



PETA Factsheet

Wildlife World Zoo

USDA License #86-C-0022, 16501 W. Northern Ave., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

Wildlife World Zoo has failed to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibitions as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Wildlife World Zoo for numerous infractions, including failure to provide veterinary care resulting in the deaths of animals, housing incompatible animals in the same enclosure (which caused trauma and death), failure to provide shelter from the elements, and failure to maintain clean and secure enclosures. Wildlife World Zoo is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and sells surplus animals to a dealer who supplies hunting ranches. Wildlife World Zoo breeds white tigers; white is an aberrant color that is artificially bred for profit and entertainment purposes only. The AZA's Species Survival Plan opposes selective breeding of an extremely rare allele for white coloration. Contact PETA for documentation.

June 6, 2006: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for failure to handle animals in a manner that ensures minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public. Members of the public were allowed to feed giraffes without the supervision of an employee, and a barrier that was intended to separate the public and animals at a kangaroo exhibit consisted of only a single rope, which the animals or the public could easily jump or reach over. The zoo was also cited for failure to provide water to five spider monkeys.

May 2, 2006: Wildlife World Zoo transferred five New Guinea singing dogs to Arbuckle Wilderness, an unaccredited zoo in Oklahoma that has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for noncompliance with the federal AWA. USDA citations of Arbuckle Wilderness include the following: failure to provide veterinary care, failure to provide adequate shelter, failure to provide adequate barriers between the animals and the public, failure to employ a sufficient number of employees to care for the animals, and housing animals in structurally unsound and filthy enclosures.

May 2006: Wildlife World Zoo and five other accredited zoos collectively spent almost half a million dollars to import 33 monkeys who had been illegally trafficked by poachers. These zoos brought the monkeys to the U.S. instead of working with wildlife rehabilitators in Africa to return the primates to their natural habitat.

April 26, 2006: Wildlife World Zoo leased an alligator to Claws 'n' Paws Wild Animal Park, an unaccredited zoo in Pennsylvania that has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for noncompliance with the federal AWA. USDA citations of Claws 'n' Paws include the following: failure to provide veterinary care, failure to provide adequate shelter, failure to provide wholesome food, and failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to prevent injuries to animals. Claws 'n' Paws' failure to maintain good enclosures resulted in the escape of a sloth who climbed into a tree and later died because of cold weather.

February 20, 2003: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for failure to maintain the sanitation of an off-exhibit enclosure that housed a tiger. The resting platform in the enclosure appeared to be soiled with excreta, and the tiger was lying on the ground, possibly to avoid the dirty platform. The zoo was also cited for failure to maintain the structural integrity of an addax enclosure that had fence posts that were bent or leaning. Also, a gazelle enclosure had gaps under the chain-link fence.

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August 2, 2002: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for failure to implement an enrichment program to promote the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates.

February 14, 2000: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo a third time for improper food storage. The zoo was also cited for expired medication, failure to maintain structures, a dirty food receptacle for capuchin monkeys, inadequate drainage, and poor housekeeping.

June 21, 1999: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for failure to provide veterinary care, failure to have facilities to safely gather animals, and failure to have enough adequately trained employees. The inspector wrote, "Several animals were found in need of medical attention, but this was not provided or was provided too late to prevent the death of the animal. ... Animals have gone down or died unnoticed by facility personnel." A veterinarian never examined an adult addax with a prominent limp. A thin dik-dik (small antelope) with an open mouth died and was found to have pneumonia and a broken mandible that prevented him from eating. An emaciated antelope with multiple skin wounds died on February 18, 1998. A necropsy showed a large amount of sand in her stomach, indicating that she had been kept away from food by the other animals. A Thompson's gazelle, after limping for five days, was found down in an irrigation ditch, where she had died. A necropsy showed puncture wounds from being gored; her right thigh was swollen to 3 to 4 times its normal size. Two pygmy goats died after difficult parturitions that were not reported to the attending veterinarian in a timely manner. The inspector wrote, "One goat was reported 'in labor' on January 23, 1999, but was not seen by a veterinarian until the following morning. The animal died two days later. ... The second goat had one kid early on January 25, 1999. The veterinarian delivered another dead kid later in the day and treated the animal with antibiotics. The veterinarian found out on February 11, 1999, that she had become lethargic on February 7, 1999, and died later in the day. She was not given any veterinary care after January 25. "A dromedary camel was losing weight and being attacked by younger camels. ... This was first noted on September 4, 1997." A veterinary recommendation made on October 2, 1997, to separate the camel from the others so that he could eat more was not followed. The camel was euthanized on January 5, 1998, after he went down and was unable to get up. He was covered with cuts and abrasions. An antelope was found dead in the pasture on January 20, 1998, and presumably had died 36 hours earlier. The animal was emaciated, and there was a heavy load of nematodes found in the cecum and large intestine. The zoo was cited for failure to provide shelter from the elements. A llama was found down and not moving on August 13, 1998, and was found dead the next day from heat stroke. Three blackbucks and an emaciated zebra, frightened by storms, died from running into fences or other structures on February 18, 1998. At least five animals suffered trauma and death as a result of incompatible animals being housed together. The zoo was also cited for improper food storage, inadequate pest control, poor housekeeping, and feeding practices that allow animals to ingest fecal material, parasites, and dirt.

May 3, 1999: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for failure to maintain enclosures to securely contain the animals. A capuchin monkey had attacked and bit an employee, causing a severe wound on her lower leg. The USDA cited the zoo for failure to provide veterinary care. The inspector found a primate with an open wound, outdated drugs, and overgrown hooves on an antelope and three goats. The zoo was cited for inadequate ventilation in an area housing two galagos (primates) and another area with a chinchilla, a hedgehog, and a squirrel. The inspector wrote, "A very offensive odor was present ... of animal feces and urine." The zoo was cited for inadequate housekeeping and pest control. The inspector found housing areas containing cockroaches, heavy accumulations of rodent feces, dead rodents, garbage, and flies on and hovering around a lion's face and hindquarters. The zoo was cited for improper handling. Two unpredictable pot bellied pigs with large tusks in the petting area snapped at employees and the inspector. Insufficient barriers allowed daily physical contact between primates and visitors, who had been seen feeding French fries to the animals. The zoo was cited for failure to maintain structures. An antelope routinely escaped the enclosure and left the zoo grounds for three weeks. A Patagonian cavy regularly escaped the enclosure. A coyote entered the grounds and killed several birds and a dik-dik (small antelope). The zoo was also cited for failure to provide access to records, improper feeding, providing dirty water, filthy enclosures, inadequate drainage, and improperly housing guinea pigs.

March 9, 1999: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo for a structurally unsound lemur exhibit and improper storage of bedding material.

February 11, 1999: According to the *San Jose Mercury News*, Wildlife World Zoo sold oryx to a dealer who supplies hunting ranches.

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April 9, 1998: The USDA cited Wildlife World Zoo a second time for having primate den boxes made of improper material that prevented sanitizing and others that were falling apart. The zoo was also cited for inadequate drainage in exhibit areas, failure to provide fresh, clean water to the jaguars, poor housekeeping, and inadequate pest control.