



INSPECTION REPORT

ALAIN ZERBINI CIRCUS PRODUCTION

3327 51ST ST.
SARASOTA, FL 34235

Customer ID: 1874
Certificate: 58-C-0012

Site: 002

Inspection
Type: ATTEMPTED INSPECTION
Date: JAN-22-2003

All redactions on this page are pursuant to (b)(6) & (b)(7)(c).

2.40 (b) DIRECT ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The gate to the property was open, but not the gate to the chain-link fenced compound housing the animals. However, I was able to make the following determinations by observation through the chain link:

The licensee, or persons operating on behalf of the licensee, must ensure that appropriate methods are used to prevent, control, diagnose and treat diseases and injuries. This includes adequate and humane prevention of painful conditions, and adequate and humane relief from pain and discomfort. Animals must be observed daily, and timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and wellbeing must be conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

I observed one white tiger which was morbidly obese and exhibited an abnormal and stiff gait. There were also some pressure marks and abrasions on the elbow. Another white tiger had a rough haircoat, sneezed repeatedly and licked his nostrils repeatedly for a long period, urinated copiously without rising out of the pool of urine, displayed great difficulty in rising from lateral recumbency, and displayed a stiff gait and lameness of the left rear leg when walking and standing.

I spoke with the attending veterinarian for these cats. He had never met or spoken to the licensee, [redacted]. He stated he had not been contacted by anyone concerning conditions described above. He was last contacted recently by [redacted] concerning future castrations of some tigers. He said he has not been to the facility to observe any live animals since about summer 2002. He said he has performed necropsies of three lions which have died at this compound between about May 2002 and Dec 2002. He observed signs of respiratory illness in those dead animals.

The attending veterinarian should have been notified of these behaviors, consistent with possible arthritis and possible upper respiratory disease. The lameness may be influenced by several controllable factors, including diet composition, body weight, and housing surface. Immediate steps need to be taken to relieve the obvious discomfort, while the search for underlying causes begins. Considering the history of deaths and illness, visits to the premises by the veterinarian only once per year are not sufficient.

Since the licensee has indicated his intention to end his arrangements regarding these animals, it is not clear how this will be resolved.

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

Licensees must make facilities, animals and records available for inspection.

Prepared By: _____
SYLVIA TAYLOR, D. V. M. , USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER , Inspector ID: 2012

Date:
JAN-23-2003

Received By: _____
MAILED AND FAXED BY ARRANGEMENT

Title:

Date:
JAN-23-2003



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I was not able to complete a full inspection. As mentioned in the report for site 1, performed just prior to this attempt, this is site 2 under [redacted] license, for the operator [redacted]. [redacted] declined to accompany us to site 2, stating that he did not have time, as he had to prepare to depart on tour the next day, with his hoofstock, dogs and cats. He said other persons associated with the [redacted] operation could ensure our access for inspection. However, this did not turn out to be the case. [redacted] had no key to the compound nor to the records associated with the animals.

There was no responsible party on the property. [redacted] contacted [redacted] who contact me by phone from Orlando where he was working. He stated neither he nor [redacted] could be there. [redacted] had stated that [redacted] father and an employee, [redacted] also provided assistance when [redacted] was away, and may be able to assist. But [redacted] said [redacted] was also unavailable for the purpose of inspection, and [redacted] had been fired.

I discussed with [redacted] his responsibilities relating to the [redacted] operation, as agreed under the May 2001 consent decision and [redacted] 1/2/02 letter to USDA. At the end of my attempt to inspect this site, [redacted] indicated he wished to cease his agreement of responsibility for this site.

3.127 (b)

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

Animals must have sufficient shelter to protect them from weather and prevent discomfort.

There were no dens or bedding in the feline enclosures. Tarps are attached to the cage sides which can be rolled down during inclement weather. However, the temperatures recently (and upcoming) have been sufficiently severe here, that body heat which is generated in the large enclosures will not be well retained, even with the tarps up. Jaguars and lions need warmer ambient temperatures to stay comfortable. This may also affect the white tiger who appeared to be ill. Animals which are debilitated in some way often need additional heat to stay healthy and comfortable.

Smaller boxes with bedding need to be added to these enclosures, to ensure that during cold temperatures and high wind chill, there is a reasonable sized space that will retain body heat. Alternatively, temporary heating apparatus could be supplied.

Since the licensee has indicated his intention to end his arrangements regarding these animals, it is not clear how this will be resolved.

I reviewed my concerns with the attending veterinarian for the felines, and with [redacted] by phone on 1/23/03.

All redactions on this page are pursuant to (b)(6) & (b)(7)(c).

Prepared By: SYLVIA TAYLOR, D. V. M. , USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER , Inspector ID: 2012
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