



<p>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</p> <p>USDA</p> <p>OFFICIAL WARNING</p> <p>NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION</p>	CASE NUMBER: VA230013-AC
	ALLEGED VIOLATOR: Virginia Safari Park and Preservation Center, Inc.
	ADDRESS (City, State, ZIP Code): Natural Bridge, VA 24578
<p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following alleged violation(s) of Federal laws:</p> <p>Date of Alleged Violation: On or about July 18, 2022 (Site 001)</p> <p>9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) Handling of animals. 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.</p> <p>Virginia Safari Park (VSP) (Site 001) failed to handle animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.</p> <p>The February 6, 2023 inspection report details the death of a baby llama. On July 18, 2022, the animal appeared to have suffered injuries consistent with vehicular trauma and was found dead in the front safari pen. An internal investigation found that a contractor crested a hill, did not see the llama resting on the hillside, and hit the llama.</p> <p>Date of Alleged Violation: February 6, 2023 (Site 001)</p> <p>9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) 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.</p> <p>VSP (Site 001) failed to ensure indoor and outdoor housing facilities were structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain the animals. During the February 6, 2023 inspection, APHIS officials observed the following:</p>	

- The hay rack in the petting zoo area was bent on one side causing the metal pipe to crack, exposing the animals to sharp edges where they lean against the rack to access hay.
- Multiple shelters and catch buildings in the front and back safari pastures had areas where metal siding was detached from the underlying wall, exposing the animals to sharp metal edges and corners protruding into the animals areas.
- Three stalls in the rhino barn had damaged guard rails and metal sheeting covering the lower walls where the animals punched 3 to 5-inch holes, exposing the animals to jagged, sharp metal edges and the underlying materials.

Date of Alleged Violation: Between December 2022 and June 2023 (Site 002)

9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) Handling of animals.

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.

Alabama Safari Park (Site 002) failed to handle animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. On August 3, 2023, APHIS officials reviewed facility records that document the following incidents involving predation or trauma that resulted in animal deaths:

- A female blackbuck found dead from predation on June 23, 2023,
- A male red lechwe found dead with gore wounds on March 26, 2023,
- A female llama found dead from trauma on September 20, 2022,
- A male llama found dead from trauma on January 13, 2023,
- A blackbuck found dead from predation on April 28, 2022,
- A female impala found dead from predation on December 20, 2022.

Date of Alleged Violation: June 1, 2022 (Site 003)

9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) 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.

Gulf Breeze Zoo (GBZ) (Site 003) failed to ensure housing facilities were structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain animals. During a routine inspection on June 1, 2022, APHIS officials observed that crossbeams supporting the ceiling of the caracal's outdoor enclosure were bowed.



Date of Alleged Violation: March 8, 2023 (Site 003)

9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) 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.

GBZ (Site 003) failed to ensure housing facilities were structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain animals. During a routine inspection on March 8, 2023, APHIS officials observed the following:

- An enclosure housing 15 red kangaroos with a 4-foot section and a 3ft section of exposed PVC waterline pipe extending out of the dirt,
- An enclosure housing 4 Springbok with a 2ft section of exposed PVC waterline pipe extending out of the dirt.

Date of Alleged Violation: May 11, 2023 (Site 003)

9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) 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.

GBZ (Site 003) failed to ensure housing facilities were structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain animals. During a routine inspection on May 11, 2023, APHIS officials observed the following:

- The free-range section of the park housing sable, blackbuck, and one white bearded gnu/wildebeest contained PVC pipes for construction, an electrical box, and a large propane tank,
- An enclosure housing anteaters with two sections of wire fencing that were no longer buried, leaving gaps between the primary enclosure fence and the ground.



The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published federal regulations to ensure the welfare of animals and help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts that are detrimental to the public interest, APHIS is providing you with an Official Warning for the alleged violation(s) described above. This Official Warning is not to be construed as a final agency action, or as an adjudicated finding of a violation. If APHIS obtains evidence of any future violation of these federal regulations, APHIS may pursue sanctions, which may include criminal prosecution, for this alleged violation(s) and for any future violation(s). If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning or alleged violation(s), please contact the APHIS official listed in this notice.

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