

# Space Farms Zoo & Museum

218 Co. Rd. 519, Sussex, NJ 07461

**Space Farms Zoo & Museum, owned by Fred Space, has failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture has cited the facility for failing to maintain housing facilities in a structurally sound manner that prevents injury to the animals, failing to facilitate prescribed husbandry practices, failing to separate incompatible animals to avoid injury, using shooting as a method of euthanasia, and repeatedly failing to provide animals with proper veterinary care. In addition, Space Farms Zoo regularly places ads in the *Animal Finder's Guide* offering to sell or trade animals.**

**June 30, 2021:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for confining incompatible animals together. Two foxes were observed to have healing wounds on the left side of their necks. One of the foxes was housed with foxes and bears, and the other was housed with only foxes. Employees stated that the wounds had been sustained in fights during mating season.

**October 8, 2019:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for exhibiting a cougar cub under conditions inconsistent with the animal's health and well-being. The zoo transported a 5-day-old cougar cub to a public event. The journey took approximately two hours, and the cub was at the public event for approximately one hour, contained in a cardboard box. The licensee also brought the cub to a car

dealership event. For two days, when the cub was 8 and 9 days old, the licensee conducted a 10-minute talk for the public at the facility during which the cub was removed from the nursery and taken outside for public viewing. The licensee also allowed radio station personnel to access the facility's nursery to promote the new cougar cub, and at one point during the interview, the licensee placed the animal next to the interviewer's face. Due to her young age, the cougar cub's immune system was still developing and she was unable to regulate her body temperature effectively. Being exhibited to the public and transported potentially exposed her to diseases and changes in temperature that could affect her health and well-being.

**May 1, 2018:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to provide a female goat with adequate veterinary care. The animal had visible pelvic bones and appeared very thin along her spine.

**April 5, 2017:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to provide sufficient enrichment opportunities to encourage normal species-specific behavior for the baboons and rhesus macaques and failing to provide Sika deer with shelter from the elements.

**August 1, 2015:** Space Farms Zoo ran an ad in the *Animal Finder's Guide*, a trade publication for exotic-animal breeders and dealers, offering to sell or trade two male tiger cubs and two Kodiak bears.

**May 6, 2015:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to maintain the enclosures housing the pigs and the highland cattle in good repair. The enclosure housing the highland cattle had a long piece of wood hanging from under the roof that could fall and injure the animals. The facility was also cited for failing to implement a weight-reducing feeding plan for a grossly obese

bear. The inspector noted that the bear had a sagging abdomen and obvious fat over the hindquarters.

**April 24, 2014:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to address baboons and a singly housed squirrel monkey in the primate-enrichment plan, failing to drain stagnant water from the enclosure housing the hyenas, failing to produce a written diet plan for the big cats, failing to remove leftover chicken bones from inside and around the enclosure housing a fox, and failing to provide woodchucks, who had hair loss and red areas of skin, with proper veterinary care.

**September 25, 2013:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to clean a dirty water receptacle in the enclosure housing the macaques and failing to store an open bag of food properly.

**March 1, 2013:** Space Farms Zoo ran an ad in the *Animal Finder's Guide* offering a free black bear.

**September 27, 2012:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to remove a large buildup of cobwebs from the shelter in the enclosure housing the kangaroo and failing to maintain the following in good repair: a shelter for the hyenas that had jagged and sharp edges of sheet metal, large areas of rusty metal in the enclosure housing the bobcat, and a shelter for a jaguar that had a large gap, jagged edges in the plywood, and a buildup of rust on the wire.

**December 2, 2009:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to repair three support beams beneath the deer shelter that had become detached.

**March 8, 2009:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to facilitate prescribed husbandry practices on the interior ceiling

surfaces, light fixtures, and walls in the housing area of the barn.

**May 15, 2008:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to repair the shelter for the goats, which had missing paint and holes in the wood, and failing to clean the enclosures housing the big cats. The enclosures had a wire mesh above them that allowed birds to nest, leading to an accumulation of bird droppings, debris, and two dead birds on the wire mesh, posing a disease hazard to the big cats.

**January 23, 2006:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to have an approved method of euthanasia in its current program of veterinary care. The current listed method of euthanasia was gunshot, which is not an approved method. The facility was also cited for placing animal feed on the ground, where it can be subject to contamination.

**August 9, 2005:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for repeat violations for failing to repair the following: chewed wood in the shelter for the deer, chewed wood in the shelter for the fishers, and deteriorated wood, loose shingles, and a cracked foundation in the shelter for the bison. Space Farms Zoo was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have a drainage system to prevent mud in the enclosure housing the deer and failing to provide the yaks and lions with adequate shelter.

The facility was also cited for failing to replace rusty water receptacles for the lemurs and sheep, failing to clean the green water in the pool for the bear, and failing to clean the feeding area for the sheep, which had an accumulation of waste.

**April 28, 2005:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for repeat violations for failing to repair the following: rusty pools for the bears, rusty fencing in five different enclosures, chewed wood in the shelter for

the fishers, a gap in the gate of the enclosure housing the fox, sharp metal edges on the shelter for the hyena, protruding wires in the enclosure housing the deer, and deteriorated wood, loose shingles, and a cracked foundation in the shelter for the bison. Space Farms Zoo was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have a drainage system to prevent mud in the enclosure housing the deer, failing to replace rusty water receptacles in four enclosures, and failing to provide deer, two yaks, and a fox with adequate shelter. The facility was also cited for failing to replace rusty water receptacles in the enclosure housing the monkeys.

**October 6, 2004:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for repeat violations for failing to repaint rusty pools in the enclosures housing bears, failing to repair a detached fence around the hyenas, failing to repair a hole in the enclosure fencing for the lion, and failing to replace rusty, moldy water receptacles for the goats and deer. The facility was also cited for failing to provide a prairie dog with proper veterinary care (a worm was coming out of his rear end), failing to repair holes in the enclosure housing the lemur, and improperly feeding the elks. Their food was being provided on the ground, where it would get contaminated with their excreta.

**May 13, 2004:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to replace rusty food receptacles for a monkey, failing to drain stagnant water in the enclosures housing the lions and mountain lions, failing to clean a dirty wall in the enclosure housing the lion, failing to remove chicken droppings from the enclosure housing the pigs, and failing to clean greenish water from the pool for the bear. The facility was also cited for failing to repair the following: a rusty pool in the enclosure housing the bear, a shelter for the goats in need of repainting, and two support beams in the shelter for the bison.

**September 16, 2003:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for repeat violations for failing to complete the construction of a food receptacle to keep hay out of the mud in the enclosure housing the buffaloes and failing to repair the following: rough edges of the pool in the enclosure housing the bears; the shelter in the enclosure housing the goats and sheep, which was about to fall down and wasn't large enough; and the shelter for the llamas, which wasn't big enough to hold all the animals. The facility was also cited for failing to provide a bear with clean water.

**August 14, 2003:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to repair the following: chewed wood panels in the enclosure housing the lemurs, uneven edges of the pool in the enclosure housing the bears, and the shelter in the enclosure housing the goats and sheep, which need to be expanded in order to hold all the animals at one time. The facility was also cited for failing to provide the elk and ponies with shelter from sunlight, failing to have a water-drainage system in the enclosure housing the sheep and buffaloes to prevent standing water, and failing to place hay for animals off the ground so that it wasn't contaminated with their excreta.

**July 21, 2003:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care: a lion with fresh wound marks on his nose and a deer with a swollen left front foot. The deer was limping and wasn't able to bear weight on that foot. The facility was also cited for failing to repair chewed wood and an exposed nail in the enclosure housing the lemur, failing to provide a bear with clean drinking water, failing to replace a rusty water receptacle in the enclosure housing the sheep, and failing to clean the enclosure housing the lion, which the inspector noted had "[t]oo many flies" and could be a source of disease.

**August 8, 2002:** The USDA was cited for a repeat offense for failing to clean the den in the enclosure housing the tigers, which was covered with bird droppings. There was also a yellow jacket nest on the outside of the den door.

**April 18, 2002:** The USDA cited Space Farms Zoo for failing to provide bears with shelter from the sun, failing to repair a rusty passage in the enclosures housing the bears, failing to repair protruding wires in the enclosure housing the bison, failing to provide adequate shade in the enclosure housing the deer, improperly storing meat on the floor of the refrigerator (where it was in contact with blood and dirt), and failing to clean the den in the enclosure housing the tigers, which was covered with bird droppings and contained a yellow jacket nest.