



<p>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</p> <p><b>USDA</b></p> <p><b>OFFICIAL WARNING</b></p> <p><b>NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION</b></p>	<p><b>CASE NUMBER:</b> TX230013</p>
	<p><b>ALLEGED VIOLATOR:</b> South Texas Zoological Society</p>
	<p><b>ADDRESS (City, State, ZIP Code):</b> VICTORIA, TX 77901</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:

**Date of Alleged Violation: June 2, 2022**

**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.

**Date of Alleged Violation: June 2, 2022**

**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.

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 civil penalties, criminal prosecution, or other sanctions 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.

<b>APHIS OFFICIAL (Name):</b> Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.	<b>OFFICE ADDRESS:</b> 4700 River Road, Unit 84 Riverdale, MD 20737	
<b>APHIS OFFICIAL (Title):</b> Deputy Administrator, APHIS, Animal Care	<b>DATE ISSUED:</b> October 27, 2022	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b> (970) 494-7478