



## Inspection Report

---

256 Exotics, LLC  
2421 Winchester Rd NE  
Huntsville, AL 35811

Customer ID: **6010970**  
Certificate: **64-B-0103**  
Site: 001  
256 Exotics, LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 06-FEB-2023

---

### 2.1(b)(1) Repeat

#### Requirements and application

Two adult Siamese cats and one of their kittens were housed in the men's restroom. The facility advertised Siamese kittens for sale on a Nov. 14, 2022 Facebook post. The facility representative stated that she moved the cats here from the owner's home yesterday. The licensee was previously informed that a new site inspection is required at this secondary property prior to conducting regulated activity there. Inspection of new sites is important for assuring that housing facilities are appropriate and secure for the animals housed within, and for ensuring compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. Correct by notifying USDA in writing about the presence of all additional locations where regulated animals are housed. No regulated activity may be conducted at offsite locations until those locations have been inspected and approved by USDA personnel.

### 2.40(b)(2) Repeat

#### Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) states that the domestic cats (Savannah cats) and kinkajous should be treated with monthly preventative medication. There were no written documentation of treatments provided to the inspector when the facility representative was asked and no medications or receipts for medications were seen at the store. The facility representative stated she was unaware that any medications were stored at the store. The Attending Veterinarian

---

Prepared By: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:  
06-FEB-2023

Received by Title: Employee

Date:  
06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

during a Dec 22, 2022 visit receipt noted that the animals were behind on their preventative treatment and reiterated the directions on the written Program of Veterinary Care for monthly treatment and stated they wanted to see a receipt for one of the recommended products within two weeks. No receipt was identified in the USDA records or supplied by the owner. A follow up call with the attending veterinarian confirmed none had been purchased by the facility from the vet. Following the Attending Veterinarian's instructions is important in ensuring animal health and well-being. Failure to follow the instructions may result in the occurrence of parasite infestations/infections or other health problems. The facility needs to follow all instructions provided by the Attending Veterinarian.

### **2.40(b)(3) Critical**

#### **Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).**

Records from the Attending Veterinarian were reviewed. One record (dated 11/9/22) for an adult female marmoset noted the following history: "was presented for an examination. She gave birth the first of October and has been lethargic and losing weight since. She has also not been wanting to use her legs as much." The veterinarian noted nerve deficits and fractures (leg, tail and vertebra) and bite wounds (with scabs). Medications were sent home along with care instructions. The marmoset died a few days later. The facility observed that the marmoset was losing weight, lethargic and not wanting to use her legs normally since October first but did not provide veterinary care until over a month later. Earlier treatment may have led to a different outcome. Marmosets are small and any observable weight loss is a concern and should be addressed when first noticed as should the other signs noted. The facility shall ensure that there is a mechanism of direct and frequent communication with the veterinarian such that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and well-being are conveyed to the attending veterinarian. Corrected for this marmoset.

### **2.75(b)(1)**

#### **Records: Dealers and exhibitors.**

---

**Prepared By:** SUSANNE BRUNKHORST  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
06-FEB-2023

**Received by Title:** Employee

**Date:**  
06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

Acquisition and disposition records are not up to date. For example:

- 1) Some acquisition and disposition records were missing required information: such as the name and/or address of the person from whom an animal was obtained or to whom an animal was sold, the USDA license number or drivers license/vehicle tag numbers of person from whom a marmoset was obtained and the species of animal sold on disposition records.
- 2) Animals born at the facility to breeding animals housed at the facility were not accounted for on written records. This included marmosets, guinea pigs, rabbits, sugar gliders and hedgehogs.
- 3) Animals previously inspected at the facility-two adult servals-were no longer at the facility and no disposition records were noted in the USDA records notebooks.

Accurate and complete records are necessary to allow determination of ownership and to be able to track the animals.

The facility shall make, keep and maintain records or forms which fully and correctly disclose all the required information stated in the regulations concerning animals purchased or otherwise acquired, sold or otherwise disposed of and include any offspring born to any animal while in the facility's possession. Correct by 2/9/23.

2.134

Repeat

### Contingency planning.

At the time of the inspection, the licensee did not have a written contingency plan in place. The APHIS 7093 form in the USDA folder was blank. The facility representative was not aware of a written plan existing.

A written emergency/contingency plan is required to help ensure animal health and well-being in the event of an emergency or disaster; without this tool, animals may suffer illness, injury or death due to unpreparedness should an emergency or disaster strike. The licensee must develop, document and follow an appropriate plan to provide for the humane handling, treatment, transportation, housing and care of their animals in the event of an emergency or disaster (one which could reasonably be anticipated and expected to be detrimental to the good health and well-being of the

---

Prepared By: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Date:

06-FEB-2023

Received by Title: Employee

Date:

06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

animals in their possession). The contingency plan must include all of the information and documentation required by the Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations.

### 3.1(a)

#### Housing facilities, general.

The facilities housing cats are not designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound to house and maintain the cats. Three Siamese cats are housed in the Men's restroom to which the public has access. The cats immediately tried to escape the restroom when the door was opened. The door was not locked or label as not in use. Four Savannah cats are housed as pairs in a back shed. One female Savannah was noted climbing up the wire side and disappearing behind a wooden wall making up the back of the enclosure. This wooden wall is open at the top. The cat disappeared in the approximately three inch opening behind the wooden wall ie between the wood wall and the wall of the shed. The area cannot be visualized so it is unknown what may be in that area that may injure a cat. The cat may also get caught in that area and be unable to get back out (she was able to climb out today). In addition there is an exposed electrical cord to the light fixture at the top of each Savannah enclosure. The cats have access to the cord when climbing up the side wire wall. Housing facilities for cats must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound, protect the animals from injury and contain the animals securely. Correct by 2/20/23.

### 3.4(b)(4)

#### Repeat

#### Outdoor housing facilities.

4 adult savannah cats are housed in an outdoor enclosure. Each pair of cats has a hard plastic shelter structure, but there is no bedding in the shelters. The temperatures last night according to LocalConditions.com was 33.8 degrees F. Each shelter structure is placed on or adjacent to an electric heating pad but there is not bedding in the shelter structures. Adequate shelter structures with bedding are essential for animal comfort, health, and wellbeing during the cold winter months. Animals without bedding in their shelter may suffer from stress, discomfort, or frost bite. Correct by providing

---

Prepared By: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Date:

06-FEB-2023

Received by Title: Employee

Date:

06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

bedding in shelter structures for cats housed outdoors when temperatures fall below 50 degrees Fahrenheit and by providing additional bedding when temperatures fall below 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

### 3.6(b)(3)

#### Primary enclosures.

The two breeding pairs of Savannah cats housed in the outdoor shed each have one small litter box. Both litter boxes were completely dirty with a large amount of stool and litter present. The cats had scratched some of the litter and feces out of the box. No clean litter remained for the cats to use for defecation and urination. The cats could be contaminated by excreta if they use the dirty litter box. Spread of disease may occur. All primary enclosures must contain litter boxes/receptacles that have sufficient clean litter to contain excreta and body wastes.

Correct by 2/7/23

### 3.30

#### Watering.

The open container used as water bowl for the black guinea pig housed in the glass enclosure is contaminated with bedding and excreta. The container is clean and the facility representative stated clean water was placed in the clean bowls this morning. However within a couple of hours the guinea pig had already had excreta that collected on its feet while walking in the enclosure fall into the water bowl (placed feet on rim to reach). The guinea pig may choose not to drink the contaminated water or the water may be a source for spread of disease. Open containers used for dispensing water to guinea pigs shall be placed in or attached to the primary enclosure as to minimize contamination from excreta.

Correct by 2/7/23.

### 3.56(a)(1)

#### Sanitation.

---

Prepared By: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Date:  
06-FEB-2023

Received by Title: Employee

Date:  
06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

Two enclosures housing rabbits (one housing one male and second housing a female and her four young) are in need of cleaning. Large amounts of excreta are mixed with the bedding pellets. The rabbits cannot walk around in the enclosure without stepping on excreta. The lack of clean bedding can lead to contamination of the animals, odors, and possible spread of disease. Primary enclosures housing rabbits shall be kept reasonably free of excreta. Correct by 2/8/23.

### 3.81(a)(3) Critical

#### Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being.

A female marmoset who gave birth on Oct. 1, 2022 was seen by the veterinarian on 11/9/22 for lethargy, weight loss, not wanting to use her legs and bite wounds. The veterinary record states that she may have been bitten by one of the other monkeys. The exam and radiographs showed, bite wounds, nerve deficits, muscle loss and multiple fractures (leg, tail and vertebra). A conversation with the veterinarian elicited the fact that the owner stated that the marmoset was beaten up a few times by the other monkeys. Housing non-human primates with other non-human primates with which they do not get along can lead to serious injuries as in this case along with stress to the non-human primate being picked on. Nonhuman primates may not be housed with other species of primates unless they are compatible, do not prevent access to food/water/shelter and are not hazardous to the health and well-being of each other. Corrected for this non-human primate.

### 3.130 Direct

#### Watering.

The water bottle for one pair of sugar gliders (top cage) was noted to be empty of water and completely dry. The bedding was not noticed as being soaked wet. The sugar gliders were out of their pouch and active during the middle of the day (abnormal behavior for nocturnal species). The facility representative stated she gave them water yesterday as she did the other three pairs who all still had water in their water bottles. The inspector asked the facility representative to give them water. They both immediately started trying to drink and continued to drink ravenously for over 6 minutes and then

---

Prepared By: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Date:  
06-FEB-2023

Received by Title: Employee

Date:  
06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

continued to sip for the next four minutes. About two minutes into the drinking they started fighting with each other to get to the water. A second bottle was added. This is a behavior that has not been noted by the inspector before and indicates that the sugar gliders were extremely thirsty. Adequate hydration is important to the health and well-being of all animals especially the smaller species who can become dehydrated very quickly. If potable water is not accessible to the sugar gliders at all time, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the gliders. Corrected by supplying water during the inspection for this pair of sugar gliders.

### 3.131(c)

#### Sanitation.

The back rooms (non-public areas) of the facility housing multiple species including the kinkajous, sugar gliders and hedgehogs are in need of general housekeeping and cleaning. Over an inch of sunlight was visible under the back door leading outside. Pests can enter through the opening into the facility. Numerous items were stored on the floor that were not necessary for daily husbandry. Shelves/counters/sink/food prep area and desk are in need of cleaning. Dried on debris coats the surfaces. Dirty dishes and utensils are stacked several levels deep. A large amount of unused old items are stored on shelves at ground level and can hide loose rodents and bugs. Regular cleaning/housekeeping is necessary to prevent odors, eliminate breeding and living areas for pests and to reduce the potential for spread of disease. The premises shall be kept clean in order to facilitate the required husbandry practices and to protect the health of the animals. Correct by 2/12/23.

### 3.131(d)

#### Repeat

#### Sanitation.

There is a large amount of rodent droppings in the office/hedgehog breeding room under the water heater, under the animal enclosures/shelves and on the desk. The facility representative stated that a loose rat was caught. Fruit flies were noted in enclosures housing the hedgehogs, sugar gliders and marmosets. House flies were noted on the knife used to

---

**Prepared By:** SUSANNE BRUNKHORST

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**

06-FEB-2023

**Received by Title:** Employee

**Date:**

06-FEB-2023



## Inspection Report

---

cut fruit and the dirty cardboard the knife was resting on along with other dirty surfaces in the 'kitchen' sink area. Large bugs were present on the window sills (both alive and dead). Pests such as rodents, bugs and flies can spread diseases that can be harmful to animal health. Pests can also contaminate stored food and bedding. Correct by establishing and maintaining a safe and effective program for the control of pests.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the employee.

---

**Prepared By:** SUSANNE BRUNKHORST  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
06-FEB-2023

**Received by Title:** Employee

**Date:**  
06-FEB-2023



### Species Inspected

| Cust No | Cert No   | Site | Site Name        | Inspection  |
|---------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------|
| 6010970 | 64-B-0103 | 001  | 256 Exotics, LLC | 06-FEB-2023 |

| Count  | Scientific Name               | Common Name                       |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 000006 | <i>Felis silvestris catus</i> | CAT ADULT                         |
| 000019 | <i>Cavia porcellus</i>        | DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG               |
| 000026 | <i>Atelerix albiventris</i>   | FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG                |
| 000006 | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>  | DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT |
| 000006 | <i>Potos flavus</i>           | KINKAJOU                          |
| 000001 | <i>Callithrix geoffroyi</i>   | WHITE-FRONTED MARMOSET            |
| 000008 | <i>Petaurus breviceps</i>     | SUGAR GLIDER                      |
| 000001 | <i>Callithrix jacchus</i>     | COMMON MARMOSET                   |
| 000001 | <i>Felis silvestris catus</i> | CAT KITTEN                        |
| 000002 | <i>Phodopus roborovskii</i>   | ROBOROVSKI'S DWARF HAMSTER        |
| 000076 | <b>Total</b>                  |                                   |