

Gibbens, Robert - APHIS

From: Gibbens, Robert APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Garland, Kathleen M (APHIS) (Kathleen.M.Garland@aphis.usda.gov)
Subject: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

Kath - - Bernadette is questioning me about a recent inspection of Charlie Sammut's facility.

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Please get me as many details as possible about what actually took place.

Thanks.....Bob

Garland, Kathleen M - APHIS

From: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Schnell, Michael A APHIS; Smith, Pamela L APHIS
Subject: FW: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

ASAP

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To: Gibbens, Robert APHIS
Subject: RE: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

[From what I recall, that is not accurate](#)

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Gibbens, Robert - APHIS

From: Gibbens, Robert APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS
Subject: RE: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

I know Sammut, so that is what I figured.

From: Garland, Kathleen M - APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Gibbens, Robert - APHIS <Robert.M.Gibbens@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

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From: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:55 AM
To: Gibbens, Robert APHIS
Subject: RE: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

I am getting details-

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Schnell, Michael A - APHIS

From: Schnell, Michael A APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS
Cc: Smith, Pamela L APHIS
Subject: Re: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

These statements aren't true.

We never went at any time to check on damage due to a wind storm there. I know nothing about escaped animals. Had we even suspected escaped animals, we would have called you (as we did when they were hand walking one the animals the badger, I believe). He never asked us not to do an inspection for that reason and therefore.

The first time we went, he said that he had some contractors there improving the front of the property.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 14, 2017, at 7:52 AM, Garland, Kathleen M APHIS <Kathleen.M.Garland@aphis.usda.gov> wrote:

ASAP

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Smith, Pamela L - APHIS

From: Smith, Pamela L APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:04 AM
To: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS; Schnell, Michael A APHIS
Subject: RE: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

On 6/5/17 Mike and I went to Sammut's to conduct a routine inspection. Mr. Sammut stated that he was unable to assist us with the inspection because he had a tree trimming team arriving, and would lose a lot of money if he sent them away, and that he did not have anyone else available to assist us with the inspection. We contacted our SACS (Kathy Garland), and after some discussion agreed to cite as an attempt, rather than a refusal. This was decided, in part, due to the fact that it was the first time either Mike or I had been there, and we were hoping to establish a positive working relationship. Mr. Sammut did give us a brief tour of part of the facility. The decision to cite as an attempt rather than a refusal was explained to Mr. Sammut during an exit briefing.

Furthermore, while we were there Mike discussed with Mr. Sammut that they had just failed to renew their license. The process was then set into motion to allow a late renewal. Mike assisted him with this process.

We returned on 9/25/17, and conducted a complete, routine inspection, where many problem areas were identified and discussed.

I do not recall anything about a wind storm, although possibly that was why he had tree trimmers arriving? I do not recall discussing this, nor having heard anything about animal escapes.

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

From: Garland, Kathleen M - APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 7:53 AM
To: Schnell, Michael A - APHIS <Michael.A.Schnell@aphis.usda.gov>; Smith, Pamela L - APHIS <Pamela.L.Smith@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: I need this as soon as you can get it to me
Importance: High

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From: Schnell, Michael A APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS
Cc: Smith, Pamela L APHIS
Subject: Re: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

And, we did NOT, do an inspection the first time we went. As might you recall, we called you about the situation and decided to NOT do an inspection. Charlie wanted to show us his new area that he built for big cats and bears. I believe he wanted our opinion and to show it off (it is quite aesthetically appealing in my opinion) so we did as a courtesy. We never treated it as inspection, never issued any report and treated it as a courtesy visit. He told us that he couldn't do an inspection because of the contractors enhancing the entrance but still wanted to take us in the new section. It is my recollection that it was enhancing the entrance and not fixing any fences. The area where they were working was towards the road and was not in or immediately adjacent to where the animals were.

We only went where he asked us to go. We only walked through the public area and did not look in the back areas as we would on an inspection. We did not go into the old section and certainly would have if it was an inspection!

Remember, that was the time that his license had expired on one and we worked with him to get it renewed. We also called and discussed that with you and whether to try to do inspection, cite him, or leave and we decided to leave.

The only inspection that we did was on 25 Sep 17 and we also called you about what we saw and decided against any citations.

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Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Gibbens, Robert APHIS
Subject: Fwd: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Schnell, Michael A APHIS" <Michael.A.Schnell@aphis.usda.gov>
Date: November 14, 2017 at 9:13:27 AM PST
To: "Garland, Kathleen M APHIS" <Kathleen.M.Garland@aphis.usda.gov>
Cc: "Smith, Pamela L APHIS" <Pamela.L.Smith@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: **Re: I need this as soon as you can get it to me**

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Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Smith, Pamela L APHIS
Cc: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS
Subject: Re: I need this as soon as you can get it to me

Pam is correct... The contractors were tree trimmers and I thought it that it was part of entranceway enhancement.

In a spirit of cooperation and to establish a good working relationship, we did not issue any report (even an attempted) on the first (June) visit. It was treated as a courtesy visit.

The only inspection report issued was the one for 25 Sep 17 and there were no citations.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 14, 2017, at 9:04 AM, Smith, Pamela L APHIS <Pamela.L.Smith@aphis.usda.gov> wrote:

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USDA / APHIS / Animal Care

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Schnell, Michael A - APHIS

From: Schnell, Michael A APHIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 9:02 AM
To: Juarez, Bernadette R APHIS
Cc: Garland, Kathleen M APHIS; Gibbens, Robert APHIS; Goldentyer, Betty J APHIS; Meek, Elizabeth C APHIS
Subject: Re: quick note

Bernadette,

Thanks for your note and feedback. I try to provide positive, constructive and helpful feedback to everyone. Charlie is an interesting licensee.

As I'm sure he explained, they are making significant improvements to their facility with new and redesigned enclosures. I look forward to the next inspection.

Again, thank you for your message and feedback!

Take care,
Mike

From: Juarez, Bernadette R - APHIS
Sent: Sunday, November 11, 2018 6:39:45 AM
To: Schnell, Michael A - APHIS
Cc: Garland, Kathleen M - APHIS; Gibbens, Robert - APHIS; Goldentyer, Betty J - APHIS; Meek, Elizabeth C - APHIS
Subject: quick note

Mike:

Just a quick note to let you know that on Saturday I met with Charlie Sammut. Mr. Sammut indicated his relationship is improving with his inspectors following the incident with the storm. He said you do a nice job of moderating conversations during the inspection. I sensed the construction project has been very stressful for Mr. Sammut, and hopefully this will ease when the new zoo opens in March.

Bernadette

Bernadette Juarez
Deputy Administrator, Animal Care
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
T: (202) 799 7113 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 1137 South Building, Washington, DC 20250
T: (301) 851 2735 4700 River Rd., Unit 84/Room 6D 03F, Riverdale, MD 20737