



JUN 04 2009



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Complaint No. E09-163	Date Entered 28 May 09	Received By S Hairston
Referred To Harlan/Magid	Reply Due 29 June 09	

Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name Matt Joseph		Customer/License/Registration No. 31-C-0133	
Address 44941 LONES RD			
City Lisbon	State OH	Zip 44432	Phone No 330-386-0414

Complainant

Name Dr. Magid		Organization Animal Care	
Address 920 Main Campus Drive Suite 200			
City Raleigh	State NC	Zip 27606	Phone No./Email address 919-855-7100

How was complaint received? email

Forward response to FOIA: Yes No

Details of Complaint: A 10 year old girl was bitten by a mountain lion at the above facility. The owner of the facility states the girl asked to pet the mountain lion, but was told no. Once the owner turned his back, the girl went in. She was rushed to the hospital after the incident happened.

Results:

See memo

Application packet provided? Yes No

INSPECTOR *Arcma Harlan DVM*

DATE *6/1/09*

REVIEWED BY *Edy V. ...*

DATE *21 May 2009*

JUN 04 2009

USDA, APHIS, ANIMAL CARE MEMO

TO: DR. ELLEN MAGID
FROM: NORMA HARLAN
SUBJECT: MATT JOSEPH 31-C-0133 - COMPLAINT E09-163
DATE: 5-26-09

This was entirely an error in judgment. The owner, Mr. Joseph went inside the barrier/perimeter fence to water the cats during a Memorial Day picnic at his house. Even though there were young children around he left the gate unlocked. Miss Bailee Rinestine followed him into the barrier/perimeter fence area. She saw him playing with the two young mountain lions while he was inside the cage watering them. She then asked if she could pet them, he said no and ordered her out of the area.

Instead of leaving she went to the back of the shelter which was had the solid back removed to allow a fan to blow on the mountain lions. She moved the fan and proceeded to reach into the box through the square fencing. She was trying to pet the young male lying in the box when the other young male in the enclosure roared into the box and grabbed her arm. It bit down three times before Mr. Joseph could crawl into the box with the two cats and release her.

He was unable to describe the severity of her injuries. With the haste to get her to medical care, the subsequent advice of his insurance company to let them deal with the follow up and the general insanity following the incident he could not really describe the severity of her injuries. He did indicate that her injuries were restricted to her arm.

The information I have on the little girl is that she is 10 years old; her name is Bailee Nicole Rinestine. She is the daughter of Ryan & Chris Rinestine, 15501 County Airport Road, East Liverpool, OH 43920, Phone # 330-834-8220.

I am enclosing a letter I received from the Columbiana County Health Department concerning rabies information sent to the Rinestines. As you can see they did advise them to have the girl vaccinated and the cat is being held under quarantine. Obviously the two cats are being held together and I would assume would have to be destroyed together if they showed signs of illness. My contact with Columbiana County is Mr. Wesley Vins, phone 330-424-0272, cell- 330-646-7028.

Am I Am I AM



JUN 04 2009

P.O. Box 309 • 7360 State Route 45 • Lisbon, Ohio 44432 • (330) 424-0272
FAX (330) 424-1733

5/28/09

Ryan & Chris Rinestine
15501 County Airport Road
East Liverpool, OH 43920
Re: Bailee Nicole Rinestine

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Rinestine:

It has been reported to our agency that on 5/25/09 your child was bitten by a mountain lion, owned by Matt & Christine Joseph, 44941 Lones Road, Lisbon, OH 44432. Over 60 cases of rabies in animals are confirmed in Ohio annually. Most occur in wild animals – bats, skunks, and raccoons - but such animals can also spread the virus to our pets as well as ourselves. Therefore, exposure to rabies virus is still a potential concern whenever someone is bitten by an animal. Rabies is transmitted when saliva from an infected animal gets into an open wound or mucous membrane. Rabies in humans is rare (about 3 cases per year in the U.S.), but the outcome is almost always fatal. The only way to prevent the disease from developing in a person bitten by a rabid animal is to administer a post-exposure series of five injections of vaccine and one injection of immune globulin beginning shortly after the exposure. This series of vaccines is expensive, but is 100% effective against rabies when given according to protocols. Ideally post-exposure treatment should start by the third day after exposure; it is felt that treatment efficacy is reduced if started after 14 days.

Mountain lions are wild animals and there is little information on rabies virus shedding in this species. For that reason, a 10-day quarantine does not apply. In addition, there are no approved rabies vaccines for mountain lions so it is questionable if our pet vaccines would be protective. The only reliable way to know if this animal is potentially rabid is to test its brain, which requires that the animal be killed and its head sent to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory. This is in accordance with CDC Immunization Practices Recommendations which can be found on the internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056176.htm>.

In certain low risk situations in lieu of testing the wild animal, the local health department can place the animal under a 30 day quarantine. This would be sufficient time to be assured that virus was not present in the animal at the time of the bite. Such a long quarantine, though, may place you at risk of a future treatment failure because if the animal breaks with rabies after 10-14 days, you would have passed the optimum period of time to begin the anti-rabies treatment. For that reason, we recommended that you talk with your physician about your risk and the need to take the anti-rabies series as a precaution.

The local health department will issue a 30 day quarantine order for the mountain lion involved with this bite. It will be confined to the owners home, and not be exposed to new animals during the quarantine period. Only the animal's caretaker should have

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contact with the animal. The animal should not be removed from the jurisdiction of the Columbiana County Health Department. Should the animal become sick during the quarantine period, the owner will be instructed to call the health department immediately and will be required to have the animal examined by a veterinarian. If the animal is showing symptoms of rabies, it will be ordered euthanized and tested immediately. If the animal dies for any reason, it should be immediately tested. At the end of the 30 day quarantine the owner has agreed to have a licensed veterinarian provide documentation that the animal is healthy. Note that there is no rabies vaccine approved for mountain lions because there have been no studies done to assure us that the vaccine will really protect this species against a lethal rabies challenge.

You can find more information on rabies at the Ohio Department of Health and CDC rabies web site. The web sites are as follows: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies> and <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/idc/zoodis/rabies/rab1.aspx>.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at the Columbiana County Health Department at 330-424-0272.

Sincerely,



Wesley Vins
Administrator/Acting Health Commissioner

Cc: Matt & Christine Joseph

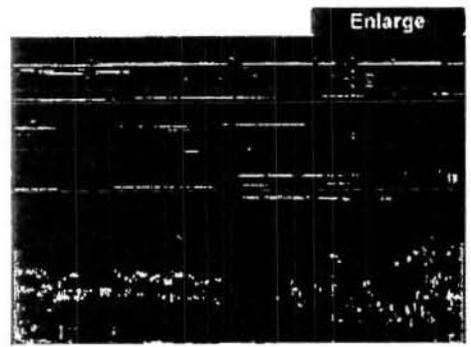
EO9-163

31-C-0133 / 11140
Matt Joseph
44941 Lones Rd
Lisbon, OH 44432
Columbiana County

[Home News](#)

Story

Text Size
AAA



[Related Stories/Links](#)

MORE INFO

- [PHOTOS: Columbiana County Lions](#)
- [RAW VIDEO: Lions In Columbiana County](#)
- [Pet Mountain Lion Bites Girl At Local Home](#)
- [Jackie Cain Reports: Girl Bitten By Mountain Lion In Columbiana County](#)

Pet Mountain Lion Bites Girl

Posted: 2:39 pm EDT May 26, 2009 Updated: 4:51 pm EDT May 27, 2009

A 10-year-old girl was released from the hospital Wednesday after being bitten by a mountain lion in Columbiana County.

It didn't happen at any zoo, or out in the wild -- but at home near Lisbon, as a hobby, a family keeps several full-sized lions and mountain lions caged up in their yard.

Homeowner Chris Joseph said the victim, Bailey Rhine Stine, is a family friend who was visiting the home on Lones Road at the time of the incident.

Joseph said her husband was in the cages feeding the lions Monday when the girl wandered over, asking to pet a mountain lion.

[Survey: Do you think there should be stricter laws against owning exotic animals as pets?](#)

Joseph said her husband told the girl no, but when he turned his back, she went in. The girl was rushed to East Liverpool City Hospital then airlifted to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The animal's owners claim they'd been approved by the government to house these animals and that they have all the required shots.

Joseph told NEWS9 her husband would give an interview because they wanted to set the record straight, but when news reporters showed up at the home at the time she asked them to, she wouldn't answer the door or the phone and ended up calling police.

🔊 **Sound Off: Share Your Thoughts**

Workers at Oglebay's Good Zoo said they do not recommend keeping exotic pets, even if the owner thinks the pet is tame or well-trained.

Zoo officials said exotic pet attacks are very common. Zookeepers said because the way a child moves and the high-pitched noises children make might trigger the attack instinct in a wild animal.

"Any of the big cats or wolf hybrids can kill small child literally in a second if they go for the neck. They're predators and they look at a little child as prey," said Penny Miller, Good Zoo director.

Miller also said many zoos can't accept animals that were pets because oftentimes they are malnourished or weren't properly socialized with their own species.

"Most people think (if) they have a pet lion or tiger cub that a zoo is going to take it when it's mature, and we don't want them," Miller said.

Typically, that means the animal is left to bounce from home to home and is eventually euthanized. While she said she wants every animal to have a good home, that doesn't mean every animal should be a pet.

"It's really not our problem to solve. We recommend that cities have ordinances against these things as pets so these things don't happen in the first place," Miller said.

Stay with NEWS9 and WTOV9.com for continuing coverage.

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One of our licensees, Matt Joseph, 31-C-0133, customer # 11140, of Lisbon OH, had an incident at his facility on Monday, May 25, 2009. A young girl (10 years old) apparently gained access to a cage containing a mountain lion and was injured by the animal. She was taken to the hospital. According to the news report, the child was released from the hospital on Wednesday, May 27.

Norma Harlan, the inspector for the facility, plans to inspect and gather information on this incident tomorrow, Thursday, May 28.

Enclosed is a copy of one of the news articles. There were several news reports on the web, and local TV news has covered the incident. WTOV9.com also has video and pictures of the facility.

Ellen Magid



JUL 28 2009

BY: 202090902160320 NHARLAN
insp_id

Inspection Report

MATT JOSEPH

Customer ID: 11140

44941 LONES RD

Certificate: 31-C-0133

Site: 001

MATT JOSEPH

LISBON, OH 44432

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: Jul-10-2009

No noncompliant items identified during this inspection.

Note: The cougars involved in the incident have been moved to Noah's Lost Ark.

This is an electronic copy of the original handwritten copy created during the inspection.

Prepared By:

Norma Jean Harlan DVM

NORMA JEAN HARLAN, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1004

Date:

Jul-10-2009

Received By:

CHRISTINA JOSEPH

Title: OWNER

Date:

Jul-10-2009



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2009

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INSPECTION REPORT

BY: _____

MATT Joseph
44941 Lones Rd.
Lisbon, OH 44432

Customer ID: 11140
Certificate: 31-C-0133

Site: 001

Inspection

Type: Routine

Date: 10 July 2009

No noncompliant items identified during this inspection

Note: The cougars involved in the incident have been moved to:
North's Lost ARK.

Prepared By: Amg Harlan DVM
NORMA HARLAN, USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VMO Inspector ID: 1004

Date: 10-JUL-09

Received By: (b)(6) & (b)(7)c

Date: 10-JUL-09

Title: Christina Joseph OWNER



Inspection Report

MATT JOSEPH

Customer ID: 11140

44941 LONES RD

Certificate: 31-C-0133

Site: 001

MATT JOSEPH

LISBON, OH 44432

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: May-28-2009

2.131 (c) (1)

DIRECT NCI

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

(c)(1) During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public.

****The barrier between the cats and the public were not adequately maintained. A child was able to access the cage containing two young mountain lions, get her hand and arm into the cage. One of the young males grabbed and released her at least three times. The owner crawled into the shelter box with both the cats to release her from the last clamp down. To access the animals she had to remove the fan that was in front of the opening. Barriers must be adequate to protect the public from direct contact with the animals.

The gate to this barrier fence was unlocked when I arrived. Anyone could access these animals when they are not at home if this gate is unlocked.

Correct by: 5-29-09

2.131 (c) (3)

DIRECT NCI

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

(3) During public exhibition, dangerous animals such as lions, tigers, wolves, bears, or elephants must be under the direct control and supervision of a knowledgeable and experienced animal handler.

****The mountain lions were not under adequate control by the owner while this child was inside the barriers. She watched the owner water and play with the mountain lions. He did not have adequate control to prevent injury to the child when she put her arm into the cage. Being inside the cage the owner was able to release the child's arm more quickly than might otherwise happen. When dealing with dangerous animals in front of impressionable individuals you must consider their protection above all else.

Correct by: Immediately

Prepared By:

NORMA JEAN HARLAN, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1004

May-28-2009

Received By:

(b)(6) & (b)(7)c

MATT JOSEPH

Date:

Title:

OWNER

May-28-2009



Inspection Report

MATT JOSEPH

Customer ID: 11140

44941 LONES RD

Certificate: 31-C-0133

Site: 001

MATT JOSEPH

LISBON, OH 44432

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: May-28-2009

2.131 (c) (1)

DIRECT NCI

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

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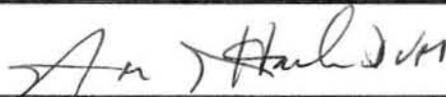
The gate to this barrier fence, which is also the perimeter fence, was unlocked when I arrived. Anyone could access these animals when the owners are not at home if this gate is unlocked.

Correct by: 5-29-09

This is an amended report. It amends this citation to: clarify that the barrier and perimeter fence are the same; that anyone can enter if gates are left unlocked with the owner away.

The other major change is that it removes 2.131(c)(3).

Prepared By:



NORMA JEAN HARLAN, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1004

Jun-01-2009

Received By:

MATT JOSEPH

Date:

Title:

OWNER

Jun-01-2009