



## Inspection Report

Carson & Barnes Circus  
P. O. Box J  
Hugo, OK 74743

Customer ID: 3954  
Certificate: 73-C-0001  
Site: 001  
CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: Jan-05-2015

### 2.40 (b) (3)

#### ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The facility is not utilizing a mechanism to identify, convey, or document treatment of veterinary problems with some of the animals.

\*\*A female Asian elephant, Nina, has been losing weight and in thin body condition since early 2013. Body weights were taken on 12/19/2013 (5780 lbs), 4/3/2014 (5774 lbs), 11/19/2014 (5386 lbs), and on 12/8/2014 (5280 lbs). The consulting veterinarian has provided guidance regarding increasing the diet and nutritive value of the diet for this elephant but there is not any guidance regarding what percentage of body weight loss would be of concern and would require additional veterinary oversight. This animal has lost 500 lbs in the past 7-8 months, a significant weight loss of 8.7% of total body weight.

\*\*Two female Asian elephants, Rosie and Opal, are being treated for stiffness/arthritis with acupuncture and hydrotherapy but this was not prescribed by the attending or consulting veterinarians nor is there documentation as part of the program of veterinary care to show the veterinarians for the facility have approved this treatment plan, treatment goals, nor when there should be a re-evaluation of or change in treatment. The person conducting this treatment was trained by a person who is not a veterinarian nor is accredited to perform acupuncture for veterinary purposes.

\*\*A female pygmy hippo, Katie, was noted to be losing weight and not doing well while traveling for exhibition purposes in May 2014. The consulting veterinarian was contacted and the animal was brought to the home facility on 5/16/2014. The consulting veterinarian evaluated the animal on 5/22/2014 and prescribed medication for possible dental disease but there are no records to show that the treatment was given. The hippo was observed 3 more times briefly by the consulting veterinarian (August, September, and October) but the animal was found dead on 11/14/2014. It was determined on the necropsy by the consulting veterinarian that the animal's "body condition is poor with prominent dorsal vertebral spines, ilial wings of the hips are visible" and that the most likely cause of death was a heart condition (dilated cardiomyopathy). No weights were ever obtained on the animal and no documentation for daily observation was made to note if her body condition was deteriorating prior to her death.

Documentation of veterinary conditions, prescribed treatments, and chronic problems that are being monitored is an important component of a functional program for adequate veterinary care as it provides a mechanism for communication between animal care staff and the veterinarians and to ensure that care is

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provided as directed and that the expected outcome is achieved.

\*\*A male llama, Bandit, was noted to have excessively overgrown hooves such that the toes, especially right front and left hind, were curving to the sides. The llama was under veterinary care for an eye problem but no one had noticed or addressed the overgrown hooves.

Excessive growth of hooves changes the angle of the toes, changes the gait, and can lead to chronic problems in the feet and legs such as arthritis.

Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian and that a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

The llama "Bandit" shall have his hooves trimmed by 1/10/2015.

A mechanism for communication of veterinary conditions, treatment, and daily observation shall be established and maintained by 1/17/2015.

Inspection conducted with facility representatives and APHIS AC VMO's on 1/5-6/2014. Exit briefing conducted with facility representatives on 1/6/2014.

Asian elephants inspected: Tommy, Oberto, Hugo, Rosie, Opal, Margaret, Nina, Viola, Kelly, Libby, Alta, Lisa, Beckie, Tracy, Bunny, Suzy, Isa, Lily, Val, Zola, Lulu, Chang, Whimpy, DelRita, Isla.

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