

May 24, 2016

Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.
 Director, Animal Welfare Operations
 USDA/APHIS/AC Eastern Region

Via e-mail: aceast@aphis.usda.gov

Dear Dr. Goldentyer,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to follow up on its May 23 request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) promptly investigate Kathleen Futrell, dba "Waccatee Zoological Farm" ("Waccatee"; license no. 56-C-0230), for reports of a wounded tiger in need of veterinary evaluation, in apparent violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

On May 21, a concerned citizen documented a gaping wound on a tiger at Waccatee (*see* photo, below). On May 22, Horry County Animal Control visited Waccatee and stated that a veterinarian was going to evaluate the animal and that the wound occurred during a mating attempt. PETA has not been able to verify whether a veterinarian has yet seen or treated the animal, despite this serious open wound with a high risk of infection.

Failing to seek adequate treatment for this animal apparently violates 9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)(2), which requires "[t]he use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries." Failure to notice an injury in a timely matter and promptly notify a veterinarian also appears to violate *Id.* § 2.40(b)(3), which requires "[d]aily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being" and states that "a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian." The fact that the animal was injured in an apparent mating attempt also apparently violates 9 C.F.R. § 3.133, which states that "[a]nimals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible." Animals should not be housed near animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

As you investigate this animal, please keep in mind that on January 8 of this year, PETA reported on long-standing and apparently improperly healed wounds and injuries at Waccatee as well as the zoo's history of USDA citations for inadequate veterinary care. The zoo has failed to notify a veterinarian about a leopard with a bloody ear infection, a goat with persistent wheezing, a potbelly pig with an apparent inguinal hernia, and a flea-infested, dehydrated, and listless coatimundi who later died. Furthermore, Waccatee has failed *even to notice* Patagonian caviar with possible ectoparasite injuries on their ears, a wounded rabbit, and a potbelly pig with scaly skin in need of treatment.

Ongoing failure to notice sick or injured animals may also be in violation of 9 C.F.R. § 3.132, which requires that "[a] sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices ... under a supervisor who has a background in animal care."

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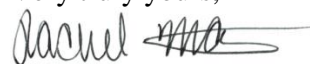
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Please ensure that all animals at Waccatee are provided with adequate veterinary care, shelter, food, and water and are otherwise handled in accordance with the AWA. Please also hold Kathleen Futrell fully accountable for any and all violations that you discover during your investigation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Rachel Mathews

Counsel | Captive Animal Law Enforcement



Photo taken May 21, 2016, of a tiger with a gaping wound at Waccatee Zoo