

# Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation

4995 Durham-Pentz Rd., Oroville, CA 95965

**The Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation, operated by Roberta Kirshner, has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has repeatedly cited Roberta Kirshner for numerous infractions, including failing to provide the animals with adequate veterinary care, failing to maintain the facility in a sanitary manner, and failing to handle animals in a way that would keep them and the public safe. She has repeatedly allowed members of the public to interact with dangerous wild animals, including an adult lion, adult tiger, and adult bear. She failed to provide a lion cub who was severely lame, uncomfortable, and unwilling to stand with adequate veterinary care. In 2015, the USDA assessed her a penalty of over \$5,000 for multiple violations of the AWA. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**June 7, 2017:** The USDA cited Roberta Kirshner for failing to provide a lion cub named Lucie who was severely lame, uncomfortable, and unwilling to stand with adequate veterinary care. She was also cited for a repeat violation for failing to follow the diet plan correctly for this lion cub. She was giving the animal about 30 grams of calcium gluconate daily, whereas the dose needed was actually 100 grams daily.

**October 20, 2016:** The USDA cited Roberta Kirshner for failing to maintain the following items in good repair: tarps on top of a tiger and a leopard enclosure, which had become so tattered and shredded that pieces of them were hanging down into the enclosure and could have been ingested by the animals; and the perimeter fence, which had a gap in it. She was also cited for failing to drain accumulations of standing water in a timely matter to prevent health risks. The facility had two large containers to collect water that was drained from the enclosure housing the bears. The water was very dark in color, putrid-smelling, and contained aquatic insects. A wheelbarrow had accumulated more than 6 inches of rainwater, which was dark in color and foul-smelling.

**July 20, 2016:** The USDA cited Roberta Kirshner for failing to handle a male lion cub named Atlas properly. During a cub encounter, a member of the public held the lion without a harness or leash. A gate into the facility that was approximately 130 feet from the exhibition, was left open. According to the inspector, the lion cub was of sufficient size and strength to harm a member of the public or escape.

**November 17, 2015:** The USDA assessed Roberta Kirshner a penalty of \$5,464 for violations of the AWA occurring between November 1, 2011, and August 1, 2014. These included allowing members of the public to come in direct contact with juvenile and adult lions, allowing a member of the public to conduct a photo shoot with an unrestrained adult tiger and two tiger cubs, allowing a member of the public to come in direct contact with a bear, failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, and failing to take appropriate measures to cool animals who were panting and appeared uncomfortably hot and lethargic during temperatures over 100 degrees.

**August 27, 2014:** The State of California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health cited the Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation for failing to provide a written injury and illness prevention program and failing to train workers on heat-illness prevention. The facility was assessed a penalty of \$150.

**August 1, 2014:** The USDA cited Roberta Kirshner for failing to take measures to prevent overheating and discomfort of the animals when the temperature reached 106 degrees on the day of the inspection. An infrared thermometer showed the surface temperature of the decks to be around 127 degrees. According to the inspector, many of the felines were panting, and some appeared uncomfortably hot and lethargic.

**April 3, 2014:** The USDA cited Roberta Kirshner for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care: a tiger whose eye appeared red and painful, with a protruding third eyelid, and who had staining on the face from discharge; a grossly obese serval and bobcat; and a lynx who appeared to move very cautiously, as if there may be pain in the limbs. She was also cited for not having a written program of veterinary care, or a written program of environmental enhancement for two lemurs. Roberta was also cited for failing to remove accumulations of clutter from a food storage garage and a food preparation area, failing to clean food receptacles, and failing to control a mouse infestation in the food storage area.

The facility was cited for failing to follow feeding guidelines in the following instances: unfrozen meat was left without refrigeration, bears had been fed

moldy fruit and Cheez-It crackers, a volunteer indicated that bears and coyotes could eat items from an unrefrigerated box of food (including deli meats, tandoori chicken burritos, Lunchables, and crackers), produce was left without refrigeration and had become moldy, the wooden planks on which food was served weren't adequately cleaned, the food preparation area had worn surfaces and rusty knives, chemicals were stored next to food, many food bags were open (and some had spilled food), three freezers had accumulated meat juice and needed to be cleaned, and there was no veterinarian-approved feeding plan.

**September 3, 2013:** The USDA cited Roberta Kirshner for allowing a member of the public to be in an enclosure with and touch a large cat.

**June 25, 2011:** Butte County Animal Control reported that a kinkajou owned by Roberta Kirshner bit and broke the skin of someone who had worked for her for three years.