CITATION AND NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described below.

Date of Alleged Violation: May 9, 2019

9 C.F.R. § 2.126(b) Access and inspection of records and property; submission of itineraries. The use of a room, table, or other facilities necessary for the proper examination of the records and inspection of the property or animals must be extended to APHIS officials by the dealer, exhibitor, intermediate handler or carrier, and a responsible adult shall be made available to accompany APHIS officials during the inspection process.

You failed to make a responsible adult available to accompany APHIS officials for a facility inspection. At 11:15 a.m., APHIS officials arrived at your property. They were unable to access the gated facility and two calls to your phone number went unanswered.

Date of Alleged Violation: October 15, 2019

9 C.F.R. § 2.126(b) Access and inspection of records and property; submission of itineraries.

The use of a room, table, or other facilities necessary for the proper examination of the records and inspection of the property or animals must be extended to APHIS officials by the dealer, exhibitor, intermediate handler or carrier, and a responsible adult shall be made available to accompany APHIS officials during the inspection process.

You failed to make a responsible adult available to accompany APHIS officials for a facility inspection. At 11:00am, APHIS officials attempted to conduct an inspection. At 11:15 a.m., you informed the AC Inspectors that you were unavailable for an inspection.

Date of Alleged Violation: March 12, 2020

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

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.
You exhibited an animal without sufficient distance or barriers between the animal and a member of the public. You allowed a member of the public to enter the enclosure and photograph a serval without barriers or sufficient distance between the serval and a member of the public.

Following an inspection on March 8, 2022, AC officials cited you for repeated instances of exhibiting dangerous animals without sufficient distance or barriers posted on social media.

**Date of Alleged Violation: March 17, 2020**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.4** Non-interference with APHIS officials.
A licensee or applicant for an initial license shall not interfere with, threaten, abuse (including verbally abuse), or harass any APHIS official in the course of carrying out his or her duties.

**9 C.F.R. §2.126(a)** Access and inspection of records and property; submission of itineraries.
(4) To inspect and photograph the facilities, property and animals, as the APHIS officials consider necessary to enforce the provisions of the Act, the regulations and the standards in this subchapter; and
(5) To document, by the taking of photographs and other means, conditions and areas of noncompliance.

During an inspection, you exhibited aggressive and threatening behavior that interfered with the completion of an inspection. APHIS officials were subjected to behavior that was harassing, intimidating and verbally abusive. You abruptly ended the inspection and refused to allow the inspectors to photograph areas of concern.

**Date of Alleged Violation: March 17, 2020**

**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.

You failed to maintain outdoor housing facilities in good repair to protect animals from injury. APHIS officials observed multiple big cat enclosures in various states of disrepair including:

- a broken wooden plank extending over the cougar den,
- a worn wooden platform with exposed screws in the enclosure housing a caracal and a lynx,
- a wooden platform with bowing and splintering in the serval
enclosure,
- a den with splintering wood and exposed screws in an enclosure housing a lion and a tiger, and
- a worn and splintered platform in the Geoffrey’s cat enclosure.

**Date of Alleged Violation: July 16, 2020**

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

You exhibited an animal without sufficient distance or barriers between the animal and a member of the public.

You exhibited a Syrian brown bear without sufficient distance or barriers between the bear and members of the public. During the animal exhibit, the brown bear reached through the opening of it’s enclosure and ripped the glasses rom the neck of a member of the public.

**Date of Alleged Violation: October 20, 2020**

9 C.F.R. § 3.130 Watering.
If potable water is not accessible to the animals at all times, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. Frequency of watering shall consider age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

You failed to make potable water accessible to animals at your facility. APHIS official observed the following:

- murky brown water, dirt, and grass in the otter enclosure pools,
- dead weeds and murky water in the Coatimundi water receptacles,
- a minimal amount of murky brown water with dirt, sediment, and soggy food in the skunk and squirrel enclosure,
- murky brown water in the tiger and black bear pool,
- murky green water and algae lining the interior sides of the cement pool in the Syrian bear enclosure.

**Date of Alleged Violation: October 20, 2020**

9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) Facilities, general. 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.
You failed to maintain outdoor housing facilities in good repair to protect animals from injury. AC officials observed multiple animal enclosures in various states of disrepair, including:

- a wooden platform with a jagged hole in the serval enclosure,
- a worn wooden platform with exposed screws in the caracal enclosure,
- a splintered support plank with missing chunks of wood extending over the enclosure housing a tiger and a black bear, and
- the worn and splintered top section of the primary den in the tiger and black bear enclosure.

**Date of Alleged Violation: October 20, 2020**

9 C.F.R. § 2.75(b)(1) Records: Dealers and exhibitors. Every dealer other than operators of auction sales and brokers to whom animals are consigned, and exhibitor shall make, keep, and maintain records or forms which fully and correctly disclose the following information concerning animals other than dogs and cats, purchased or otherwise acquired, owned, held, leased, or otherwise in his or her possession or under his or her control, or which is transported, sold, euthanized, or otherwise disposed of by that dealer or exhibitor. The records shall include any offspring born of any animal while in his or her possession or under his or her control.

You failed to make, keep, and maintain records or forms which fully and correctly disclosed animal inventories. The disposition records reviewed by APHIS officials were incomplete and did not list newly acquired animals or animals that had passed away.

**Date of Alleged Violation: January 9, 2020, December 30, 2020, and March 9, 2021**

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

9 C.F.R. § 2.131(d)(3) Handling of animals. 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.

You failed to maintain sufficient distance or barriers between the animal and a member of the public. You allowed a facility volunteer with no documented experience or training on handling dangerous animals to interact with a jaguar and a lion without sufficient distance.
or barriers. An experienced handler was inside of the enclosure, but failed to maintain direct control of the animals.

**Date of Alleged Violation: February 5, 2021**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.126(b) Access and inspection of records and property; submission of itineraries.**

The use of a room, table, or other facilities necessary for the proper examination of the records and inspection of the property or animals must be extended to APHIS officials by the dealer, exhibitor, intermediate handler or carrier, and a responsible adult shall be made available to accompany APHIS officials during the inspection process.

You failed to make a responsible adult available to accompany APHIS officials for a facility inspection. At 4:18 p.m., APHIS officials attempted to conduct an inspection, but were unable to contact you at the facility or by phone.

**Date of Alleged Violation: May 14, 2021**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.75(b)(1) Records: Dealers and exhibitors.**

Every dealer other than operators of auction sales and brokers to whom animals are consigned, and exhibitor shall make, keep, and maintain records or forms which fully and correctly disclose the following information concerning animals other than dogs and cats, purchased or otherwise acquired, owned, held, leased, or otherwise in his or her possession or under his or her control, or which is transported, sold, euthanized, or otherwise disposed of by that dealer or exhibitor. The records shall include any offspring born of any animal while in his or her possession or under his or her control.

You failed to make, keep, and maintain records or forms which fully and correctly disclose information concerning the animals in your possession. APHIS officials reviewed animal inventory records and found that the records failed to identify several animals that passed since the last inspection.

**Date of Alleged Violation: May 14, 2021**

**9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) Facilities, general. 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.

You failed to maintain outdoor housing facilities in good repair to protect animals from injury. APHIS officials observed multiple big cat enclosures in various states of disrepair, including:

- a cracked, jagged wooden support beam along the top of the serval
enclosure fence,
- a splintered wooden platform with exposed screws near edge of platform in the caracal enclosure,
- a wooden board detached at the bottom of a den’s back wall in the lion and tiger enclosure,
- a perch platform leaning at an odd angle and an enrichment barrel with exposed sharp edges in the lion and tiger enclosure.

Date of Alleged Violation: March 8, 2022

9 C.F.R. § 2.4 Non-interference with APHIS officials.
A licensee or applicant for an initial license shall not interfere with, threaten, abuse (including verbally abuse), or harass any APHIS official in the course of carrying out his or her duties.

During a routine facility inspection, you interfered with APHIS officials in the course of carrying out their duties. You provided erroneous information to APHIS officials that hindered the inspection process and their assessment of the health and welfare of animals.

The information provided to APHIS officials, related to the frequency of veterinary visits and the program of veterinary care, was misleading and had not been reviewed or approved by the attending veterinarian. The false and misleading statements impeded the ability of APHIS officials to determine the accurate status of animal care and compliance with the attending veterinarian’s guidance for each species.

Date of Alleged Violation: March 8, 2022

9 C.F.R. § 2.40 Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.
(a) Each dealer or exhibitor shall have an attending veterinarian who shall provide adequate veterinary care to its animals in compliance with this section.
(1) Each dealer and exhibitor shall employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements. In the case of a part-time attending veterinarian or consultant arrangements, the formal arrangements shall include a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits to the premises of the dealer or exhibitor; and

(2) Each dealer and exhibitor shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.
(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:
(1) The availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services to comply with the provisions of this subchapter;
(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat
diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;
(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;

You failed to provide adequate veterinary care by not including a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits in the formal arrangements with your part-time attending veterinarian. APHIS officials learned your attending veterinarian had not reviewed and signed your program of veterinary in over two years, including for section of the document that were added for recently acquired spotted hyena and prairie dogs. The attending veterinarian confirmed making occasional visits to the facility for issues such as animal wounds, but no annual or other regularly scheduled visits to the facility occurred.

You failed to assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care; to establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that includes the availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services; and to provide timely and accurate information to the attending veterinarian on problems of animal health. You failed to seek or provide adequate veterinary care for a Geoffrey’s cat with hair and eye issues, an obese jaguar, two geriatric tigers with ocular, neurologic, and body weight concerns, and a limping cougar. You failed to communicate with the attending veterinarian concerning animal nutrition and supplementation requirements and parasite control. The attending veterinarian informed APHIS officials that because of the facility design, with no squeeze chutes or lockouts, examinations of large or dangerous animals cannot be safely performed at the facility. Additionally, you were unable to transport larger, dangerous animals to the attending veterinarian’s office for examination.

Date of Alleged Violation: March 8, 2022

9 C.F.R. § 3.125 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.
You failed to ensure that housing facilities were structurally sound and maintained in good repair to contain animals and protect animals from injury. APHIS officials observed multiple enclosures in various stages of disrepair, including:

- approximately eleven enclosures with exposed metal fence subfloor, including some with metal protrusions,
- sections of the wooden platforms in the coatimundi and ringtail lemur enclosures that were detached, leaving exposed screws,
- a worn wooden platform the Geoffrey’s cat enclosure with a splintered hole in front of the den,
- exposed screws pointing down from a board that previously held a climbing branch in the kinkajou enclosure,
- den boxes with sections of damaged or missing plywood in the enclosures housing a tiger and lion, a leopard, and African Crested porcupines,
- loose hinges on a door to an enclosure housing bears, a tiger, and a lion; the door stood slightly ajar despite security chains placed on the door for additional security.

You failed to provide appropriate housing for an adolescent female spotted hyena that was allowed to roam freely about your domestic residence with potential exposure to dangerous materials and structures (i.e., electrical cords, chewing surfaces, etc.).

The penalty for the alleged violation(s) described above is $8,850.