



Inspection Report

Thomas F Edmonds
204 Mulberry St.
West Union, IL 62477

Customer ID: **334782**
Certificate: **33-B-0435**
Site: 001
THOMAS F EDMONDS

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 16-JAN-2020

2.131(c)(1) CRITICAL REPEAT

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

There is a juvenile male tiger 'Tony', that has been used in full contact exhibitions with the public up until the first week of January 2020, when the tiger was over 20 weeks of age. There are multiple photos of interactions of the tiger with the public while having no lead or harness, nor a staff member in sight that had immediate control over the animal. There are photos from November 14 to December 29th, 2019 of the tiger between 16-20 weeks old sitting on the laps of adults, and in a standing position with his large paws on the shoulders, or hanging on the front of adults and/or children while being fed milk from a bottle. The tiger is seen in one photo having its nail stuck in the jeans on the knee of a woman kneeling for a selfie with the tiger, while there is no lead or direct control over the animal by a keeper. On 12/20/19 there is a photo of an approximately 11 yr old boy holding a bottle, while the tiger stands on a rock while holding the boy's arm in his paws, leaning against the boy's body, with 2 public member adults on either side of the boy. There was no direct control over this tiger if he were to scratch or bite the boy. On 12/30/19 the tiger is shown loose in a group of 5 people, 3 children around 10 years old, one possible teen and one adult. They are all on a rock inside of the tiger's enclosure while the tiger walks around them and towards a bottle. There is no way to have direct control over a loose 5 month old tiger, and even if the tiger did have a leash or harness managed by an experienced trainer, it was already too big, too fast and too dangerous to be in direct contact with any member of the public.

A photograph on 12/29/19 shows a woman holding up the tiger while he is standing up on his hind legs and holding a bottle with his paws. The tiger was tall enough to be just under the chin of the woman. The keepers are usually in the area and/or taking the photos but they would not be able to get to the tiger if the animal decided to bite or claw in play or aggression, or if he was to get a claw caught in their clothes or frightened and react in a fearful manner. There is one photo of Tony standing on a rock with his paws on a woman's shoulder while she holds a bottle, with her approximately 9yr old son standing underneath the tiger with its elbows on the boy's shoulder. There were an additional two people off to the side petting the tiger. There was no capability of direct control over this tiger if he were to play-bite or slap with his claws, or if he slid his paws down the front of the adult or child, or if his claws snagged the people in the face, neck or body.

This juvenile tiger was being used well over 16-20 weeks of age in full contact, loose in its cage with members of the public present, with no way to control the animal utilizing a lead/harness, or trainer that was close enough to be

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able to stop an incident if the tiger was to become too playful or aggressive. While a keeper may have been in the area taking a photo or 5-10ft away during the time photos were taken, there was no way they could get to the tiger in time to prevent an injury. By the time they observed the animal was starting to bite or scratch, it would be too late. The tiger is at the age that he is biting, scratching/pawing and play wrestling and is too big (over 55lbs), and too strong to be loose in a cage with members of the public, and especially young children present.

The public was taken into the tiger's primary enclosure where there were no public barriers or areas to prevent contact between the public and tiger. There were no leads/harness or collar on the animal that might have been used to help keep the tiger in direct control of the keeper. Due to the lack of physical barriers, the safety of the public depends solely on the supervision of the keeper who does not have any sort of direct control over the animal. The lack of adequate barriers and or distance from exhibited animals could easily lead to injuries or harm to the public and/or animals.

The facility must ensure that during public exhibition, all animals 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. As the tigers become older, larger and stronger, direct contact with the public must stop. The use of an approved restraint system in conjunction with distance/barriers must be present in exhibitions where the tiger is being displayed out of an enclosure, or whenever the public is taken into an enclosure, in order to protect the public and the animal. Larger, more dangerous juvenile tigers cannot be exhibited to the public with a leash as the only barrier, and the public cannot be allowed to come into direct contact with these animals.

The handling procedures between the public and the tiger, as depicted in the pictures, underscore the lack of knowledge, experience and good judgement of the licensee with potentially dangerous animals.. The lack of proper training and experience while raising and handling a tiger can pose a serious threat of harm to the animal, employees, and the public, as it grows and becomes stronger and possibly more aggressive. The licensee has not received any acceptable specialized/hands on training in handling or training of adult tigers.

The licensee must demonstrate adequate knowledge and experience of the animals in which they maintain, including working directly with the more dangerous older juvenile and adult big cats.

3.127(d) REPEAT

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

A perimeter fence variance was issued in July 2017, giving the licensee more time to complete the fence. Since then, the licensee has completed the fence around half of the property with three entry gates still missing and the

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entire back fence line on the property that has not been completed. This variance was only provided to cover only the species that were on site at the time (4 fox, 2 serval, 2 lynx). However, since the last inspection in 2018, enclosures for two Albifron lemurs, two coati, a Geoffrey's cat, two badgers, two porcupines, two bobcats and two tigers (5 months, 10 months) have been added to the outdoor area with no perimeter fence surrounding these new enclosures.

The tiger, porcupine and bobcat enclosure utilize one side of the wooden planked 8ft perimeter fence for one of its primary enclosure sides, so there is no distance at all between the enclosure and a secondary perimeter fence. The tiger and bobcat enclosures do have a top on them, however using the perimeter fence also as the primary enclosure fence has not been approved by a variance and doesn't meet perimeter fence requirements. Currently, one side of the tiger enclosure is next to the ungated entryway to the property where there is easy access from an adjacent public road. This could be used by members of the public to access the facility including the tiger enclosure due to the lack of any fencing/barrier to keep people out. There is continual construction on the tiger enclosures and a variance request is in process, however the primary enclosures are not finished. Presently a member of the public could walk or drive through the opening in the fence and have direct access through the primary enclosure fence to a 5-month-old and a 10-month-old tiger.

When there is no perimeter fence, animals that escape their primary enclosures can easily escape from the entire facility. Lack of a perimeter fence also allows for easier contact between unwanted animals/people and the animals housed in their primary enclosures. This possible contact can cause increased stress, disease transmission, or possible injury to the regulated animals as well as injury to the unauthorized animal/public. A primary enclosure using the perimeter fence on any side without the 3ft distance between the perimeter fence and primary fence increases risk of unauthorized access/contact with regulated animals.

All outdoor housing facilities must be surrounded by a perimeter fence of sufficient height (either six feet for the bobcats/lemurs/coatis/Geoffrey's cat/badgers and porcupine or eight feet for the tigers) with sufficient distance between the primary enclosure and perimeter fence to prevent unauthorized contact or entry to the facility's animals.

Inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee, the exit report was gone over with the facility representative.

Additional Inspectors

Gage Laurie, Big Cat Specialist

Kingston Susan, Supervisory Compliance Specialist

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
334782	33-B-0435	001	THOMAS F EDMONDS	16-JAN-20

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000009	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG (MOST COMMON PET HEDGEHOG)
000002	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	COMMON MARMOSET
000004	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000002	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	VERVET
000002	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE
000002	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	BROWN LEMUR
000001	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
000001	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>	GEOFFROY'S CAT
000002	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	SERVAL
000002	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	NORTHERN/EURASIAN LYNX
000002	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000002	<i>Nasua nasua</i>	SOUTH AMERICAN COATI
000002	<i>Nasuella olivacea</i>	MOUNTAIN COATI
000003	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	TIGER
000001	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
000001	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000002	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	AMERICAN BADGER
000004	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000001	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	FENNEC FOX
000045	Total	