

Kelly's Paw Print Productions (Sue and Jerry Kelly)

USDA License #58-C-0592; P.O. Box 658, Zellwood, FL 32798

Although most U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensees are inspected, on average, once or twice per year, Paw Prints was inspected at least 27 times from 2006 to 2008. This is a clear indication of the many problems with this exhibitor. In 72 pages of inspection reports, the USDA repeatedly cited Paw Prints for failure to comply with the minimum standards of the federal Animal Welfare Act. Serious violations included a total absence of veterinary care, unsafe handling of dangerous animals during public exhibition, failure to properly feed the animals, and causing physical harm, trauma, and discomfort to animals.

Veterinary Care

Paw Prints has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for failure to provide veterinary care to sick, injured, and ailing animals, resulting in prolonged suffering and death.

"These animals are suffering due to their chronic medical conditions and the continued lack of any veterinary care."

—USDA Inspection Report, July 10, 2008

"Napolean (cougar) has died since the last inspection. The licensee took the animal off site to be exhibited despite the fact that he was not eating for the previous 2 days and had not [had a] veterinary examination or care to determine the cause of the anorexia or if this animal was healthy enough to be transported and exhibited."

—USDA Inspection Report, July 17, 2008

"A leopard (Magic) was recently euthanized [by gunshot] by the licensee because of self-mutilation of the tail."

—USDA Inspection Report, May 29, 2008

"There are an escalating number of animals that require veterinary care on each subsequent inspection. The animals that were observed to be in need of veterinary care on previous inspections have not received any veterinary care or have died. For the remaining animals, their conditions have not improved."

—USDA Inspection Report, January 17, 2007

"Animals are left to heal by themselves without any professional veterinary examination, care, or treatment."

—USDA Inspection Report, February 28, 2007

In December 2006, a lion named Chakra was transported to a theme park for exhibition. Upon arrival, the lion was "breathing heavy, panting, and lying on his side. No medical care was administered and the cat remained in the transport vehicle during the exhibition. This cat died while at the theme park location." The USDA concluded, "[It] is highly suggestive that this cat suffered from heat exhaustion"

—USDA Inspection Report, January 17, 2007

"The panther and leopard were again observed to be arthritic and walking stiff to and from the stage area. These animals still have not been examined by the attending veterinarian"

—USDA Inspection Report, November 21, 2006

Public Safety

Paw Prints has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for failure to handle dangerous animals in a manner that protects the public.

"[The] barrier fence system offers little protection to the public if the animal escapes, jumps, or lunges off the exhibition table or gets away from the trainer's leashes. These animals can easily jump above this small waist-high barrier fence and [have] the capability of jumping much greater distances than 10 feet where the public sits."

—USDA Inspection Report, September 18, 2006

"[T]he only provision on site in case an animal escapes or gets loose from the trainer is a catch

pole which is in the transport vehicle located in the parking lot. This piece of equipment is inadequate to control a large cat if it becomes agitated, startled, or should break away from the leash restraint.”

—USDA Inspection Report, September 18, 2006

“The only form of restraint [for tigers, a panther, and a leopard] is two leashes being held by two handlers These leashes do not provide adequate direct control over these large cats.”

—USDA Inspection Report, November 21, 2006

“[A tiger] threw the licensee ‘off balance,’ and ... the licensee as well as the other handler that was restraining this cat were running behind the tiger saying ‘whoa boy’ and did not have control of the animal”

—USDA Inspection Report, October 10, 2006

Animal Mishandling

Paw Prints has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for failure to handle animals in a manner that ensures their well-being.

“As observed on all previous inspections, the same serval again appeared stressed and agitated when it was on display and during the public photo opportunities. This animal’s ears were flattened, [and it was] switching its tail from side to side, was frequently hissing, and would intermittently attempt to swat the handler or the public during the photo opportunity. These types of behaviors are indicative of behavioral stress and also pose a risk of injury to the public when they are in close contact with this cat.”

—USDA Inspection Report, July 11, 2007

“The leopard appeared to be stiff in the left shoulder and was reluctant to jump up onto the table for the photo opportunities with the public. This cat was vocalizing and appeared stressed”

—USDA Inspection Report, February 27, 2006

The temperature on the morning of an inspection was 48°F. The large cats had no bedding. “The

leopard was observed to be shaking”

—USDA Inspection Report, November 20, 2006

“[A USDA investigator] observed that the handlers had to prod [a 17-year-old and arthritic] cougar, on occasion, up the stairs from behind.”

—USDA Inspection Report, October 10, 2006

“On several ... inspections, it has been observed that animals have been scratching, biting, or injuring cage mates; causing small wounds that do not receive veterinary care.” The report also states that in December 2006, a wolf attacked and killed a new wolf who had recently been introduced.

—USDA Inspection Report, January 17, 2007

Feeding

PAW Prints has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for failure to provide appropriate and sufficient food to big cats.

“All of the animals (with the exception of the bears, skunk, and wolf) appeared thinner than during the last inspection. ... It appears that the quantity of chicken that is currently being fed to the cats is not sufficient considering the condition that the cats are currently in.”

—USDA Inspection Report, July 10, 2008

“Tigger and Diamond (tigers) and the jaguar are thin. The [hip bones] are visible on both of these cats. ... These animals are not receiving a proper feline diet and an insufficient amount of meat daily.”

—USDA Inspection Report, January 15, 2008

“This licensee has had [instances of] metabolic bone disease [among his animals] in the past which is attributable to an unbalanced diet.”

—USDA Inspection Report, January 15, 2008

“The boxes of thawing chicken had large quantities of maggots within the food.”

—USDA Inspection Report, May 29, 2008