

The Wild Animal Park (Jeffrey Taylor)

7621 Lakeport Rd., Chittenango, NY 13037

The Wild Animal Park, also known as The Wild Animal Experience, is owned by Jeffrey Taylor, who has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibitions as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited him for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, failing to have an environmental enhancement plan for primates, failing to provide sufficient shelter from the elements, failing to provide adequate shade, failing to provide veterinarian-approved diets, failing to store food in a manner to protect it from contamination, failing to clean enclosures properly, and failing to provide secure enclosures.

March 6, 2024: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to adequately clean the giraffe barn, which had an excessive number of cobwebs, full of dust and debris, hanging from the ceiling and for failing to maintain a wooden platform in the parrot enclosure in good repair. It had been chewed and had sharp, exposed screws that could injure the birds.

December 5, 2023: The USDA issued Taylor a repeat citation for failing to maintain multiple enclosures in good repair, including several holding areas for a tiger and a cheetah, which had rusted metal bars and an area at the base of a wall with rust and sharp edges; a section of exposed ventilation and electrical wires in the holding area for the jaguars; two areas in the pygmy

hippo enclosure with sharp, bent metal edges; and shift doors in the giraffe barn that had sharp edges. Taylor was also cited for failing to maintain a metal shift door in the East Javan langur enclosure that was rusted and couldn't be properly sanitized, housing peacocks and a turkey in a barn that didn't have adequate lighting to provide the birds with a normal light cycle, housing a capybara in a winter enclosure without access to a pool to submerge in and express movements and behavior normal for a semi-aquatic species, and failing to provide camels with adequate space in their winter housing to allow them freedom of movement and opportunities to get away from each other.

September 14, 2023: The USDA cited Taylor during a focused inspection for transporting a macaw in an enclosure without a "live animal" sign or direction arrows indicating the correct upright position of the enclosure.

July 13, 2023: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to follow the enrichment plan for a singly housed squirrel monkey. The animal had no visual or auditory access to any other primates and was displaying abnormal behavior, such as head circling. In addition, staff weren't following the strategies in the enrichment plan for dealing with this abnormal behavior.

Taylor was also cited for housing a squirrel monkey in a rusted wire-frame enclosure that couldn't be sanitized properly, failing to maintain several holding areas for the tiger and cheetah with rusted metal bars that couldn't be sanitized properly, failing to provide the animals in the drive-through portion of the park with shelter from inclement weather, and housing two giraffes in an off-property barn without adequate ventilation. The barn had no power or outdoor access, and the windows and doors weren't open to allow fresh air in.

May 9, 2022: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to provide the sheep and sika deer with sufficient shade.

May 27, 2021: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to have disposition records for several kinds of animals.

January 30, 2020: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to provide primates with a regular diurnal light cycle. Animal care staff were turning the lights on and off daily at varying times. The squirrel monkeys had hair loss on their tails, “which could be due to the irregular light cycle if lights are turned on and off at different times each day.” Taylor was also cited for failing to provide adequate ventilation in a building housing two juvenile exotic animals. The building didn’t have electricity, and there was a large amount of condensation in the building.

June 8, 2016: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a zebra who had overgrown back hooves and for failing to provide environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being for three juvenile olive baboons. Their enclosure had no platforms, climbing areas, or areas to allow the animals to hide from the public.

Taylor was also cited for failing to supply sufficient shelter for 13 deer, with additional fawns due at any time. The enclosure contained only one shelter and was in need of an additional one to allow all animals to fit comfortably during inclement weather. There were also no areas for the deer to “feel hidden from guests to give birth and then hide the fawns for safety.”

August 6, 2014: The USDA issued Taylor repeat citations for failing to have enough employees around the specific enclosures where members of the public were able to feed animals and for failing to provide

animals with nutrition approved by the attending veterinarian. The deer, giraffe, eland, camel, zebra, and kangaroo were being fed a diet intended for cattle, horses, sheep, and goats, while the carnivores were fed primarily beef and a vitamin supplement with no written directions to ensure that the animals were receiving an adequate amount.

Taylor was also cited for housing a grivet and a vervet monkey in a room in which food, boxes of supplies for the park, fans, and drinks for the employees were stored. In addition, he failed to maintain the refrigerator, which was dirty, and uncovered meat for carnivores was stored on shelves above the fruit and vegetables intended for hoofstock and primates. Fluid from the meat was draining to the bottom of the refrigerator, potentially contaminating the produce. The food preparation area was also dirty. There was an abundance of flies, apparently attracted to the empty Pepsi cans that had been improperly discarded in the sink area.

July 27, 2013: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to have enough employees around the specific enclosures where members of the public were able to feed animals, failing to provide sufficient shade outside the shelters, and failing to have climbing or perching structures in the bobcat enclosure to allow the cat to get off the ground. “The natural movement for a bobcat is climbing trees and other structures, this animal should be provided the opportunity to get off the ground to make species appropriate movements.” Taylor was also cited for having the Watusi’s mineral block placed on the ground, risking contamination, and for failing to keep the zebra enclosure free from an accumulation of feces. The enclosure was only cleaned once a month.

June 5, 2013: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to have a responsible adult available

to accompany inspectors during the inspection process and for failing to have a facility constructed to contain animals. While the inspector waited, she saw several pygmy goats pass between the bars of the main gate and wander through the parking lot.

December 17, 2012: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to have a veterinarian-approved written plan of environmental enhancement to promote psychological well-being for a recently acquired infant primate that “includes special considerations because [the animal] is an infant and isolated from other non human primates.” He was also cited for having building supplies and insulation around the area that hay was being stored in, risking contamination.

May 31, 2012: The USDA cited Taylor for failing to have a primary enclosure for a 5-week-old tiger cub. The cub was kept in the house, confined to the kitchen. Taylor was also cited for failing to have a veterinarian-approved written diet plan for the cub.