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Animal Welfare Institute

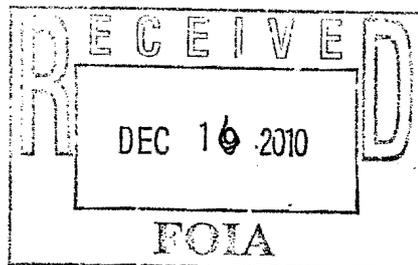
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Ind. AC
Debbie

December 16, 2010

Ms. Tonya Woods,
Freedom of Information Act Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
4700 River Road, Unit 50
Riverdale, MD 20737

By fax: (301) 734-5941



JAN 18 2011

Dear Ms. Woods:

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for copies of all documents, memos, reports, letters, notes, license applications, pre-license inspections reports, emails and inter-office communications related to a proposed theme park called Ark Encounter to be located in Williamstown, KY under the direction of Mike Zovath, senior vice president of Answers in Genesis (AiG).

I am interested in all materials related to Ark Encounter including the application for a license, as well as the blueprints and plans of the facility or facilities that will be housing any live animals: namely, the live animal show facility, the petting zoo, and life-size replica of Noah's ark – where, according to a New York Times article from December 5, 2010, Mr. Zovath has stated that small, young animals such as juvenile giraffes will be kept in pens on board. Specifically, I also request any documentation on the species, number, and age¹ of animals that are intended for display or for show at Ark Encounter.

As an educational organization which strongly supports enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act we are interested in this material because we are concerned about the educational value of the proposed development and the welfare of its animals. The information subject to this request will be used to inform and educate concerned individuals about the proposed development with regard to the welfare of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act.

We request that fees be waived for duplication or other costs associated with answering this request because we are an educational organization with 501(c)3 status. Disclosure of this information is in the public interest and is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations of the government and is not in the commercial interest of the publisher (5 U.S.C. Sec. 552 (a)(4)(iii) as amended).

¹ Whether infant, juvenile, sub-adult or adult.

I look forward to your response within twenty working days as required by the Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552 (a)(4)(A)(i). Please call Mariko Terasaki at (202) 446-2125 if you have any questions or are in need of further information.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

Cathy Liss
President