

To aceast@aphis.usda.gov
cc
01/13/2011 12:40 PM Subj dead animals because of neglect/CHATTANOOGA ZOO
ect

AS A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE CHATTANOOGA ZOO I AM VERY DISTURBED ABOUT THE ANIMAL CARE SINCE THE CITY HAS DROPPED INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ZOO. IN RECENT WEEKS A NUMBER OF ANIMALS HAVE DIED FROM NEGLECT. DURING HOLIDAY LIGHTS THE ANIMALS WERE LOCKED OUT ON EXHIBIT UNTIL 10:00PM AT NIGHT AND ONE OF THE DRACULA DEER DIED OF HYPO-THERMIA. LAST WEEK WHILE THE MARMOSET KEEPER WAS ON VACATION (b)(6),(b)(7)c (b)(6),(b)(7)c OF ANIMALS NEGLECTED TO ASSIGN A KEEPER TO LOOK AFTER THEM AND THEY WENT FOUR DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR FRESH WATER, THEY PASSED AWAY SHORTLY AFTER. ALSO LAST SUNDAY TWO BABY SNOW LEAPARDS WERE BORN BUT PASSED AWAY THE SAME DAY BECAUSE THEY WERE ALSO LOCKED OUT ON EXHIBIT AND NO ONE NOTICED THE BIRTH. PLEASE LOOK INTO THIS NEGLECT, ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE ZOO VET WORK FOR ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF THE ZOO (b)(6),(b)(7)c SO HE IS BIAS AND WILL ACTIVELY COVER UP MISTAKES.



FEB 17 2011

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Complaint No. E11-064	Date Entered Jan. 14, 2011	Received By (b)(6),(b)(7)c
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Referred To Brunkhorst/Kirsten	Reply Due Feb. 15, 2011
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Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name Chatanooga Zoo	Customer/License/Registration No. 3233/63-C-0014
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Address
1101 McCallie Ave.

City Chatanooga	State TN	Zip 37404	Phone No (423) 643-5780
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Complainant

Name Anonymous	Organization
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Address

City	State	Zip	Phone No./Email address
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How was complaint received? E-mail

Forward response to FOIA: Yes No

Details of Complaint: Complainant is concerned about the death of animals due to neglect.

Results: An inspection of the Chattanooga Zoo was completed on Jan 26-27, 2011. During the inspection the incidents in the complaint were reviewed. An inspection report was completed (inspection report #26112219190341) and includes noncompliances cited related to this complaint.

1) During Holiday Lights the animals were locked out on exhibit until 10pm and one of the dracula deer died of hypothermia.

One of the muntjac did die one night during the Holiday Lights event. The inspector was told that a visitor saw one of the muntjac lying in the water feature (pond like structure between public walkway/barrier fence and grassy area of enclosure) and thought it might be having a seizure. This particular enclosure has a weird shape/configuration to it such that the entrance to the shelter structure and den for the muntjac is not visible to the public. The door to the shelter was kept open at all times when the muntjac were outside including that night. There is a heat source in that shelter. The inspector was told when the staff arrived after hearing from the visitor, the muntjac was no longer in the water. They took the muntjac inside and called the vet. It died the same night. The necropsy results state the cause of death was hypothermia due to exposure to the cold water.

2) The marmosets went 4 days without food or water while the marmoset keeper was on vacation and passed away shortly thereafter.

No records could be found to show that the marmosets had been taken care of on Dec. 31, 2010 and Jan. 1, 2011. Records and interviews with staff indicate they had been given water and food up to and on Dec. 30, 2010 and again starting Jan. 2, 2011. The zoo management changed area coverages on Jan. 1, 2011 and had given new assignments to the keepers but miscommunication between the keepers and/or management led to the incident. The inspector was told the marmoset had multiple sources of water during this entire time. The marmosets did die a few days later. Necropsy results are pending at the time of inspection.

3) Two baby snow leopards were born but passed away the same day because they were locked out of exhibit and no one noticed the birth.

Two cubs were born outside on exhibit. The leopards had been locked out of their den that day. They did have access to their chute in addition to the exhibit. One cub was found on the rocks in the exhibit and a second was found in the chute. A third cub was born overnight in the den and is doing well at the time of this inspection. The attending vet performed a necropsy on both deceased cubs. During a conversation with the vet the inspector learned that the vet was not able to say conclusively if the cubs were stillborn or born alive.

Application packet provided? Yes No

INSPECTOR

Susanne Brunkhorst, VMO

DATE

1-Feb-11

REVIEWED BY



DATE

2/4/11



JAN 17 2011

Inspection Report

CITY OF CHATTANOOGA

Customer ID: 3233

Certificate: 63-C-0014

Site: 001

CHATTANOOGA ZOO AT WARNER PARK

CITY OF CHATTANOOGA

1101 MCCALLIE AVE

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

CHATTANOOGA, TN 37404

Date: Jan-26-2011

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

Two marmosets were not observed on 1/1/2011 based on lack of keeper logs and interviews with staff. In addition it could not be verified that they were observed on 12/31/10. Both marmosets died several days later. Necropsy results are pending. Daily observation is required to assess the health and well-being of the animals. All animals must be observed daily to assess their health and well-being. Correct from this day forward.

2.131 (e)

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.

A pregnant snow leopard was out on exhibit with the male on a winter day (keeper logs for day state temp. in the 20s/30s F) without access to her den. After she was let inside in the evening it was noted that there was a stillborn cub on the rock exhibit and another in the outside chute. A third cub was born alive several hours later and is doing well at this time. The keeper logs and conversations with staff indicated that they were aware that she was going to have cubs and that they were keeping an eye on her. Although snow leopards may be used to cold weather, consideration needs to be taken for factors such as pregnancy and impending parturition when deciding on what parts of the exhibit to allow them access to with regard to climatic conditions in order to alleviate the impact of those conditions and ensure their health and well-being. Correct from this day forward.

Prepared By:

SUSANNE BRUNKHORST, V M O USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1076

Jan-27-2011

Received By:

Title: (b)(6),(b)(7)c

Date:

Jan-27-2011



FEB 1 2011

Inspection Report

3.75 (a)

HOUSING FACILITIES, GENERAL.

(a) Structure: construction. Housing facilities for nonhuman primates must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the species of nonhuman primates housed in them. They must be kept in good repair, and they must protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and restrict other animals from entering.

*The outdoor enclosure for the spider monkeys has a broken piece of rope whose lower portion is frayed hanging from the top netting. Frayed rope pieces if ingested can cause health problems.

*A 3inx4in triangular shaped piece of protected screening material between the two exercise yards of the spider monkeys has been peeled back from the top corner adjacent to the outdoor yard. This material was put up to prevent the spider monkeys from reaching through the fencing material and injuring each other since they don't get along. The spider monkey housing area must be kept in good repair to protect the animals from injury. Correct by Jan. 31, 2011.

3.82 (b)

FEEDING.

(b) Nonhuman primates must be fed at least once each day except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care...

Two marmosets were not fed on Jan. 1, 2011 due to a communication error based on review of keeper logs and interviews with staff. In addition, there is no record of the same marmosets being fed on Dec. 31, 2010. Both marmosets died several days later. Necropsy results are pending. Food is required daily especially for the smaller species to maintain their health and well-being. All nonhuman primates must be fed at least once daily unless the veterinarian directs otherwise. Correct from this day forward.

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...

During the inspection of the petting zoo area it was noted that the goats and miniature horses were all very busy eating some hay that had just been placed in the hay rack. It was also noted that there was only one small square bale of hay in the loft. In addition to the 11 goats and 2 mini horses, the camel and the buffalo highlander cross are also fed hay. One bale does not contain enough hay for 15 animals for even one day. The keeper logs stated on

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Inspection Report

1/11/11 that they were getting low on hay/feed and it needed to be ordered soon. The log stated on 1/23/11 that they were out of hay and more should be in this week. The log stated on 1/24/11 that the animals were acting fussy without the hay to chew on and were being given extra grain. Lack of hay/roughage, especially for the ruminant species, can lead to potentially serious health problems. Food shall be of sufficient quantity and nutritive value. Correct immediately.

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.

Three coyotes are housed in one enclosure. The inspector has not been able to visualize the male coyote as he is always "hiding" in a den under the decorative outhouse building. He apparently hides there because one of the females is aggressive toward him. Keeper logs for Jan. 2011 show that keepers noted this aggression/attacking of the male coyote on four separate dates. The hiding and the observed aggression when he does come out of his hiding place indicate stress and discomfort and may lead to injury of the animals. All animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible. Correct by Mar. 27, 2011.

Exit conducted by undersigned VMO and Executive Director along with General Curator and Director of Exhibits.

Prepared By:

SUSANNE BRUNKHORST, V M O USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1076

Jan-27-2011

Received By:**Title:** (b)(6),(b)(7)c**Date:**

Jan-27-2011