

March 25, 2015

Dan Forster, Director  
Wildlife Resources Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Via e-mail: [dan\\_forster@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:dan_forster@dnr.state.ga.us)

Re: Request for Investigation of Apparent Violations of State Law at  
Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo

Dear Director Forster:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) inspect the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo ("Chestatee"), located at 469 Old Dahlonega Hwy., Dahlonega, Georgia, for apparent violations of state law, which were observed by a person who volunteered there earlier this year. According to the volunteer, Chestatee confined an injured hawk, who had reportedly arrived at the facility in late December 2014. C.W. Wathen, who operates Chestatee, does not appear to hold a wildlife rehabilitation permit, as is required by Ga. Code Ann. § 27-2-22, or a permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, as is required by Ga. ADC § 391-4-9-.04(2)(d). Thus, the hawk's confinement apparently violates state law. **If Chestatee confined the hawk unlawfully, please suspend Wathen's wildlife exhibition permit for at least two years, as is required by Ga. ADC § 391-4-9-.04(7)(a).**

While Wathen is licensed to hold wild animals, including four lions and eight tigers, and to exhibit wildlife, including two black bears—both of whom were placed at Chestatee by the DNR—the volunteer saw only three lions and a single black bear. **Please investigate the disposition of the second black bear and the fourth lion, who appear to be missing.** If the lion was transferred or sold, please determine whether Wathen recorded the transfer or sale in a record book within 24 hours of the transaction, as is required by Ga. Code Ann. § 27-5-4(j), and that the lion went to another licensed entity, as is required by § 27-5-4(c).

The volunteer also saw a ninth tiger and a savannah cat who are not listed on Wathen's licenses. Please determine whether Wathen is lawfully holding these additional wild animals, as is required by Ga. Code Ann. § 27-5-4(a). **If your investigation reveals that these wild animals are held without a permit, please seize them, as is authorized by Ga. Code Ann. § 27-5-8(a).**

Please immediately inspect this facility, and if your investigation finds any violations of state law, please do not renew Chestatee's wild-animal license or wildlife exhibition license, pursuant to Ga. Code Ann. § 27-5-4(a) and Ga. ADC § 391-4-0-.04(2)(b). **Please do not place any wildlife at this facility in the future.** Thank you for your attention to this important matter. PETA stands ready to assist in any other way that it is able, including by helping to place any unlawfully held animals in reputable sanctuaries.

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS  
FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C.  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

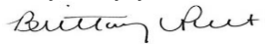
Oakland  
554 Grand Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94610  
510-763-PETA

PETA FOUNDATION IS AN  
OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION  
TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

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

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Esq.

Deputy Director, Captive Animal Law Enforcement

202-540-2191 | [BrittanyP@petaf.org](mailto:BrittanyP@petaf.org)

cc: Capt. Thomas Barnard, Law Enforcement Division, Region 2 ([thomas\\_barnard@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:thomas_barnard@dnr.state.ga.us))  
Lt. Sam O'Neal, DNR Investigations ([sam\\_oneal@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:sam_oneal@dnr.state.ga.us))  
Sgt. Chad Welch, DNR Investigations ([chad\\_welch@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:chad_welch@dnr.state.ga.us))

Wildlife Rehabilitation List

\*If migratory birds are to be rehabilitated, a USFWS permit is required. \*

10/8/2014

USFWS License- Federal Protected birds: migratory birds; song birds as marked

Next Update December 2014

Non Protected Birds - House sparrows; Starlings & Pigeons as Marked

**BIRDS**

<u>County</u>	<u>L Name</u>	<u>F Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day #</u>	<u>Evening #</u>	<u>* USFWS Licensed</u>	<u>Non Protected Birds</u>
<b>Bibb</b>	Wansley	Kaye		478-477-8073	478-477-3915		✓
<b>Burke</b>							
<b>Chatham</b>	Smith	Kami		904-613-1499	Same		✓
<b>Cherokee</b>	Temple, DVM	Robbin	Bells Ferry Vet. Hospital	770-926-5311	Same		✓
<b>Clarke</b>	Smith, DVM	Vincent	Athens Regional Veterinary Services	706-546-8282			✓
<b>Cobb</b>	Ganues	Cindy	Cobb Co. Animal Control	770-590-5621	404-660-7989	✓	
<b>Coffee</b>	Boggus Davis	Juliana Roxanne	Coffee Wildlife Rescue	912-389-2396 229-425-8304	Same 229-425-8304	✓	
<b>Columbia</b>	Roland	Barbara		706-883-2191	706-883-2191		✓
<b>Coweta</b>	Lewis	Norma	Cochran Mill Nature Center	770-306-0914		✓	
<b>Crawford</b>	Hilburn	Anette		478-538-0728	478-538-0728		✓

<u>County</u>	<u>L Name</u>	<u>F Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day #</u>	<u>Evening #</u>	<u>* USFWS Licensed</u>	<u>Non Protected Birds</u>
<b>Dekalb</b>	Akins, DVM	Michael	All Creatures Animal Hospital	770-393-3400	Same		✓
	Ghadrdan	Marjan	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same	✓	
	Hadley DVM	Tarah	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same	✓	
	Shumate	Sandra		404-488-7037	Same		✓
	Wright DVM	Edward Ray	Lithonia Animal Hospital	770-482-2966	Same		✓
<b>Dougherty</b>							
	Freeland, DVM	Fred	Albany Pet Partners	229-432-0717			✓
<b>Fannin</b>							
	Oertley- Pihera, DVM	Karen	Cohutta Animal Clinic	706-946-7387			✓
<b>Fayette</b>							
	Haynes	Constance	Nature Corners with Connie Haynes	770-833-4015	Same	✓	
<b>Franklin</b>							
	Steele, DVM	April	Tugaloo Animal Hospital	706-356-1467	706-988-3098		✓
<b>Fulton</b>							
	Colby, DVM	Stewart	Windward Animal Hospital	770-569-7298	770-569-7298		✓
<b>Gilmer</b>							
	Tomlinson, DVM	Dr. Avery	VCA Appalachian Animal Hospital	706-635-7357			✓
<b>Henry</b>							
	Hedgecoth	Jama	Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center	770-957-0888	770-480-0130	✓	
<b>Laurens</b>							
	Morton	Vonda	Laurens Wildlife Rescue, Inc.	478-697-5319	Same	✓	
<b>Muscogee</b>							
	Seward, DVM	Susanne	Affordable Vet. Services	706-221-7600	706-221-7600		✓

<u>County</u>	<u>L Name</u>	<u>F Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day #</u>	<u>Evening #</u>	<u>* USFWS Licensed</u>	<u>Non Protected Birds</u>
Peach	Wright	Kim		808-253-1646			√
Putnam	Braswell	Rhonda		706-473-7176	706-473-7176		√
Richmond	Walker, DVM	Dr. T.L.	Highland Animal Hospital	706-736-1443	Same		√
Rockdale	Haire	Melanie		770-403-3604	770-403-3604	√	
Thomas	Conklin	Lorraine	Androcles Society	229-228-9298	229-228-9298		√
Washington	Schlup	Lynn	Mockingbird Hill Wildlife Rehab.	478-552-1119	478-552-1119	√	
White	Bennett	Hope	Wildlife Wonders - Zoo to You	706-348-7279	706-348-7279		√

**RAPTORS**

(Hawks, Owls, Eagles, etc)

\* If migratory birds are to be rehabilitated, a USFWS permit is required. \*

\*

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	✓ USFWS License
<b>Brooks</b>	Whitesell, DVM	Dr. James		229-263-5416	Same	✓
<b>Burke</b>						
<b>Cherokee</b>	McCord	Monteen	Hawk Talk	770-720-1847	Same	✓
	Temple, DVM	Robbin	Bells Ferry Veterinary Hospital	770-926-5311	Same	Triage Only
<b>Clarke</b>	Smith, DVM	Vincent	Athens Regional Veterinary Services	706-546-8282		Triage Only
<b>Coffee</b>	Davis	Roxanne	Coffee Wildlife Rescue	229-425-8304	229-425-8304	✓
<b>Coweta</b>	Lewis	Norma	Cochran Mill Nature Center	770-306-0914		✓
<b>Dekalb</b>	Akins, DVM	Michael	All Creatures Animal Hospital	770-393-3400	Same	Triage Only
	Ghadrdan	Marjan	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same	✓
	Hadley DVM	Tarah	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same	✓
	Wright DVM	Edward Ray	Lithonia Animal Hospital	770-482-2966	Same	Triage Only

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	√ USFWS License
<b>Doughtery</b>	Freeland, DVM	Fred	Albany Pet Partners	229-432-0717		Triage Only
<b>Fannin</b>	Oertley-Pihera,DVM	Karen	Cohutta Animal Clinic	706-946-7387		Triage Only
<b>Floyd</b>	Kilgore	Kim		770-547-1765	770-547-1765	√
<b>Franklin</b>	Steele, DVM	April	Tugaloo Animal Hospital	706-356-1467	706-988-3098	Triage Only
<b>Fulton</b>	Colby, DVM	Stewart	Windward Animal Hospital	770-569-7298	770-569-7298	
	Dudeck	Kathryn	Chatahoochee Nature Center	770-992-2055 x 4		√
	Ellerman	Dawn	Chatahoochee Nature Center	770-992-2055 x 4		√
	White	Kaitalin	Chatahoochee Nature Center	770-992-2055 x 239		√
<b>Gilmer</b>	Tomlinson, Dr	Avery	VCA Appalachian Animal Hospital	706-635-7357		Triage Only
<b>Henry</b>	Hedgecoth	Jama	Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center	770-957-0888	770-480-0130	√
<b>Laurens</b>	Morton	Vonda	Laurens Wildlife Rescue, Inc.	478-697-5319	Same	√
<b>Muscogee</b>	Seward, DVM	Susanne	Affordable Vet. Services	706-221-7600	706-221-7600	Triage Only

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	✓ USFWS License
Pike	Hicks	Michael Steve		678-588-1137		✓
Richmond	Walker, DVM	Dr. T.L.	Highland Animal Hospital	706-736-1443	Same	Triage Only
Rockdale	Haire	Melanie		770-403-3604	770-403-3604	✓
Washington	Schlup	Lynn	Mockingbird Hill Wildlife Rehab.	478-552-1119	Same	✓



**Wildlife Rehabilitation List****DEER**

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #
<b>Bibb</b>	Wansley	Kaye		478-477-8073	478-477-3915
<b>Burke</b>					
<b>Butts</b>	English	Ike	Dauset Trails Nature Center	770-775-6798	
	Kinard	Shirley		770-634-8665	770-775-7964
<b>Bryan</b>	Kanoy	Danielle		912-658-9226	912-658-9226
<b>Chattham</b>	Jones	Sue		912-598-1305	
<b>Cherokee</b>	Temple, DVM	Robbin	Bells Ferry Veterinary Hospital	770-926-5311	Same
<b>Clarke</b>	Smith, DVM	Vincent	Athens Regional Veterinary Services	706-546-8282	
<b>Cobb</b>	Ganues	Cindy	Cobb Co. Animal Control	770-590-5621	404-660-7989
<b>Coffee</b>	Boggus	Juliana		912-389-2396	Same
	Davis	Roxanne	Coffee Wildlife Rescue	229-425-8304	229-425-8304

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #
<b>Columbia</b>	Roland	Barbara		706-883-2191	706-883-2191
<b>Crawford</b>	Hilburn	Anette		478-538-0728	478-538-0728
<b>Dekalb</b>	Ghadrdan	Marjan	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same
	Hadley DVM	Tarah	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same
	Wright DVM	Edward Ray	Lithonia Animal Hospital	770-482-2966	Same
<b>Dawson</b>	Smith	Sean		706-265-3484	706-429-4747
<b>Echols</b>	Smith	James		912-288-4064	Same
<b>Doughtery</b>	Freeland, DVM	Fred	Albany Pet Partners	229-432-0717	
	Tomoser	Stephanie		229-439-7164	229-439-7164
<b>Fannin</b>	Oertley-Pihera, DVM	karen	Cohutta Aniaml Clinic	706-946-7387	
<b>Fayette</b>	Watts, DVM	William	Peachtree City Animal Clinic	678-467-2874	678-467-2874
<b>Franklin</b>	Steele, DVM	April	Tugaloo Animal Hospital	706-356-1467	706-988-3098

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #
<b>Fulton</b>	Colby, DVM	Stewart	Windward Animal Hospital	770-569-7298	770-569-7298
<b>Gilmer</b>	Cylkes	Ed	Ellijay Wildlife Rehab Sanctuary	706-276-2980	706-276-2980
	Tomlinson, Dr	Avery	VCA Appalachian Animal Hospital	706-635-7357	
	Watkins	Barbara		706-632-5803	706-889-0388
<b>Gwinnett</b>	Idler	Rosemarie		678-488-5455	Same
<b>Hall</b>	Wiley	Michelle		678-316-5790	678-3196-5790
<b>Henry</b>	Hedgecoth	Jama	Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center	770-957-0888	770-480-0130
	Waggoner, Dr	James	Stockbridge Veterinary Hospital	770-914-5343	770-914-5343
<b>Houston</b>	Walker	Bonnie		478-892-8072	
<b>Irwin</b>	Giddens	Stephanie		229-425-1654	229-425-1654
<b>Jackson</b>	Dzimianski, DVM	Debra	South Jackson Vet	706-546-8520	Same
<b>Jefferson</b>	Yonchak	Robert			478-625-3071
<b>Laurens</b>	Morton	Vonda	Laurens Wildlife Rescue, Inc.	478-697-5319	Same

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #
Muscogee	Seward, DVM	Susanne	Affordable Vet. Services	706-221-7600	706-221-7600
Peach	Giles, DVM	Lori		478-825-1233	478-825-1233
	Wright	Kim		808-253-1646	808-253-1646
Putnam	Braswell	Rhonda		706-473-7176	Same
Richmond	Walker	Dr. T.L.	Highland Animal Hospital	706-736-1443	Same
Rockdale	Haire	Melanie		770-403-3604	770-403-3604
Thomas	Conklin	Lorraine	Androcles Society	229-228-9298	229-228-9298
Twiggs	Stamps	Jennifer		478-945-6270	478-945-6270
Union	Bilbo	John		706-781-7127	Same
Walton					
Washington	Schlup	Lynn	Mockingbird Hill Wildlife Rehab.	478-552-1119	Same
	Brooker	John		478-232-2929	Same

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #
White	Bennett	Hope	Wildlife Wonders-Zoo to You	706-348-7229	Same
Worth	Bowen	Marilyn		229-425-3887	229-425-3887

**Wildlife Rehabilitation List****Small Mammals**

RVS Certified - Rabies Vector Species Certified : bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	RVS Certified
<b>Bibb</b>	Wansley	Kaye		478-477-8073	478-477-3915	✓
<b>Bryan</b>	Kanoy	Danielle		912-658-9226	912-658-9226	
<b>Burke</b>						
<b>Butts</b>	English Kinard	Ike Shirley	Dauset Trails Nature Center	770-775-6798 770-634-8665	770-775-7964	
<b>Cherokee</b>	Temple, DVM	Robbin	Bells Ferry Veterinary Hospital	770-926-5311	Same	✓
<b>Clarke</b>	Smith, DVM Snider, DVM	Vincent Max	Athens Regional Veterinary Services Animal Medical Clinic	706-546-8282 706-548-4486		✓
<b>Cobb</b>	Ganues	Cindy	Cobb Co. Animal Control	770-590-5621	404-660-7989	
<b>Coffee</b>	Boggus Davis	Juliana Roxanne	Coffee Wildlife Rescue	912-389-2396 229-425-8304	Same 229-425-8304	

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	RVS Certified
<b>Columbia</b>	Roland	Barbara		706-883-2191	706-883-2191	
<b>Coweta</b>	Lewis	Norma	Cochran Nature Center	770-306-0914		
<b>Crawford</b>	Hilburn	Anette		478-538-0728	478-538-0728	
<b>Dade</b>	Dyer	Carla		423-605-1035	423-605-1035	
<b>Dawson</b>	Smith	Sean		706-265-3484	706-429-4747	
<b>Dekalb</b>	Akins, DVM	Michael	All Creatures Animal Hospital	770-393-3400	Same	
	Ghadrdan	Marjan	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same	
	Hadley DVM	Tarah	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same	✓
	Wright DVM	Edward Ray	Lithonia Animal Hospital	770-482-2966	Same	✓
<b>Dougherty</b>	Freeland, DVM	Fred	Albany Pet Partners	229-432-0717		
	Tomoser	Stephanie		229-439-7164	229-439-7164	
<b>Douglas</b>	Scarbro	Tammi		7700-823-9429	770-823-9429	
<b>Fannin</b>	Oertley-Pihera, DVM	karen	Cohutta Aniaml Clinic	706-946-7387		

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	RVS Certified
<b>Fayette</b>	Haynes Watts, DVM	Constance William	Nature Corners with Connie Haynes Peachtree City Animal Clinic	770-833-4015 678-467-2874	Same 678-467-2874	
<b>Franklin</b>	Colby, DVM Steele, DVM	Stewart April	Windward Animal Hospital Tugaloo Animal Hospital	770-569-7298 706-356-1467	770-569-7298 706-988-3098	✓
<b>Fulton</b>	Phillippo	Stephanie		404-467-0143	404-467-0143	✓
<b>Gilmer</b>	Cylke Tomlinson, Dr	Ed Avery	Ellijay Wildlife Rehab Sanctuary VCA Appalachian Animal Hospital	706-276-2980 706-635-7357	706-276-2980	✓
<b>Gwinnett</b>	Henis Idler	Linda Rosemarie		770-337-0462 678-488-5455	770-337-0462 Same	
<b>Hall</b>	Wiley	Michelle		678-316-5790	678-316-5790	
<b>Henry</b>	Hedgecoth	Jama	Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center	770-957-0888	770-480-0130	
<b>Houston</b>	Walker	Bonnie		478-892-8072		✓
<b>Irwin</b>	Giddens	Stephanie		229-425-1654	229-425-1654	
<b>Jefferson</b>	Yonchak	Robert			478-625-3071	



County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	RVS Certified
Laurens	Morton	Vonda	Laurens Wildlife Rescue, Inc.	478-697-5319	Same	
Lowndes	Spiller	Janice		229-247-4081	229-247-4081	
Lumpkin	Thacker	William		706-974-5991		
Muscogee	Rowe Seward, DVM	Sarah Susanne	Affordable Vet. Services	706-322-5012 706-221-7600	Same 706-221-7600	
Newton	Jentzen	Mary		404-405-9592	404-405-9592	
Peach	Giles, DVM Wright	Lori Kim		478-825-1233 808-253-1646	478-825-1233 808-253-1646	
Putnum	Braswell	Rhonda		706-473-7176	Same	
Richmond	Walker	Dr. T.L.	Highland Animal Hospital	706-736-1443	Same	
Rockdale	Haire	Melanie		770-403-3604	770-403-3604	✓
Thomas	Conklin	Lorraine	Androcles Society	229-228-9298	229-228-9298	

County	L Name	F Name	Organization	Day #	Evening #	RVS Certified
Twiggs	Stamps	Jennifer		478-945-6270	478-945-6270	
Walton	Wall, DVM	Henry	Monroe Veterinarian Clinic	770-267-3690		
Washington	Schlup	Lynn	Mockingbird Hill Wildlife Rehab.	478-552-1119	Same	✓
	Brooker	John		478-232-2969	Same	
White	Bennett	Hope	Wildlife Wonders-Zoo to You	706-348-7279	706-348-7279	

## Wildlife Rehabilitation List

### Reptiles

County	Lname	Fname	Organization	Day #	Evening #
<b>Bibb</b>	Wansley	Kaye		478-477-8073	478-477-3915
<b>Bryan</b>	Kanoy	Danielle		912-658-9226	912-658-9226
<b>Butts</b>	English	Ike	Dauset Trails Nature Center	770-775-6798	
	Kinard	Shirley		770-634-8665	770-775-7964
<b>Cherokee</b>	Temple, DVM	Robbin	Bells Ferry Veterinary Hospital	770-926-5311	Same
<b>Clarke</b>	Smith, DVM	Vincent	Athens Regional Veterinary Services	706-546-8282	
<b>Coffee</b>	Davis	Roxanne	Coffee Wildlife Rescue	229-425-8304	229-425-8304
<b>Coweta</b>	Lewis	Norma	Cochran Nature Center	770-306-0914	
<b>Crawford</b>	Hilburn	Anette		478-538-0728	478-538-0728
<b>Dekalb</b>	Ghadrdan	Marjan	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same
	Hadley DVM	Tarah	Aware Wildlife Center	678-418-1111	Same
	Wright DVM	Edward Ray	Lithonia Animal Hospital	770-482-2966	Same

County	Lname	Fname	Organization	Day #	Evening #
<b>Doughtery</b>	Freeland, DVM	Fred	Albany Pet Partners	229-432-0717	
	Tomoser	Stephanie		229-439-7164	229-439-7164
<b>Fannin</b>	Oertley-Pihera, DVM	karen	Cohutta Aniaml Clinic	706-946-7387	
<b>Fayette</b>	Haynes	Constance	Nature Corners with Connie Haynes	770-833-4015	Same
<b>Floyd</b>	Kilgore	Kim		770-547-1765	770-547-1765
<b>Fulton</b>	Colby, DVM	Stewart	Windward Animal Hospital	770-569-7298	770-569-7298
	Dudeck	Kathryn	Chattahoochie Nature Center	770-992-2055 x 4	
	Ellerman	Dawn	Chattahoochie Nature Center	770-992-2055 x 4	
	Phillippo	Stephanie		404-467-0143	404-467-0143
	White	Kaitalin	Chattahoochie Nature Center	770-992-2055 x 239	
<b>Gilmer</b>	Cylke	Ed	Ellijay Wlfe Rehab Sanctuary	706-276-2980	706-276-2980
	Tomlinson, Dr	Avery	VCA Appalachian Animal Hospital	706-635-7357	
<b>Gwinnett</b>	Henis	Linda		770-337-0462	770-337-0462
	Wahlquist	Harold		770-921-5686	770-921-5686
					* Reptiles & Turtles Only
<b>Henry</b>	Hedgecoth	Jama	Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center	770-957-0888	770-480-0130

County	Lname	Fname	Organization	Day #	Evening #
Houston	Walker	Bonnie		478-892-8072	
Laurens	Morton	Vonda	Laurens Wildlife Rescue, Inc.	478-697-5319	Same
Lumpkin	Thacker	William		706-974-5991	
Muscogee	Seward, DVM	Susanne	Affordable Vet. Services	706-221-7600	706-221-7600
Newton	Jentzen	Mary		404-405-9592	404-405-9592
Peach	Wright	Kim		808-253-1646	808-253-1646
Pike	Hicks	Michael Steve		678-588-1137	
Putnum	Braswell	Rhonda		706-473-7176	Same
Richmond	Walker	Dr. T.L.	Highland Animal Hospital	706-736-1443	Same
Rockdale	Haire	Melanie		770-403-3604	770-403-3604
Thomas	Conklin	Lorraine	Androcles Society	229-228-9298	229-228-9298

County	Lname	Fname	Organization	Day #	Evening #
Washington	Schlup	Lynn	Mockingbird Hill Wildlife Rehab.	478-552-1119	Same
White	Bennett	Hope	Wildlife Wonders-Zoo to You	706-348-7279	706-348-7279

## List of Accredited Zoos and Aquariums

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The total number of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums is 228. This information was updated in September 2014.

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You can also search for AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums by location. [Find a zoo or aquarium near you.](#)

**Abilene Zoological Gardens, Texas**

Accredited through March 2019

**Acuario de Veracruz, Mexico**

Accredited through March 2019

**Adventure Aquarium, N.J.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Africam Safari Park, Mexico**

Accredited through March 2016

**African Safari Wildlife Park, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2016

**Akron Zoological Park, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2015

**Alameda Park Zoo, N.M.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Alaska SeaLife Center, Alaska**

Accredited through September 2016

**Albuquerque Biological Park, N.M.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Alexandria Zoological Park, La.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Aquarium of the Bay, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Aquarium of the Pacific, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Ariz.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Assiniboine Park Zoo, Manitoba**

Accredited through September 2019

**Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas**

Accredited through March 2017

**Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, La.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Audubon Zoo, La.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Bergen County Zoological Park, N.J.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo, Bermuda**

Accredited through March 2019

ACCREDITED BY THE  
**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**

**Binder Park Zoo, Mich.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Biodôme de Montreal, Canada**

Accredited through March 2017

**Birch Aquarium at Scripps, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Birmingham Zoo, Ala.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Blank Park Zoo, Iowa**

Accredited through September 2018

**Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Ohio**

Accredited through March 2016

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***Bramble Park Zoo, S.D.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Brandywine Zoo, Del.**

Accredited through September 2016

**BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, La.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Brevard Zoo, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Bronx Zoo/WCS, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Brookgreen Gardens, S.C.**

Accredited through September 2018

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***Buffalo Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Busch Gardens (Tampa), Fla.**

Accredited through March 2016

**The Butterfly House, Mo.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Butterfly Pavilion, Colo.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Buttonwood Park Zoo, Mass.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Caldwell Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2015

**Calgary Zoo, Alberta**

Accredited through September 2018

**California Science Center, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2016

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***Cameron Park Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2016

**Cape May County Park Zoo, N.J.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Capron Park Zoo, Mass.**

Accredited through September 2016



**Central Florida Zoological Park, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Central Park Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Chahinkapa Zoo, N.D.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Charles Paddock Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Chattanooga Zoo at Warner Park, Tenn.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Chehaw Wild Animal Park, Ga.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Park, Colo.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield Zoo, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Children's Zoo at Celebration Square, Mich.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2019

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2019

**Clyde Peeling's Reptiland, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2015

**Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, Minn.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, Conn.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Cosley Zoo, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2015

**CuriOdyssey, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Dakota Zoo, N.D.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Dallas World Aquarium, Texas**

Accredited through March 2017

**Dallas Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2017

**David Traylor Zoo of Emporia, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Denver Zoological Gardens, Colo.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Detroit Zoological Park, Mich.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Dickerson Park Zoo, Mo.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Disney's Animal Kingdom, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Dolphin Island, Sentosa Island**

Accredited through September 2019

**El Paso Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2018

**Ellen Trout Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2016

**Elmwood Park Zoo, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Erie Zoo, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Florida Aquarium, The, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Ind.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Fort Worth Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2018

**Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Texas**

Accredited through March 2019

**Franklin Park Zoo, Mass.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Fresno Chaffee Zoo Calif.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Georgia Aquarium, Ga.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas**

Accredited through March 2018

**Granby Zoo, Quebec**

Accredited through September 2019

**Great Plains Zoo and Museum, S.D.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Greensboro Science Center, N.C.**

Accredited through March 2018

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***Greenville Zoo, S.C.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, Mont.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Happy Hollow Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Henry Vilas Zoo, Wis.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Henson Robinson Zoo, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Honolulu Zoo, Hawaii**

Accredited through March 2016

**Houston Zoo, Inc. Texas**

Accredited through March 2018

**Hutchinson Zoo, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., Ind.**

Accredited through September 2015

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]*

**International Crane Foundation, Wis.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Jackson Zoological Park, Miss.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Jenkinson's Aquarium, N.J.**

Accredited through March 2018

**John Ball Zoological Gardens, Mich.**

Accredited through September 2015

**John G. Shedd Aquarium, Ill.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Kansas City Zoo, Mo.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Knoxville Zoological Gardens, Tenn.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Lake Superior Zoo, Minn.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Landry's Downtown Aquarium - Denver, Colo.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Landry's Houston Aquarium, Inc., Texas**

Accredited through March 2015

**Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari, Neb.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Lee Richardson Zoo, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Lehigh Valley Zoo, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Lincoln Children's Zoo, Neb.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Lion Country Safari, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Little Rock Zoological Gardens, Ark.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Living Desert, The, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Living Desert Zoo & Gardens, N.M.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2017

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]*

**Louisville Zoological Garden, Ky.**

Accredited through March 2018

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]*

**Lowry Park Zoo, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Inc., Conn.**

Accredited through March, 2018

**Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Md.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Memphis Zoological Garden and Aquarium, Tenn.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden, Inc.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Mill Mountain Zoo, Va.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Miller Park Zoo, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens, Wis.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Minnesota Zoological Garden, Minn.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Monterey Bay Aquarium, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Moody Gardens Rainforest and Aquarium, Texas**

Accredited through March 2018

**Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Museum of Science, Mass.**

Accredited through March 2019

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, Conn.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Naples Zoo, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Nashville Zoo, Tenn.**

Accredited through March 2019

**National Aquarium, Md.**

Accredited through March 2017

**National Aviary, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2015

**National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Iowa**

Accredited Through March, 2019

**New England Aquarium, Mass.**

Accredited through March 2016

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***New York Aquarium, N.Y.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Newport Aquarium, Ky.**

Accredited through March 2015

**North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, N.C.**

Accredited through March 2017

**North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.**

Accredited through March 2017

**North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, N.C.**

Accredited through March 2017

**North Carolina Zoological Park, N.C.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Northeastern Wisconsin (NEW) Zoo, Wis.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Wash.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Oakland Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Ocean Park Corporation, Hong Kong**

Accredited through March 2018

**Oglebay's Good Zoo, W.Va.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Oklahoma City Zoological Park, Okla.**

Accredited through September 2018

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]*

**Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Neb.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Oregon Coast Aquarium, Ore.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Oregon Zoo, Ore.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Parque Zoologico de Leon, Mexico**

Accredited through March 2016

**Peoria Zoo, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Philadelphia Zoo, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Phoenix Zoo, The, Ariz.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Wash.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Potawatomi Zoo, Ind.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Potter Park Zoological Gardens, Mich.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Prospect Park Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Pueblo Zoo, Colo.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Queens Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Racine Zoological Gardens, Wis.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Red River Zoo, N.D.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Reid Park Zoo, Ariz.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Ripley's Aquarium at Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, Tenn.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Riverbanks Zoological Park, S.C.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Riverside Discovery Center, Neb.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Roger Williams Park Zoo, R.I.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Rolling Hills Zoo, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Roosevelt Park Zoo, N.D.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Sacramento Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2018

**Safari West, Calif.**

Accredited through September 2015

**St. Augustine Alligator Farm, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Saint Louis Zoo, Mo.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Salisbury Zoological Park, Md.**

Accredited through September 2019

**San Antonio Zoological Society, Texas**

Accredited through March 2018

**San Diego Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2015

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2015

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]***San Francisco Zoological Gardens, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2016

**Santa Ana Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Santa Fe Community College Teaching Zoo, Fla.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Scovill Zoo, Ill.**

Accredited through September 2016

**S.E.A. Aquarium, Sentosa Island**

Accredited through September 2019

**SEA LIFE Aquarium Kansas City, Mo.**

Accredited through September 2018

**SEA LIFE Grapevine, Texas**

Accredited through September 2019

**Seas, The, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Seattle Aquarium, Wash.**

Accredited through March 2018

**SeaWorld Orlando, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2015

**SeaWorld San Antonio, Texas**

Accredited through September 2016

**SeaWorld San Diego, Calif.**

Accredited through March 2015

**Sedgwick County Zoo, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Seneca Park Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Sequoia Park Zoo, Calif.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay, Nev.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Smithsonian National Zoological Park, DC**

Accredited through September 2018

**South Carolina Aquarium, S.C.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, N.H.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Staten Island Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Steinhart Aquarium, Calif.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Stone Zoo, Mass.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Sunset Zoological Park, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Tautphaus Park Zoo, Idaho**

Accredited through September 2019

**Temaiken Foundation, Buenos Aires**

Accredited through March 2017

**Tennessee Aquarium, Tenn.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Texas State Aquarium, Texas**

Accredited through March 2016

**Toledo Zoological Gardens, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2017

**Topeka Zoo, Kan.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Tracy Aviary, Utah**

Accredited through September 2019

**Trevor Zoo, N.Y.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Tulsa Zoo, Okla.**

Accredited through September 2017

**Turtle Back Zoo, N.J.**

Accredited through September 2016

**Utah's Hogle Zoo, Utah**

Accredited through September 2019

**Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, British Columbia**

Accredited through September 2018

**Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, Va.**

Accredited through March 2017

**Virginia Living Museum, Va.**

Accredited Through March, 2019

*[also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums]*

**Virginia Zoological Park, Va.**

Accredited through September 2018

**Western North Carolina Nature Center, N.C.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Wildlife Safari, Ore.**

Accredited through September 2015

**Wilds, The, Ohio**

Accredited through September 2016

**Woodland Park Zoo, Wash.**

Accredited through September 2019

**Zoo Atlanta, Ga.**

Accredited through March 2019

**Zoo Boise, Idaho**

Accredited through September 2017

**Zoo Miami, Fla.**

Accredited through March 2015

**ZOOAMERICA NA Wildlife Park, Pa.**

Accredited through September 2015

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# PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

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### Results

Name	License #	Profession	License Type	Status	Address
1					



## PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

### Search Results

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#### Results

Name	License #	Profession	License Type	Status	Address
1					

March 25, 2015

William Fulcher  
Director, Atlanta-East Area Office  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Via e-mail: [fulcher.william@dol.gov](mailto:fulcher.william@dol.gov)

Dear Mr. Fulcher:


I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to request an investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) into working conditions at Chestatee Wildlife Preserve, located in Dahlonega, Georgia. Chestatee has exposed animal caretakers and staff members to the recognized life-threatening hazards associated with unprotected management of dangerous wild animals as well as other apparent violations of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act's general-duty clause, 29 U.S.C. § 654(a)(1).

As detailed in the attached appendix, an individual who volunteered at Chestatee in January and February found that employees were routinely exposed to conditions that were likely to cause death, injury, or disease. Workers were instructed to enter enclosures confining a bear, a bobcat, tigers, alligators, pythons, and other dangerous wild animals while the animals were still in the enclosures. Workers were not protected by a physical barrier from these animals, and some reported that animals lashed out while the workers were in the cages with them. Likewise, workers were directed to feed tigers and lions through gaps in the fencing of the enclosures confining the animals that were large enough for the workers and the animals to reach their limbs through.

Chestatee has failed to protect employees adequately from the hazard of being struck, mauled, or bitten by these animals, in apparent violation of the OSH Act's mandate that employers furnish employees with a workplace that is free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. OSHA has acknowledged that direct or free contact with dangerous animals is a recognized hazard that is likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees within the meaning of the general-duty clause. It is entirely feasible to eliminate or materially reduce the hazard of animal attacks by implementing the widely accepted "protected-contact" animal husbandry system, in which humans are always separated from dangerous animals by a barrier.

Please investigate the serious and willful apparent violations of federal law that are likely ongoing at Chestatee and hold the facility accountable for endangering the lives of its workers. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Esq.

Deputy Director, Captive Animal Law Enforcement  
202-540-2191 | [BrittanyP@petaf.org](mailto:BrittanyP@petaf.org)

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS  
FOUNDATION

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Oakland, CA 94610  
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- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

## Appendix

### **Chestatee is an employer bound by the OSH Act and must furnish a workplace free of hazards.**

Chestatee Wildlife Preserve, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, located at 469 Old Dahlonega Hwy., Dahlonega, GA 30533. C.W. Wathen is the founder and president of the corporation and manages the daily functions of the facility, including staffing, assigning tasks to staff and volunteers, feeding animals, cleaning animal enclosures, and general maintenance. On the facility's website, Wathen is listed as its general manager. Chestatee is an employer that is bound by the OSH Act's general-duty clause, which requires employers to furnish employees with an environment and workplace that are free from recognized hazards "likely to cause death or serious physical harm" to employees. 29 U.S.C. § 654(a)(1).

OSHA has long recognized the inherent danger to employee safety of working around wild animals and has repeatedly found that direct contact with them is a "recognized hazard" within the meaning of the general-duty clause.<sup>1</sup> Employers can easily eliminate or significantly reduce the risk of injury or death by ensuring that workers are always protected from having direct contact with dangerous wild animals. This includes using lock-out or shift cages to ensure that employees can safely enter an enclosure while the animal is secured in a separate space as well as providing employees with personal protective equipment (PPE) to guard against bites, scratches, and disease.

**Chesatatee has exposed employees to the recognized hazard of free contact with wild animals.** The individual who shared the following information worked as a volunteer at Chestatee from January 13 to February 17, 2015. According to the worker, employees and volunteers entered cages confining numerous dangerous wild animals, including the following species, to feed and clean while the animals were in the enclosures and employees were not protected from them by a physical barrier:

- **Tigers.** On January 22, the worker entered a tiger enclosure as the tigers were eating only 12 feet away. Wathen had invited the worker to do so, so that the worker could have the experience of being in an unrestricted space with the tigers while they were feeding. Wathen entered the enclosures that confined tigers routinely, and on January 27, he put workers at risk by shifting tigers into an enclosure while workers were standing in an adjacent room that the tigers could have accessed through an open door. On that same date, the worker was also allowed to reach through the fencing of the tiger enclosure and pet one of the animals. The volunteer was instructed to feed tigers by throwing whole chickens through a hole in the fence of the enclosure confining them. The hole was approximately 1.5 feet by 1.5 feet, and there was nothing to prevent the employees or the tigers from reaching a limb through the hole.

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<sup>1</sup>See, e.g., OSHA Citation of Big R Ranch Safari (Dec. 11, 1992) (citing a roadside zoo after a handler was killed by a liger); OSHA Worksheet, Serenity Springs Wildlife Center, at 2 (July 14, 2009) (citing a roadside zoo for failing to "protect[] employees from animal attacks" by requiring that employees be physically separated from "non-domestic felines" while cleaning cages); Citation and Notification of Penalty, The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Foundation (Mar. 31, 2014) (citing a roadside zoo after an employee was seriously mauled by a tiger when she reached her hand into a cage confining the animal during a routine feeding); OSHA Regional News Release, *Montana wildlife casting agency cited in employee's mauling death* (Apr. 30, 2013) (discussing the citation of a roadside zoo after a young employee was mauled to death while cleaning an enclosure confining grizzly bears) Letter from Jule A. Hovi, OSHA Area Director, to Sam Mazzola (Dec. 17, 2010) (finding that "[d]irect or free contact with dangerous animals, such as bears, is a recognized hazard that is likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees and others"); NV OSHA, Citation and Notification of Penalty, Southern Nevada Zoological and Botanical Park (Feb. 6, 2012) (citing a roadside zoo after it allowed employees to "come into close contact with animals, specifically non-human primates," without wearing PPE such as "leather, elbow length gloves, face shields, and proper transport cages to protect against scratches, cuts, and disease transmission from animals").

- **Lions:** Chestatee confined lions in an enclosure that consisted of vertical metal bars set several inches apart, wide enough so that a person or tiger could reach a limb through the bars. Employees and volunteers were instructed to feed the lions by throwing chickens through the bars.
- **Bobcat:** Chestatee confined a bobcat inside of a small room that employees and volunteers were required to enter to feed and clean while the animal was inside. A zookeeper named Bryana told the volunteer to watch the bobcat while feeding and cleaning because the animal was not friendly. The worker was also warned that the cat will sometimes run down a log toward a worker but that the cat has never attacked anyone. When the volunteer and Bryana entered the bobcat enclosure on January 13, the animal hissed at the workers the entire time that they were there.
- **Black bear:** Chestatee confined a black bear to a small, round, corn-crib style cage. Its employees and volunteers fed the bear inside this enclosure and entered the cage to clean it while the bear was still inside, only feet away. On January 20, a volunteer named Sherry told the worker that the black bear tried to grab her arm with his or her paw while Shelly was alone in the enclosure scooping feces that were next to the bear. Sherry told the worker that she was uneasy about being confined inside such a small area with the animal or working around the bear.
- **Pythons:** Chestatee held two large unconfined pythons inside a room that employees and volunteers had to enter in order to clean and feed these animals. On January 27, Wathen put live rabbits in the room for the pythons to eat. When one snake did not eat a rabbit, the volunteer asked to enter the room to retrieve the rabbit. Wathen responded that "[i]t's too dangerous ... it could strike you," before leaning into the room from the doorway to retrieve the rabbit himself. On another occasion, the worker and Bryana were assigned to clean out the room that housed the two pythons. Bryana told the worker never to go into the room alone.
- **Venomous snakes:** The worker also helped feed and water numerous other snakes at the facility, some of whom may have been venomous. Many snakes were held in cages that were accessible by opening a door at the back of the cage. Employees' hands and arms were not protected from the animals when they needed to access the cage. The worker was not instructed as to which snakes were venomous.
- **Alligators:** Two alligators were held unconfined inside a room that employees and volunteers had to enter in order to feed these animals and clean the area. The workers were not protected from the alligators by a barrier and were not able to monitor the alligators at all times while in the room because they were responsible for feeding a spider monkey and kinkajou who were confined to cages in the room.
- **Pheasants:** Chestatee required employees and volunteers to enter an enclosure containing pheasants to feed these animals and clean the area. Bryana told the worker that the white pheasant didn't always "like" workers and to bring a short rake into the enclosure while changing out feed and water there, in order to keep a distance from the white pheasant, in particular. Bryana told the worker to use the rake as a barrier because there was no shifting cage in the pheasant enclosure or any other way to separate the pheasant physically from the caretakers during cleaning. On January 26, the worker heard Sherry yell in a high-pitched voice. Sherry had been in the pheasant cage and told the worker that the white pheasant had jumped at her and pecked and clawed her face. Sherry said that the incident frightened her and that the bird hurt her. She also said that the pheasant was on the other side of the enclosure from her, so she didn't bring the rake in with her to change the water. Later that day, the worker heard Sherry tell Wathen about the pheasant attacking her face. Wathen instructed Sherry to bring a black net into the enclosure while feeding the pheasants from then on, because they are scared of the white pheasant.
- **Kinkajou:** Chestatee confined a kinkajou to a cage inside the room containing alligators. Bryana told the worker to be very quick about putting food in the cage, because the animal is not friendly and will try to grab workers.
- **Primates:** Chestatee confined a spider monkey named Bubby to a cage inside the room containing alligators. While the workers were working in this room, Bubby often got out of the cage and walked around the room. Chestatee also possessed an adult chimpanzee named Iris, but workers were not

allowed to enter the enclosure confining her unless she had been shifted to another enclosure. When the worker asked Wathen what would happen if someone entered the enclosure with Iris, Wathen stated that she would kill them and that she has a history of violent behavior.

- **Savannah cat:** Chestatee confined a Savannah cat inside a small chain-link enclosure. Employees and volunteers were required to enter this enclosure with the animal and without the protection of a barrier in order to feed this animal and clean the area.

There is no question that the cats, bears, primates, and other wild animals at Chestatee are capable of or likely to cause physical harm or even death when employees are exposed to them. Since 1990, [captive big cats](#) have caused 23 human deaths and 255 human injuries; [captive bears](#) have caused six human deaths and 55 human injuries; and [captive primates](#) have caused one human death and 220 human injuries. [Large constrictors](#) have caused at least 17 human deaths in the United States, and in a single year, snakes are estimated to have caused at least five human deaths and inflicted more than 2,600 venomous bites.<sup>2</sup> Alligators are apex predators, "capable of knocking a person down by merely flipping the head or tail from side to side,"<sup>3</sup> and have a bite force of 2,980 pounds per inch, almost three times that of a tiger.<sup>4</sup> Even on land, alligators are agile and quick, capable of moving at 30 miles per hour over a short distance.<sup>5</sup> Critically, "[a]lligators do not become tame in captivity and handling even small ones may result in bites."<sup>6</sup> Directing employees to work around these animals and inside their cages is a "recognized hazard," as understood by the exotic-animal industry and any reasonable person.

Chestatee acknowledges the extreme danger that wild animals pose to employees, yet it places workers at risk of injury or death every day by directing them to enter enclosures containing such animals. For example, the six-page pamphlet that serves as an employee "manual" (enclosed) states that wild cats "can be extremely dangerous when they are hungry, in heat or mating," "may become extremely aggressive and exhibit wild behavior," "have the ability to seriously hurt you," and "can charge you in only a second." Yet the facility utterly fails to protect workers from attacks by using lock-out or shift cages of any kind. Nor does the employee "manual" contain useful safety instructions. Workers are only given vague directions that would do virtually nothing to prevent an animal attack, such as "Never assume you are safe. Always be on the alert," "Always use complete concentration to avoid accidents," and "If you are not comfortable with the poisonous snakes, see the G.M." Furthermore, the document contains no specific safety instructions to employees about working around animals such as bears, pythons, primates, birds, kinkajous, and others.

Chestatee provided virtually no employee-safety training to the worker, despite the recognized hazards that it acknowledges are caused by working around wild animals. When the worker started volunteering at Chestatee, the facility did not provide formal training. Instead, the worker followed Bryana—who had only been employed at the facility for three weeks—on her rounds to feed and clean animal enclosures. The worker shadowed Bryana on January 13, 14, and 15. On January 16, Wathen asked the worker to complete the routine alone, which the worker did on several occasions. The worker was given no formal training on

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<sup>2</sup>Anuradhani Kasturiratne, et al., The global burden of snakebite: a literature analysis and modelling based on regional estimates of envenoming and deaths. *PLoS Med.* 5:e218 (2008).

<sup>3</sup>Murray E. Fowler, *Restraint and Handling of Wild and Domestic Animals* 413 (3d ed., 2008).

<sup>4</sup>Greg Erickson, et al., *Insights Into the Ecology and Evolutionary Success of Crocodilians Revealed Through Bite-Force and Tooth-Pressure Experimentation*, *PLoS ONE* 7(3) (2012).

<sup>5</sup>*Common Myths and the Truth About Alligators*, South Carolina State Parks (undated), [http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/Wildlife%20Page/WW\\_alligators.pdf](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/Wildlife%20Page/WW_alligators.pdf).

<sup>6</sup>*If You See An Alligator*, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/alligator/safety/index.phtml>.

the care, handling, needs, and dangers of individual species, and the facility did not assess whether the worker was skilled or comfortable in working with each species.

"Feasible and acceptable" means to "eliminate or significantly reduce" the risk that employees will be mauled or killed by an animal are readily available, and such measures are *required* by the leading professional captive-animal care organizations such as the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Such means of abatement include using secure lock-out or shift cages to ensure that humans and dangerous animals never share the same space; providing staff with thorough training, supervision, and assessment; and requiring employees to use protective gear when necessary. Plainly, Chestatee is putting lives at risk by requiring keepers to enter or reach into enclosures containing dangerous wild animals, in clear violation of the general-duty clause.

**Chestatee has exposed employees to the recognized hazard of zoonotic disease.** On January 27, the worker went with Bryana and Wathen to an area of Chestatee where young tigers are confined and faced an overwhelmingly strong odor of urine and feces. The worker had trouble breathing throughout the 10 minutes spent removing tiger excreta from the area. Nobody was given a mask to wear, and the worker had to zip a jacket up over her nose in order to breathe. In response, Wathen joked that the worker should take some waste home to get used to the smell. Wathen never offered the worker protective goggles when working around *any* of the animals. For example, on multiple occasions, the worker fed the spider monkey, Bubby, and cleaned his cage but was not given any goggles or special instructions on the zoonotic disease hazards of handling primates or primate waste. And on February 11, while feeding the alligators, one of the animals splashed water from a tub—where there were feces—into the worker's eye and on the worker's face.

Zoonotic disease transmission caused by contact with animal waste is an occupational hazard likely to cause death or serious physical harm that is recognized by the exotic-animal industry—including the AZA and GFAS—and any reasonable person.<sup>7</sup> Primates carry many dangerous diseases that may be transmissible to humans through contact with feces, including herpes viruses, hepatitis, and tuberculosis. The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) warns that there is a "high likelihood of aerosolization of bodily fluids and/or urine/feces" while cleaning a primate enclosure and recommends that people working around primates be provided with PPE, including rubber boots, sanitary gloves, full or elbow-length restraint gloves, face masks and plastic face shields, long-sleeved clothing, disposable head covers, broad-spectrum disinfectant effective against mycobacteria and viruses, a bite kit with instructions, and eyewash.<sup>8</sup>

Similarly, alligators carry bacterial diseases such as salmonella, mycobacteria (tuberculosis), *Aeromonas hydrophila* (a "flesh-eating" bacterium), and other diseases potentially transmissible to humans through feces. The AZA notes that "all reptiles should be treated as *salmonella* carriers" and recommends that facilities either "avoid all direct contact with reptiles or surfaces with which they have come in contact" or "allow only supervised contact followed by handwashing."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>See, e.g., AZA, The Accreditation Standards and Related Policies 1.1.2 (2015) (acknowledging that "diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans (Zoonotic disease, zoonoses) present a potential risk for both zoo staff and the visiting public"); GFAS, Standards for New World Primates 18 (2013) (requiring that "primate waste [be] handled with precautions appropriate to bio-hazardous waste"); *accord* GFAS, Standards for Old World Primates 16 (2013); GFAS, Standards for Great Ape Sanctuaries 14 (2013).

<sup>8</sup>AAZV, Occupational Primate Disease Safety Guidelines for Zoological Institutions 4–6 (2004); *see also* GFAS, Standards for New World Primates, *supra* at 49 (requiring that "[a]ppropriate protective equipment [be] used by all personnel working with primates, including but not limited to, exam gloves, heavy-duty gloves, goggles, etc."); *accord* GFAS, Standards for Old World Primates, *supra*, at 49.

<sup>9</sup>AZA Policy for Animal Contact With the General Public (1997), available at <https://www.aza.org/animal-contact-policy/>.

Moreover, exposure to excessive levels of ammonia, as the worker experienced in the enclosure holding the tigers, can cause eye and upper respiratory irritation. OSHA considers ammonia an air contaminant that poses such a serious risk to workers that it has established a limitation on ammonia exposure under 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1000.

Mitigating these hazards, particularly the risk of disease transmission, can be accomplished by implementing a few simple practices: frequent and adequate cleaning of enclosures holding animals to reduce the buildup of feces and urine; eliminating direct contact with animals, including alligators and primates; using PPE, including gloves, goggles, and masks; providing easily accessible hand-washing stations; providing proper employee training; and following a zoonotic disease protocol.

**Chestatee has exposed employees to the recognized hazard of dangerous electrical systems.** According to the worker, many of the animal enclosures were warmed by space heaters and heat lamps. These appliances were plugged into the walls using electrical and extension cords, some of which were accessible to the animals. For example, a space heater in the room containing two pythons was plugged into the wall using a cord that extended tautly to a socket several feet away. The space heater in another room was situated approximately 2.5 feet from a tub of water containing alligators. Even though the two alligators and an iguana were free to roam in the room (and a spider monkey and kinkajou held there got out of their cages on occasion), the space heater was always left on and the cord to it went directly across the floor from the outlet. Moreover, the tub of water for the alligators was placed on top of a heating mat that had a wire coming out of it. Part of the wire was protected by rubber, but the middle of the wire, which is approximately 1 foot away from the tub of water, was exposed and not insulated. The alligators could splash water onto this wire, especially when workers had to get one out of the tub to clean it. The heating mat was always plugged in.

Electricity and electrical implements such as extension cords and space heaters have long been recognized as hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. As such, OSHA has promulgated regulations governing these hazards in 9 C.F.R. §§ 1910.301–399 and 1926.154. The electrical wiring and use of space heaters at Chestatee appears to be dangerous to animals and employees and also apparently violates the general-duty clause and the OSH Act's implementing regulations.

### **Conclusion**

Chestatee's flagrant disregard for the safety of its keepers will likely lead to injuries, diseases, and possibly even deaths unless the facility is held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Please cite and penalize Chestatee for willfully endangering its keepers and require the facility to implement protected-contact handling and other safety precautions immediately.



March 25, 2015

Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.  
Regional Director, USDA/APHIS/AC Eastern Region

Via e-mail: [betty.j.goldentyer@usda.gov](mailto:betty.j.goldentyer@usda.gov); [aceast@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:aceast@aphis.usda.gov)

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture promptly investigate Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo ("Chestatee") (license no. 57-C-0325) for apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), reported by a person who volunteered at Chestatee earlier this year and saw animals kept under inhumane and apparently unlawful conditions.

Chestatee holds three social primates in isolation—a capuchin monkey, a vervet monkey, and a spider monkey—in apparent violation of 9 C.F.R. § 3.81(a). Since professional organizations and scholars agree that primates who live in social groups in the wild must also be housed in social groups in captivity, it is unlikely that a veterinarian "directed" the facility to house these primates alone in accordance with "appropriate professional journals or reference guides," as is required by 9 C.F.R. § 3.81(a). Moreover, the capuchin monkey, who has been alone for two years, and the vervet and the spider monkey, who have been alone at least since May 2, 2012,<sup>1</sup> do not appear to be aggressive,<sup>2</sup> debilitated, or ill.<sup>3</sup> Thus, it is unlikely that a veterinarian "directed" the facility to house these primates alone in accordance with the exceptions listed in 9 C.F.R. § 3.81(a).

**Please determine whether Chestatee is isolating these primates pursuant to an environment enhancement plan that promotes their psychological well-being, as required by 9 C.F.R. § 3.81, and, if so, whether the isolated primates are given special attention, as required by 9 C.F.R. § 3.81(c)(4).**

In addition, the spider monkey is held, reportedly each winter, in a barren bird cage that is approximately 2 feet deep, 4 feet wide, and 6 feet tall, in violation of 9 C.F.R. § 3.81(b), which requires brachiating species be held in an enclosure with a floor area of at least 25.1 square feet and a height of 84 inches. The cage also fails to provide enrichment to allow the monkey to "express[] ... species-typical activities," as is also required by 9 C.F.R. § 3.81(b).

**If your investigation confirms that these primates are held in isolation or without the required environmental enrichment, in violation of 9 C.F.R. § 3.81, and thereby are suffering from the inhumane deprivation of the companionship and expression of species-specific behavior required for their psychological well-being, please seize them, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 2146 and 9 C.F.R. § 2.129, and transfer them to an accredited sanctuary.**

<sup>1</sup>See Chestatee Wild Animal Licenses at 2-3, attached.

<sup>2</sup>The volunteer reported that the capuchin and spider monkey showed no aggression toward the volunteer or keepers during times of direct contact.

<sup>3</sup>Since Chestatee holds no other capuchins, vervets, or spider monkeys, incompatibility cannot be the reason why these primates are currently isolated.

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS  
FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C.  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Oakland  
554 Grand Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94610  
510-763-PETA

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OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION  
TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

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

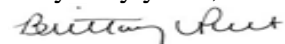
The volunteer also saw many birds<sup>4</sup> who may have required veterinary care, including a pheasant who was limping; two male macaws who were fighting with each other and missing most of the feathers from their abdomens, a pattern of feather loss that is generally self-inflicted and commonly associated with stress; a cockatoo who was missing most of the feathers from his or her abdomen and who had a scab in the middle of the abdomen; another cockatoo who also experienced abnormal feather loss; and a third cockatoo, Peaches, who had a 1-inch wound, reportedly caused by another cockatoo.<sup>5</sup> See Photos 1–5. Even though Chestatee workers were aware of these conditions—and the volunteer brought them to the general manager's attention—the volunteer received no indication that the facility had consulted a veterinarian. In fact, on February 2, when the volunteer asked the general manager whether he has a veterinarian who comes to the facility, he stated that a veterinarian signs off on things but that Chestatee does 98 percent of its own veterinary work.

**Please review the veterinary records for every regulated animal at this facility to ensure that each is receiving appropriate veterinary care from a qualified, licensed veterinarian, as required by 9 C.F.R. § 2.40.**

According to the volunteer, Chestatee exhibited young tigers in a filthy enclosure, in apparent violation of 9 C.F.R. § 3.131(a). The enclosure had an overwhelmingly strong odor of urine and feces that was so powerful that the volunteer had trouble breathing and had to zip a jacket up over his or her nose to breathe throughout the 10 minutes he or she spent removing tiger excreta from the area. In response, the general manager joked that the volunteer should take some waste home to get used to the smell. Exposure to excessive levels of ammonia, as the volunteer experienced in the tiger enclosure, can cause eye and upper respiratory irritation to both humans and other animals. These conditions are inconsistent with the tigers' good health and well-being, in apparent violation of 9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1), (c)(1), and (d)(1).

**Please immediately inspect this facility and hold it accountable to the fullest extent of the law, including by confiscating any animals found to be suffering in violation of the AWA, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 2146 and 9 C.F.R. §2.129.**

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Esq.

Deputy Director | Captive Animal Law Enforcement

202-540-2191 | 202-540-2208 (fax)

[BrittanyP@petaf.org](mailto:BrittanyP@petaf.org)

Attachments

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<sup>4</sup>Although the USDA has not yet developed specific standards for birds, these warm-blooded animals, when used for exhibition, are covered by the plain language of the AWA and the Subpart F regulations as well as the general handling requirements. See 7 U.S.C. § 2132(g); 9 C.F.R. § 1.1; 9 C.F.R. Part 3, Subpart F; 9 C.F.R. §§ 2.40, 2.131.

<sup>5</sup>The volunteer also saw unregulated animals who may have required veterinary care, including tortoises who had not been eating and an iguana who had a scab on his nose, apparently from getting too close to a heat lamp.

## **WILD ANIMAL LICENSE**

(53-WJH-14-49)

**FEE: \$236**

Licensee: **CHESTATEE WILDLIFE PRESERVE, WATHEN, C. W.**  
**469 OLD DAHLONEGA HWY**  
**DAHLONEGA, GA 30533**  
CN: 9011

Address of Business: CHESTATEE WILDLIFE PRESERVE  
- SAME -

The above-named person is hereby authorized to exhibit, import, transport, sell, purchase, transfer or possess **2.2 RINGTAIL LEMURS; 1.5 ZEBRA; 1.1 LEOPARDS; 1.0 WEEPER CAPUCHINS; 2.6 TIGERS; 2 ELK; 2 SERVALS; 0.1 CHIMPANZEE; 2.0 GRIZZLY BEARS; 0.1 SPIDER MONKEY; 1.0 VERVET MONKEY; 2.2 LIONS;** as listed in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 27-5-5. This license shall be valid from **date issued or April 1, 2014 whichever is later, through March 31, 2015**, except that upon violation of the Georgia Game and Fish Code or any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, it may be revoked or suspended. This license shall be conspicuously exhibited at all times within the principle place of business. This license is valid only for the animals listed on inventory on file at the Special Permit Unit. **An amendment to this license must be obtained before Georgia resident holders may acquire additional animals.** Transient circuses or exhibitors must provide an annual itinerary or list of dates and locations for appearances in Georgia, or must notify the Special Permit Unit at least five (5) days prior to entering the state. Licensee must comply with all Georgia Department of Agriculture regulations regarding animal health certification before importing animals into Georgia. **Direct contact between the public and any animal listed as inherently dangerous is strictly prohibited.** License valid only upon compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws.

### **CONDITIONS:**

1. Wild Animals in mobile exhibits must be handled and displayed in accordance with O.C.G.A§ 27-5-6 (11).
2. Wild Animals deemed Inherently Dangerous in O.C.G.A§ 27-5-5 (a) must meet the insurance requirements provided for in O.C.G.A§ 27-5-4 (f).
3. Cervids held under a wild animal license that are over six months of age that die, regardless of cause of death, must have samples submitted to an approved USDA veterinary diagnostic laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease testing. This surveillance may be at the expense of the licensee unless supplementary funds are made available.
4. Cervids held under a wild animal license may not be offered for sale or trade in interstate commerce unless the herd participated in a Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
5. Licensee is not authorized to import, relocate or transfer animals of the family Cervidae without prior authorization from the Department.
6. Permittee is reminded that animals covered under this permit must be acquired by legal means, which includes: donation from Georgia DNR, or, with prior approval from Georgia DNR, transfer from another Wild Animal licensee or purchased legally from outside the state.
7. An amendment to this permit must be obtained before Georgia resident permittees may acquire additional animals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Licensee

Date Issued: 20-MAR-14

Expiration Date: 31-MAR-15

## **WILD ANIMAL LICENSE**

(53-WJH-13-48)

**FEE: \$236**

Licensee: **CHESTATEE WILDLIFE PRESERVE, WATHEN, C. W.**  
**469 OLD DAHLONEGA HWY**  
**DAHLONEGA, GA 30533**  
CN: 9011

Address of Business: CHESTATEE WILDLIFE PRESERVE  
- SAME -

The above-named person is hereby authorized to exhibit, import, transport, sell, purchase, transfer or possess **4 LEMURS; 1 ZEBRA; 2 LEOPARDS; 1 CAPUCHINS; 11 TIGERS; 2 ELK; 2 SERVALS; 1 CHIMPANZEE; 2 GRIZZLY BEARS; 1 SPIDER MONKEY; 1 VERVET MONKEY; 2 LIONS; 3 SAVANNAH CATS** as listed in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 27-5-5. This license shall be valid from **date issued or April 1, 2013 whichever is later, through March 31, 2014**, except that upon violation of the Georgia Game and Fish Code or any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, it may be revoked or suspended. This license shall be conspicuously exhibited at all times within the principle place of business. This license is valid only for the animals listed on inventory on file at the Special Permit Unit. **An amendment to this license must be obtained before Georgia resident holders may acquire additional animals. Transient circuses or exhibitors must provide an annual itinerary or list of dates and locations for appearances in Georgia, or must notify the Special Permit Unit at least five (5) days prior to entering the state. Licensee must comply with all Georgia Department of Agriculture regulations regarding animal health certification before importing animals into Georgia. Direct contact between the public and any animal listed as inherently dangerous is strictly prohibited.** License valid only upon compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws.

### **CONDITIONS:**

1. Wild Animals in mobile exhibits must be handled and displayed in accordance with O.C.G.A§ 27-5-6 (11).
  2. Wild Animals deemed Inherently Dangerous in O.C.G.A§ 27-5-5 (a) must meet the insurance requirements provided for in O.C.G.A§ 27-5-4 (f).
  3. Cervids held under a wild animal license that are over six months of age that die, regardless of cause of death, must have samples submitted to an approved USDA veterinary diagnostic laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease testing. This surveillance may be at the expense of the licensee unless supplementary funds are made available.
  4. Cervids held under a wild animal license may not be offered for sale or trade in interstate commerce unless the herd participated in a Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
  5. Licensee is not authorized to import, relocate or transfer animals of the family Cervidae without prior authorization from the Department.
  6. Permittee is reminded that animals covered under this permit must be acquired by legal means, which includes: donation from Georgia DNR, or, with prior approval from Georgia DNR, transfer from another Wild Animal licensee or purchased legally from outside the state.
  7. An amendment to this permit must be obtained before Georgia resident permittees may acquire additional animals.
- AMENDED 4/2/13

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Licensee

Date Issued: 27-MAR-13  
Expiration Date: 31-MAR-14

## **WILD ANIMAL LICENSE**

(53-WBH-12-55)

**FEE: \$236**

Licensee: **CHESTATEE WILDLIFE PRESERVE, WATHEN, C. W.**  
**469 OLD DAHLONEGA HWY**  
**DAHLONEGA, GA 30533**  
CN: 9011

Address of Business: CHESTATEE WILDLIFE PRESERVE  
- SAME -

The above-named person is hereby authorized to exhibit, import, transport, sell, purchase, transfer or possess **4 LEMURS; 1 ZEBRA; 2 LEOPARDS; 3 CAPUCHINS; 5 TIGERS; 2 ELK; 2 SERVALS; 2 CHIMPANZEES; 2 GRIZZLY BEARS; 1 SPIDER MONKEY; 1 VERVET MONKEY** as listed in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 27-5-5. This license shall be valid from **date issued or April 1, 2012 whichever is later, through March 31, 2013**, except that upon violation of the Georgia Game and Fish Code or any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, it may be revoked or suspended. This license shall be conspicuously exhibited at all times within the principle place of business. This license is valid only for the animals listed on inventory on file at the Special Permit Unit. **An amendment to this license must be obtained before Georgia resident holders may acquire additional animals. Transient circuses or exhibitors must provide an annual itinerary or list of dates and locations for appearances in Georgia, or must notify the Special Permit Unit at least five (5) days prior to entering the state. Licensee must comply with all Georgia Department of Agriculture regulations regarding animal health certification before importing animals into Georgia. Direct contact between the public and any animal listed as inherently dangerous is strictly prohibited.** License valid only upon compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws.

### **CONDITIONS:**

1. Wild Animals in mobile exhibits must be handled and displayed in accordance with O.C.G.A§ 27-5-6 (11).
2. Wild Animals deemed Inherently Dangerous in O.C.G.A§ 27-5-5 (a) must meet the insurance requirements provided for in O.C.G.A§ 27-5-4 (f).
3. Cervids held under a wild animal license that are over six months of age that die, regardless of cause of death, must have samples submitted to an approved USDA veterinary diagnostic laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease testing. This surveillance may be at the expense of the licensee unless supplementary funds are made available.
4. Cervids held under a wild animal license may not be offered for sale or trade in interstate commerce unless the herd participated in a Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
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6. Permittee is reminded that animals covered under this permit must be acquired by legal means, which includes: donation from Georgia DNR, or, with prior approval from Georgia DNR, transfer from another Wild Animal licensee or purchased legally from outside the state.
7. An amendment to this permit must be obtained before Georgia resident permittees may acquire additional animals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Licensee

Date Issued: 02-MAY-12

Expiration Date: 31-MAR-13



**Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo**



Photo 1: Macaw missing feathers.



Photo 2: Cockatoo missing feathers.





Photo 3: Injured cockatoo.





Photo 4: Injured cockatoo.



Photo 5: Injured cockatoo.

March 25, 2015

Special Agent-in-Charge Luis J. Santiago  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Southeast Region

Via e-mail: [Luis\\_Santiago@fws.gov](mailto:Luis_Santiago@fws.gov)

Re: Request for Investigation of an Injured Hawk Held at the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo, in Apparent Violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Dear Special Agent Santiago:

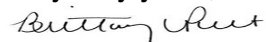
I am writing on behalf of PETA to request an investigation of an apparent violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) by the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo ("Chestatee"), located at 469 Old Dahlonega Hwy., Dahlonega, Georgia, and operated by C.W. Wathen.

A witness who volunteered there first saw a hawk with an apparent wing injury confined at the facility on January 13, 2015. The volunteer was told that the hawk had been brought there three weeks earlier and would be released when the wing had fully healed. The hawk was caged in a barn that also held cockatoos and macaws.

As you know, all native species of hawks are protected under the MBTA, making possession of the hawk unlawful in the absence of a permit or another exemption. 16 U.S.C. § 703(a), *see also* 50 C.F.R. § 10.13 (listing species), 50 C.F.R. § 21.12-21.15 (listing exemptions). Chestatee apparently lacks a valid permit to possess<sup>1</sup> or rehabilitate the hawk.<sup>2</sup> The facility does not appear to be otherwise exempt from the MBTA and is not a municipal game farm or park or a public museum, zoological park, or science or educational institution. 50 C.F.R. § 21.12(b)(1). It is not [accredited](#) by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. *Id.* It is not a veterinary [facility](#), and Wathen is not a [veterinarian](#). *Id.* § 21.12(c).<sup>3</sup> Finally, Chestatee did not possess the hawk in order to remove the bird from the interior of a building. *Id.* § 21.12(d). Thus, it appears that Chestatee held the hawk in violation of the MBTA.

Please investigate this apparent violation immediately and, if warranted by the results of that investigation, refer the case for prosecution to the U.S. Attorney's Office, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 707(a). Please also seize the hawk and any other listed birds, as required by 16 U.S.C. § 706, and transfer the bird(s) to an MBTA-licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Esq.  
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Attachments

cc: FWS, Migratory Bird Permit Office, Region 4 ([permitsR4MB@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR4MB@fws.gov))

<sup>1</sup>A telephone inquiry to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Migratory Bird Permit Office for Region 4 revealed no permittees named Chestatee or Wathen in Dahlonega as of February 25, 2015.

<sup>2</sup>See the Georgia Department of Natural Resources [Wildlife Rehabilitation List](#). There are no rehabilitators in Dahlonega.

<sup>3</sup>Even if the hawk had been held by a veterinarian at Chestatee, the bird is now in reportedly stable condition and thus should have been transferred to a permitted rehabilitator. 50 C.F.R. § 21.12(c).

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