

McClelland's Critters

753 County Road 6618, Banks, AL 36005

McClelland's Critters (aka "McClelland's Zoo"), owned by Mike McClelland, has failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has repeatedly cited the facility for multiple violations involving failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care and leaving injuries unattended, failing to follow proper sanitation guidelines, and failing to maintain housing facilities in a structurally sound manner that prevents injury to the animals. In 2009, a young boy received over 100 stitches after a leopard reached through the fence and scratched him. This incident occurred after the USDA had issued multiple citations to the facility for having unfinished and improper fencing for dangerous animals.

August 24, 2016: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide the following animals with veterinary care: a bear who seemed to be in discomfort when getting up or sitting down and a goat who had facial paralysis. The facility was also cited for failing to repair a degraded wood panel in the enclosure housing a macaque, failing to provide multiple primates with adequate environmental enrichment, failing to control an infestation of bugs in the enclosure housing primates, and failing to clean a refrigerator that had a foul smell.

McClelland's Critters was also cited for repeat violations for failing to provide an updated inventory of animals, failing to remove wire that could cause injury from an enclosure housing lemurs, failing to repair a gap in the door of the enclosure housing a lion, failing to remove sharp points from an enclosure housing a cougar, failing to repair broken fencing and the ceiling in an enclosure housing bears, failing to remove hay bale twine from the enclosure housing goats and pigs, and failing to clean multiple enclosures housing primates, including an enclosure with a green film and black spots that resembled mold on the wood beams, posts, and perches.

August 10, 2016: The USDA issued an official warning for violations of federal regulations on these inspection dates: April 20, 2016, and February 11, 2016. The violations included failing to maintain

housing facilities in a structurally sound manner to prevent injury to the animals, failing to dispose of waste, failing to provide proper clean surfaces for nonhuman primates, and failing to provide adequate veterinary care.

April 20, 2016: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide an updated inventory of the animals, failing to remove wires that could cause injury from enclosures housing primates, and failing to have an attendant present during public contact with animals.

The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to sanitize enrichment tools in enclosures housing primates (they had a green film on them); failing to remove green film and black spots that resembled mold from the wood beams, posts, and perches in an enclosure housing a baboon; failing to remove green and brown water from the pools in the enclosures housing lions, tigers, and ligers; failing to remove food waste from the enclosures housing kangaroos; failing to clean the night houses for the macaques; failing to repair a door in the enclosure housing a lion; failing to remove metal and screws sticking into the enclosure housing a cougar; failing to remove a jagged piece of metal in an enclosure housing bears; and failing to remove hay bale twine from the ground in an enclosure housing goats, sheep, and pigs.

February 11, 2016: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to sanitize enrichment tools in an enclosure housing a macaque (they had a green film on them), failing to repair moisture damage in an enclosure housing primates, and failing to provide primates with a sufficient source of heat during below-freezing temperatures. The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to repair a split beam and remove sharp pointed ends from a fence panel in an enclosure housing bears, as well as failing to remove food waste, trash, and debris from multiple enclosures housing animals.

November 12, 2015: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide the following animals with proper veterinary care: a limping wolf and a bison with a fresh, red wound. The facility was also cited for failing to remove excess food waste from an enclosure housing bears and failing to administer monthly heartworm prevention to the wolves. In addition, it was cited for repeat violations for failing to remove excessive vegetation from the enclosure housing lions, failing to remove a protruding metal screw from an enclosure, failing to repair fence posts and a hole in an enclosure housing bears, failing to keep the roof of the enclosure housing lions free of old leaves and debris, failing to remove shreds of plastic from the ground inside an enclosure, and

failing to remove feces, dirt, and debris from multiple enclosures housing primates.

August 18, 2015: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to remove a cracked, dead tree leaning on the enclosure housing a baboon, failing to repair an exposed nail in an enclosure housing a baboon, failing to repair an exposed nail and gap in an enclosure housing lemurs, failing to repair a hole in an enclosure housing a macaque, failing to feed animals in a way that minimizes risk of contamination, failing to have proper drainage to prevent mud in an enclosure housing bears, failing to keep the roof of the enclosure housing tigers free of old leaves and debris, failing to clean a dirty pool in the enclosure housing black bears, and failing to remove hay twine from the enclosure housing goats and sheep—the animals could potentially ingest or get entangled in it.

The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to remove feces, dirt, and debris from multiple enclosures housing primates and failing to maintain the following in good repair: the primary fence surrounding a tiger, a cracked wooden platform with a hole and an exposed nailhead in the enclosure housing the cougars, fence posts in need of repair in the enclosure housing the black bears, a large hole in an enclosure housing bears, and a rusty fence with broken, pointy ends surrounding the coatimundis.

May 1, 2015: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide records that accurately document the acquisition of animals.

March 25, 2015: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide a ring-tailed lemur and a monkey with veterinary care. The lemur had two open wounds on the left inner thigh that were red and moist, and one of the monkey's toes had been cut off, leaving a moist and red wound. The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to clean hoses in an enclosure housing a macaque that had a green film on them, failing to clean the night house for the macaque, failing to remove old feces from an enclosure housing a monkey, and failing to repair the following: a broken wood post in an enclosure housing tigers, rusted and broken portions of a fence surrounding the coatimundis, a large hole in the enclosure housing bears, and a gap in the fencing surrounding an enclosure for a tiger. The gap was large enough for the tiger to stick her head through.

November 12, 2014: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to have a complete program of veterinary care, failing to provide accurate documentation on the disposition of the animals, failing to have a clean surface for the tiger feed, failing to lock fencing housing dangerous animals, and failing to sanitize ropes properly in multiple

enclosures. They were covered with feces and a green residue. The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have a fence of adequate height surrounding the tigers, failing to repair a broken platform in an enclosure housing tigers, and allowing three goats to roam around the park while it was open to the public and the main gate was open.

August 6, 2014: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for a repeat violation for failing to provide structurally sound fencing in the tiger enclosure.

July 2, 2014: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide a tiger with adequate veterinary care (the animal's right eye was red and draining a yellowish substance); failing to repair multiple chewed surfaces in the enclosure housing the baboon; failing to repair a hole in the fencing surrounding a macaque; failing to repair rusted doors in the enclosures housing a macaque and monkey; failing to remove an excessive amount of excreta from the enclosure housing the lemurs; failing to remove a large mound of tree limbs and jagged pieces of wood from the enclosure housing the goats; failing to keep a wolf in a secure enclosure; failing to repair the fence surrounding the lions, tigers, and wolves; failing to have a fence of adequate height for a highly aggressive tiger; failing to contain overgrown foliage in the enclosure housing wolves; failing to repair a gap in the fence and holes under the fence surrounding the tiger; failing to have an adequate barrier around a wolf housed in a dog pen (the public was able to touch the cage); failing to keep the perimeter fence closed; and placing food for the animals on the ground, where it could be contaminated by dirt and feces.

The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to dispose of food packaging that posed a choking hazard and failing to keep a large metal platform out of the sun. It was so hot that it could burn the tiger.

January 14, 2014: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to remove pieces of scrap and sheet metal in the enclosures housing bison and sheep. They could potentially injure the animals.

June 5, 2013: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for a repeat violation for failing to repair the following: jagged sheets of metal on the shelter for the kangaroos and jagged edges of wood on the shelter for the deer.

August 2, 2012: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to have proper structural strength for the flooring beneath the bear enclosure.

May 10, 2012: McClelland's Critters settled with the

USDA for AWA violations that occurred between October 2008 and November 2010. The facility agreed to pay a penalty of \$3,286. The violations included failing to have a responsible adult available during inspections and failing to handle a leopard properly. The animal had reached through a fence and clawed a child, resulting in an injury that required stitches.

April 20, 2011: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to repair a sagging roof in the enclosure housing the cougar; failing to remove excess accumulations of feces in enclosures housing tigers, skunks, and cougars; and failing to remove several piles of bale string scattered throughout the enclosure housing the hoofstock, which the animals could ingest or become entangled in.

November 3, 2010: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to have a responsible adult present during an inspection.

April 3, 2009: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to document the treatment schedule of a spider monkey on antibiotics, failing to provide the pigs with a dry area in the enclosure, and failing to remove excess excreta.

February 18, 2009: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to trim overgrown hooves on the zebu, failing to dispose of several expired bottles of medication, failing to provide a rabbit with shelter from inclement weather, failing to remove excess excreta from the night house for the macaque, failing to repair exposed nailheads in the night house for the lemur, and failing to provide a wolf, who had bite wounds covering parts of her body, with veterinary care.

The facility was also cited for an incident in which a leopard was able to reach through the cage and claw a visitor. (See the February 8, 2009, entry.)

February 8, 2009: A young boy was attacked by a leopard through a fence. He was taken to the hospital and required more than 100 stitches. His mother filed a lawsuit against McClelland's Critters.

December 11, 2008: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to have a responsible party present for an inspection.

October 15, 2008: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to have a responsible party present for an inspection.

January 30, 2008: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for repeat violations for failing to maintain housing facilities in a structurally sound manner that prevents injury to the animals, including failing to

repair broken wood and exposed nails in enclosures housing the tiger and bear and failing to repair exposed chain-link flooring in the enclosure housing the wolf.

June 4, 2007: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to provide multiple animals with clean water bins, failing to remove several days' worth of bones and feces in the enclosures housing big cats, and failing to remove an accumulation of clutter in front of the food-storage building. The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to maintain housing facilities in a structurally sound manner that prevents injury to the animals, including the enclosure housing the raccoon, which had a gap in the roof and several nails protruding into the enclosure; failing to remove a large container from the enclosure housing the tiger, which the animal could climb on and use to escape; failing to have a complete perimeter fence for the dangerous animals; and failing to keep the food-storage area free of clutter.

July 20, 2006: The USDA cited McClelland's Critters for failing to maintain housing facilities in a structurally sound manner that prevents injury to the animals, failing to store feed properly, failing to provide two ligers with adequate shade, and failing to have a complete perimeter fence around the ligers, bears, and wolves.