

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park (Joseph Maldonado-Passage née Schreibvogel, aka 'Joe Exotic,' and Jeffrey Lowe)

3882 RR 2, Box 67, Wynnewood, OK 73098

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park (aka "G.W. Exotic" and the "G.W. Zoo"), formerly known as The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Park, was opened by Joseph Maldonado-Passage in the late 1990s. Early on, it began breeding tigers in order to have a constant supply of tiger cubs available to bring in money through photo opportunities in which people pay to hold and be photographed with the cubs. Since tiger cubs quickly grow to their adult size, which can be as much as 700 pounds, cubs can be used for photo ops only during their first few months of life, and they must be taken from their mother soon after birth in order to habituate them to humans by bottle-feeding. As the cubs grow larger, they are no longer able to earn the amount of money they did as newborns, so many are warehoused in inadequate conditions. This cycle repeats itself throughout the year, exacerbating the U.S. tiger crisis: There are far too many tigers and not enough responsible facilities to take them. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has repeatedly cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to comply with the minimum requirements of the federal Animal

Welfare Act (AWA), including for failing to provide basic necessities such as drinking water, using dangerous animal-handling practices, and having filthy, wet, unsafe, and dilapidated animal enclosures. In 2006, the USDA ordered G.W. Exotic to pay a \$25,000 fine and suspended its license to settle numerous past violations. In 2010, the USDA opened an investigation into the deaths of 23 tiger cubs at the facility, and in 2013, the agency began investigating the deaths of another two tiger cubs born at the facility. In 2020, Maldonado-Passage was convicted of two counts of murder-for-hire for an attempt to kill Big Cat Rescue founder Carole Baskin and 17 federal wildlife charges. He is currently serving a 22-year sentence.

In 2016, The Garold Wayne Interactive Zoological Foundation was transferred to Jeffrey Lowe, and the name was changed to the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park. Lowe continued breeding big cats for business purposes. He has repeatedly failed to comply with the minimum requirements of the AWA, including by failing to provide adequate veterinary care, failing to provide safe enclosures, failing to maintain fencing, repeatedly failing to have animal disposition records, and failing to handle animals properly. Animals in poor health have been confiscated from Lowe. In 2020, Lowe moved the remaining animals from Wynnewood to Thackerville, Oklahoma, with plans to open a new roadside zoo, Tiger King Park. In April 2021, the USDA revoked Lowe's exhibitor's license and by mid-August 2021, all animals had been either confiscated or relinquished. Contact PETA for documentation.

September 9, 2021: The Las Vegas Municipal Court issued four bench warrants for the arrest of Jeffrey Lowe after he failed

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

to appear in court for a hearing connected to charges from 2017 for not having a “license/permit” for “wild and farm animals” and doing business without a license. (See the November 2017 entry.)

August 13, 2021: Jeffrey Lowe and his wife, Lauren Lowe, agreed to surrender to the U.S. government 61 animals remaining at the Thackerville, Oklahoma, location.

August 9, 2021: A judicial officer denied Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe’s petition for appeal challenging the chief administrative law judge’s initial decision and order dated April 1, 2021. The judicial officer affirmed Jeffrey Lowe’s license revocation under the AWA, effective 60 days after the Lowes were served the order.

August 5, 2021: The USDA issued Jeffrey Lowe a critical citation after he refused to allow inspectors access to conduct an inspection.

June 2, 2021: The USDA issued Jeffrey Lowe a repeat citation for failing to have an attending veterinarian employed under formal arrangements and not having a valid program of veterinary care. A direct repeat citation was issued for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care:

- A ferret had a large submandibular swelling that encompassed the entire width of the neck. No veterinarian had been contacted regarding this condition.
- A white raccoon, who seemed to be isolating himself from the other animals, appeared lethargic with an overall “unthrifty” appearance. There were no records indicating that this condition had been noticed or that he had been seen by a veterinarian.
- An old red fox, who had been tentatively diagnosed with prostate cancer and arthritis in February 2021, continued to receive no veterinary care for these

chronic conditions. The facility representatives had been instructed to monitor the animal’s mobility using the daily observation report and to notify a veterinarian if the arthritis improved when treated with Metacam so that the medication could be used long-term. The veterinarian also instructed the facility to monitor the fox daily for trouble urinating and defecating. None of this had been documented in the daily observations. The daily record for this animal stated, “[W]ill allow him to pass away peacefully when it’s his time.”

- A bush baby had an area of hair loss that had exposed reddened skin. Although the condition—along with a decrease in energy—had been documented in the daily medical log, the veterinarian who used to work for the facility said that she had not been notified.
- A bobcat named Paulina had areas of hair loss on both sides of her neck, which had also been present during a visit to the property on May 17 and 18, 2021. There was a new small area of hair loss by her ear with exposed reddened skin. The facility representative said that the hair loss was from breeding. The daily medical log stated that the facility had been using “wound coat spray” on her skin, but there were no records indicating that a veterinarian had been consulted about this condition.
- A bobcat named Paul appeared thin and lethargic. He had noticeably lost weight since an inspection two weeks prior. There were no records indicating that a veterinarian had seen Paul or that the problem had been noticed by the facility representative.

Lowe received repeat citations for failing to have a veterinarian-approved environment enhancement plan to promote the psychological well-being of primates and for

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

having no records of acquisition for two new baby white raccoons nor disposition records for three sheep, a goat, and an alpaca, who were no longer there.

Lowe received a repeat citation for having a limited amount of fresh produce and no food appropriate for non-domestic cats on the premises. The facility representative stated that the day of inspection was a fasting day for the non-domestic cats and that workers planned to buy fresh food later that day. The inspector noted, “This is concerning considering the progressively decreasing body conditions seen in the bobcats, wolves, foxes, and the Canadian Lynx.” Citations were issued for feeding two macaques what appeared to be dog kibble that was contaminated with many flies and failing to provide the primates with potable water. The bush baby’s water bottle was empty, and when it was filled, “the bush baby drank immediately and eagerly for at least 30 seconds.” The water bottle for one of the marmosets was also empty, and the water for a macaque was a dirty brown color with pieces of orange peel floating in it. A citation was also issued for failing to provide the camel with clean water—the water tank contained brown water.

Lowe was cited for failing to remove old produce left on the ground and in the food containers of both macaque enclosures. The produce appeared to have been there for several days and was covered with flies. He was also cited for failing to dispose properly of old trash and very dirty water that was left right outside the macaques’ outdoor cages—an attractant for flies, mosquitoes, and other “pests”—and for failing to have an effective program for controlling flies in and around the macaque enclosures. He was issued a repeat citation for failing to dispose properly of animal food and other trash on the property. Some of the discarded food had been swept out of the animal enclosures and left near the

animal areas, encouraging the proliferation of flies. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to control flies throughout the facility, and excessive flies were seen both on the animals and in the environment. The report stated, “Animals were seen ‘flicking’ their ears and heads in an effort to remove the flies.”

Finally, Lowe received a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect the animals from injury and contain them:

- The dirt had been dug out from underneath the shelter structure in the fisher enclosure, exposing a metal grate. The fisher was at risk of becoming entrapped or injured by the gaps in the grate.
- The previous inspection report had listed nine adult raccoons at the facility. During this inspection, there were five adult raccoons (plus two new baby raccoons). The facility representative stated that workers had to reinforce the enclosure walls because some raccoons had escaped.
- A pair of porcupines had been chewing on the plastic of their house and the plywood floor of the enclosure. The report stated, “Neither of these is appropriate for a porcupine to be chewing and ingesting. These materials can cause intestinal impactions or other health concerns.”

May 2021: The U.S. government seized 69 big cats, including lions, tigers, lion hybrids, and a jaguar, from the Thackerville property in response to continuing violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

May 14, 2021: The U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Oklahoma found Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe; Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park, LLC; and Tiger King, LLC, in civil contempt and fined them \$1,000 a day, beginning on May 12, 2021,

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

until they complied with the court's January and March 2021 orders, which included an order to hire a qualified attending veterinarian.

April 1, 2021: The chief administrative law judge issued a decision and order mandating that Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe cease and desist violating the AWA and revoking Jeffrey Lowe's AWA license.

February 19, 2021: The USDA issued Jeffrey Lowe a repeat citation for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care:

- An unspecified animal named Daisy had a circular wound on her nose. Medical records at the facility didn't mention this wound, and it wasn't clear whether the attending veterinarian had been informed of it or if treatment had been implemented.
- Chuckles, an adult tiger, had hair loss on the top and inside of both forelegs, just below the elbow, and small red lesions on several toes of both hind feet. The facility's medical records didn't mention the hair loss on Chuckles' forelegs or the lesions on his toes nor was it clear if the attending veterinarian had been informed of these conditions.

Lowe was cited for failing to provide a hybrid big cat named Django with adequate veterinary care. Django appeared lame and/or weak in his hind quarters during the inspection. He was observed to stand, take a few wobbly steps with his hind legs, and then walk normally. According to the facility veterinarian, Django had been recently evaluated and no gait abnormalities were observed. "This facility has a history of providing an inappropriate diet to their large cats. Complications from an inadequate diet can present with on and off gait and neurologic abnormalities," the inspection report stated. "Consultation with a veterinarian more experienced in working

with large felids may be needed to adequately diagnose and treat Django."

The USDA issued Lowe a repeat citation for failing to provide 14 big cats and two wolves with adequate shelter from inclement weather. Another repeat citation was issued for housing 22 big cats, a coyote, and a wolf in enclosures that were too small. Inspectors observed a number of these animals pacing. Lowe was also cited for failing to clean 10 enclosures adequately, affecting 11 tigers:

- Brutus, Alyssa, Stevie, and Jagger had wet, soiled bedding.
- Patronus had soiled bedding.
- Sebastian and Priscilla were confined to one box cage that had excessively soiled hay.
- Elvis and Chuckles were in cages that were so excessively muddy that they could not get out of the mud.
- Clay's enclosure had old fecal matter.
- Pandora's enclosure had a large amount of soiled, wet hay.

Lowe was issued a repeat citation for failing to provide adult tigers Patronus, Jagger, Chuckles, and Opie with appropriate housing that protected them from injury. The tigers were observed to have hair that was thinning or even hair loss and elbow calluses, which "usually occurs when the elbows are subjected to continuous trauma from laying on inappropriate surfaces." Most of the floors in the box cages were made of wood, and many were extremely muddy or soiled. Many of the animals didn't have a clean, dry area in which they could avoid the soiled areas.

A repeat citation was issued to Lowe for failing to have acquisition and disposition records available for a number of animals. At the time of the inspection, 34 animals could not be accounted for. And finally, a repeat citation was issued for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence to restrict

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

entry by outside animals and unauthorized humans and to function as a secondary containment system for the animals in the facility. One area of the fence was less than 8 feet high.

January 20, 2021: The USDA issued Jeffrey Lowe a critical repeat citation for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care:

- Bubbles, a young tiger, died shortly after the last USDA inspection. According to the facility representative, Bubbles had choked on a chicken bone. The representative said that workers had been able to remove the bone but that the cub “never acted right” afterward, then choked again a few days later and died. The report stated, “If the facility representative had communicated this immediately [after the first incident] to a veterinarian, this cub could have received adequate veterinary care as soon as it was noticed to not be ‘acting right’ and it may not have died.”
- Cochise, a geriatric wolf hybrid, had been noted during the last inspection to be moving slowly and to be extremely thin. He had died since the previous inspection, and the inspector was provided with no medical records indicating that his condition had been communicated to a veterinarian. Therefore, Cochise had received no medical assessment or care from a veterinarian as instructed in the last inspection.
- Simba, a geriatric lion, had been observed during the last inspection to be thin and have areas of hair loss. He had received no medical assessment or care from a veterinarian as instructed in the last inspection. The veterinarian referenced by the facility representatives verified that he had not been contacted about Simba’s condition since the last inspection.

- Django, a big-cat hybrid, had been observed to be limping during the last inspection. A prescription medication had been given to him for seven days, but no medical notes indicated that his condition had been communicated to a veterinarian nor that there had been any communication with a veterinarian regarding instructions or approval for the use of any medication for his condition. The veterinarian referenced by facility representatives verified that he had not been contacted about Django since the last inspection.

Lowe was also issued a direct repeat citation for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care:

- An arctic fox was limping. The facility representatives had not previously observed the limping and thus hadn’t consulted with a veterinarian about the fox’s condition.
- Bagheera, a black jaguar, had hair loss on the end and sides of his tail. A veterinarian had not been consulted prior to the inspection.

Lowe was cited again for failing to house big cats in enclosures with sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments. Many of the big cats were still being housed in enclosures that measured 8 feet wide by 14 feet long by 7 feet tall. During the inspection, at least four of the big cats were observed pacing back and forth in their enclosures. Lowe was cited again for failing to provide the animals with shelter from inclement weather in many of the outdoor enclosures.

A repeat citation was issued to Lowe for failing to have an effective perimeter fence to restrict entry to outside animals and unauthorized humans and to function as a secondary containment system for the animals in the facility. One of the gates in the perimeter fence was less than 8 feet

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

high. Lowe was issued a repeat citation for failing to provide tigers with appropriate housing that protected them from injury. At least two tigers were observed to have thinning hair and even hair loss and elbow calluses. The report stated, "This usually occurs when the elbows are subjected to continuous trauma from laying on hard surfaces. Elbow calluses can become ulcerated and infected if not addressed early." Most of the floors in the cages were made of wood or concrete and had no other surfaces for the cats to lie on.

Finally, the USDA issued Lowe a repeat citation for failing to have complete records. Disposition records were incomplete for 30 animals. Acquisition and disposition records were missing or unavailable, and when inventories were compared, at least 60 animals could not be accounted for.

January 15, 2021: The U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Oklahoma ordered that Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe relinquish all lion, tiger, and lion-tiger hybrid cubs in their possession along with the cubs' mothers to the federal government pending the final resolution of the U.S.' claims under the ESA.

December 15, 2020: The USDA issued a repeat direct citation to Jeffrey Lowe for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care:

- Cochise, a geriatric wolf hybrid, was thin and moved slowly. His hip bones were easily visible, and he had an exaggerated abdominal tuck. There were no medical records to indicate that a veterinary-care plan had been put in place or that Cochise had been administered medications prescribed in the previous inspection.
- A lion named Simba appeared thin and had areas of hair loss near his hip. "The spinous processes of the vertebral bodies and hip bones were easily

visible," and he remained lying down throughout the time he was observed. The facility representative stated that Simba was being given a weight-gain supplement, but the only diet supplement at the facility was a product designed for horses. The inspection report stated, "There were no medical records to evaluate regarding a plan for care from a veterinarian including the use of a horse supplement for a lion."

Another repeat direct citation was issued for failing to provide Django, a big cat who was lame on his left foreleg, with adequate veterinary care. A veterinarian had not been consulted nor had any treatment been administered. The condition had not been observed or reported by the facility. A repeat citation was issued to Lowe for failing to employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements and thus not having a current written program of veterinary care.

Lowe received a direct citation for failing to protect two macaques from the cold, causing excessive overcooling and distress. The macaques were housed outdoors in adjacent metal enclosures. For shelter, one had a metal crate and the other a plastic barrel that was open at both ends. For supplemental heat, a forced air heater was directed at a cinderblock wall between the two enclosures. The report stated, "The set up did little more than to forcibly blow heated air into the open environment adjacent to the enclosure. In fact, the loud and forceful nature of the heater may have discouraged the animals from use of cage space near the heater. One macaque was observed sitting hunched up with its limbs pulled very close to its body, as one does when they are very cold and trying to conserve body heat." Lowe was also cited for failing to ensure that the primates were adequately acclimated to be housed outdoors in winter without stress or discomfort. Such a determination must be

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

made by an attending veterinarian. The report stated that housing primates who were not acclimated to the outdoor conditions put them at risk of hyperthermia or hypothermia. Lowe was further cited for failing to have an attending veterinarian-approved plan for environment enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of primates.

A repeat citation was issued to Lowe for failing to provide big cats with wholesome, palatable food that was free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain the animals in good health. The lions and tigers were being fed a boneless chicken meat diet. The facility representative said that they're also regularly fed deer and cow meat, but none was seen in food storage during the inspection. Inspectors asked to see the supplements the big cats were being given, and the facility representative showed them a weight-gain supplement designed for horses. The facility representative said that workers were also giving the big cats three other supplemental products, but none of these were at the facility. The report stated, "Feeding a boneless meat diet without calcium supplementation can result in nutritional deficiency, disease, malformed bones, gait abnormalities, and fractures." The chicken breasts fed to the big cats were kept frozen in a food storage truck, and before feeding, they were removed from the truck and thawed on the ground next to it. Some of the cardboard boxes containing chicken were open and not protected in any way from contamination by dirt or "pests."

The USDA cited Lowe for failing to house big cats in enclosures that afforded sufficient space for each animal to make "normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement." Some of the big cats were temporarily housed in enclosures that were 8 feet wide by 14 feet long by 7 feet tall. Another

citation was issued for failing to provide the big cats in most of the enclosures with shelter from inclement weather.

The USDA cited Lowe for failing to keep a lemur enclosure in good repair. The bottom metal support rail was rusted, meaning that it could not be adequately cleaned and sanitized. Lowe also received a repeat citation for failing to maintain the enclosure of Sonic, a porcupine, in good repair to protect the animal from injury. Grate flooring had become exposed, revealing openings of approximately 4 inches by 4 inches that could cause Sonic to get trapped or injured. Lowe was cited for failing to keep the perimeter fence in good repair to restrict entry to outside animals and unauthorized humans and to act as a secondary containment system for the animals at the facility. There were a number of gaps between the fence and the ground, a broken post, and posts missing staples, creating a gap between the fence and the posts. Two areas of the perimeter fence crossed a creek that created approximately 2-foot and 2.5-foot gaps under the fence.

A repeat citation was issued to Lowe for failing to have the acquisition and disposition records for a number of animals. At the time of the inspection, when comparing inventories, at least 60 animals could not be accounted for. Another citation was issued for failing to have acquisition, disposition, and health records available for review.

October 2, 2020: The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma ordered Lauren Lowe to pay \$6,851.92 to PETA for having to compel her to sit for a deposition and provide records. The day before, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana ordered Jeffrey Lowe to pay PETA \$2,539.05 in connection with having to compel his deposition testimony and handing over of lion husbandry records.

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

The fee order came just days after PETA and The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado confiscated three lions from G.W. Exotic as part of PETA's victorious ESA lawsuit against Lowe's former business partner Tim Stark, who had transferred the lions to him. A fourth lion had also been transferred from Stark to Lowe, but she died under suspicious circumstances before she could be rescued.

August 21, 2020: During a routine USDA inspection, Jeffrey Lowe voluntarily surrendered his license "and understands that effective immediately ... all regulated activity must cease."

July 8, 2020: The USDA issued Jeffrey Lowe a repeat citation for failing to follow a written program of veterinary care. The program called for an attending veterinarian to have regularly scheduled visits monthly or as needed. The last time the attending veterinarian had visited had been in March 2019 to see a tiger and, prior to that, on February 17, 2020, to write health certificates for the transport of tigers.

Lowe was issued a repeat citation for failing to provide a fisher with adequate veterinary care after the animal had been identified during the previous inspection as lame in the left hind leg and having hair loss on the tail. The fisher had still not been examined or treated by the attending veterinarian. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to follow the instructions of the veterinarian to provide two geriatric wolves—one of whom was reluctant to rise—with proper bedding. The facility representative described scattered hay on the concrete floor as "bedding," even though the amount of hay was insufficient for bedding as prescribed by the veterinarian.

Lowe was cited for failing to handle a juvenile female lion in a way that minimized the risk of harm to her and to the public.

According to the facility representative, three juvenile lions were placed in a lock-out area while the main enclosure was being cleaned. One of the female lions was able to jump on top of an igloo doghouse, then on top of the fence kick-in, which was approximately 20 feet long and ran to the end of the enclosure. The incident could have led to the lion's escape and possible harm to her and/or the public. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to keep the rear of a tiger enclosure in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain them. A solid metal fence reinforcement was no longer closely adhered to the fence—there was a 3- to 4-inch gap between it and the fence, posing the risk of an animal getting a leg trapped, which could result in a fracture or soft tissue injury.

A direct citation was issued to Lowe for failing to refrigerate food properly. After the inspectors noticed an odor of decaying flesh, the facility representative identified that the source was the refrigerator truck used for cold storage. The inside temperature of the truck was similar to the outside temperature—greater than 85 degrees. There were open boxes of decaying liver and a pallet containing more boxes of liver in the middle of the truck. The truck's refrigeration components were not running during the inspection, and the representative stated that the truck refrigeration had been worked on two days prior and then again on the day of the inspection. When invoices for the repairs were requested, the inspectors were handed an invoice for a tractor repair. There was no other functioning large walk-in refrigeration/freezer unit on the property nor any other food source for the carnivores on the property.

Finally, a repeat citation was issued to Lowe for failing to have acquisition and disposition records available for a number of animals.

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

At the time of the inspection, 34 animals could not be accounted for by the facility representatives, including a number of big cats.

August 17, 2020: The USDA filed a complaint against Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe, and the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park, LLC, alleging dozens of willful violations of the AWA and its implementing regulations.

August 13, 2020: The USDA issued Jeffrey Lowe a 21-day license suspension for willfully violating multiple AWA regulations. The USDA noted, “Our evidence reveals that on June 22, 2020 and July 8, 2020, you failed to assure that the attending veterinarian had appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care, failed to provide adequate veterinary care to animals, failed to maintain facilities in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals, and failed to provide a safe and effective program for the control of pests.”

June 22, 2020: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe for failing to provide two wolves with adequate veterinary care. One was very reluctant to stand, and the other had pressure sores on both rear hocks. The facility representative stated that they thought the old wolves were not in pain and that they had been recently vaccinated. In a subsequent telephone conversation with the veterinarian who had conducted the vaccination, the veterinarian stated that they had prescribed prescription medication and recommended that the facility provide the animals with proper bedding. The facility representatives were not aware of the prescriptions, and the concrete floor had a few strands of hay that the representative called bedding.

At one point, the USDA had to stop the inspection to instruct the facility representative to obtain immediate veterinary care for a lion cub named Nala, who was “lethargic, depressed, and thin and would not get up out of the mud” and had thick nasal and ocular discharge. Lowe was issued a direct citation for failing to provide Nala with adequate veterinary care.

Lowe was issued another citation for directly violating the AWA by failing to provide a limping fisher cat, an emaciated grizzly bear named Gizzy, and an underweight black bear with adequate veterinary care. A critical citation was issued for the death of a 17-year-old big cat named Young Yi, who had died, allegedly of renal failure, without having been seen by a veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.

Lowe was issued a direct citation for failing to have a written program of veterinary care available at the time of inspection. A copy was forwarded the following day with the frequency for regularly scheduled visits by the attending veterinarian said to occur monthly or as needed. When the veterinarian was contacted, they were asked if they were the attending veterinarian, to which they responded that that was up for discussion, since the last two visits were in March 2019 for work on a tiger and in February 2020 for writing health certificates for transporting tigers.

The USDA also cited Lowe for leaving the partially burned body of Young Yi and another dead tiger, named Dot, in a large pile of debris, causing a foul odor of decomposing flesh and attracting swarms of flies. The USDA noted that the flies had created flystrike, resulting in large patches of painful ulceration on the ears and legs of many animals in the park, including numerous tigers, lions, and wolves. The ulcerated areas were red and had scabs, and some exuded pus or blood. The

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

affected areas were missing hair, skin, and/or flesh.

In addition, Lowe was cited for having numerous enclosures in disrepair: An enclosure holding lemurs had a metal resting platform with areas that were rusted through, creating sharp edges that posed a risk of injury for the lemurs; three enclosures (one holding two wolves, another holding a fisher cat, and the last holding an African porcupine) had portions of the metal grate sub-floor exposed with openings approximately 4 by 4 inches wide that could entrap a foot or leg; the kangaroo enclosure had a piece of metal fencing with an exposed vertical edge and a gap between the metal fencing and the wooden fence that could entrap a leg; and a tiger enclosure had a gap in the fence that was a potential hazard for leg entrapment.

June 1, 2020: A U.S. District Court ordered the Greater Wynnewood Development Group, LLC, to vacate the Wynnewood property and take all steps reasonably necessary to require Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park, LLC, to vacate the Wynnewood property within 120 days. The court granted Big Cat Rescue Corp. a constructive trust over the property as part a trademark infringement case. (See the March 3, 2013, entry.)

May 1, 2020: Jeffrey Lowe was ordered to "cease and desist all business operations" at the G.W. Exotic Animal Park by the state of Oklahoma for failing to pay over \$50,000 in back taxes dating back to 2016. The Oklahoma Tax Commission denied the park's application to renew its sales tax permit, and in early June, the state filed a lawsuit against Lowe and the park for payment of the delinquent taxes and injunctive relief, including that the park cease operation.

January 22, 2020: Joseph Maldonado-Passage was sentenced to 22 years in prison. In 2019, a federal jury found him guilty of two counts of murder-for-hire and 17 federal wildlife charges. (See the April 2, 2019, entry.)

April 2, 2019: A federal jury convicted Joseph Maldonado-Passage on 19 counts: two counts of murder-for-hire for attempting to hire two hitmen to kill animal advocate and founder of the Big Cat Rescue accredited sanctuary Carole Baskin, eight counts of violating the Lacey Act for falsifying wildlife records, and nine counts of violating the Endangered Species Act, including for killing five tigers.

August 30, 2018: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe again for failing to have disposition records for two tigers, one cougar, and one Canada lynx.

April 2018: Jeffrey Lowe was arrested after being charged with three counts of not having a "license/permit" for "wild and farm animals" in November 2017. After withdrawing his not guilty plea, Lowe entered a "submit" plea. He was also charged with one count of doing business without a license, to which he pleaded *nolo contendere*. The Las Vegas Municipal Court found him guilty on April 5, 2018, of doing business without a license and issued a suspended jail sentence and a "stay out of trouble" order and ordered him to pay \$2,500 in restitution. (See the November 2017 entry.)

March 7, 2018: The USDA issued a repeat citation to Joseph Maldonado-Passage for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Tigers named Prince and Thor were held in an enclosure with a damaged fence. The wire on the bottom of the metal fence had come loose, creating an opening that a tiger could put a paw through, risking escape or injury. Maldonado-Passage was also cited

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

because the roof of the indoor enclosure for beavers was severely chewed and damaged, risking injury to the animals.

March 7, 2018: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe for failing to have disposition records for a female tiger cub and a juvenile lemur.

November 2017: Jeffrey Lowe's Las Vegas home was raided by authorities, who seized big-cat cubs and a lemur and cited him for failing to have the required licenses to operate a business and possess exotic animals in the city. In addition to the animals, semi-automatic handguns and rifles were impounded.

October 23, 2017: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe for failing to have a disposition record for a male tiger born at the park on June 26, 2017.

July 25, 2017: The USDA cited Joseph Maldonado-Passage for allowing a reporter to enter an enclosure holding three tigers between 8 and 10 months of age. According to the USDA, tigers of that age and size are too large and strong to have direct contact with the public. There was no attempt to exert any direct control over the tigers, who had free contact with the reporter.

Maldonado-Passage was also cited for failing to have protective covers over electrical outlets and switches in the nursery, risking injury to the baby kangaroo and other baby animals who were allowed to roam in the room, and for failing to have complete acquisition records.

May 30, 2017: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for a tiger escape that occurred on May 15, 2017. A female tiger escaped from an exercise enclosure and was discovered loose on the premises during the evening. She was shot and killed to prevent her from escaping the facility.

March 27, 2017: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to repair a shelter for tigers that had a collapsing roof and broken boards.

November 9, 2016: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a repeat citation and a "proposed penalty" of \$10,974 to the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park for failing to protect employees from the hazards associated with physical contact with felids such as tigers, lions, and ligers during caretaking and exhibition activities.

October 19, 2016: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to have adequately trained employees to maintain an acceptable level of husbandry practices. Employees were throwing meat over the fence into an enclosure instead of following the feeding protocol, posing a risk of injury to one of the tigers. The facility was also issued a repeat citation for failing to remove raw meat from the top of a shade structure in an enclosure housing tigers.

October 19, 2016: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe, doing business as Club Returns, for failing to have a primary enclosure for one lion and two tigers of adequate height to sufficiently contain the enclosed big cats at all times.

May 19, 2016: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to dispose of expired medication, failing to have an effective "pest"-control program (a live mouse was seen in an enclosure holding ring-tailed lemurs, and a partially eaten mouse was in an enclosure holding a capuchin), failing to maintain an effective perimeter fence, and failing to provide safe enclosures. The enclosure holding white-tailed deer had large cinder blocks and broken bricks that could injure the deer's limbs, and broken fence welds between cages holding tigers could potentially allow the animals to move

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

between enclosures. The facility was also issued repeat citations for failing to maintain resting platforms—they were in poor condition in an enclosure holding primates.

May 19, 2016: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe, doing business as Club Returns, for failing to dispose of a medication that had expired in February 2014 and failing to maintain the perimeter fence in good repair.

February 1, 2016: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to have an effective barrier around a row of cages containing lions and tigers and failing to maintain the enclosure housing baboons—the metal siding had a hole with sharp edges. He was issued repeat citations for failing to maintain resting platforms (they were in poor condition in an enclosure holding primates), failing to maintain the den roof in an enclosure holding tigers, failing to repair fence posts for the arena enclosure, failing to maintain a log bridge that connected the tops of two log houses in an enclosure housing tigers, failing to have primary enclosure fencing of sufficient height to contain large cats at all times, and failing to house three tiger cubs properly. One cub was 7 weeks old, and the other two were 12 weeks old. They were roaming unsupervised in a house at the rear of the park, risking injury to themselves. Maldonado-Passage was also issued a repeat citation for failing to have an effective perimeter fence. One section was directly against an enclosure holding a cougar, and another portion was approximately 5 feet high—the minimum height requirement for facilities holding dangerous animals is 8 feet.

November 16, 2015: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to provide tiger cubs with a safe nursery area. Electrical outlets didn't have covers, exposing bare, live electrical wires, and two single-pane windows were low enough that

the cubs could potentially break them and escape. The facility was also cited for failing to store cardboard boxes of meat properly. They were sitting on the floor of the walk-in refrigerator and were thawing.

August 5, 2015: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to provide a 19-day-old tiger cub with a secondary heating or cooling method for climate control while being exhibited at the Mississippi Valley Fair in Iowa. The inspector stated, "Animals this young in the absence of their parents are not able to adequately thermoregulate and exposure to temperatures which may be comfortable for adults may still be detrimental to the health of young cubs. Exposure to an excessive number of people and other animals at this young age poses a disease risk to the cub."

July 23, 2015: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to clean food receptacles in three pens holding wolfdogs (they contained a foamy, soupy substance with numerous floating insects and remnants of vegetation, and there was a buildup of debris on the sides), failing to provide primates with adequate sheltered housing (there wasn't an adequate way to cool the sheltered building used to hold chimpanzees and lemurs), failing to control pests (numerous flies were seen in the buildings used to contain primates), and failing to maintain the fencing around the enclosure holding pigs and deer (it was leaning sharply in the back).

May 18, 2015: The USDA cited Jeffrey Lowe, doing business as Club Returns in Beaufort, South Carolina, for failing to handle animals properly when he allowed a reporter to pet a juvenile lion as he squatted next to the enclosure that also held a tiger. Lowe was also cited for failing to have a perimeter fence of sufficient height to prevent unwanted entry of people or

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

animals and to act as a secondary method of containment for the animals.

March 25, 2015: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to maintain indoor enclosures in the medical building that held primates (three large elevated resting platforms were in poor condition), failing to have an effective rodent-control program (rodent droppings were seen in the building holding primates and on resting surfaces for chimpanzees and the hamadryas baboon and among and adjacent to their feed and water), failing to store hay off the floor, storing feed in scratched and dirty buckets that weren't fit to store food, failing to dispose of an extremely decomposed rat who was in a bin that contained rats intended for use as reptile food, failing to supply a shade structure for a singly housed tiger named Batista, and failing to feed tigers, who were kept in two enclosures, in a proper manner. Raw meat was sitting on top of the shade structures, "evidently from employees attempting to feed the animals by throwing meat over the fencing" rather than through the metal feed chutes.

August 20, 2014: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to have proper drainage for food and waste in a drainage ditch along one exterior side of the primate medical building. He was also cited for failing to provide a spider monkey named Ricky, two primates (Ruthie and Lucy), and tigers with safe housing. Ricky's outdoor housing had a metal roof surface with an area of rust that created a hole with sharp edges. There was a large wasp nest inside roof supports directly over a perch area in Ruthie and Lucy's housing. The lower hinge side of the gate on the tigers' holding pen had rusted through. Maldonado-Passage was also cited for failing to provide three grizzly bears with drinking water. They were all panting and didn't have water receptacles in their

enclosure. Finally, Maldonado-Passage was cited for failing to keep the premises sanitary. The floor of one tiger enclosure contained rancid meat, and at least one piece was covered with maggots. Old meat was trapped in the feed chute of a tiger enclosure, and a large piece of meat was draped over the fence in another tiger enclosure. Numerous ants and rancid meat were found on the pipe supports and in the feed chute in the larger tiger arena enclosure.

April 16, 2014: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to provide a black bear named Crybaby with adequate veterinary care. A 4- to 8-inch-long laceration was discovered on his lower back on April 2. The attending veterinarian sutured the wound, but it split open on April 5. Someone at G.W. Exotic re-sutured it. The veterinarian didn't re-evaluate the wound during this time. When the sutures split open a second time, on April 14, the veterinarian was called in for a second time, and Crybaby was euthanized on April 15.

March 10, 2014: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for insufficient veterinary care. At least four juvenile black bears had repeated episodes of scratching and significant hair loss and hadn't received any treatment for two months. Maldonado-Passage was also cited for failing to maintain enclosures. A solitary snow monkey's enclosure had an area of rust that had created a hole with sharp edges, and an enclosure containing two tigers, Ladoux and Safari, had an exposed screw point and a missing plank on a walkway, both of which could injure the animals.

October 5, 2013: A zoo employee's arm was severely mauled by a tiger after she put her hand in the enclosure. She was airlifted to a hospital, where her arm was able to be reattached.

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

June 11, 2013: The USDA noted on an inspection report on Maldonado-Passage that it was reviewing an incident that involved the transport of two tiger cubs and their subsequent death on or around May 10, 2013.

March 20, 2013: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for inadequate facilities. A gate and a fence for an enclosure containing four wolves were beginning to lean and sag, leaving a small gap between the two. A large chunk of stone had broken off the roof of the shelter in a pen holding a tiger named Monique. And two connected lion enclosures didn't have adequate shade.

March 3, 2013: Maldonado-Passage was ordered to pay nearly \$1 million in damages and costs to settle a trademark-infringement lawsuit brought against him by Big Cat Rescue, a sanctuary in Florida. Maldonado-Passage admitted that he modeled his "Big Cat Rescue Entertainment" logo after the sanctuary's design but didn't realize that would be an infringement on the organization's intellectual property. The judge ordered him to pay Big Cat Rescue nearly \$1 million in damages and costs. Nearly six weeks later, Maldonado-Passage filed for bankruptcy, claiming an inability to pay.

May 21, 2012: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for improper handling of animals. The report stated that the inspection focused on the handling of tiger cubs at the facilities and that the handling techniques were currently under review.

May 18, 2012: The *Daily Mail* published details about the HSUS investigation of G.W. Exotic. The investigator witnessed or heard reports of numerous dangerous encounters between tigers and members of the public (some with a nearly full-grown tiger), including at least six cases in which

visitors were bitten or scratched. When Maldonado-Passage was asked to comment about the HSUS statement that G.W. Exotic was a ticking time bomb, he responded, "It is a ticking time bomb – if somebody thinks they're going to walk in here and take my animals away, it's going to be a small Waco." *The Oklahoman* stated that the HSUS reported that at least five tigers died the previous summer under questionable circumstances, that a hawk was placed in a trash bin while still alive, and that children were allowed in enclosures with unrestrained wolves.

December 18, 2011: The Associated Press reported that a Grand Rapids, Michigan, mall closed Maldonado-Passage's tiger cub exhibit after receiving complaints and learning of a planned protest.

December 1, 2011: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for improperly handling an animal after a 3-month-old tiger cub on a leash was able to jump on a small child, knocking the child down and causing a scratch during an exhibition.

November 28, 2011: *Inside Edition* released its findings after visiting a tiger exhibit run by Maldonado-Passage at Northgate Mall in Cincinnati, Ohio. It noted that it cost \$55 for shoppers to play with tiger cubs in a pen and have a picture taken with a cub. The 8-week-old cub that the reporter petted and posed with barely moved and was obviously sick. When the employee at the exhibit was asked about the sick cub, she replied, "I don't know. Maybe he's just tired or stressed." Another cub appeared distressed while posing for pictures and was missing a patch of fur.

November 13, 2011: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to transport two tigers safely. They were being transported in the same trailer with two 4-wheelers without proper precautions to

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

ensure that the gas from the vehicles wouldn't harm them.

September 13, 2011: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to give adequate veterinary care to a baboon who had lost significant weight and appeared to be in a constant estrus cycle and a New Guinea singing dog who appeared grossly underweight and had a poor hair coat. Neither animal had been properly evaluated by a veterinarian to determine the cause of the problems and institute appropriate treatment.

June 15, 2010: The USDA opened an investigation into the deaths of 23 tiger cubs. (See June 2, 2010.)

June 2, 2010: An AllVoices.com article reported that 23 tiger cubs died over a seven-month period at G.W. Exotic. According to the article, Maldonado-Passage claimed that they died as a result of being fed a tainted kitten formula. The Food and Drug Administration tested samples that the park provided it and determined that no salmonella or *Cronobacter sakazakii* was detected in them.

June 1, 2008: G.W. Exotic ran an ad in the Animal Finders Guide offering to sell two 9-week-old black bear cubs for \$500 each. The ad also mentioned that tiger cubs would be ready to go in mid- to late June at 11 weeks of age.

January 1, 2008: G.W. Exotic ran an ad in the Animal Finders' Guide, a trade publication for exotic-animal breeders and dealers, offering to give away free 10- to 12-week-old tiger cubs, yearlings, and adults, noting that they had all been bottle-raised from day one.

2008: *The Island Packet* reported that Jeffrey Lowe pled guilty to mail fraud,

according to federal court records. Lowe posed as an employee of Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (CODA) to get more than \$1 million worth of goods for a fraction of their value and sold the items intended for CODA through his warehouse.

June 1, 2007: G.W. Exotic ran an ad in the Animal Finders' Guide giving away free 12-week-old tigers and 7-month-old lions.

April 20, 2007: The Glenwood Springs Mall in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, canceled a planned Maldonado-Passage exotic-animal show because "there were far too many red flags regarding animal abuse and public safety."

April 11, 2007: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to keep separate records for animals being boarded at the zoo by other individuals.

February 7, 2007: The Lake Jackson, Texas, city council voted against allowing Maldonado-Passage to bring his "Mystical Magic of the Endangered" animal show to the Brazos Mall on the grounds that it was "a risk to the city and the citizens."

January 21, 2007: A 10-month-old lion cub was quarantined after scratching a mall patron at the Sunset Mall in San Angelo, Texas. The cub was being used in a Maldonado-Passage presentation called "Mystical Magic of the Endangered" during which spectators were allowed to interact with and pet the animals.

February 15, 2006: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to have a required 8-foot fence around the new cat compound that housed 37 large cats and failing to enclose deer completely with a 6-foot fence.

January 26, 2006: The USDA assessed a \$25,000 civil penalty and suspended

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

Maldonado-Passage's AWA license for two weeks for numerous AWA violations, including failing to construct indoor and outdoor housing facilities that are structurally sound and in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain them, failing to remove excreta from primary enclosures, failing to utilize a sufficient number of adequately trained employees, failing to keep premises clean, failing to ensure that water receptacles were clean and sanitary, and failing to maintain a written program of disease control and prevention, euthanasia, and adequate veterinary care.

December 14, 2004: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for having an insufficient barrier—the barrier for three baby cats was leaning in toward the enclosure and failed to prevent the public from reaching the enclosure. He was also cited for failing to have a completed enrichment plan for primates, failing to provide bobcats and mountain lions with sufficient housing, and failing to have adequate shelter for a wolf whose uninsulated metal shelter was open in the back, making it impossible for the animal to maintain his body heat.

October 2, 2004: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for not using adequate waste trays between double-decker enclosures in a transport trailer that could prevent urine and fecal matter from dropping onto the cats in the bottom enclosures.

July 8, 2004: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to have an up-to-date program of veterinary care on hand.

May 4, 2004: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to have any identifiable park employees available while three deer were loose in the park; not having sealed surfaces in the lemur house, which would

result in improper cleaning and sanitizing; and failing to clean enclosures properly, as there was a buildup of fecal material, dirt, and straw in bear, fox, tiger, and lion enclosures. Maldonado-Passage received repeat citations for having ineffective rodent control; having a perimeter fence that didn't reach the ground; using the commissary for storage, creating hiding places for mice and roaches; storing the cats' meat in a freezer in a barn that housed a number of loose pigeons, risking the transmission of disease; having an insufficient written veterinary diet plan; lacking a suitable diet plan for bears; and not having a clear written training-requirement plan for employees.

December 19, 2003: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage again for not feeding the large cats a veterinary-approved diet—roadkill was being given to them as part of their diet. The inspector noted that roadkill is not acceptable if it had been out more than 24 hours—and even less time in the summer. Maldonado-Passage also received repeat citations for failing to have sufficient barriers for the foxes, allowing primates access to insulation in the roof, having standing water in primate housing, having a perimeter fence that didn't reach the ground, having a trash dumpster in the deer enclosure, having unsteady tinhorns in tiger enclosures, failing to repair shade structures, feeding excessive meat to tigers, failing to have sufficiently trained staff, and having inadequate rodent control.

November 3, 2003: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to give veterinary care to a camel with an injured leg. The animal was "being hoisted in a sling twice a day for two hours, however most ruminants are not slung by belly wraps, because it interferes with their digestion." There were no records to indicate whether the camel had been seen by a veterinarian. One female cougar was limping and appeared very slim, yet there

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

were no records identifying her, that she needed care, or that a vet had looked at her. One kitten named Kenny was limping, but there was no indication that a vet had seen him. The animals' diet had not been approved by a vet.

Maldonado-Passage was also cited for having an incomplete inventory record, having staff who were poorly prepared to conduct an inspection, failing to have adequate housing in outdoor rabbit enclosures (rabbits were provided with two cardboard boxes and one wooden box for protection against the weather), and keeping a rabbit in an 8-inch-tall enclosure—the required height is 14 inches. The USDA also cited him for improperly handling animals. A tiger cub had a chain around his neck with a trailing portion that could get caught on anything in his enclosure. A barrier for a raccoon was of insufficient distance from the public, the barrier around foxes was insufficient to prevent children from crawling under or reaching through, and the sugar glider enclosure didn't have a barrier to prevent access by the public. Maldonado-Passage was also cited for inappropriate housing facilities. The house for two baboons and four macaques allowed the primates to reach through to the roof insulation; the flooring in the lemur enclosure consisted of concrete blocks, making it impossible to clean and disinfect; the indoor portion of the primate house had standing water; the facility's perimeter fence didn't reach the ground; several panels of a shed used for two potbellied pigs and a donkey were bent out and loose; several sheet-metal pieces had come loose from the frame of the camel shed; nails stuck out of wooden spools in the leopard pen; the raised pen for a raccoon was tilting; nails were coming out from the bottom of a house for a female lion, making the structure weaker; blood and accumulated dirt was all over the floor of a walk-in cooler; flies literally covered the food

set out for the animals to eat inside the commissary; a dumpster used for animal waste was inside a deer enclosure and attracted flies; tin horns appeared unsteady in an enclosure housing eight tigers; shade structures were collapsing; and there was standing water with black or blue algae and mosquito larvae swimming in it.

Maldonado-Passage was also cited for inadequate rodent control, dirty water troughs throughout the park that contained algae and mosquito larvae, dirty bedding in all the houses, and an accumulation of feces, old food, and mud-packed straw in all the enclosures and primary houses for the large felids and bears.

April 4, 2003: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for failing to allow the inspector access to the facilities. The licensee was exhibiting in a different state and had failed to file an itinerary with this information.

July 23, 2002: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for not having barriers between enclosures and the public in the "Critter House" and not having an attendant on duty at the display. He was also cited for feeding primates dog food along with monkey biscuits and fruit. The inspector noted that "dog food is not a generally accepted method of meeting the nutritional requirements for nonhuman primates." The USDA also cited him for having food left over from the night before, which indicated that primates may be overfed. And spoiled food could attract flies. In addition, Maldonado-Passage was also cited for not being able to prevent flies from contaminating the food. The food-prep area was located in an open stall in the barn next to the walk-in refrigerator. In an attempt to reduce the fly problem, cats were being fed frozen meat, which is not a recommended procedure. He was also cited for improperly housing a leopard whose house had been made of stacked concrete blocks and a

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

plywood roof. More blocks had been stacked on top of the plywood to hold it down. This created the risk of the structure collapsing onto the animal. Maldonado-Passage was also cited for having insufficient housing. A pen confined three mountain lions, but there were only two houses in it, posing a possibility for fights to break out. In addition, a black bear was added to an enclosure with a trio of Siberian bears, creating a need for additional housing; eight young tigers were being kept in same enclosure, and the house wasn't large enough for all of them; and six young African lions were confined together with only one house for shelter. He was also cited for failing to provide two wolves with an enclosure that would alleviate undue stress—the wolves were disturbed by strangers and needed greater distance from the public or barriers for them to hide behind. He was also cited for not providing separate drinking water sources, as the barrels used to water the cats, bears, and pig were also being used as a place for the animals to cool off.

August 2, 2001: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for not having an inventory sheet on all regulated animals on the premises. He was also cited for not having documentation outlining the experience of staff members with species they are working with and documentation describing a contingency plan in the event of an escape or a catastrophic event. He was also cited for not sanitizing the primate houses on a more frequent basis (feces and food were evident in corners of house); having inadequate facilities, as the lock-out cages for cougars had an 8-inch-wide opening that could allow a cougar to stick a paw out; having insufficient perimeter fencing around an exhibit area holding dangerous animals; improperly storing food (open bags of food were being stored in uncovered containers); and failing to clean and sanitize the freezers and iceboxes

(blood and frozen dirt caked the bottom of the units).

October 30, 2000: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for inadequate drainage in eight pens housing bears, tigers, and a wolf. Animals had to walk through a large amount of standing water to get to their houses, and a large amount of standing water was also noted in a large pen housing llama, goats, deer, and a duck. He was also cited for improper cleaning and sanitizing in the food-preparation area. A table where meat was chopped had old pieces of food on it.

May 11, 2000: The USDA cited Maldonado-Passage for not having shift cages in two cages containing a tiger and a mountain lion. Employees could put the animals in shift cages while they cleaned the other cages and fed and watered the cats. He was also cited for failing to provide a tiger with appropriate shelter and failing to provide a llama in need of hoof trimming with adequate veterinary care. One hoof was "starting to grow back around into the foot."

February 5, 1999: According to *The Dallas Morning News*, Maldonado-Passage, along with other volunteers, decided to try to round up the surviving emus from a former owner in Red Oak, Texas, who couldn't afford to feed them. Maldonado-Passage took legal possession of the flock of more than 100 emus and planned to hold them at another facility until he was able to move them to Oklahoma, where his family was establishing a park. The first day of the roundup involved chasing and roping the animals. A few emus were injured, and others were so stressed that they just lay in the trailers while other upset birds slashed them with their talons. Nine birds died that day, while about 60 arrived at their destination almost bare of feathers. The following day, after arguments between

The Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park

Maldonado-Passage's group and the SPCA, a decision was made to load the remainder of the emus gently, and any injured birds would be humanely euthanized on site rather than staying on the trailers. About 50 birds had been loaded and sent on their way, but several more were injured. At this point, Maldonado-Passage decided to shoot the remaining birds. The police and SPCA tried to dissuade him but to no avail.

Maldonado-Passage and another man slowly approached the birds and shot them one by one. Some dropped instantly, while others flopped around, requiring several shots. A lead investigator for the SPCA finally halted the shootings after one of the men shot an emu who was running, leaving the animal wounded. Six birds were killed.