

Brown's Oakridge Exotics

17732 N. Dairy Farm Rd., Smithfield, IL 61477

Brown's Oakridge Exotics (aka "Brown's Oakridge Zoo") is owned by Ivan and Nancy Brown. Brown's has repeatedly 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 it for allowing unsafe direct public contact with dangerous wild animals; failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, clean drinking water, and sanitary living conditions; repeatedly failing to provide animals with shelter from inclement weather; and repeatedly failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to prevent injury to animals. In 2014, Brown's was fined over \$3,500, in part for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a kangaroo with a broken leg, who later died.

February 25, 2020: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to handle animals in a manner that ensured minimal risk of harm to them and the public after a ring-tailed lemur named George bit a member of the public on the hand, requiring medical treatment. The lemur was wearing a belly band with an attached lead, yet he was able to jump and cause the injury. He was placed in confinement for 30 days following the incident.

March 19, 2019: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

March 6, 2018: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

October 3, 2017: The USDA issued Brown's a critical, repeat citation for failing to provide an animal with adequate veterinary care. A tiger named Bogdan was approximately 5 years old when he died in late August 2017. Several days before leaving town on August 28, the owner noticed that Bogdan was eating less and drinking more, appeared to be losing weight, and was distant from his cage-mate. The owner stated that upon returning on August 29, Bogdan was still not eating and drinking normally, and he was subsequently found dead the morning of August 30. The owner did not contact the veterinarian when it was initially noted that Bogdan was not eating or drinking normally. The veterinarian was eventually contacted after the tiger died and indicated that, based on the information conveyed by the owner, Bogdan's death may have been because of kidney failure, but no clinical workup or necropsy was done. The failure to contact the veterinarian in a timely manner for proper diagnosis and treatment may have caused the animal unnecessary pain or discomfort.

August 9, 2017: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to provide a wolf named Jack with adequate veterinary care. The animal was approximately 6 to 8 years old and appeared quite thin, with visible bony protrusions along his back and areas of the pelvis, thighs and shoulder areas that appeared very lean and slender, and a coat that appeared dull with puckered fur over the bonier areas of his body. The licensee agreed that the wolf did look thinner than usual but had not contacted the veterinarian for proper diagnosis or treatment.

Brown's was also cited for failing to keep accurate acquisition, disposition, and inventory records of animals to allow for

proper traceability, including for six animals at the facility who were not listed on the current inventory, and for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The lion enclosure had several areas of fencing that were not attached to the bottom bar and could be pushed or pulled away, allowing space for a paw to go under or possibly for another animal to dig in and gain entry to the enclosure. There was also a dug-out area under the main door into the lion enclosure that allowed the lion to extend her front leg, up to her elbow, out onto the path, where she could come into contact with a staff member. The lion was seen lying like this during the inspection. There were also multiple areas along the bottom of the bear enclosure fencing that had been dug out by the bears to get at pieces of dog food, leaving holes 4 to 6 inches deep. These holes created a possible source of injury for the animals if they were to get their paws or heads through. The den box in the wolf area had been dug under, causing the structure to become unstable in some areas, and there were several missing or warped boards that needed to be repaired or replaced to provide a solid structure for the wolves to go inside or climb on. This unstable structure could cause injury to the wolves if it were to collapse into the den hole or under the weight of wolves on top of it.

January 19, 2017: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

October 4, 2016: The USDA cited Brown's for housing a 1-year-old tiger in an enclosure with approximately 10-foot-tall fencing with no top or kick-in, which the inspector determined was not adequate to ensure that the tiger was contained, and for failing to provide big cats, including a tiger, two lions, and a black leopard, with adequate access to shade.

November 9, 2015: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

October 15, 2014: The USDA issued Brown's a Citation and Notification of Penalty for AWA violations, including failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a kangaroo with a broken leg, who later died from the injury without being examined by a veterinarian, and failing to provide all animals with clean drinking water. Inspectors observed animals who had access to frozen water only, were drinking from muddy water pooled on the ground, or had bowls in their enclosures that were dirty and empty. Brown's was assessed a penalty of \$3,571.

September 12, 2012: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to provide wolves and kangaroos with adequate shelter from inclement weather because of holes in their enclosures that needed repair; failing to keep water receptacles clean and sanitary, several of which had a buildup of sediment and dirt at the bottom and one of which had algae growing in it; and failing to have an adequate perimeter fence with gates strong enough to withstand the impact of an animal hitting them while trying to get out and to restrict unauthorized humans or other animals from entering. The perimeter fence had gates that were held closed with twisted wire and required more wire or other closing materials, like clamps, to increase their strength.

November 17, 2010: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to maintain enclosures that were adequate to ensure the containment of lions and tigers. These enclosures had approximately 10-foot-tall fencing with no top or kick-in, which the inspector determined was not adequate to ensure that the animals were properly contained.

June 9, 2010: The USDA issued Brown's a direct citation for failing to house raccoons in an enclosure that adequately contained them after two young raccoons were able to escape through the wire fencing during the inspection. The facility was also cited for failing to provide animals with clean drinking water, as the water in the pig, bear, and raccoon enclosures was muddy. Brown's was further issued a repeat direct citation for failing to have suitable drainage methods to eliminate excess water rapidly in the pig and bear enclosures, which had no area free of mud or standing water for the animals to lie down on. Most of the animals were covered with dried or wet mud. Brown's was also cited for failing to have a 6-foot perimeter fence around the Patagonian cavy, raccoon, coatimundi, and fox enclosures to protect the animals and keep other animals and humans out as well as for failing to maintain part of the perimeter fence near the bear enclosure in good repair—five of the fence poles were leaning inward, compromising the integrity of the fence. The facility was also cited for failing to keep the building housing kangaroos, hedgehogs, chinchillas, sugar gliders, and parrots clean and in good repair. There was exposed fiberglass insulation over the sugar glider and parrot enclosures, which could cause skin irritation or be detrimental to the health of the animals if inhaled; both parrot enclosures had buildups of fecal material in and around them; and the room was being used as storage for a bookcase, a cabinet, and some boxes, which made it difficult for it to be properly sanitized.

February 18, 2010: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have direct control of tigers and leopards used in photo shoots at Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort in Utica, Illinois, from October to December 2009. In 25 different instances, young children, teenagers, and adults were allowed to hold

tigers and leopards while having their photographs taken.

February 5, 2010: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

October 21, 2009: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have fencing of sufficient height in the wolf enclosure to ensure the containment of the two wolves; failing to repair the shelter in the bear enclosure, which had broken and deteriorating boards; failing to have an effective method to eliminate excess water rapidly in the bear and leopard enclosures, which both had standing water and mud; and failing to have an adequate perimeter fence around the wolf enclosure to prevent contact with unauthorized people and to function as a secondary containment system.

September 24, 2009: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

June 25, 2009: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to keep the food storage area clean. The area was cluttered and could not be easily cleaned and sanitized, and the wall had exposed insulation fibers.

March 18, 2009: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during an inspection.

March 19, 2008: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have an effective drainage method to eliminate excess water in the enclosures housing bears, leopards, tigers, and cougars, which all had areas of standing water and/or mud, and failing to provide deer with adequate veterinary care. Approximately one-third of the facility's deer had large areas of hair loss on their sides,

over their backs, and/or around the upper areas of their legs.

March 15, 2007: The USDA issued Brown's repeat citations for failing to have an appropriate perimeter fence around the leopard enclosure; failing to have a complete perimeter fence around the enclosures housing tigers, lions, and cougars; temporarily housing one liger and one tiger in livestock trailers with no perimeter fencing; failing to clean the ferret enclosure, which had a buildup of feces; and failing to clean the building housing the coatimundis, a Patagonian cavy, and a ferret, which was cluttered with all kinds of equipment, portable pet kennels, wire, and other items and could not be readily cleaned and sanitized.

August 23, 2006: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have barrier fences around the enclosures housing two 19-week-old ligers, three cougar cubs, two ferrets, and three rabbits; failing to maintain a structurally sound leopard enclosure with secure fence paneling; failing to maintain a structurally sound tiger enclosure with appropriate fencing; failing to maintain a clean food storage area, which had waste, debris, and other clutter; storing open bags of food on the floor near paint and other chemical substances toxic to animals; failing to have an appropriate perimeter fence around the leopard enclosure, which also had shared fencing with the deer and elk enclosure; failing to have a complete perimeter fence around the enclosures housing five tigers, two lions, and two cougars; failing to have fencing around the goats, sheep, and llamas that met the required 6-foot minimum height; failing to provide two ferrets with an enclosure of sufficient size to allow them adequate freedom of movement and space to make normal postural adjustments; failing to keep an area clean that was used for housing coatimundis and also for storing food, chemicals toxic to animals, and other

clutter that could not be easily cleaned or sanitized; and failing to maintain the rabbit enclosures in good repair, which had large holes chewed in the sideboards, torn metal sheeting with sharp edges, several staple fasteners with exposed points, and a bent metal strip with sharp edges.

July 6, 2005: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to update the Program of Veterinary Care on a yearly basis, failing to have the attending veterinarian come out at least once a year, and mishandling approximately 2-week-old tiger cubs who were exhibited at a customer appreciation day. The inspector said that cubs must be at least 6 weeks old and properly vaccinated before being in contact with the public or they could be susceptible to a variety of diseases.

December 8, 2004: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to provide elk and deer with shelter from the wind and failing to have an effective method of drainage in the enclosure housing two tigers, which had "soupy" mud several inches deep.

November 4, 2003: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to clean an enclosure housing a lion, which had an accumulation of bones and tall weeds that needed to be removed. The enclosure was not constructed in a way that would allow the staff to move the lion for safe and easy access to the enclosure for cleaning.

January 22, 2003: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a shelter with sufficient protection from the wind in the deer enclosure, where a deer was seen shivering in the cold weather, and failing to clean the lion enclosure, which did not have a shift pen to contain the lion during cleanings.

December 18, 2002: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a thin bobcat and many of the white-tailed deer, who looked thin and

had rough coats; failing to have a current Program of Veterinary Care; failing to have the veterinarian inspect the facility at least once a year (it had been over a year since the attending veterinarian inspected it); failing to maintain a structurally sound bobcat enclosure, which was caving in on the top and one of the sides; storing grain and pellet food in open containers that could allow contamination; failing to remove an accumulation of bones and other carcass pieces from the facility; failing to provide a donkey and a boar with adequate shelter from inclement weather; failing to have an adequate shelter for the bobcats, whose shelter was too small to fit all three animals and was in a serious state of disrepair; failing to have an effective method to drain significant amounts of standing water in the bear, lion, and tiger enclosures (the tigers were unable to get to any dry, mud-free areas within their enclosure); failing to have a perimeter fence around the tiger, bear, and lion enclosures; failing to provide 24 fallow deer with shelter space large enough for all of them to get in and lie down; failing to remove accumulations of fecal material and bones from all the carnivore enclosures; and failing to have a safe and effective program to control "pests" who were digging holes under the bear pen and tiger water tank.

January 16, 2002: The USDA cited Brown's for failing to have a perimeter fence around the tiger and cougar enclosures.