

Union County Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

50 Sportsmen's Club Ln., Millmont, PA 17845

Union County Sportsmen's Club has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has repeatedly cited the facility for numerous violations, including failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, failing to provide bears with adequate space, failing to prepare food in a manner to reduce contamination, failing to provide bears and deer with a nutritious diet, failing to provide animals with shelter from inclement weather, failing to clean enclosures properly, failing to keep enclosures in good repair, and failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees. Please contact PETA for documentation.

January 14, 2020: The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club a repeat citation for failing to provide a geriatric Asiatic black bear named Dillan with adequate veterinary care. He continued to have severe dental issues, including several missing teeth, a recessed gumline, and a broken left lower canine tooth with black discoloration in the center. The inspection report stated that the severity and chronic nature of the dental issues were likely to have caused Dillan a significant amount of pain over a long period of time and that the condition of the teeth had continued to deteriorate since they were first documented in 2017. A veterinarian that the facility consulted with prescribed Dillan clindamycin and

meloxicam, but after consulting with other exotic-animal veterinarians, he or she advised the facility not to give the medication until further diagnostics could be performed, including bloodwork and an accurate bodyweight measurement. Regardless of this, the facility opted to give Dillan the medications and administered both in their entirety without further communication with the veterinarian. Administering medications against the recommendations of the prescribing veterinarian could have significant adverse impacts on the animal's health if the estimated weight was incorrect or if bloodwork revealed underlying health concerns, such as inadequate liver or kidney function. All of these issues could affect how the medications are metabolized by the animal and could lead to toxic effects.

The inspector also noted that Dillan was morbidly obese, had limited mobility, and exhibited a behavior in which he would sit on his haunches and repeatedly rock himself back and forth by using his forepaws to push against the wall in front of him and rock back against a large stone behind him. The inspection report noted that repetitive abnormal behavior of this nature can often be an indicator of pain and/or psychological distress. This behavior was first documented in 2017 and was observed on subsequent inspections, but no methods of assessing, addressing, or minimizing the underlying causes were put into action.

The facility's geriatric bobcat was also obese, and the caretaker reportedly stated that the animal no longer used the climbing structures within the enclosure. The attending veterinarian had prescribed an over-the-counter medication containing a milk protein as the active ingredient, but there was no improvement in mobility at the time of inspection, and this had not been communicated to the attending veterinarian.

The veterinarian provided Union County Sportsmen's Club with contact information for a nutritionist for the two animals as well as for obese raccoons at the facility, but the facility had not yet provided the necessary information to the nutritionist. The inspector noted that evaluation of the animals was necessary so that appropriate methods could be put into place to manage potential pain in the bear and bobcat; manage the weight of the bear, bobcat, and raccoons; manage dental disease and pain for the bear; assess abnormal repetitive behavior exhibited by the bear; and address the underlying causes of the bear's physical pain and psychological distress.

November 26, 2019: The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club a repeat citation for failing to provide a geriatric Asiatic black bear named Dillan with adequate veterinary care. He continued to have severe dental issues, including several missing teeth, a recessed gumline, and a broken left lower canine tooth with black discoloration in the center. There was moist, yellow discoloration on his lower left jaw consistent with the appearance of a draining tooth abscess. The inspection report stated that the severity and chronic nature of the dental issues were likely to have caused Dillan a significant amount of pain over a long period of time and that the condition of the teeth had continued to deteriorate since they were first documented in 2017. The inspector also noted that Dillan was morbidly obese, had limited mobility, and exhibited a behavior in which he would sit on his haunches and repeatedly rock himself back and forth by using his forepaws to push against the wall in front of him and rock back against a large stone behind him. The inspection report noted that repetitive abnormal behavior of this nature can often be an indicator of pain and/or psychological distress. This behavior was first documented in 2017 and was observed on subsequent inspections, but no methods

of assessing, addressing, or minimizing the underlying causes were put into action.

Dillan was also observed to have a white, opaque discharge from his right nostril and a cough that was heard while he was eating. The caretaker stated that this nasal discharge hadn't been discussed with a veterinarian. The facility's geriatric bobcat was also obese, and the caretaker reportedly stated that the animal no longer used the climbing structures within the enclosure. The attending veterinarian hadn't evaluated the bobcat for weight gain, changes in behavior, or decline in mobility or activity. A consultant veterinarian visited the facility to observe the condition of Dillan's mouth, but the veterinarian wasn't provided with any information to address Dillan's mobility, repetitive behavior, or obesity. The mobility issues the bobcat experienced and the obesity issues of the bobcat and raccoons were also not discussed with the veterinarian. The inspector noted that all these issues were having a negative impact on the health and welfare of these animals.

October 16, 2019: The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club a repeat citation for failing to provide a geriatric Asiatic black bear named Dillan and a bobcat with adequate veterinary care. Dillan was observed to have severe dental issues, including several missing teeth and a broken left lower canine tooth with black discoloration in the center. There was moist, yellow discoloration on his lower left jaw consistent with the appearance of a draining tooth abscess. His right lower canine tooth appeared to be sheared, so the pulp cavity was exposed and was visible below the natural gum line. The gum line was recessed, and the tooth remnant had black discoloration. There were no visible upper canine teeth. The inspection report stated that the severity and chronic nature of the dental issues were likely to have caused

Dillan a significant amount of pain over a long period of time, and the condition of the teeth had continued to deteriorate since they were first documented in 2017. The attending veterinarian was apparently aware of these dental issues but had not performed further examination or provided the bear with any treatment. The inspector also noted that Dillan was morbidly obese, had limited mobility, and exhibited a behavior in which he would sit on his haunches and repeatedly rock himself back and forth by using his forepaws to push against the wall in front of him and rock back against a large stone behind him. The caretaker confirmed that Dillan exhibited this behavior frequently. The inspection report noted that repetitive abnormal behavior of this nature can often be an indicator of pain and/or psychological distress. This behavior was first documented in 2017 and was observed on subsequent inspections, but no methods of assessing, addressing, or minimizing the underlying causes were put into action.

The facility's geriatric bobcat was also obese, and the caretaker reportedly stated that the animal no longer used the climbing structures within the enclosure. The attending veterinarian had not evaluated the bobcat for weight gain, changes in behavior, or decline in mobility or activity. Both the bear and the bobcat had been declawed and were kept in enclosures in which the ground surface consisted primarily of concrete. The inspection report noted that the combination of old age, obesity, and having been declawed likely contributed to the impact on mobility from arthritis or joint pain. There were no plans to pursue diagnostics or treatments to alleviate any discomfort the animals might have been experiencing. Failures to address the old age-related problems, obesity, and lack of mobility of the animals and the dental disease in the bear were having a negative

impact on the health and welfare of these animals.

The facility was also cited for failing to keep the bobcat enclosure in good repair. Pieces of chain link with sharp ends that had the potential to cause injury were protruding into the enclosure.

July 25, 2019: The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club a repeat citation for failing to provide an Asiatic black bear with adequate veterinary care. The bear had hair loss along his sides and hindquarters and was observed rubbing along the metal support beam in the enclosure for several minutes. The caretaker reported that the bear appeared to have hair loss seasonally, but the facility had not contacted the veterinarian about the condition or used appropriate methods to prevent or treat the hair loss and skin condition.

May 7, 2019: The USDA cited Union County Sportsmen's Club for failing to maintain a deer feeder in good repair. The wooden base of the feeder was damp, as was the grain, and there was evidence of caking and mold in the feed.

February 8, 2019: The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club a critical citation for failing to provide deer with adequate veterinary care. Over the past year, the facility lost five fawns shortly after birth. Pathology results indicated that they didn't have adequate amounts of vitamin E in their diet and that they were emaciated, with a "high load of parasites." Since the fawns would have been nursing, the deficiency was with the mother deer, who were receiving a grain produced for multiple hoofstock species, not one specialized for deer. The attending veterinarian had informed the facility that it needed to add vitamin E to the animals' diet, but it had not done so.

The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club repeat citations for thawing chicken meat in a manner that increased the chances of food spoilage and food-borne illness (raw chicken was being thawed in a plastic bucket on the floor, and a space heater was being used to assist the thawing process) and failing to provide the bear with a diet that was "nutritious and an appropriate quantity." In addition to dry dog food, the bear was given leftover restaurant food, such as doughnuts, muffins, pasta, bread, and fries. The USDA also issued the facility a repeat citation for failing to ensure that food was wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination. The food-prep area didn't have running water in the winter, and knives, cutting boards, bowls, and food buckets were left out with residual old food debris still on them.

Union County Sportsmen's Club was issued repeat citations for failing to maintain the raccoon and bear enclosures, which contained accumulations of feces (the piles of feces in the bear enclosure covered both sides of the enclosure, and the bear wasn't able to move around freely without coming into contact with the waste), and failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain a professional level of husbandry and care. The agency noted that the work required to maintain adequate husbandry and care of the animals was beyond the capacity of one part-time employee, as evidenced by the food-preparation and sanitation issues.

February 15, 2018: The USDA cited Union County Sportsmen's Club for failing to provide the deer with appropriate feed. The deer feeder contained grass clippings that appeared to have been put into it several months ago and had a musty smell. There was also an excessive accumulation of bird feces on the surface of the clippings. In addition to grain, the deer were fed baked goods as treats. The agency stated that

items with excessive sugar aren't appropriate food for the animals, as they could potentially cause irritation in the gut. The facility was also cited for failing to provide the bears with a diet that was "nutritious and of appropriate quantity." They were given buckets of leftover restaurant food, such as doughnuts, muffins, pasta, bread, and fries. Additionally, it was cited for thawing chicken meat in a manner that increased the chances of food spoilage and food-borne illnesses (raw chicken was being thawed in a plastic pan on the floor, and a space heater was being used to assist the thawing process) and failing to have a diet plan created and assessed by the attending veterinarian for all the species that would meet their specific nutritive needs.

The USDA also cited Union County Sportsmen's Club for failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain a professional level of husbandry and care. The caretaker was considered part-time and worked seven days a week with no backup employees who could feed or care for the animals if an emergency came up. The animal caretaker had been ill for a period of time, and the dry food for the bears hadn't been ordered. Also, the bear pen hadn't been cleaned in over a week because no one else had been trained to do so.

October 24, 2017: The USDA issued Union County Sportsmen's Club repeat citations for failing to provide the bears with adequate veterinary care. The Asiatic black bear had a bottom canine tooth that had broken down further toward the jaw line since a previous inspection. There appeared to be a visual hole with black in the middle of the tooth. The veterinarian hadn't been contacted for further assessment after the tooth had broken down further. Broken canines can be very painful and lead to infections that are

potentially life-threatening. The Asiatic black bear was sitting by the front of the enclosure and moving in a repetitive rocking motion for extended periods of time during the inspection. This abnormal behavior pattern could have been a result of the limited functionality of the enclosure or pain from the broken tooth. The USDA also issued the facility a repeat citation over the bears' diet, which didn't have the "nutritive value to maintain them in a healthy body condition." Both bears were declawed, geriatric, and obese—and in addition to dry dog food, they were given leftover food from the club's restaurant, including pasta, breads, fries, and cooked meat products, which contributed to their excessive weight. The caretaker also stated that the bears weren't "fed more food during fall which is a period of hyperplasia for them and therefore [did] not go down into a period of winter lethargy" or hibernation. Union County Sportsmen's Club was issued a repeat citation for failing to maintain the raccoon enclosure in good repair for the safety of the animals. It had broken chicken wire on the top, allowing the raccoons to climb through the mesh and walk and defecate on the top section of the wire. The facility was also issued a repeat citation for failing to dispose of bear feces in a way that didn't affect other animals—the feces had been removed from the bear enclosure and piled in the deer pens.

The USDA also cited Union County Sportsmen's Club for failing to clean the raccoon enclosure adequately. It had a strong odor from the accumulation of feces on top of the chicken wire above the nest box and platform.

July 13, 2017: The USDA cited Union County Sportsmen's Club for failing to provide a number of animals, including a blind and deaf geriatric bobcat who jumped and flinched when gunshots went off in the adjacent gun range, with adequate veterinary care. The facility was instructed

to consult with its attending veterinarian to determine a method to alleviate the stressful impact of the gunshots. An Asiatic black bear with a broken front canine tooth that was black in the middle was in need of evaluation by the attending veterinarian, and bears whose front paws had been declawed were obese. They were "under treatment for arthritis, but [were] ... housed in a concrete slab enclosure with no soft resting surfaces." The agency also stated that their diet was "not of nutritive value to maintain them in a healthy body condition." In addition to dry dog food, the bears were given leftover food from the club's restaurant, including pasta, breads, fries, and cooked meat products, which contributed to their excessive weight. In addition, the caretaker stated that the bears weren't "fed more food during fall which is a period of hyperplasia for them and therefore [did] not go down into a period of winter lethargy" or hibernation. The facility was also cited for failing to have sufficient guidance on the attending veterinarian consultant agreement form as to methods of parasite control, vaccines, and methods of euthanasia.

Union County Sportsmen's Club was also cited for failing to maintain the raccoon enclosure in good repair for the safety of the animals. It had broken chicken wire on the top, allowing the raccoons to climb through the mesh and walk and defecate on the top section of the wire. The facility was also cited for a wooden bobcat shelter box that had a broken board at the base with a nail exposed, which posed a risk of injury to the bobcat. Additionally, it was cited for failing to store meat products properly in the refrigerator (meat was kept directly on the wire racks and fluids pooled on the floor of the fridge, risking contamination) and failing to dispose of bear feces in a way that didn't affect other animals—the feces had been removed from the bear enclosure and piled in the deer pens.

Union County Sportsmen's Club was also cited for failing to provide the bears with adequate space. Because they were declawed, there was more pressure on their front paws, and they should have been provided with soft resting surfaces off the ground or bedding in their den areas. The Asiatic black bear was sitting by the front of the enclosure and moving in a repetitive rocking motion for extended periods of time, an abnormal behavior pattern that could have been a result of the limited functionality of the enclosure.

In addition, Union County Sportsmen's Club was cited for failing to keep a deer feeder in good repair (the wooden roof had rotted, and the feeder couldn't protect the food supply from deterioration); failing to be able to clean the bobcat enclosure effectively, because there was no way to enter it safely (the den boxes were dirty, with an accumulation of old bedding and food items); and failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain a professional level of husbandry and care—at the time, there was only one animal caretaker, who worked part-time, seven days a week, with no backup in case of emergency.

October 20, 2015: The USDA cited Union County Sportsmen's Club for failing to provide the following animals with adequate shelter: a buck and two does in an enclosure with few trees and no artificial shelter from inclement weather and a coyote who had a doghouse with no windbreak to assure that the animal could remain protected from weather and prevent discomfort. It was also cited for failing to have a suitable method to eliminate excess water from the coyote enclosure—running water was rapidly backing up in front of the shelter entrance, causing the coyote to have to walk through water to enter the enclosure—and failing to remove excrement from enclosures. The raccoon had produced

a significant amount of feces on the wire top of the raccoon and skunk enclosure. In addition, a nesting box for birds inside the deer enclosure, adjacent to the bear enclosure, was covered with feces and sloping toward the bear enclosure, creating a risk of contamination of that enclosure during rain.