



### Inspection Report

CITY OF TOPEKA

Customer ID: 4087

Certificate: 48-C-0003

Site: 001

CITY OF TOPEKA - ZOO

TOPEKA ZOO  
635 S W GAGE BLVD

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: Aug-12-2009

TOPEKA, KS 66606

2.40 (b) (2)

DIRECT NCI

**ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).**

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

\*\*\*\*\*

Two vials of expired anesthetic drugs were present at the facility: medetomidine 20 mg/ml (EXP 11/2008) and ketamine 200 mg/ml (EXP 12/2008). A vial of "Yobine", an injectable anesthetic reversal agent, expired June 2009. Expired medications may not work as expected and could harm the animals. As part of the facility's program of adequate veterinary care, the licensee must ensure that all medications used for the animals are not expired.

A leopard was given a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug for a period of time that exceeds the generally accepted duration of treatment for this drug in this species. The leopard died after nine days of treatment. Veterinary medical records indicated that the differential diagnoses were "renal disease/failure (toxic insult), gastritis," and on necropsy the animal had "gastric mucosal erosions and hemorrhagic mucosae." The histopathology report indicated that the animal had renal medullary necrosis and that "this lesion usually is associated with administration of nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs." The licensee must ensure that the facility maintains an adequate program of veterinary care that includes the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries,

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TO BE CORRECTED at all times subsequent to August 14, 2009

2.40 (b) (3)

**ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).**

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and

Prepared By:

*Katheryn Ziegerer*  
KATHERYN ZIEGENER, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Aug-13-2009

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5052

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)

Received By:

MICHAEL COKER

Date:

Aug-14-2009

Title:

ZOO DIRECTOR

AUG 17 2009



### Inspection Report

accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian;

\*\*\*\*\*

---Veterinary medical records indicate that a tamandua was emaciated at the time of his death. Keeper records for the 2.5 months previous to this date do not include any notations indicating that the keeper staff recognized any changes in the animal's body condition, health, or behavior. The last weight documented by the facility was approximately 6 months prior to the animal's death.

---A facility representative indicated that keepers are sometimes unable to locate animals within a large multi-species exhibit for an extended period of time.

Effective daily observation is required in order to ensure that timely and accurate information concerning the health, behavior, and well-being of the animals is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. As part of the facility's program of adequate veterinary care, the licensee must ensure that all animals are observed on a daily basis.

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TO BE CORRECTED at all times subsequent to August 14, 2009

2.131

DIRECT NCI

#### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

(e) When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity, and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being, taking into consideration such factors as the animal's age, species, breed, overall health status, and acclimation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Veterinary medical records concerning an adult hippopotamus state "keeper reported that she was circling in the indoor pool, disoriented, head-pressing beneath the ramp. When the staff called her, she was ataxic, and ran into the wall. Then she became sternally recumbent in the corner of the pool...Pool was being drained. Remaining pool water temperature was 108 F." The records indicate that the animal's rectal body temperature was measured at 105.3, 106.5 and 106.4 degrees F. Despite administration of veterinary care, the animal died later that day after continuing ataxia and seizures. The keepers do not routinely monitor the temperature of the pool. The licensee must ensure that animals are never subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity, and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being.

\*\*\*

TO BE CORRECTED at all times subsequent to August 14, 2009

3.75

(f)

#### HOUSING FACILITIES, GENERAL.

(f) Drainage and waste disposal. Housing facility operators must provide for regular and frequent collection, removal, and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, debris, garbage, water, and any other fluids and wastes, in a manner that minimizes contamination and disease risk. Housing facilities must be equipped with disposal facilities and drainage systems that are constructed and operated so that animal wastes and water are rapidly eliminated and the animals stay dry. Disposal and

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Date:

Aug-13-2009

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5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)

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drainage systems must minimize vermin and pest infestation, insects, odors, and disease hazards. All drains must be properly constructed, installed, and maintained. If closed drainage systems are used, they must be equipped with traps and prevent the backflow of gases and the backup of sewage onto the floor. If the facility uses sump ponds, settlement ponds, or other similar systems for drainage and animal waste disposal, the system must be located far enough away from the animal area of the housing facility to prevent odors, diseases, insects, pests, and vermin infestation. If drip or constant flow watering devices are used to provide water to the animals, excess water must be rapidly drained out of the animal areas by gutters or pipes so that the animals stay dry. Standing puddles of water in animal areas must be mopped up or drained so that the animals remain dry. Trash containers in housing facilities and in food storage and food preparation areas must be leakproof and must have tightly fitted lids on them at all times. Dead animals, animal parts, and animal waste must not be kept in food storage or food preparation areas, food freezers, food refrigerators, and animal areas.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the TRF food storage and preparation area used for nonhuman primates and other animals, a trashcan containing waste material was uncovered. Small flying insects were observed in and around the trashcan. Open containers of waste materials can create odors and attract insects that could contaminate the food. The licensee must ensure that all trash containers in housing facilities and food storage/preparation areas are leakproof and have tightly fitted lids on them at all times.

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TO BE CORRECTED BY: August 17, 2009

#### 3.84 (d)

##### CLEANING, SANITIZATION, HOUSEKEEPING, AND PEST CONTROL.

(d) Pest control. An effective program for control of insects, external parasites affecting nonhuman primates, and birds and mammals that are pests, must be established and maintained so as to promote the health and well-being of the animals and reduce contamination by pests in animal areas.

\*\*\*\*\*

In an enclosure housing 2 tamarins, excessive rodent activity was noted. Inspectors observed mice entering and exiting burrows on the ground of the enclosure and climbing on branches placed in the enclosure as perches. Rodents can transmit diseases to the animals and contaminate the animal areas and feed. The licensee must establish and maintain an effective program for the control of rodents, insects, birds, and mammalian pests.

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TO BE CORRECTED BY: September 15, 2009

#### 3.125 (a)

DIRECT 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Keeper notes concerning a 17 day old lion cub stated: "I observed one of the cubs up on the shelf in unit 1." The adult lion "jumped up onto the shelf a couple of times but didn't bring the cub down. It eventually went over the edge, landed on a pile of straw on its back". The shelf was between 3 feet 1 inch and 3 feet

Prepared By:

*Katheryn Ziegerer, D.V.M.*  
KATHERYN ZIEGERER, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Aug-13-2009

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VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5052  
5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)

Received By:

MICHAEL COKER

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Aug-14-2009

Title:

ZOO DIRECTOR

AUG 17 2009



### Inspection Report

6 inches off the enclosure floor, which was constructed of concrete and covered with straw. The cub was found dead later that afternoon. Histopathology results showed that the cub's "left kidney had a locally extensive area of acute hemorrhage, likely secondary to the fall." All enclosures for animals must protect the animals from injuries. The licensee must ensure that all enclosures protect the animals from injuries at all times.

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TO BE CORRECTED at all times subsequent to August 14, 2009

**3.129 (a)**

**FEEDING.**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

At least two expired food items were observed in animal food preparation areas: 1 can of chunk light tuna (expiration date Nov 10, 2008) and 1 jar of grape jelly (use by 01/12/07). Expired food items may no longer be wholesome and palatable and may become contaminated. The licensee must ensure that all food items are within date, wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination at all times.

\*\*\*

TO BE CORRECTED BY: August 17, 2009

**3.131 (d)**

**SANITATION.**

(d) Pest control. A safe and effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

\*\*\*\*\*

Inspectors observed excessive pest activity in several locations: In an enclosure housing 1 tamandua, inspectors observed mice entering and exiting burrows on the ground of the enclosure and climbing on branches placed in the enclosure as perches. In an enclosure housing a Southern three-banded armadillo, an excessive amount of flies were observed on the log shelter structure, on the food dish, and on the feed. In an enclosure housing two chevrotains, mice were observed entering and exiting burrows on the ground within the enclosure and on and around the food dish. In an enclosure housing 2 African crested porcupines, mice were observed entering and exiting burrows within the mulch substrate on the enclosure floor. Rodents and flies can transmit diseases to the animals and contaminate the animal areas and feed. The licensee must establish and maintain an effective program for the control of rodents, insects, birds, and mammalian pests.

\*\*\*

TO BE CORRECTED BY: September 15, 2009

Prepared By: Katheryn Ziegerer, DVM, VMD  
KATHERYN ZIEGERER, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
Aug-13-2009

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5052

Received By: **5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)**

MICHAEL COKER  
Title: ZOO DIRECTOR

Date:  
Aug-14-2009

AUG 17 2009



### Inspection Report

3.133

**SEPARATION.**

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible. Animals shall not be housed near animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two sloths were housed in a multi-species exhibit with prehensile-tailed porcupines. One sloth was quilled by a porcupine on one occasion and the other sloth was quilled by a porcupine on 4 occasions prior to the facility separating the animals. Animals must not be housed with any animals that cause them discomfort or interfere with their health. The licensee must ensure that all animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible and that animals are not housed near other animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

\*\*\*

TO BE CORRECTED at all times subsequent to August 14, 2009

This routine inspection was conducted by Katheryn Ziegerer, VMO, Michael Tygart, VMO, and facility representatives on August 12-13, 2009. An exit conference was conducted on August 14, 2009.

Prepared By:

*Katheryn Ziegerer, DVM, VMO*  
KATHERYN ZIEGERER, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Aug-13-2009

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5052  
**5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)**

Received By:

MICHAEL COKER  
ZOO DIRECTOR

Date:

Aug-14-2009

AUG 17 2009



### Inspection Report

CITY OF TOPEKA

Customer ID: 4087

Certificate: 48-C-0003

TOPEKA ZOO  
635 S W GAGE BLVD

Site: 001  
CITY OF TOPEKA - ZOO

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: Sep-28-2009

TOPEKA, KS 66606

**2.40 (b) (2) REPEAT**

**ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).**

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

1) A Pallas' cat had a reduced appetite for 8 days prior to its death and abnormal behavior before being found dead in its enclosure. Medical records do not indicate that the animal was assessed by a veterinarian or that any veterinary care was provided for this animal. Necropsy and histopathology records indicated that the cat had "endotoxemia secondary to maggot infestation" and "moderate hepatic lipidosis."

2) A rabbit was found unable to stand in its enclosure. Medical records indicate that the veterinarian examined the animal, diagnosed a severe maggot infestation, and elected to euthanize him. The medical record entry on the day of the animal's euthanasia indicated that the animal had a history of having "fecal material adhered to the fur around the perineum." Neither the medical record nor the keeper records prior to the day of the animal's death indicate that fecal accumulation was present or the animal received preventative care such as hair coat maintenance to prevent fecal accumulation and subsequent medical complications.

3) Animal records indicate that a pronghorn was isolated in a barn because of a reduced appetite, reduced activity level, and increased respiratory rate and effort. Records do not indicate any change or improvement in the animal's condition, but the animal was allowed to have access to the other pronghorns over night. The pronghorn was found dead in the morning.

4) A chevrotrain was found recumbent with a body temperature that was <92 degrees F. Records indicate that supportive care was provided and the animal's temperature rose to 92.6 degrees F. Forty-five minutes later the animal was placed in a crate, left alone, and then found dead. The medical record does not state what, if any, treatments were provided to the animal within the crate. The veterinarian can not remember what care the animal was provided.

The licensee must ensure that the facility maintains an adequate program of veterinary care that includes the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. Medical records must contain sufficient detail to demonstrate the delivery of adequate health care. The facility must ensure that all animals receive adequate veterinary care at all times.

Prepared By:

*Katheryn Ziegler*  
KATHERYN ZIEGLER, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
Oct-05-2009

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5052

Received By:

2008 3230 0002 1800 8763  
MIKE COKER

Date:  
Oct-06-2009

Title: REPORT SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL

OCT 15 2009



### Inspection Report

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This is a repeat non-compliant item.

2.131 (b) (1)

#### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

(b) (1) Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

\*\*\*\*\*

A male and female orangutan, known to be incompatible, were inadvertently introduced into the same enclosure. The male attacked the female, causing her physical harm and distress. It took facility 1 hour and 15 minutes to separate the animals. All handling of animals must be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in order to protect the health and well-being of the animals. The facility must ensure that all handling of animals is done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

\*\*\*

TO BE CORRECTED IMMEDIATELY

3.133

REPEAT

#### SEPARATION.

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible. Animals shall not be housed near animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

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Three Indian flying foxes died as a result of injuries from an alligator housed in the same multi-species exhibit. Animals must not be housed with any animals that cause them discomfort or interfere with their health. The licensee must ensure that all animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible and that animals are not housed near other animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

\*\*\*

This is a repeat non-compliant item.

This routine inspection was conducted on September 28 and 29, 2009 by Katheryn Ziegerer, VMO, Tanya Tims, SACS, and facility representative. An exit conference was conducted on September 29, 2009.

Prepared By:

Katheryn Ziegerer, DVM, VMO  
KATHERYN ZIEGERER, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5052

Oct-05-2009

Received By:

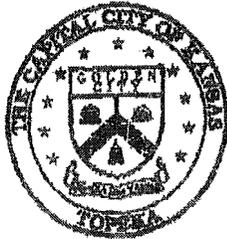
7008 3030 0002 1806 8763  
MIKE COKER

Date:

Title: REPORT SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Oct-06-2009

OCT 15 2009



## CITY OF TOPEKA

TOPEKA ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
635 SW Gage Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66606  
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For Immediate release  
August 27, 2009

For more information  
Mike Coker 368-9131

### Topeka Zoo's Response to 2009 USDA Annual Inspection

The Topeka Zoo has received a preliminary report (attached) by the USDA following their annual inspection of the Topeka Zoo and the report raises current and past issues of concern. We take all issues, some dating back to 2006, very seriously. We have taken immediate action to address by remedying, or are in the process of assessing how to remedy, each one. Past reports from USDA inspections for 2006, 2007 and 2008 are available at the Zoo.

#### Immediate Actions Taken

1. Pest control – A more aggressive pest reduction program has been implemented in coordination with our local pest control contractor. The contractor will continue to make weekly visits. In addition, staff members are flushing mouse burrows and adding more rodent traps in an attempt to eradicate them from exhibits.
2. Lids on the trash cans – Lids have been installed on all trash cans.
3. Observation of animals in the Tropical Rain Forest – A daily inventory of all animals has been taken for many years including 2007. The 2009 preliminary inspection report referenced a 2007 Daily Animal Report entry referencing Zoo staff unable to locate a baby sloth who had ventured off of its mothers back in the Tropical Rain Forest. The baby sloth was located in the building later in the day and doing fine.
4. Expired medications – All medications have been reviewed and all expired medications discarded and replaced with new product.
5. Enrichment items – Internal processes have been implemented to ensure expired enrichment foods are not distributed to animal areas.
6. Two (2) Two-toed sloths were housed in a multi-species exhibit (Tropical Rain Forest) with prehensile tailed porcupines. The reference by USDA of the interaction between the species resulting in the quilling to both Two-toed sloths was from a written entry on the Daily Report dated August 8, 2008. The separation of the species occurred at that time. The prehensile tailed porcupine was then housed in an enclosed exhibit within the Tropical Rain Forest. It did escape from its enclosed exhibit within the Tropical Rain Forest in June 2009, was recaptured then removed permanently from the building.

**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**

### Deaths Previously Reported to the USDA but not included in any previous annual inspection reports

(Copies of press releases to the USDA from the Topeka Zoo regarding animal deaths are available at the Zoo).

Black Leopard The treatment the black leopard was under was for hip dysplasia. The animal needed some pain relief. The use of an anti-inflammatory drug was selected as an established treatment available in 2006. However new medical literature dated 2008 has determined this treatment is not to be a good long term solution. The histopathology report indicates the leopard had a renal lesion that was associated with administration of the anti-inflammatory drug. The medical case was reviewed by USDA based on using medical literature dated in 2008 for an animal that died in 2006.

Hippopotamus The USDA inspection report implies that the passing of one of the zoo's two hippos in October 2006 was caused by water in the hippo pool that was too warm. Warm water was provided as a means to assist the two aging hippos, which suffered from arthritis. Observations by zoo staff prior to its death indicated that the hippo possibly suffered a stroke because it was acting erratically. The water in the pool is being monitored more closely using additional thermometers.

Lion Cub One of two 17-day-old lion cubs passed away in June 2007. The animal and its sibling were being cared for by their mother lion off exhibit. The mother was observed placing the cub on the shelf in the nursery units which had been in use since 1989. The cub was reported to have tumbled off the shelf onto a pile of straw. It was noted in the histopathology report that the left kidney had locally extensive hemorrhaging likely caused by a fall. The Zoo will no longer use this area to allow lions to raise their young.

Ant Eater Lesser tamandua, a small species of anteater, passed away in January 2009. The notation in an internal report at the time stated that the animal was "emaciated." The animal was thin but was active up until the time of its death and appetite was normal. This animal was received in an obese condition. Diet changes were implemented to reduce its weight down to within normal weight range for this species. Histopathology results indicate possible chronic lymphocyte enteritis and multifocal lipid pneumonia.

### Planned Actions

In light of the results of this preliminary report, we have already asked Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, to do an independent review of the medical cases noted in this USDA report. It will commence following the receipt of the final report regarding the USDA's findings. Upon the conclusion of the veterinarian school's review, we will evaluate the recommendations regarding potential changes in practices or processes, if any.



## **ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS**

The Zoo is also in the process of scheduling a meeting with the USDA office in Kansas City to further review their findings and to seek further clarification.

The Topeka Zoo has a practice of timely reporting to the USDA all significant changes to programming, including additions, removals and transfers, which affect the animal collection. We appreciate collaboration with the USDA to ensure the safety and well-being of the animals and staff.

For further information contact Mike Coker at the Topeka Zoo at 388-9180 or 806-0224

-30-

*This and other press releases are available by accessing the City of Topeka website at [www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org).*



**ASSOCIATION**

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

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## Zoo deaths under scrutiny



1984 FILE PHOTOGRAPH/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

SubMarie, shown here with fellow hippo Peka Sue, died in 2006, hours after being found in 108-degree water, an incident for which the Topeka Zoo was cited in an Aug. 12 federal inspection. Peka Sue died earlier this year from natural causes.

### DOCUMENTS

View the United State Department of Agriculture's Aug. 12 inspection report of the Topeka Zoo shows nine noncompliance items, four of which are related to the death of animals.

The Topeka Zoo, in its response to the USDA report, said it acted appropriately and will work to comply with the report's suggestions.

Coker said the zoo wants to rectify any issues the USDA has highlighted.

"The animals here, we want to provide them the very best care," he said in an interview Friday.

### Leopard

In late August 2006, one of the zoo's two black leopards, Buta, was ailing with an arthritic right hip. To combat the pain, zoo workers medicated Buta with a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, says the USDA report. After nine days of treatment, Buta died.

### USDA finds Topeka facility not in compliance; KSU to review

BY JAMES CARLSON

Created August 28, 2009 at 9:45pm

Updated August 29, 2009 at 12:06am

Four animal deaths at the Topeka Zoo in the past three years have caught the attention of federal regulators and laid on the facility a dubious distinction within the state's exhibitors.

The zoo now has asked a Kansas State University veterinarian to conduct an independent review of those cases.

An Aug. 12 federal inspection report that the city provided to The Topeka Capital-Journal under an open records request revealed a deadly two-month period in 2006. In August of that year, a black leopard died after he was administered a medication later found to be fatal over long periods of use. Later in October, a hippopotamus suffered a fatal seizure hours after she was discovered in 108-degree water.

Of the 31 Kansas exhibitors licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Topeka Zoo is the only facility in the past three inspection cycles found to be noncompliant on issues related to the death of an animal.

Zoo director Mike Coker and the USDA said animal deaths are the nature of the industry, and

Medical records and the necropsy indicated possible causes were kidney failure and inflammation of the stomach lining. The histopathology later reported those type of kidney problems were usually caused by the anti-inflammatory drugs. The USDA document says the leopard's dosage was "for a period of time that exceeds the generally accepted duration of treatment for this drug in this species."

Coker said the drug was "an established treatment available in 2006. However, new medical literature dated 2008 has determined this treatment is not to be a good long-term solution." He said the USDA was using 2008 literature in its review.

USDA spokesman David Sacks said the agency will "get to the bottom of the dates involved and the medicine involved and the knowledge at the time the medicine was given."

### **Hippo**

On a Saturday morning two months after Buta's death, zoo workers walked into the indoor hippo area and saw the zoo's two hippos in the water, one of them not acting right.

"Marie appeared disoriented and was head pressing under the stairs," reads a daily zookeeper's report obtained by The Capital-Journal.

Workers began draining the pool, and someone stuck a thermometer in the lowered water. It read 108 degrees.

Someone else took a rectal temperature of the hippo. It read 106 degrees.

Workers began hosing her down with cold water while zoo veterinarian Shirley Llizo started a cold enema. It didn't work. Several hours later, she suffered a seizure and died.

### **Warm or too hot?**

There are conflicting opinions on how much the water temperature contributed to SubMarie's death

Coker said Peka Sue was in the same water, and she was fine. He also said the water trickling into the pool was routinely "in a range close to 100 or 110." This aided the two hippos' joint pain.

"It's very helpful for our two arthritic animals," he said. "They really seemed to enjoy it."

On the necropsy report, Llizo listed the differential diagnosis, or factors that could have led to the death -- as hyperthermia (or high internal body temperature), trauma, cardiac failure and stress. She also noted the 53-year-old SubMarie -- the oldest hippo in captivity -- already had age-related kidney issues.

The USDA report directs the zoo to "ensure animals are never subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity and time" that could harm the hippos.

Calls to other zoos in the area and around the country showed most hippo pools remain between 65 and 80 degrees. The Kansas City Zoo, which also heats its indoor pool, maintains a temperature between 65 and 70 degrees, said animal curator Joni Hartman. Michelle Miller, a Palm Beach (Fla.) Zoo veterinarian with hippo expertise, said SubMarie's death was complicated by her old age.

"It's a strange circumstance because a hippo would normally exit water that hot," she said. "Certainly that's an abnormal temperature for them to be exposed to."

### **Very concerned**

The most recent inspection report contained other noncompliance items relating to animal deaths.

In June 2007, a 17-day-old lion cub fell from a 3-foot shelf onto the concrete floor. It died later that day from kidney problems "likely secondary to the fall," the report said. That was one of three noncompliance items from the Aug. 12 report with the "NCI" designation, or direct noncompliance item.

According to the USDA exhibitor inspection guide, the NCI designation denotes a problem that is or has the "high potential to adversely affect the health and well-being of the animal in the near or immediate future." The zoo also was cited that way for the hippo pool's temperature and the administration of the anti-inflammatory to the leopard.

No other exhibitor in Kansas has been given a direct noncompliance item since at least 2007.

The fourth animal death under scrutiny occurred in January 2009 when an anteater was found "emaciated," according to a veterinarian's notes.

The zoo has had problems in the past. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums stripped the Topeka facility of its accreditation in 2001. The zoo was reaccredited in 2003.

Sacks, with the USDA, said nowadays animals are actually living longer in captivity. But animals do die in zoos.

"It's the nature of the industry," he said.

Mayor Bill Bunten said "we have to be very concerned about this" and offered consoling words to the zoo.

"We know the people in the zoo care about their animals and want them to be safe and secure and in good health," he said.

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*at (785) 233-7470*

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# cjonline.com THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

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## Morning Buzz

Reporter James Carlson discusses the stories buzzing around the early hour Internet

BY JAMES CARLSON

Monday, Aug 31 at 8:06 am

### Zoo deaths

How did the Topeka Zoo decide not to release details on animal deaths?

When Buta, a 16-year-old black leopard, died on Aug. 23, the zoo released a statement a day later saying an exam two weeks earlier showed Buta in good health. He was being treated for arthritis, the news release said, when he was found lethargic on Aug. 23 and died later that night.

'Preliminary necropsy results indicate kidney problems and gastric lesions,' the release stated.

Zoo director Mike Coker told me last week the zoo knew after the necropsy that those kidney problems were most likely caused by an anti-inflammatory drug given to Buta by zoo workers.

I asked Coker about not releasing that information, and he said, "We're always looking at ways to get more information back to the public. We could always decide to do more followup."

Delicious

Digg

Facebook

Fark

LinkedIn

MySpace

Newsvine

Propeller

Slashdot

Technorati

Twitter

Buzz

What's this?

AddThis

**Don't Pay For School - Free Scholarships**

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ProgramAdvisor.com/FreeScholarships

**Obama Backs Insurance Regulation**

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Auto-Insurance-Experts.com

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www.sharebuilder.com

Ads by Yahoo!



COPY

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Animal Care  
Western Region

2150 Centre Ave.  
Building B  
Mail Stop # 3W11  
Ft. Collins, CO 80526  
Phone: 970-494-7478  
Fax: 970/494-7461

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RENEWAL  
Certificate Number: 48-C-0003  
Renewal Date: 04/15/2010

March 12, 2009  
Customer ID Number: 4087

Michael D. Coker  
City Of Topeka  
Topeka Zoo  
635 S W Gage Blvd  
Topeka, KS 66606

Dear Licensee:

Thank you for submitting your Animal Welfare Act (AWA) license renewal documents and applicable fees. Enclosed is a copy of the renewal form and a new certificate indicating that your AWA license has been renewed for another year.

As a reminder, you should file your application for renewal and pay your licensing fees on or before the expiration date each year. We will send you a renewal notice again next year about 60 days before the expiration date of your license. If you cease conducting regulated activities, you may cancel your license at any time by notifying us, in writing, that you wish to terminate your license.

The law also requires that you notify us, by certified mail, of any change in the name, address, location, management and control or ownership of your business within 10 days after such a change has occurred.

Please be advised that your facility records must be kept current and they are subject to review by APHIS Officials during compliance inspections. You may order record keeping forms from this office free of charge.

We appreciate your efforts in complying with the Animal Welfare Act. Contact this office at (970) 494-7478 if you have any questions regarding this letter or the Animal Welfare Act.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gibbens, D V M  
Regional Director – Animal Care  
Western Region

cc: Katheryn Ziegerer, V.M.O.

Enclosures



Safeguarding American Agriculture  
APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs

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EXPIRATION DATE: APRIL 15, 2010

**COPY**

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs**

**Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service**

**Animal Care**

This is to certify that

CITY OF TOPEKA

is a licensed  
under the

CLASS C EXHIBITOR

**Animal Welfare Act**

(7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.)

Certificate No.

48-C-0003

Customer No.

4087

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. Ripson".

Deputy Administrator

<p><b>U.S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>  <b>ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>APPLICATION FOR LICENSE</b>          (TYPE OR PRINT)</p> <p><b>LICENSE RENEWAL</b></p>	<p><b>DO NOT USE THIS SPACE - OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b></p> <p>SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO: 2150 Centre Ave, Building B          Mailstop # 3w11          Fort Collins, CO 80526 8117          Telephone: (970) 494-7478</p> <p><i>WR-9-0023 AW</i>  <i>CC 0747</i>  <i>235.00</i></p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:33%;">CERTIFICATE / CUSTOMER NO.</th> <th style="width:33%;">RENEWAL DATE</th> <th colspan="2">FEES</th> </tr> <tr> <td>CERT: 48-C-0003</td> <td>15-APR-2009</td> <th>AMOUNT</th> <th>DATE RECEIVED</th> </tr> <tr> <td>CUST: 4087</td> <td></td> <td><i>235.00</i></td> <td><i>10-Mar-09</i></td> </tr> </table>	CERTIFICATE / CUSTOMER NO.	RENEWAL DATE	FEES		CERT: 48-C-0003	15-APR-2009	AMOUNT	DATE RECEIVED	CUST: 4087		<i>235.00</i>	<i>10-Mar-09</i>
CERTIFICATE / CUSTOMER NO.	RENEWAL DATE	FEES											
CERT: 48-C-0003	15-APR-2009	AMOUNT	DATE RECEIVED										
CUST: 4087		<i>235.00</i>	<i>10-Mar-09</i>										

<p>1. NAME(S) OF LICENSEE(S) AND MAILING ADDRESS</p> <p>City Of Topeka</p> <p>635 S W Gage Blvd          Topeka, KS 66606 2079</p> <p>Telephone: (785)368-9180</p>	<p>2. ALL BUSINESS (Site) LOCATIONS HOUSING ANIMALS; INCLUDE DIRECTIONS TO EACH LOCATION (P.O. Box not acceptable)</p> <p>635 S W Gage Blvd          Topeka, KS 66606          County: Shawnee</p> <p>Telephone: (785)368-9180</p>
--	--

<p>3. LIST PERSONS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL SIGNING BLOCK 10 SHOULD BE LISTED IN THIS BLOCK.</p> <p><i>Michael D. Coker/Director</i></p>	<p>4. (A) PREVIOUS USDA LICENSE NUMBER (if any)</p> <p>---</p> <p>(B) ACTIVE USDA CERTIFICATE NUMBER IN WHICH YOU HAVE AN INTEREST:</p> <p><i>48-C-0003</i></p>
---	---

<p>6. DATE OF LAST 12-MONTH BUSINESS YEAR (CALENDAR OR FISCAL)</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:50%;">FROM</th> <th style="width:50%;">TO</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">01-JAN-08</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01-JAN-09</td> </tr> </table>	FROM	TO	01-JAN-08	01-JAN-09	<p>7. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual    <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation    <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u><i>Zoological Park</i></u></p>
FROM	TO				
01-JAN-08	01-JAN-09				

<p>8. DEALERS ONLY. Class A or Class B licensees must complete this Block. (Class C Exhibitors go to Block 9)</p> <p>CLASS A (BREEDER) - LINE 'D' = 1/2 OF LINE 'C'          CLASS B (DEALER) - LINE 'D' = LINE 'C' LESS THE AMOUNT PAID FOR THE ANIMAL(S) (Sections 2.6)</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%;">A. TOTAL NO. OF ANIMALS PURCHASED IN THE LAST BUSINESS YEAR</td> <td rowspan="4" style="background-color: black; width:50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B. TOTAL NO. OF ANIMALS SOLD IN THE LAST BUSINESS YEAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. TOTAL GROSS DOLLAR AMOUNT DERIVED FROM REGULATED ACTIVITIES (SALES, BOOKING FEES, COMMISSIONS, ETC.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. DOLLAR AMOUNT ON WHICH FEE IS BASED (SECTIONS 2.6 AND 2.7)</td> </tr> </table>	A. TOTAL NO. OF ANIMALS PURCHASED IN THE LAST BUSINESS YEAR		B. TOTAL NO. OF ANIMALS SOLD IN THE LAST BUSINESS YEAR	C. TOTAL GROSS DOLLAR AMOUNT DERIVED FROM REGULATED ACTIVITIES (SALES, BOOKING FEES, COMMISSIONS, ETC.)	D. DOLLAR AMOUNT ON WHICH FEE IS BASED (SECTIONS 2.6 AND 2.7)	<p>9. CLASS C EXHIBITORS ONLY. (Number of animals holding now or held during the last business year, whichever is greater.)</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>DOGS</td> <td><i>NA</i></td> <td>NONHUMAN PRIMATES</td> <td><i>10</i></td> <td>RODENTS (Do not include lab rats or mice)</td> <td><i>9</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CATS</td> <td><i>NA</i></td> <td>MARINE ANIMALS</td> <td><i>NA</i></td> <td>WILD/EXOTIC HOOFSTOCK</td> <td><i>9</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>GUINEA PIGS</td> <td><i>7</i></td> <td>FARM ANIMALS</td> <td><i>7</i></td> <td>BEARS</td> <td><i>4</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMSTERS</td> <td><i>NA</i></td> <td>WILD/EXOTIC CANINES</td> <td><i>2</i></td> <td>WILD/EXOTIC MAMMALS (NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE)</td> <td><i>28</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>RABBITS</td> <td><i>2</i></td> <td>WILD/EXOTIC FELINES</td> <td><i>10</i></td> <td>TOTAL (ALL ANIMALS LISTED IN BLOCK 9)</td> <td><i>88</i></td> </tr> </table>	DOGS	<i>NA</i>	NONHUMAN PRIMATES	<i>10</i>	RODENTS (Do not include lab rats or mice)	<i>9</i>	CATS	<i>NA</i>	MARINE ANIMALS	<i>NA</i>	WILD/EXOTIC HOOFSTOCK	<i>9</i>	GUINEA PIGS	<i>7</i>	FARM ANIMALS	<i>7</i>	BEARS	<i>4</i>	HAMSTERS	<i>NA</i>	WILD/EXOTIC CANINES	<i>2</i>	WILD/EXOTIC MAMMALS (NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE)	<i>28</i>	RABBITS	<i>2</i>	WILD/EXOTIC FELINES	<i>10</i>	TOTAL (ALL ANIMALS LISTED IN BLOCK 9)	<i>88</i>
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**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby make application for a license under the Animal Welfare Act 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq. I certify that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby acknowledge receipt of and certify to the best of my knowledge I am in compliance with all the regulations and standards in 9 CFR, Subpart A, Parts 1, 2 and 3. I certify that I am 18 years of age or older.

<p>10. SIGNATURE</p> <p><b>5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)</b></p>	<p>11. PRINT NAME</p> <p><i>Michael D. Coker</i></p>	<p>12. SOCIAL SECURITY OR TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>13. DATE</p> <p><i>3-2-09</i></p>
---	--	---	--------------------------------------

January 27, 2009



City Of Topeka  
Topeka Zoo  
635 S W Gage Blvd  
Topeka, KS 66606

**COPY**

Customer No: 4087  
Certificate No: 48-C-0003  
Renewal Date: 04/15/2009  
RE: LICENSE RENEWAL

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Animal Care  
Western Region

2150 Centre Ave.  
Building B  
Mail Stop # 3W11  
Ft. Collins, CO 80526  
Phone: 970-494-7478  
Fax: 970/494-7461

Dear Licensee:

This is to remind you that your U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Welfare Act (AWA) license is due for renewal on or before the above expiration date. This is the only renewal notice you will receive.

Please complete the enclosed application form, making any necessary corrections to the pre-printed information, and return it to the above address, along with the appropriate license renewal fee. The annual fee is calculated by using the enclosed fee schedule. You may pay by cashier's check, certified check, personal check or money order made payable to the United States Department of Agriculture. You can also pay with a Visa or MasterCard, using the enclosed credit card authorization form. However, we cannot accept cash payments.

Please note that you must have an approved, complete, and up-to-date program of veterinary care form on file at your place of business. You can obtain blank forms -- or any others you may need -- directly from this office or your USDA inspector. The AWA also requires that you report to us any changes in your name, address, location, management, control or ownership of your business via certified mail within 10 days after the change has occurred.

It is very important that you file your AWA license renewal application before the expiration date elapses -- any renewal notices received after that date will be considered invalid and returned. Accordingly, to continue to conduct AWA regulated business, it would be necessary for you to reapply and undergo the entire pre-licensing process. If your license expires and you continue to operate as a dealer or exhibitor, you will be in violation of the AWA and subject to legal action.

We appreciate your efforts in complying with the Animal Welfare Act. Contact this office at 970-494-7472 if you have any questions regarding this letter or the Animal Welfare Act.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gibbens, D V M  
Regional Director - Animal Care  
Western Region

cc: Katheryn Ziegerer, V.M.O.

Enclosures



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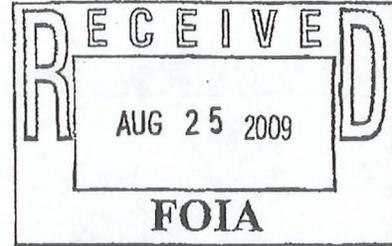
09- 1145

James Carlson  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
616 SE Jefferson  
Topeka, KS 66607  
Fax: (785) 295-1230

Terry  
AC  
IES

August 24, 2009

United State Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Freedom of Information Act Staff  
4700 River Road, Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
Fax: (301) 734-5941



SEP 22 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am making this amended request under the Freedom of Information Act for the following documents:

- Any and all inspection records, including the initial findings and any violations prior to a report's follow-up inspection, for the Topeka Zoo - located at 635 S.W. Gage, Topeka, Kansas - for inspections conducted between Aug. 1 and Aug. 24.

Please advise me of any costs associated with this request before filling it and let me know if you have any questions regarding the nature of this request. If you deny it, please include in your response a reason for denial.

Thanks for your time. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



James Carlson  
james.carlson@cjonline.com  
(785) 295-1186

48-C-0003  
last 2 months  
month Aug  
Initial violations

AUG 26 2009



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

November 10, 2009

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Mr. James Carlson  
Topeka Capital – Journal  
616 SE Jefferson  
Topeka, Kansas 66607

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

This is in response to your August 24, 2009, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. You sought copies of all inspections reports, initial findings, and violations pertaining to Topeka Zoo August 1, 2009 and August 24, 2009. Your request was received in this office on August 25, 2009, and assigned case number FOIA 09-1145. We apologize for the delay of this response.

Freedom of  
Information

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and did not locate any violations for Topeka Zoo. Therefore, we have no records for this portion of your request.

Please be advised inspection reports are now available on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website at the following address: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/inspection\\_list.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/inspection_list.shtml). Please see the enclosed stakeholder announcement for further information concerning the inspection reports.

You may appeal no records denial of information. If you choose to appeal your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date on this letter to the following address:

Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Ag Box 3401  
Washington, DC 20250-3401

If you choose to appeal, please refer to FOIA 09-1145 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

Because of our delay in processing your request, the fees associated with the process of your request have been waived. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Melinda Hill of my staff at (301) 734-5974.

Sincerely,



Tonya G. Woods  
Director  
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure



*Safeguarding American Agriculture*

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