

# Steve Martin's Working Wildlife

14466 Boy Scout Camp Rd., Frazier Park, CA

**Steve Martin's Working Wildlife has failed to meet the minimal standards for the care of animals used for exhibition as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Steve Martin's Working Wildlife for failing to provide veterinary care, failing to provide environmental enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of primates, failing to provide shelter from the elements, failing to provide minimum space, failing to keep enclosures clean, mishandling an underweight cougar whose food may have been withheld for training purposes, inadequate ventilation, and improper feeding. Martin has disposed of unwanted chimpanzees and other wild animals by advertising them in trade publications and placing them in facilities with histories of AWA violations. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**February 10, 2022:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to maintain a wolf-dog hybrid enclosure in good repair. The enclosure had a warped and splintering wooden resting platform, and its fencing had a gap in one of the back corners.

**May 16, 2018:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to provide a capuchin monkey—who had overgrown nails on both feet, the longest of which measured approximately 1 to 2 inches in length—with adequate veterinary care. Martin was also cited for failing to submit an itinerary. Staff members at the facility stated that he was exhibiting a chimpanzee at another location, he'd been gone for four or five

days, and they were uncertain as to when he'd return. The USDA hadn't received an up-to-date itinerary.

The USDA also cited Martin for failing to maintain a perch in the chimpanzee enclosure. The perch was in significant disrepair. It consisted of a worn, deeply cracked wooden board bolted to a metal frame that had a protruding piece of broken hardware.

Finally, Martin was cited for failing to maintain a large wooden box in the lion exercise area in good repair to protect the animals from injury. There was a hole in the top of the box, making it unsafe for lions to jump onto.

**June 29, 2015:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to maintain a completed program of veterinary care and failing to cover the fluorescent tubes in the overhead light fixtures in the main food-preparation area, risking food contamination should the bulbs shatter.

**November 19, 2012:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to supply adequate shelter from inclement weather to a young zebra whose shelter was a metal structure with an open front. Martin was also cited for failing to maintain safe outdoor facilities, as there was a gap in the perimeter fence large enough for an animal the size of a cat or raccoon to gain access.

**March 17, 2011:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to clean a lemur enclosure properly. The indoor portion of the enclosure had a buildup of excreta on the concrete floor. The capuchin enclosures didn't have the ability to lock off outdoor and indoor areas, making it difficult to sanitize them unless the trainer was present. Martin was also cited for failing to maintain the crumbling concrete flooring of several fox enclosures and storing

chemicals above food cans, risking contamination.

**May 5, 2010:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to maintain waste-disposal cans in a manner that controlled odors and "pests." Trash cans with rusted-through lids were adjacent to animal enclosures. The inspector also discussed the need for shade in temporary training enclosures.

**July 9, 2009:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to provide reindeer with structurally sound and properly maintained housing. Boards in the reindeer enclosure had gaps that the inspector determined "could be hazardous to animals with large racks."

**May 17, 2007:** According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Steve Martin's Working Wildlife was forced to remove two chimpanzees taken to a "surrender monkeys" political protest outside the district office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in San Francisco because they were in the city illegally.

**March 7, 2006:** Martin transferred two chimpanzees, two bears, and one lion to G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Park in Oklahoma. The USDA had assessed this park a civil penalty of \$25,000 in January and placed it on an 18-month probation period for violations of the AWA.

**October 15, 2005:** Martin ran an advertisement for "free" animals, including bears, wolves, a lion, and a leopard, in *Animal Finders' Guide*, a publication in which exotic-animal auctioneers, trophy-hunting facilities, breeders, dealers, and members of the public advertise a variety of exotic and wild animals for sale.

**May 1, 2005:** Martin ran advertisements in *Animal Finders' Guide* "to place male chimps" and a 12-year-old black bear.

**December 10, 2003:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to correct a previously identified noncompliance by providing primates with adequate environmental enrichment. Chimpanzees and orangutans were locked in "night housing" for up to 18 hours a day with no enrichment items. Martin was also cited for failing to supply minimum space to a porcupine kept in an enclosure with a wire floor, preventing him from moving about freely.

The inspector wrote, "[T]he animal is restricted to a small shelf in the enclosure, raised off the floor. This does not provide adequate space for normal postural and social adjustments."

**June 7, 2003:** According to a USDA acquisition record, Martin purchased two tigers from Amarillo Wildlife Refuge, a facility with a history of AWA violations and selling tigers through classified ads.

**February 14, 2003:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to feed big cats a veterinarian-approved diet to ensure that they received proper nutrition.

**March 20, 2002:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to correct a previously identified noncompliance by providing primates with adequate environmental enrichment. Cages lacked items to manipulate, "browse opportunities," cage complexities, and other means of expressing behavior typical of the species. Martin was also cited for failing to maintain adequate records documenting veterinary treatment.

**April 24, 2001:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to maintain veterinary-care records, failing to maintain primate enclosures in a sanitary manner, failing to have an updated environmental enhancement program to promote the psychological well-being of primates available for inspection, and failing to provide adequate drainage in the chimpanzee building,

which had standing water and a buildup of debris. The inspector found that the capuchin enclosures had no branches, ropes, shelves, or other items to enrich the monkeys' environment. At least two chimpanzee enclosures had very few or no furnishings, and there was no indication that items were rotated to provide new or novel items. The baboon enclosure lacked items to enrich the environment. Martin was also cited for failing to provide capuchins with an appropriate diet, failing to provide two coyotes with adequate shelter, and poor housekeeping.

**February 10, 2000:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to provide records of acquisition and disposition.

**November 19, 1999:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to provide adequate shelter, improper feeding and food storage, failing to comply with identification requirements, and failing to provide adequate ventilation in the chimpanzee building, which had mold on the ceiling and condensation on the walls. The inspector also noted that a wolf-dog hybrid with excessively long nails had difficulty standing.

**May 1, 1999:** Steve Martin ran a "free chimpanzee to good home" advertisement in *Animal Finders' Guide*.

**September 9, 1998:** The USDA cited Martin for unsanitary feeding practices and failing to maintain enclosures in a safe and sanitary manner.

**May 2, 1997:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to keep cages in good repair and failing to dispose of expired medicine. He was also cited for inadequate drainage and for providing chimpanzees with rusty drinking water receptacles that couldn't be sanitized.

**February 12, 1996:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to correct a previously identified noncompliance involving the cleaning of a bear cage with a buildup of feces. He was also cited for failing to clean a rabbit cage with an excess buildup of excreta, failing to provide a raccoon and a coyote with shelter from the elements, failing to maintain in good repair a dog exercise area that had wire panels with sharp points extending into it, and failing to comply with identification requirements.

**September 20, 1995:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to have an environmental enhancement program for primates available for review, failing to have a veterinarian-approved diet plan, and mishandling a cougar who had protruding ribs and hip bones.

The inspector wrote, "[E]nsure animal is receiving normal daily ration of food, which may have been reduced for training purposes." Martin was also cited for failing to clean a bear cage in which feces had built up, poor housekeeping, and failing to supply minimum space to a wolf-dog hybrid who was unable to stand in a normal posture in the undersized transport crate in which he was kept.

**September 21, 1994:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to supply veterinary care to an underweight reindeer who exhibited lethargy, labored breathing, and eye discharge. Martin was also cited for failing to have a written diet plan, failing to clean cages in which feces had built up, unsanitary food storage, failing to provide drinking water, caging animals in hazardous conditions, and failing to comply with identification requirements.

**March 3, 1994:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to maintain primate cages, failing to provide a veterinarian-approved diet, improper food storage, and failing to comply with identification requirements.

**June 3, 1993:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to correct a previously identified noncompliance involving inadequate ventilation and drainage in the primate house. Martin was also cited for caging animals in dangerous and unsanitary conditions, failing to provide adequate shelter, and insufficient ventilation in a transport crate.