

Zoological de Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

Carretera 108, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00680

The Zoological de Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (aka “Dr. Juan A. Rivero Zoo”) has repeatedly failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited the zoo repeatedly for failing to provide animals (including underweight tigers and a rhinoceros with a leg mass) with adequate veterinary care, failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, failing to have proper drainage to prevent accumulations of water and mud in multiple enclosures housing animals, failing to provide animals with clean food and water, failing to store food properly, and housing incompatible animals together. In June 2014, the facility was cited for euthanizing deer by cutting their jugular veins with a knife in order to feed them to big cats and for euthanizing multiple animals without any documentation indicating problems that would justify the decision to euthanize. In September 2012, the USDA issued the zoo an official warning, and in January 2014, it issued the zoo a penalty of \$2,714 for multiple violations of the AWA. On February 6, 2018, the Zoological de Puerto Rico’s USDA license was canceled.

August 15, 2017: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for failing to handle newborn tiger cubs properly. The caretakers moved them without first

notifying the attending veterinarian, which resulted in the apparent rejection of the cubs by the mother and their eventual death. The zoo was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have an effective program to control cockroaches, crickets, and ants who were seen alive in the feed storage area of the camel barn; failing to repair a large gap underneath the fence dividing the enclosures housing the llamas and rams, which had exposed sharp edges and points of chain link; failing to clean the shelter roof and clogged gutters in the camel, deer, and aoudad enclosure; and failing to remove a dried tree limb with evidence of termite infestation that was hanging above the enclosure housing the jaguar, which could break and damage the enclosure.

June 13, 2017: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for a repeat violation for failing to provide two bears with an opportunity for cooling every day during hot weather. They were housed individually and rotated daily between two enclosures. Only one enclosure had access to a pool of water, so each bear had access to the pool every other day. The zoo was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have working fans in the shelter building housing the camels and deer; failing to repair a gap under the fence in the enclosure housing the llamas and rams that had exposed sharp edges and points; failing to clean the roof and gutters in the camel, deer, and aoudad enclosure; failing to remove a dried tree limb hanging over the enclosure housing the jaguar; failing to remove bamboo shoots in the enclosure housing the tiger that could allow the animal to escape; and failing to have an effective program to control cockroaches, rodents, and flies. Cockroaches were seen in the feed storage area in the camel barn, and flies were observed throughout the zoo—causing discomfort, red areas, and scarring on the lions’ ears.

March 14, 2017: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for failing to have an efficient method to obtain medications required to treat or prevent illnesses, failing to repair a rusty surface on the door of the enclosure housing a baboon, and failing to have working fans in the shelter building in the camel, deer, and aoudad enclosure.

February 7, 2017: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to have a written program of veterinary care following the resignation of the zoo's full-time veterinarian and replacement with a part-time one, failing to dispose of expired medications, failing to store medication in a refrigerator free of contaminants, failing to provide a cougar who was observed to be exhibiting distress (in the form of pacing and panting) with veterinary care, failing to provide a thin tiger with veterinary care, failing to remove standing water and an accumulation of mud from multiple enclosures housing animals, failing to remove accumulations of trash around the commissary, failing to remove an unused chute in the enclosure housing the zebras and impalas that was in disrepair, failing to repair a leaking roof and moldy ceiling panels in the veterinary clinic above the surgical table, and failing to control rat and termite populations. The zoo was also cited for failing to repair or replace rusted metal gates and bars in the enclosure housing spider monkeys, failing to have a barrier between the enclosure housing the lion and the enclosure housing the antelope, failing to remove a rotted tree limb from the enclosure housing the ocelot, failing to clean an ocelot enclosure that had a strong odor of urine, failing to clean the roof and clogged gutters in the enclosure housing the camels and deer, failing to repair exposed chain link and a gap under the fence surrounding the camels and deer, failing to repair a leak in the roof in their feed and hay storage area, failing to repair a gap along the lower portion of the fence

surrounding the antelope enclosure, failing to repair areas of the perimeter fence that were broken by falling trees, failing to store frozen meat properly, failing to keep the water clean in the enclosure housing a hippopotamus, and failing to remove an accumulation of waste water, old food, and a considerable number of flies from the area around the enclosure housing baboons.

October 5, 2016: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for failing to provide a rhinoceros who had a mass under the skin fold of the right front elbow with veterinary care, failing to replace a missing section of the barrier fence surrounding the capuchin and bear enclosures, failing to eliminate excess standing water and an accumulation of mud in multiple enclosures, failing to have an effective program to control cockroaches observed in the feed storage trailer, and failing to clean up open bags of pelleted food in the storage trailer.

June 21, 2016: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for a repeat violation for failing to provide a bongo with adequate veterinary care. He hadn't been bearing weight on his right rear leg since February 2016 and was being treated medically but hadn't had radiographs taken. The zoo was cited for failing to have a system to obtain the necessary medical supplies, equipment, and diagnostic services quickly in order to relieve animals' pain and suffering. The facility was also cited for problems in the enclosure housing the bongo, including failing to clean wet, slippery mud from the concrete floor entrances to the shelter and failing to repair exposed chain-link fencing and soil erosion that had caused a large drop-off from the bongo shelter entrances, which could exacerbate the pain and discomfort of the bongo with the injured leg if he has to jump up or down to get in and out of the shelter.

May 25, 2016: The USDA cited the

Zoological de Puerto Rico for a repeat violation for failing to have an appropriate method to diagnose and treat a bongo experiencing lameness in his right rear leg.

May 5, 2016: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for failing to have an appropriate method to diagnose and treat a bongo experiencing lameness in his right rear leg. The issue started in February 2016, and he was treated intermittently without a definitive diagnosis or resolution of the issue. The zoo was also cited for a repeat violation for failing to remove discarded material from the entrance of the elephant barn.

February 8, 2016: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to repair a sugar glider den box with chewed edges and splinters, failing to repair areas of rusted metal in the enclosure housing the lions, failing to repair a hole in the roof of the hay storage container, failing to repair a freezer gasket, failing to provide tigers with clean drinking water, failing to control cockroach populations in two barns housing animals, failing to remove accumulations of hay in front of the camel barn, and failing to control rat and mouse populations. The zoo was also cited for failing to dispose of expired medications, failing to repair a gap in the public barrier surrounding the pumas that could allow the public to walk up and reach the animals, failing to have a sufficient barrier surrounding the enclosure housing lions to prevent the public from being able to put fingers into it, and failing to repair exposed rough rock, which apparently couldn't be adequately cleaned or sanitized, in the flooring of the enclosure housing a baboon.

November 16, 2015: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat sanitation violations for failing to remove excessive dust, dirt, insects, and discarded

equipment from the top of a walk-in cooler; failing to remove an accumulation of insects from the kitchen floor behind a storage cabinet; failing to remove dirt, food, and cockroaches from the camel barn; failing to control cockroaches around the hay in the camel barn; and failing to remove accumulations of hay that could attract and harbor pests. The zoo was also cited for failing to remove dirt, cockroaches, and accumulations of plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, and other items from the shelter area for patas monkeys; failing to repair a door with a broken glass panel in the shelter area for the antelope; housing a sugar glider in a den box with chewed and splintered edges; failing to control flying insects that were observed inside a food container; failing to remove rodent and cockroach feces from the floor and food bags inside the dry-food storage container; failing to store a bag of fish/reptile food properly (it had been left open and could attract rodents); failing to have adequate drainage to address accumulations of water and mud in the enclosures housing the rhinos, tigers, and camels; failing to serve raw meat properly (it was seen on wet concrete floors in the enclosures housing tigers and lions); failing to provide the tigers and sable antelope with clean drinking water (theirs was dirty and muddy); and failing to control cockroach and rodent populations.

August 11, 2015: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to remove excessive dirt, dust, insects, and discarded equipment from the top of the walk-in cooler and failing to store meat properly. All the meat inside the freezer was soft to the touch, and the freezer temperature was above 50 degrees. There was also dirt, dried blood, whole fish, and pieces of meat on the floor of the freezer. The zoo was also cited for failing to provide a lion who had hair loss and red, raw skin on all four legs with adequate veterinary care.

May 12, 2015: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to repair broken wire mesh in an enclosure housing monkeys, failing to repair a broken structure with exposed yellow foam in an enclosure housing primates, failing to store meat properly, failing to store food properly to prevent contamination from rodents, and failing to clean the food storage area, which had excessive dust and an accumulation of dark, sticky, greasy material on two metal food racks. The zoo was also cited for failing to provide a lion who had recent red scratches on the face and flies observed on the wounds with adequate veterinary care; failing to have an adequate barrier around the enclosure housing the capuchins to prevent the public from touching the enclosure; failing to secure the gate in the barrier around the chimpanzee area; failing to repair chewed, splintering wood on elevated platforms in the off-exhibit dens; failing to close a sliding gate in the perimeter fence of the zoo; and failing to store open bags of food properly. They had mice droppings on and around them.

January 13, 2015: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to repair deteriorated wire mesh with jagged edges and metal hose clamps with sharp edges in the enclosure housing chimpanzees; failing to remove large accumulations of dirt and leaves from the dry moat and black and green algae from the floor, pool, and back wall of the enclosure housing the chimpanzees; failing to remove large accumulations of cobwebs, dirt, and leaves in the skylights of the enclosures housing tigers and lions; failing to repair lights above the food prep table that had dead flies in them and cracks that could allow the insects to fall onto the table; failing to clean large accumulations of spider webs and dirty floors in the shelter areas for the camels, sheep, and antelope; failing to clean an

enclosure housing cougars that had a strong odor of urine that was noticeable from 10 feet away; and failing to clean the commissary area properly. It contained millipede worms, a dead cockroach, and dirt. The zoo was also cited for failing to provide an apparently underweight tiger who had prominent hip bones and shoulder blades with adequate veterinary care, failing to dispose of expired medications, failing to repair broken wire mesh in the enclosure housing baboons, storing food in an area with a drainage pipe that dripped water on top of the food, and failing to have an adequate number of trained employees available daily to facilitate husbandry practices for the health and welfare of all the animals.

September 9, 2014: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for a repeat violation for failing to remove large accumulations of dirt and leaves from the dry moat and black and green algae from the floor, pool, and back wall of the enclosure housing the chimpanzees. The zoo was also cited for failing to have a complete barrier fence around multiple enclosures; failing to replace deteriorated wood on platforms in the enclosures housing chimpanzees and squirrel monkeys; failing to remove cobwebs, dirt, and leaves from the skylights of the enclosures housing tigers and lions; failing to repair lights above the food prep table that had dead flies in them and cracks that could allow the insects to fall onto the table; and failing to repair the following items in the enclosure housing the chimpanzees: protruding screws, rusted metal framing, wire mesh with jagged edges, and metal hose clamps with sharp edges.

June 17, 2014: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for numerous veterinary care-related violations for the following: failing to dispose of expired medications, failing to store medications

and vaccines properly, euthanizing three animals with expired drugs, failing to provide several animals suffering from coccidiosis with adequate veterinary care, feeding guinea pigs who were still alive to snakes, euthanizing deer by cutting their jugular veins with a knife (without first stunning them) and then feeding them to the big cats, and euthanizing a puma, a coatimundi, and a baboon because they weren't "fit for exhibition," without any documentation indicating problems that would justify the decision to euthanize.

In addition, the zoo was cited for repeat violations for failing to have adequate lighting in the shelters housing baboons and monkeys and failing to feed animals in a way that minimizes the risk of contamination. Multiple enclosures were observed with food on the ground in close proximity to fecal material. The zoo was also cited for failing to provide lemurs with water, failing to remove green algae from multiple primate shelters, failing to lock a gate in the perimeter fence near the hippopotamus enclosure, and failing to provide the llamas, bongos, and camels with clean drinking water. Theirs was contaminated by bird waste.

April 17, 2014: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for a repeat violation for failing to have adequate lighting in the shelter housing multiple primates. The zoo was also cited for failing to provide a porcupine with shelter from inclement weather and failing to feed animals in a way that reduced the risk of contamination. Multiple enclosures were observed with food on the floor.

January 23, 2014: The USDA issued the Zoological de Puerto Rico a penalty of \$2,714 for multiple violations of the AWA occurring between December 18, 2012, and September 6, 2013, including failing to repair a roof leak in the surgery room, failing

to repair ceiling tiles and light fixtures with mold on them in the surgery room, failing to repair cracked glass in the enclosure housing the lions, failing to address the excessive rust and jagged edges on a door in the enclosure housing the tigers, failing to provide two underweight tigers with adequate veterinary care, failing to remove an excessive accumulation of algae on the walls and floor of the enclosure housing the chimpanzees, failing to repair a rusted door in the enclosure housing the chimpanzees, and failing to provide adequate drainage to address excessive accumulations of water in enclosures housing the lions, bears, and rhino.

August 12, 2013: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for failing to provide two underweight tigers with adequate veterinary care. Their ribs, hips, and vertebral column bones could be easily observed, and the zoo had no recent weight records to indicate how much weight the animals had lost and no recent blood work to determine any underlying causes. The zoo was cited for repeat violations for failing to repair multiple leaks in the roof and rusted cabinets in the laboratory room, failing to replace lab equipment damaged by water leaking in, and failing to remove accumulations of dirt and algae from the walls and floor in the enclosure housing olive baboons. It was also cited for failing to have a food receptacle for the lions and instead placing their food on the floor where it was contaminated with muddy water; failing to have adequate drainage for accumulations of water in the enclosures housing lions, jaguars, and bears; and housing incompatible animals together. Two male lions were housed together in the same exhibit with four young females, and the males fought and didn't eat while the females were in heat.

April 18, 2013: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat

violations for failing to repair the following: multiple roof leaks in the surgery room, a door with rust and jagged edges in an enclosure, and lamps, roof panels, and a wall in the surgery room that were moldy. The zoo was also cited for having broken wire mesh in the exhibit housing the baboons and failing to remove accumulations of dirt and algae from that enclosure.

December 18, 2012: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to repair the following: a roof leak in the surgery room, moldy roof panels and lamps in the surgery room, doors with rust and jagged edges in the shelter areas for lions and tigers, and rusted bars, cracked concrete, and cracked security glass in the enclosure housing lions. It was also cited for a repeat violation for failing to have adequate drainage to address accumulations of water in the enclosure housing the rhino.

September 12, 2012: The USDA issued the Zoological de Puerto Rico an official warning for violations of the AWA committed between June 21, 2010, and August 14, 2012, including failing to maintain enclosures in good repair and failing to eliminate excess water from enclosures housing animals.

August 14, 2012: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for failing to repair a roof leak in the surgery room (mold was observed inside the lamps and roof panels), failing to have medical records available during the inspection, failing to repair a roof of the capuchin shelter area that was rusted and had jagged edges, failing to remove an accumulation of fecal material in the enclosure housing the lions, failing to remove food and fecal matter from the floor of the enclosure housing bears, and failing to have an adequate number of employees working in the dangerous-animal

sections. The zoo was also cited for repeat violations for failing to repair doors with rust and jagged edges in the shelter areas for lions and tigers, failing to repair rusted bars and cracked concrete in the enclosures housing lions, failing to repair a detached fence around the enclosure housing bongos, failing to have proper drainage in the enclosures housing the rhino and lions (leading to accumulations of water), and failing to have adequate drainage in the enclosures housing bears and llamas.

May 24, 2012: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for repeat violations for failing to repair a door with jagged and rusted edges in the giraffe shelter, failing to repair a rusted door in the tiger and lion shelter area, and failing to have adequate drainage for an accumulation of water in the enclosure housing the rhino. The zoo was also cited for failing to remove an accumulation of dirt, debris, and trash from the moat in the enclosure housing the chimpanzees.

January 31, 2012: The USDA cited the Zoological de Puerto Rico for a repeat violation for failing to have adequate drainage for accumulations of water and mud in the enclosures housing the rhino and the tigers. The zoo was also cited for failing to repair a door with jagged, rusted edges in the giraffe shelter.