

June 24, 2020

Robert Gibbens, DVM  
 Director, Animal Welfare Operations  
 USDA/APHIS/Animal Care

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]; [animalcare@usda.gov](mailto:animalcare@usda.gov)

Dear Dr. Gibbens,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the USDA urgently investigate Jeffrey Lowe, dba Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park, aka "G.W. Zoo" (license no. 73-C-0230), for apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and confiscate plainly suffering animals. On June 21, a patron of G.W. Zoo took photos (attached) and [video](#) showing juvenile lions in urgent need of medical attention.

One of the lions has red, raw wounds on the tips of the ears. According to wildlife veterinarian Dr. Monica Bando, this condition would be a source of pain and discomfort, inflammation, and is at high risk of infection. (*See Photo 1.*)

Another lion's ears were entirely covered in flies. The purple tint on the animal's fur indicates a possible treatment or fly repellent was applied, however it is clearly ineffective as a large number of flies are apparently continuing to bite and cause ongoing discomfort, tissue trauma, and inflammation. According to Dr. Bando, "the contour of the ear edges is also irregular, which is additionally concerning in terms of the trauma that is occurring. Due to the fur's discoloration it is hard to see what is going on with the ear tissue, but it is possible that the ear pinna is scabbing over and/or covered in dried blood, though the flies are continuing to feed. The possibility of tissue necrosis cannot be ruled out." (*See Photo 2.*)

It is apparent from [video](#) taken on June 21 that there are a significant number of flies swarming around these lions. The animals are almost certainly experiencing constant, relentless discomfort and pain, and are at risk of developing infected lesions. In addition, at 0:05 in the above video, another lion appears to have a discrete red discoloration on his/her right forelimb, which may be another wound. (*See Photo 3.*)

The ears of these lions should never have been able to get to these extreme conditions, as these health issues are *completely* preventable and relatively easy to treat. The lions must be in tremendous pain and are at risk of permanent scarring of the ear pinnae which could predispose them to chronic ear infections, or worse, losing their ears if these concerns continue to be ineffectively treated. This evidence underscores the necessity of the confiscation of these lions. PETA stands ready to assist in identifying an appropriate sanctuary for these animals that can provide appropriate veterinary care and arranging for their safe transport.

Please exercise the USDA's authority under the AWA to confiscate the lions. Please also hold Lowe and any other responsible parties fully accountable for any and all violations that you discover during your investigation, including but not limited to 9 C.F.R. §§ 2.40 and 2.131.

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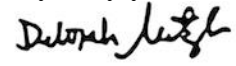
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- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please inform me of the complaint number that your agency assigns to this correspondence.

Very truly yours,



Deborah Metzler, M.S.  
Associate Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement

