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May 25, 2017

Sgt. David Luckenbaugh
 Animal Control Supervisor
 Frederick County Animal Control
 1832 Rosemont Ave.
 Frederick, MD, 21702

Via UPS and e-mail: [REDACTED]

Re: Request for Investigation of Deer Haven Mini Zoo

Dear Sgt. Luckenbaugh:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the Frederick County Animal Control promptly investigate Deer Haven Mini Zoo ("Deer Haven"), for several urgent animal welfare concerns that wildlife veterinarian Dr. Heather Rally and I observed and documented on May 17, detailed below. In accordance with Frederick County Code Ord. 94-24-119, 11-15-1994; Ord. 14-23-678, 11-13-2014, §1-5-2, "[a]nimal control officers are hereby designated as the enforcement authority for animal control... provisions of the county." Dr. Rally and I observed the following apparent violations of Maryland state law regarding abuse or neglect of animals:

- Deer Haven allowed animals to suffer with ongoing veterinary concerns, in apparent violation of Maryland state law, §10-604(a)(5), which states that a person may not "unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with... necessary veterinary care[.]"
 - A quail appeared to be ill, with a hunched posture and ruffled feathers and was reluctant to move. The animal did not move when we first approached the cage or when Dr. Rally gently nudged him or her. The bird was still behaving in a lethargic or sickly manner as we left the facility.
 - A pig had overgrown hooves—a recurring issue for this animal. Hooves require regular corrective trimming, and inadequate treatment can lead to serious welfare problems such as lameness, joint problems, tripping, and painful infections. This pig was noticeably reluctant to walk, even when presented with food. He or she should be placed on an appropriate therapeutic plan to correct his or her overgrown hooves. Please inspect this pig, and all of the hooved animals at Deer Haven and their veterinary records, and ensure that they are receiving adequate veterinary care and hoof maintenance.
 - An Arctic fox was seen biting him or herself and showing discoloration of the fur and skin indicative of skin irritation. This is also apparently an ongoing and persistent condition, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Deer Haven four times in the last six months for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a fox with an underdeveloped coat.
 - Lemurs had red, irritated skin at the base of their tails and a coatimundi was also observed to have patchy hair loss on his or her rump and hind legs.

Thinning hair and skin conditions can be indicative of systemic pathology, parasites, or infection and may be itchy and painful. The conditions could also be a result of chronic irritation due to inadequate enclosure conditions or self-inflicted due to excess rubbing on unnatural surfaces, such as prolonged sitting on concrete floors or hard posts that are unlike the substrates these animals would rest on in the wild. These animals, and their veterinary records, should be evaluated by a qualified veterinarian for diagnostic workup and appropriate treatment of their conditions. Please ensure that these animals are receiving adequate veterinary care.

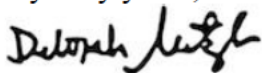
- A bobcat was documented pacing, which is a well-known sign of psychological distress, and is in apparent violation of Maryland state law §10-604(a)(3), which states that a person may not "inflict unnecessary suffering" on an animal. Deer Haven has been cited by the USDA four times in the last six months for failing to have a qualified veterinarian assess this animal's abnormal pacing behavior. The bobcat's apparent psychological suffering is not only a health concern but is likely an artifact of a lack of space and enclosure complexity.

In addition to these urgent concerns, the conditions at Deer Haven are grossly inadequate for animals. Enclosures are undersized and dilapidated, cages are rusty and unsanitary, and the facility is too understaffed to be able to provide even a minimally acceptable quality of care for the number of animals it confines. Dr. Rally and I were left completely unattended for the duration of our visit, and we were able to have direct, unsupervised contact with several animals, which can be dangerous for both the public and the animals. The chronic welfare issues that have been documented time and again demonstrate Deer Haven's inability or unwillingness to achieve an appropriate level of care. Since last summer, PETA has received documentation from concerned citizens with evidence that Deer Haven has been failing to provide even the most minimally adequate conditions—such as dry ground or clean drinking water. Dr. Rally and I would be happy to provide you with more documentation of the chronically inhumane conditions for animals at Deer Haven, aside from our most urgent concerns listed above.

As you investigate Deer Haven, please ensure that all the animals are provided with adequate veterinary care, shelter, food, and water and are otherwise handled in accordance with Maryland state law. Please hold the facility fully accountable for any violations that your investigation reveals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. You can reach me by email at [REDACTED] or directly at [REDACTED], and Dr. Rally can be reached by email at [REDACTED] or directly at [REDACTED]. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



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