribed husbandry practices. To be corrected by August 20, 2003.

This inspection was conducted by [redacted] Dr. Jami Niemann, VMO, and Dr. Michael Smith, VMO. The exit interview was conducted by telephone on August 15, 2003 and the report sent by certified mail.

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