

# Steve Martin's Working Wildlife

14466 Boy Scout Camp Rd., Frazier Park, CA

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

**June 29, 2015:** The USDA cited Martin for failing to have a completed program of veterinary care and failing to have a cover over 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 failure to supply adequate shelter from inclement weather to a young zebra whose shelter was a metal structure with an open front as well as failure 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 failure to clean a lemur enclosure properly. The indoor portion of the enclosure had a buildup of excreta on the concrete floor, and 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 concrete flooring of several fox enclosures (it was crumbling) as well as storing chemicals above food cans, risking contamination.

**May 2010:** A whistleblower contacted PETA alleging abusive treatment of a young chimpanzee named Suzy, who was provided by Martin for a filming of an episode of the television show *Drop Dead Diva*. The whistleblower claimed that the man

who handled Suzy on the set yanked Suzy's ears, pulled her hair, continuously tugged at the leash attached to her leg, and yelled at her so much that she cowered because of the loud and threatening tone that he used toward her.

**May 5, 2010:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to maintain waste-disposal cans in a manner that controlled odors and pests. Trash cans with lids that were rusted through 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 failure 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.

**2006:** During a PETA investigation of a poorly run pseudo-sanctuary called G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Park in Oklahoma, the facility received two chimpanzees, two bears, and one lion from Martin. In January 2006, G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Park paid a \$25,000 fine to settle charges of violating the AWA and was placed on probation for 18 months.

**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 "to place male chimps" and a 12-year-old black bear in *Animal Finders' Guide*.

**January 5, 2004:** A PETA investigation found that a chimpanzee named Walter (aka "Bucky"), who had come from Steve Martin's Working Wildlife, was living at a pseudo-sanctuary called Amarillo Wildlife Refuge. Walter was being kept in a dark, barren, concrete pit filled with garbage and was being fed a diet of dog food and rotten produce.

**December 10, 2003:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not 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 failure 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 poorly run pseudo-sanctuary that breeds animals, sells tigers through classified ads, and keeps animals in substandard conditions.

**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 failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not 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 failure to maintain adequate records documenting veterinary treatment.

**April 24, 2001:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to maintain veterinary-care records, failure to maintain primate enclosures in a sanitary manner, failure to have an environmental enhancement program to promote the psychological well-being of primates, and failure 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 failure to provide capuchins with an appropriate diet, failure to provide adequate shelter, and poor housekeeping.

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

**November 19, 1999:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to provide adequate shelter, improper feeding and food storage, failure to comply with identification requirements, and failure 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 hybrid whose nails were excessively long was having 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 failure to maintain enclosures in a safe and sanitary manner.

**May 2, 1997:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to keep cages in good repair and failure to dispose of expired medicine. He was also cited for inadequate drainage and for providing chimpanzees with rusty, unsanitary drinking water receptacles.

**February 12, 1996:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance involving the cleaning of a bear cage in which feces had built up. Martin was also cited for failure to clean a filthy rabbit cage, failure to provide shelter from the elements, failure to maintain cages, and failure to comply with identification requirements.

**September 20, 1995:** The USDA cited Martin for failure to have an environmental enhancement program to promote the psychological well-being of primates, failure to have a veterinarian-approved diet plan, and mishandling a cougar who had protruding ribs and hipbones. 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 failure to clean a bear cage in which feces had built up, poor housekeeping, and failure 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 failure to supply veterinary care to an underweight reindeer who exhibited lethargy, labored breathing, and eye discharge. Martin was also cited for failure to have a written diet plan, failure to clean cages in which feces had built up, unsanitary food storage, failure to provide drinking water, caging animals in hazardous conditions, and failure to comply with identification requirements.

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

**June 3, 1993:** The USDA cited Martin for failure 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, failure to provide adequate shelter, and insufficient ventilation in a transport crate.