

A Walk on the Wild Side

Steven Higgs

2373 N.W. 185th Ave., Ste. 629
Hillsboro, OR 97124

A Walk on the Wild Side is owned by Steven Higgs. Higgs has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited him for repeatedly failing to handle newborn wild cats properly, failing to provide shade from direct sunlight, failing to have an effective barrier fence, repeatedly failing to have sufficient perimeter fencing, failing to keep enclosures in good repair, repeatedly failing to have paperwork, and repeatedly failing to have an effective “pest”-control program. In June 2018, Washington County, Oregon, fined Higgs \$10,000 for violations of county zoning ordinances relating to his possession of exotic animals in the county. Contact PETA for documentation.

August 20, 2019: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have records available at the time of inspection.

July 2, 2019: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an adult available to accompany officials during the inspection process.

June 4, 2018: Washington County, Oregon, found A Walk on the Wild Side in violation of county zoning laws for the feeding and management of exotic animals on farm-

zoned property, for failing to obtain permits for exotic animal structures, and for proposed sales of exotic animal dung. The county fined the facility \$10,000 for these violations.

July 25, 2017: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for transporting a 2-week-old tiger cub named Zarah. The cub had been transported by car from Oklahoma to Oregon. The USDA [previously determined](#) that neonatal cubs are unable to thermoregulate and lack fully functioning immune systems. Higgs was previously cited for transporting neonatal felids on May 23, 2016.

Higgs was also cited for failing to have a program of veterinary care available for review, failing to have the acquisition record for Zarah available, failing to maintain the fencing in the petting zoo area (which had broken down on top, so the sharp ends of the wires were exposed), failing to have a sufficient perimeter fence for enclosures holding big cats, and failing to have an effective “pest”-control program (as evidenced by the excessive number of flies in the coatimundi and wallaby areas).

July 19, 2017: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an adult available to accompany officials during the inspection process.

June 1, 2017: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an adult available to accompany officials during the inspection process.

September 15, 2016: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) denied Steven Higgs an Endangered Species Act (ESA) Captive-Bred Wildlife (CBW) permit for ring-tailed lemurs, leopards, lions, tigers, and Canadian lynx. A CBW is required for certain activities involving animals on the endangered species list. The letter of denial

stated, “Because you failed to demonstrate that you have the expertise with the requested species, lack sufficient facilities to maintain these species, are not currently participating in an organized breeding program to maintain a genetically valuable population, nor maintaining sufficient numbers of the species in question, we find that you do not qualify to be registered for the requested species under the CBW program.”

May 23, 2016: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for transporting two 3-week-old bobcats by air from Florida to Oregon. The agency noted that they “were potentially exposed to pathogens from other animals and people on the planes and in the airports.” The USDA previously determined that neonatal wild cats lack fully functioning immune systems.

December 15, 2015: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence for a lion and a bear.

August 17, 2015: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an efficient “pest”-control program, as evidenced by the excessive number of flies in the food prep area, and failing to have records available for review.

May 21, 2015: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have acquisition and disposition records available for review.

March 24, 2015: According to an article in *The Oregonian*, A Walk on the Wild Side was cited for violating the Clackamas County zoning code for operating as a zoo with exotic animals on land zoned for farm use, having an occupied RV on the property without the appropriate permit, and electrical issues.

October 15, 2014: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to provide several animals with dry enclosures (following extreme weather, a pig, two young tigers, and a red fox had excess water in their enclosures and very little dry resting area); failing to clean the room holding birds, primates, and exotic “pocket pets” as frequently as needed (the room had a strong smell of ammonia); and failing to have complete records available for review.

July 8, 2013: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have records available for review at the time of the inspection and failing to keep enclosures in good repair. The mesh panel between servals had excessive rust, a raw metal edge was exposed on the door to the outside portion of the enclosure holding one bobcat and four domestic cats, and the African porcupine had destroyed the plywood floor in the animal’s enclosure, exposing raw edges of sheet metal underneath.

October 23, 2012: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an effective barrier around a transport cage holding a juvenile tiger—an onlooker was able to get close enough to touch the animal’s face.

June 26, 2012: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to have an effective perimeter fence around an enclosure holding a juvenile lion and failing to have an effective “pest”-control program in the food prep area, which had a number of flies on surfaces and in the air.

July 6, 2011: The USDA cited Steven Higgs for failing to provide shade from direct sunlight in the enclosure holding a tiger and failing to have an effective “pest”-control program—there was an excessive number of flies in the food prep room and in the room holding primates and birds.