

September 16, 2015

Robert Gibbens, D.V.M.
Director, Animal Welfare Operations
USDA/APHIS/AC Western Region

Via e-mail: acwest@aphis.usda.gov

Re: Request for Investigation of Leopard With Tail Wound at West Coast
Game Park, Inc. (License No. 92-C-0181)

Dear Dr. Gibbens,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture promptly investigate reports of a leopard in apparent need of veterinary attention at West Coast Game Park, Inc. (license no. 92-C-0181).

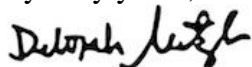
PETA received a report from a concerned citizen who observed and documented that a leopard had a raw and bloody wound on the tip of his tail (*see* Photo, below) on September 13. Veterinarian Dr. Heather Rally opined that the wound may have been caused by chronic sucking on the tail—a common stereotypical self-injurious behavior seen in captive large cats, possibly as a result of psychological distress. Alternatively, it may have been caused by being housed in an unsafe enclosure or with incompatible animals.

Please inspect this leopard, including his veterinary records, to ensure that he is being provided with adequate veterinary care pursuant to 9 C.F.R. § 2.40.

Please also ensure that all the animals at West Coast Game Park are provided with care consistent with the mandates of the Animal Welfare Act and hold the facility fully accountable for any and all violations that you uncover.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please inform me of the complaint number that your agency assigns to this correspondence.

Very truly yours,



Deborah Metzler, M.S.
Wildlife Specialist, Captive Animal Law Enforcement

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- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)



Leopard with a raw, bloody wound on the end of his tail