

# Dirk Arthur and Stage Magic (Illusioneering, Inc.)

4370 W. Torino Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89139

**Stage Magic, which is owned by Dirk Arthur, has repeatedly failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Arthur for having juvenile big cats declawed and for repeatedly failing to provide large felids with relief from temperatures of more than 100 degrees. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**May 1, 2017:** The USDA cited Arthur for failing to clean the enclosure for tiger Miley (there was a thick yellowish-brown buildup of animal urine, waste, hair, and organic debris on a section of chain-link fencing within her reach) and failing to have an effective “pest”-control program. There was an accumulation of small, dark-colored insect feces on three shelves of a metal cabinet used to store steel food trays and knives.

**June 22, 2016:** The USDA cited Arthur for failing to keep the enclosure holding Kala, a snow leopard, in good repair. The wooden den box had a worn, ragged upper corner area with a protruding nailhead.

**June 22, 2015:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

**January 12, 2015:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to maintain two enclosures

housing tigers. Both enclosures had been chewed on and were splintering.

**September 2014:** After hearing from PETA, Caesars Entertainment agreed not to host Arthur again after he completed his contract at its Harrah’s Casino location.

**February 12, 2014:** The USDA cited Arthur during an inspection at Harrah’s Casino for failure to have a fence of sufficient height for large felids and failure to have enclosures with enough space for “each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.” During a separate inspection at another site, the USDA cited Arthur for failure to maintain tiger Crystal’s den box, which was chewed on and had a gap along the back edge as well as splintered edges.

**January 23, 2014:** The USDA issued Arthur an official warning for “failure to construct and maintain facilities in such a manner as to protect animals from injury and to contain the animals.” (See the December 28, 2013, entry.)

**December 28, 2013:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to provide a snow leopard with safe housing—the enclosure had broken welds and rusty support poles. He was also cited for allowing a bobcat to wear a collar and a chain in his enclosure. The inspector noted that the ring end of the chain had slipped through the chain link of the enclosure and the bobcat couldn’t immediately free himself, making this a “clear hazard to the [b]obcat.” Arthur was also cited for failure to have a fence of sufficient height for large felids and for having a perimeter fence several inches from various enclosures, which is insufficient to prevent physical contact between the animals inside and people or other animals outside the perimeter fence. The USDA also cited Arthur for failure to have sufficient space for each animal to

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make normal postural and social adjustments and for failure to provide adequate veterinary care—he had two juvenile tigers and one juvenile lion declawed, a procedure that isn't allowed under the AWA unless it's medically necessary.

**January 15, 2008:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to maintain a complete written program of veterinary care and failure to clean and sanitize the kitchen area properly. Blood and dirt were on the walls, freezers, and floor.

**June 20, 2007:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to provide big cats with adequate shade in the loading area. A white tiger in a metal transport enclosure sat in full sun for 20 minutes. The floor of the enclosure was 99.5 degrees, and air temperatures near the enclosure ranged from 102.3 to 106 degrees. In addition, the transport vehicle remained in full sun during the loading process, and the temperature within the vehicle ranged from 99.5 to 105 degrees.

**August 31, 2006:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to provide animals with sufficient relief from heat during the unloading process. They were moved into rolling mobile cages and left outside for up to 25 minutes with no area of ventilated shade. Ground temperature readings were between 125 and 127 degrees, and ambient readings were between 109 and 112 degrees.

**July 14, 2005:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to provide animals with sufficient relief from heat during the unloading process. They were moved into rolling mobile cages and left outside for up to 20 minutes with no area of ventilated shade. Ground temperature readings were between 127 and 130 degrees, and ambient readings were 115 degrees.

**April 11, 2005:** The USDA cited Arthur for

failure to handle large felids safely during performances. Arthur walked a leopard and a white tiger on stage using only a leash. No barrier separated them from the audience, which was 15 to 20 feet away.

**May 26, 2004:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to supply safe housing to T.J., a tiger whose primary enclosure had a damaged platform, missing slats, multiple splinters, and exposed nailheads.

**May 11, 2000:** The USDA cited Arthur for failure to have a written program of veterinary care available during the inspection.