

Smith, Pamela L - APHIS

From: Smith, Pamela L APHIS
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2017 10:03 PM
To: Schnell, Michael A APHIS
Subject: Notes from Sammut exit interview
Attachments: Exit Interview.docx

There.

Dr. Pamela L. Smith
Veterinary Medical Officer
USDA / APHIS / Animal Care

Exit Interview Charlie Sammut Oct 4, 2017

Dr. Michael Schnell (M) on site w Mr. Sammut (C); Dr. Pamela Smith (P) participating via phone

M explains that there will be no NCIs on inspection report this time, but that there are several areas of concern that we wish to discuss particularly since C was not present at the time of inspection. Stated that following this exit interview photos and videos from the day of inspection will be discarded.

- Scale in water bowls M explained that the large buildup of off-white mineral scale in the water bowls makes it difficult to adequately clean and disinfect them. C was very argumentative - stated that the his well water has a high mineral content, but is healthy. M explained several times that it is not about water quality, it is about the receptacle. C claimed that another exhibitor has rust colored water, which discolors the receptacles, but that this person has not been cited. C stated that this is not covered in the AWA. M suggested using an acid wash to remove scale, C said he did not want to use chemicals. Had to move on.
- Wooden spools many are very deteriorated and have sharp points, such as screws sticking out.
- Enrichment toys should be maintained in good repair or replaced. Baboons had plastic chairs that were in pieces, with rough plastic edges.
- Kangaroo elderly animal exhibiting tremors and vision loss. We requested that they document that the animal has been evaluated by vet, and that they are monitoring quality of life.
- Alligator tank had mosquito larva C stated that it is dumped and filled weekly, and that he has not seen any mosquitos on site.
- Long hooves and impaired gate on muntjac C stated that it was too stressful on the elderly animal to trim hooves very often. M emphasized that when gate is impaired it must be addressed.
- Squirrel monkey with dangling chain this animal was in its enclosure with a chain around its waist that dangled its full length of the animal, and could prevent risk for entanglement. C stated that this animal is under medical treatment and they need to chain to handle it. We suggested that they employ training instead. Also this animal is being single-housed, without contact with other NHPs. Need to single-house should be documented with AV approval.
- Cavy death in records it appeared that this animal died after several days of decline without very receiving veterinary care. C stated that the records were poor that actually the animal was at the vet when it died.
- Daily Observation a discussion ensued about the concept of "daily observation" with respect to the Vet Care regulations. We used the example of the hyena, which currently has a hot spot. This has been a recurring condition for this animal. P emphasized the need to document that there was a vet consultation, at minimum, by phone, and that they vet has recommended / approved a particular treatment.
- Written Program of Veterinary Care, and adequate records the PVC needs to be fleshed out, and the records need to be adequate to show that the preventive medical procedures outlined in the PVC, such as deworming and vaccinations, are actually being carried out. For example, PVC states that Fennec Foxes will receives vaccinations, but there is no evidence that this was carried out.
- Traveling Exhibits M asked whether C takes animals overnight. (Seems that he does, occasionally?) Reminded that if so, he will need to submit an itinerary.

- Records list of Animals on Hand with Acquisition and Disposition info C said this is in each animal's records. We encouraged compiling into a document.
- Shade above, where new exhibits have been created, there is minimal shades. M showed C the video of the two lions, w the female panting.
- Fennec Foxes M pointed out that they have minimal complexity in their enclosure, and that the female exhibited fear behavior, and had nowhere to hide. C stated that this animal is used for education, and that the behavior was not fear.
- Cutting boards are scored and displaced... need to be replaced.
- Defrosting meat always preferable to dethaw in fridge. If dethawed at room temperature, but assure that meat does not reach room temperature should stay cold.
- Medications and controlled substances Almost all medications on site were expired, and controlled substances were not secured, and there was no log. We emphasized the need to correct these issues and document.
- Perimeter fence mostly very good, but watch for digging under fence line there was a gap of six inches in one spot near llamas. Ensure that people or animals cannot pass under or through the fence.
- Flies camels had a lot of flies pestering them. Consider additional fly control.
- Elephants minimal enrichment and complexity in enclosure. They feed hay on the ground only. C stated that the male has torn to pieces any type of enrichment or hanging feeders they have tried.
- Flooring in elephant barn rhino-lining is torn up, which makes cleaning and disinfecting inadequate. C stated that they plan to repair.
- Hyperkeratosis oldest female elephant, especially, and to a lesser extent the male elephant, have thickened skin, especially over the dorsal area. C stated that this has been documented, and evaluated by UC Davis veterinarians. P stated that this documentation should be available for inspection, so that we can see that he is following the recommendations given.
- Drainage some water features were draining in a manner that they caused water to flow through other exhibits. C said he would look into this.
- Big Cat shade pics were sent to Dr. Gage for evaluation.