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Hollywild Animal Park (Meeks, David & Lucia)

USDA License #56-C-0115 (formerly 56-B-0005) 2325 Hampton Rd., Wellford, SC 29385

Hollywild Animal Park has failed to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Hollywild Animal Park repeatedly for failure to provide veterinary care, failure to provide environment enrichment to primates suffering from psychological distress, failure to provide shelter from inclement weather, failure to provide minimum space, improper feeding and watering, filthy and foul-smelling enclosures, failure to maintain enclosures, inadequate drainage, and improper waste disposal. At least six elephants have died since November 1991, including five who died within the same three-month period. Animals from Hollywild Animal Park have escaped and caused injury. Contact PETA for documentation.

May 9, 2007: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to correct numerous previously identified noncompliances including: failure to consult the attending veterinarian regarding the chronic limp of a leopard named Casey; failure to maintain facilities in good repair to protect the animals from injury, including failure to remove low-hanging Christmas lights, causing a deer's antlers to become entangled in lights; failure to remove excess trash and debris, including boards with protruding nails; and failure to provide adequate fencing to contain a juvenile lion. Hollywild was also cited for failure to provide an adequate public barrier around the leopard enclosure and failure to remove trash on a regular basis to prevent disease hazards.

January 3, 2007: The USDA issued an "Official Warning" to Hollywild Animal Park for alleged violations of Federal Regulations, including: failure to provide adequate veterinary care for a leopard who was intermittently lame; failure to maintain the structural integrity of facilities; failure to store food and bedding appropriately to prevent contamination; and failure to provide a perimeter fence.

December 12, 2006: The USDA confirmed a complaint about aggressive primates at Hollywild, noting that the animals would benefit from additional environmental enrichment. The inspector also confirmed a statement in the complaint indicating that mold had been found on some of the bread fed to the animals.

December 11, 2006: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to correct several previously identified noncompliances including: failure to provide veterinary care to a leopard who had been intermittently lame for more than a year; failure to maintain cages and fencing in good repair, resulting in shelters with loose and missing boards, protruding nails and wires, and rotting flooring; failure to store food in a manner that would prevent deterioration and contamination; and failure to repair the perimeter fence which had been damaged almost one year earlier in an ice storm and was "bent over to half its original height." Hollywild was also cited for failure to properly dispose of large amounts of trash accumulating near animal enclosures.

June 19, 2006: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to wolves, tigers, and cougars whose ear tips were "raw, oozing and crusty from fly bites," to llamas with long, matted coats which had not been sheared as appropriate for the 90-degree weather, and to primates who had not been given annual exams as required by the facility's health protocol as well as for failure to dispose of expired medications. Hollywild was also

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cited for failure to provide adequate environmental enhancement to chimpanzees and an orangutan who were not provided the opportunity to perform natural behaviors such as brachiating and foraging; failure to repair a damaged sleeping platform, which forced an orangutan to sleep on the floor; failure to maintain facilities in good repair, resulting in many exposed nails, collapsed and unstable structures, and a gap in a gate in which animals could have become injured; failure to provide adequate space to five baby opossums who measured approximately 9 to 11 inches long and were housed in a 35-inch-by-18-inch-by-16-inch terrarium; excessive accumulation of fecal matter; excessive flies on and around the animals; housing a lone guinea pig outdoors; improper diet for camels and other hoofstock; and a food storage area that was a “total mess.”

October 20, 2005: According to a USDA Animal Care Incident Report, an employee of Hollywild Animal Park was attacked by a gemsbok as she was leaving the animal’s feeding area. The gemsbok charged the woman through a fence, hitting her twice with his horns and knocking her down. Her injuries included “two broken ribs, [a] puncture hole in [the] fleshy part of [her] lower leg, [and a] torqued pelvis with bone bruising and torn pelvic floor ligaments.” An ambulance was called to assist the woman.

May 16, 2005: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to handle animals so that there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, which resulted in escapes by ibexes who crawled under gaps in a fence and into public areas, and for failure to maintain facilities in good repair.

May 26, 2004: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to maintain facilities. Lights from the Christmas display had not yet been removed and had begun to droop to within the animals’ reach, posing a potential for injury.

November 3, 2003: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing adequate environmental enhancement for chimpanzees and baboons who spent significant amounts of time indoors and who were not provided with bedding, foraging devices, or adequate structures to allow them to be up off the floor, and failure to dispose of outdated drugs. Hollywild was also cited for improper waste disposal, which allowed animals to have access to cans, plastic bags, and other garbage; failure to maintain the cleanliness of facilities and a proper rodent control program; and filthy food storage.

May 29, 2003: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to have a complete program of veterinary care that includes regular veterinary exams, testing elephants and primates for tuberculosis, parasite control, and routine veterinary care such as fecal exams, blood work, and dental work. The zoo was also cited for failure to dispose of expired drugs and vaccines. The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to provide an adequate environment-enhancement plan to promote the psychological well-being of primates. The report indicated that three chimpanzees caged in solitary confinement were not provided with adequate social groupings and that young primates were prematurely removed from their mothers. The inspector wrote, “[T]he practice of pulling infants from their mothers has well known negative effects on their behavior and well being.” Even the inadequate, outdated environmental enrichment options available to the 19 primates at the zoo are not being implemented. Some of the primates, including two of the chimpanzees being kept in solitary confinement, have no access to the outdoors. Many of the primates are forced to sit on concrete floors and are not able to escape from the public-viewing area. One of the individually caged chimpanzees exhibited extensive signs of stress. Hollywild continues to use nets to capture capuchin monkeys. The USDA inspector notes that this is “a stressful procedure.”

July 16, 2002: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to maintain the structural strength of enclosures to protect the animals from injury. A young antelope escaped from under a gate. Hollywild was also cited for inadequate waste disposal and poor sanitation.

January 15, 2002: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not maintaining facilities in good repair to protect the animals’ safety. Hollywild was also cited for improper food storage, insufficient lighting that prevented adequate cleaning of cages and observation of animals, premises littered with trash, and excessive accumulation of feces in the elephant enclosure.

October 23, 2001: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to maintain enclosures in a manner to prevent injury to the animals, improper food storage, failure to have an adequate diet plan for the big cats, and poor housekeeping.

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September 4, 2001: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not maintaining facilities in a manner that would protect the animals' safety. The inspector wrote, "Wires must be removed or repaired or animals relocated to reduce potential of injury." Hollywild was also cited for poor sanitation.

August 9, 2001: According to an article in the *Asheville Global Report*, Hollywild owner David Meeks took pictures of protesters and their vehicles' license plates during an August 4, 2001, demonstration against Hollywild's mistreatment of animals. A short time later, protesters found that three of their cars had two or more tires slashed, and Hollywild employees were observed congratulating each other.

March 2, 2001: The USDA cited Hollywild for failure to dispose of outdated medications, poor housekeeping, failure to maintain the structural strength of the facility, and improper food storage.

April 26-27, 2000: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to elephants in need of tuberculosis tests and foot care and to a gemsbok (African antelope) in need of hoof care as well as failure to necropsy an African elephant who died and to have employees with elephant contact tested for tuberculosis. The park was cited for failure to provide environment enhancement to its primates, including a chimpanzee named Charlie kept in solitary confinement who was observed "exhibiting signs of psychological distress through abnormal behavior." The USDA also cited the park for failure to maintain facilities, improper food storage, inadequate waste disposal, inadequate drainage, improper feeding, dirty drinking water receptacles, filthy enclosures, and poor housekeeping.

March 12, 1999: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not cleaning enclosures, inadequate perimeter fencing, improper waste disposal, and failure to provide shelter from inclement weather. The park was also cited for failure to provide veterinary care to a tiger with an oozing wound on her head, a young goat who was sneezing with eye and nose discharge, another goat with excessive hair loss on the legs and in need of hoof care, and a baby eland noted to be scouring (suffering from neonatal calf diarrhea, which can be caused by nutritional deficiencies, bacteria, viruses, and protozoa and aggravated by stress, overcrowding, poor sanitation, and contaminated grounds). The USDA cited Hollywild for dirty drinking water receptacles, improper food storage, inadequate drainage, improper feeding, and poor housekeeping.

December 22, 1998: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not having adequate perimeter fencing, improper waste disposal, failure to provide shelter from inclement weather for camels, Watusi cattle, and water buffalo, inadequate drainage, and poor housekeeping. The park was also cited for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to a chimpanzee named Sammy with a severely infected bite wound on his shoulder, failure to adhere to the environment enhancement plan for primates, filthy enclosures, dirty feed troughs for goats, sheep, and llamas, failure to provide minimum space to three adult tigers, poor ventilation in the primate barn with a strong ammonia odor, inadequate lighting in the elephant barns, and failure to maintain the structural strength of enclosures.

October 29, 1997: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for improper waste disposal, failure to provide shelter for a leopard, inadequate drainage in a fallow deer enclosure, inadequate perimeter fencing, improper feeding, having dirty drinking water receptacles, poor housekeeping, incomplete recordkeeping, and failure to have veterinary care records. The inspector noted that a veterinarian should review the nutritional status of the cougars and African elephants who were thin and the leopards who were obese, that the heater in the elephant barn needed replacing and the barn needed repairs, that shelters for primates and caracals were unsuitable, that the stock trailer was dirty, and that the supply of food on hand for the carnivores was inadequate.

June 12, 1997: Hollywild Animal Park paid a \$10,000 civil penalty to settle USDA charges of violating the minimum standards of care established in the AWA (see November 8, 1996).

November 8, 1996: The USDA charged Hollywild Animal Park with violations of the Animal Welfare Act for failure to maintain records, failure to provide veterinary care, improper food and bedding storage, improper waste disposal, inadequate lighting to permit routine inspection and cleaning, inadequate drainage, failure to construct and maintain facilities in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals, inadequate space, failure to provide environment enhancement for primates, failure to provide animals with wholesome and uncontaminated food, poor housekeeping, inadequate ventilation, and failure to provide animals with shelter from the elements.

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November 7, 1996: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for a failure to maintain facilities that resulted in the killing of two fallow deer after they escaped, inadequate cleaning, and inadequate pest control.

November 16, 1995: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing shelter from the elements, inadequate cleaning, and inadequate ventilation in the primate barn with a strong ammonia odor. The park was also cited for failure to provide veterinary care to a lame fallow deer and failure to dispose of expired medications, improper food storage and waste disposal, inadequate lighting in the rhino barn, inadequate drainage in tiger and bear enclosures, inadequate perimeter fencing, failure to maintain enclosures for ibex, goats, zebras, camels, and llamas, inadequate space for a longhorn steer and a water buffalo housed together in a stall, failure to provide environment enrichment to a spider monkey, improper feeding of bears, feeding spoiled chicken to the cougars, dirty drinking water receptacles, a dirty transport trailer, and incomplete record-keeping.

October 13, 1994: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of using a dirty, moldy food preparation table, failure to maintain enclosures, inadequate cleaning, and failure to provide adequate shelter from the elements to cougars, baboons, hyenas, jaguars, lynxes, leopards, tigers, lions, bears, wolves, bobcats, jungle cats, blackbuck antelope, sika deer, fallow deer, axis deer, pigs, white-tailed deer, goats, ibex, bison, steer, water buffalo, and zebras. The park was also cited for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to a fawn and a goat in the petting area and failure to schedule regular veterinary exams, failure to provide advance notice of animals taken off-site for exhibition, incomplete records of disposition, and poor housekeeping.

July 11-12, 1994: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not maintaining enclosures. The park was also cited for improper food storage, failure to provide adequate shelter for two lions, inadequate perimeter fencing, failure to maintain enclosures, a filthy food preparation area, giving animals drinking water contaminated with feces and algae, filthy enclosures, and failure to provide environment enhancement to a young mandrill with multiple patches of fur loss on arms and legs that may be a sign of psychological distress.

January 31, 1994: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for inadequate drainage in the bear enclosure and failure to maintain enclosures.

September 20-21, 1993: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not maintaining enclosures for fallow deer, a leopard, cougars, ibex, a lion, a rhino, and pot-bellied pigs, improper food storage, and poor housekeeping. The park was also cited for failure to provide adequate shelter, failure to provide environment enrichment for baboons, improper feeding and watering, filthy, foul-smelling enclosures, failure to dispose of expired medications, failure to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees, and inadequate pest control.

June 30, 1993: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not providing adequate drainage in the rhino barn and outdoor pen. The park was also cited for a filthy lemur enclosure, failure to maintain enclosures, failure to provide adequate shade to three baby ibex, inadequate pest control, improper food storage, inadequate fencing around the badger enclosure, and poor housekeeping.

March 19, 1993: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing adequate veterinary care to hoofstock requiring tuberculosis tests, not allowing the inspector to access animals being held at a secondary, unlicensed location, failure to provide hoofstock with shelter from the elements, and inadequate drainage in the water buffalo barn. A water buffalo, a capybara, seven axis deer, four white tail deer, six black buck antelope, and an eland died during a storm. The park was also cited for a filthy elephant barn, improper feeding, and inadequate drainage in the rhino barn.

March 9, 1993: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing adequate veterinary care to hoofstock requiring tuberculosis tests, not allowing inspector to access animals being held at a secondary unlicensed location, failure to provide hoofstock with shelter from the elements, and inadequate drainage in the water buffalo barn. The park was also cited for inadequate drainage in the primate barn and rhino and cougar pens, failure to maintain enclosures, and improper food storage.

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January 20, 1993: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing adequate veterinary care, inadequate drainage, failure to provide primates with adequate shelter from the cold, failure to provide adequate shelter for dogs, wolves, hoofstock, sheep, goats, deer, big cats, a rhino, and elephants, failure to maintain enclosures, and poor housekeeping. The park was also cited for failure to provide adequate perimeter fencing and failure to allow the inspector to access animals being held at a secondary, unlicensed location.

August 24, 1992: According to the *Chicago Tribune*, a 78-year-old woman hanging sheets on a clothesline in her backyard was attacked twice by one of three chimpanzees who had escaped from Hollywild Animal Park. The woman was repeatedly knocked to the ground and rolled around by the 100-pound chimp. She was treated for minor injuries at a medical center.

July 21, 1992: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing adequate drainage in the Asian elephant barn, and improper handling. The park was also cited for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to a goat who was limping, an antelope with a leg injury, wolves with ear problems, and several animals in need of hoof-trimming. There was no environment enhancement plan for a squirrel monkey kept in solitary confinement. The park was cited for not providing sufficient drinking water in a baboon enclosure with a broken water pipe, failure to provide an adequate barrier for an African elephant who was able to escape from her enclosure, failure to provide adequate space to a lion, two jaguars, and a cougar in off-exhibit pens, failure to maintain structural strength and safety of enclosures, poor housekeeping, inadequate cleaning and maintenance of surface areas, and improper food storage.

February 13-14, 1992: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of housing together incompatible elephants that had resulted in the deaths of four additional elephants since the last inspection, not providing at least the minimum space required to the chimpanzees and a rhino, failure to provide adequate veterinary care, inadequate lighting in the chimpanzee barn, failure to maintain the structural strength of enclosures, failure to provide shelter from the cold, poor housekeeping, and improper handling. There was no letter from the attending veterinarian addressing the chronology and circumstances of the recent deaths of five elephants, autopsy findings, treatments, compatibility issues, feeding practices, a health care program, enclosure safety, and the general health of the four surviving elephants. One elephant appeared thin, with many draining skin lesions. A kudu in the pasture appeared underweight. The park was also cited for failure to have a veterinarian-approved environment enhancement plan for primates and an exercise plan for dogs, failure to provide adequate shelter for deer and a black bear, filthy stalls for the pot-bellied pigs, failure to maintain chimpanzee enclosures, improper food storage, inadequate drainage in the Asian elephant barn, improper handling of a yak, and inadequate records of acquisition and disposition.

November 26-27, 1991: The USDA cited Hollywild Animal Park for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not maintaining the structural strength of enclosures for the hybrid wolf, big cats, and primates, having a faulty water dispenser for baboons, a dirty zebra shelter, inadequate pest control, inadequate veterinary care records, an incomplete primate enhancement plan, an incomplete exercise plan for dogs, improper food storage, inadequate waste disposal, inadequate lighting in the chimpanzee barn, and poor housekeeping. There was evidence that the letter regarding veterinary care provided to the inspector was signed by an unlicensed veterinarian, as the signature read, "R.L. Patch, DMV," not "DVM" or "VMD." The park was also cited for failure to maintain enclosures for primates, goats, and bears and for failure to provide shelter from cold weather. The inspector wrote, "Evidence of primate's reaction to cold seen in one chimp hanging on to blanket and shivering ... three capuchin monkeys outside of den on concrete huddled together ... [and] two capuchins walking on concrete with slightly altered gait as if concrete [is] cold to feet." Some lions and tigers needed den boxes. Several exotic feline species, hyenas, bears, hybrid wolves, goats, sheep, calves, and pot-bellied pigs had no bedding. The camel, yak, and goats had inadequate shelter from the elements. The chimpanzee enclosures were filthy and did not meet minimum space requirements. The inspector wrote, "Some chimps do not have much ability to move around or to interact and do not do much but sit in bedding." The rhino did not have ample space to turn around freely and had no access to daylight or the outdoors. The partition between the elephant and rhino was inadequate and could result in the animals causing injury to each other. The park was cited for housing together incompatible animals resulting in death and injury. The inspector wrote, "One elephant died three or four weeks ago after sparring with another. ... During inspection, observed some aggressive display behavior on part of one male. ... Also observed one elephant with multiple small wounds on rump that would be consistent in size [with] injuries from tusks. Need to have attending veterinarian address compatibility issues, nature of wounds, and send autopsy results from dead elephant to sector office." The park was also cited for

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poor housekeeping and failure to maintain records of acquisition for two additional elephants, a young camel, a yak, and a bison calf and records of disposition for wildebeest and camels that left the facility.

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