

September 28, 2016

Sheriff Craig Zanni  
 Coos County, Oregon Sheriff's Office

Via e-mail

Re: Request for Investigation of Apparent Animal Neglect by West Coast Game Park

Dear Sheriff Zanni:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to urge the Coos County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to promptly investigate apparently neglected animals at West Coast Game Park (Game Park) in Bandon, OR. PETA first reported concerns regarding several lame animals in apparent need of veterinary evaluation to the CCSO on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>, and after several follow-up calls, were told by Officer Martinez on September 27 that the concerns had not been investigated because the office had "higher priorities" to deal with. Rather than conducting an appropriate and timely unannounced investigation, the officer reportedly tipped off the owner of the Game Park to the complaint, allowing the owner the opportunity to conceal potential crimes in advance of the officer's visit.

A concerned citizen recently provided PETA with video and photographs depicting animals at the West Coast Game Park who appear to be suffering neglect. Videos show a [capybara](#), a [leopard](#), a [cougar](#), and an [elk](#) all of whom appear to be injured or lame. Wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Heather Rally, examined these videos and stated that "the leopard exhibits a clear limp on the right front leg and avoids full weight-bearing due to obvious discomfort and the cougar appears painful on both forelimbs with a swelling and bowing of the right hind leg at the level of the femur. I am also concerned for the health and welfare of a capybara and an elk who appears to have stiffness and possible lameness. All of these animals require immediate, qualified veterinary attention to investigate their conditions and alleviate suffering".

The concerned citizen also documented a [photograph](#) of a bear cub displayed on a leash, reportedly being forced to stand on his or her hind legs for photo opportunities. This type of handling prevents the cub from engaging in normal quadrupedal bear posture, as the cub will choke against the leash and collar if he tries to stand normally. Training bears in this manner is cruel as it uses punishment to inhibit natural behaviors, causes pain and discomfort, and results in chronic deprivation and frustration. The concerned citizen also reported observing a fox frantically running in circles and a snow leopard pacing back and forth—stereotypic behaviors indicative of extreme stress and deprivation. Dr. Rally states that "stereotypic behaviors develop when an animal is deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors, confined to inadequate enclosures, and/or exposed to chronic stress and are most commonly exhibited at times of boredom and anxiety."

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

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

AFFILIATES:

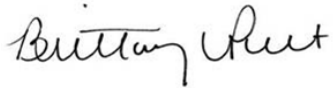
- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Preventing a bear cub from standing normally via threat of choking and the other conditions documented by the concerned citizen appear to constitute animal neglect in the second degree, which is committed when a person fails to provide “minimum care” to animals in their custody or control. Or. Rev. Stat. § 167.325. “Minimum care” includes “care sufficient to preserve the health and well-being of an animal” and “veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person to relieve distress from injury, neglect or disease.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 167.310(9)

Please immediately investigate these potential crimes and ensure that all animals at the Game Park are provided with adequate minimum care and proper treatment.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. May I please hear from you as soon as possible?

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brittany Peet".

Brittany Peet, Esq.  
Director, Captive Animal Law Enforcement