

Wilson's Wild Animal Park

985 W. Parkins Mill Rd., Winchester, VA 22602

Wilson's Wild Animal Park 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 (USDA) has cited it for failing to provide a written program of veterinary care, failing to have a written plan of environmental enrichment for primates, failing to construct fences properly, and failing to keep enclosures dry and free of feces, among other issues. In 1994, the USDA assessed the facility a civil penalty of \$5,000 and suspended its license for 30 days because of several violations of the AWA. In August 2019, Virginia authorities executed a search warrant and seized more than 100 animals from Wilson's and a judge granted custody of the animals to the Commonwealth. Contact PETA for documentation.

Please note: There may be more recent citations in addition to those included here. Because of the USDA's decision to remove thousands of records related to the AWA from its website, there is a significant delay in obtaining documentation, but updates will be added to this list as they become available.

January 28, 2020: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to clean a barn stall housing eight fallow deer. The stall had brown material on the walls, debris on the ground, and cobwebs in the upper back corners. Wilson's was also cited for failing to remove numerous fecal piles from the straw

bedding within a shelter structure for two cows, who could not avoid the piles when seeking shelter or lying down.

August 2019: On August 15 and 16, 2019, Virginia authorities executed a search warrant at Wilson's Wild Animal Park and seized more than 100 animals. On August 29, 2019, at a hearing in the Frederick County General District Court, the Virginia Attorney General's Animal Law Unit was granted custody of the animals when the judge ruled that owner Keith Wilson "cruelly treated, neglected, or deprived the animal[s] of adequate care."

January 10, 2018: The USDA cited Wilson's for repeat violations for failing to have sufficient public barriers around multiple enclosures housing animals, failing to construct the enclosure holding lions to a sufficient height to contain them, failing to have complete records of acquisition and disposition, and failing to have a sufficient number of employees to carry out the facility's husbandry duties, repairs, and projects in order to maintain routine upkeep of the facility and the approximately 175 animals.

Wilson's was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have an enclosure of adequate size to allow two bears to make all normal postural adjustments and failing to have adequate water features for the bears to engage in species-typical exercise and thermoregulation. The inspector noted that the enclosure should have additional space and elevated structures for climbing and resting and an appropriate water feature to allow the bears to demonstrate species-typical behavior and to improve their psychological well-being. The facility was also cited for a repeat violation for failing to house the tigers in an enclosure with adequate space and structures to allow them to engage in natural behavior such as jumping, climbing, running, and participating

in water activities to improve their level of activity and prevent abnormal behavior patterns.

December 7, 2017: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

September 18, 2017: The USDA cited Wilson's for repeat violations for failing to have sufficient public barriers around multiple enclosures housing animals, failing to construct the enclosure holding lions to a sufficient height to contain them, failing to repair large gaps along the bottom of the fences surrounding the llamas and the deer, failing to repair gaps and broken boards in the fencing surrounding the camels, failing to repair two wooden posts that were leaning inward in a section of fencing, and failing to have a sufficient number of employees to carry out the facility's husbandry duties, repairs, and projects in order to maintain routine upkeep of the facility and the approximately 175 animals.

Wilson's was also cited for repeat violations for failing to have an enclosure of adequate size to allow two bears to make all normal postural adjustments and failing to have adequate water features for the bears to engage in species-typical exercise and thermoregulation. The inspector noted that the enclosure should have additional space and elevated structures for climbing and resting, substrates to encourage digging, and an appropriate water feature to allow the bears to demonstrate species-typical behavior and to improve their psychological well-being. The facility was also cited for a repeat violation for failing to house the tigers in an enclosure with adequate space and structures to allow them to engage in natural behavior such as jumping, climbing, running, and participating in water activities to improve their level of activity and prevent abnormal behavior patterns.

July 19, 2017: The USDA cited Wilson's for repeat violations for failing to have sufficient public barriers around multiple enclosures housing animals, failing to have an enclosure of sufficient height to ensure containment of two lions, failing to repair large gaps in the fencing surrounding the deer and llamas, failing to repair bowed and bent fencing surrounding the fallow deer, and failing to have a sufficient number of employees to carry out the facility's husbandry duties, repairs, and projects in order to maintain routine upkeep of the facility and the approximately 175 animals.

The facility was also cited for failing to provide two bears with structures that offered adequate stimulation such as climbing and digging and failing to house three tigers in an enclosure that allowed them to demonstrate natural behavior such as running, climbing, jumping, and engaging in water play to improve their overall well-being.

May 22, 2017: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to provide a goat with a swollen, injured hind limb with adequate veterinary care; failing to have direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian to ensure that animals received veterinary care in a timely manner; failing to provide five llamas with shelter from inclement weather; failing to have a structurally sound shelter in the enclosure housing 15 deer; failing to clean an enclosure housing pigs, which had brown material on the walls, an excessive amount of feces and wet dirt, and numerous cobwebs and dust; failing to clean brown material from the walls of a barn stall housing two goats; failing to remove dead trees within enclosures (the trees could fall and damage the enclosures or injure the animals); failing to remove pokeweed, a plant that's poisonous to hoofstock, from several areas of the enclosure housing the

llamas; and failing to have a sufficient number of employees to carry out the facility's husbandry duties, repairs, and projects in order to maintain routine upkeep of the facility and the approximately 175 animals.

Wilson's was also cited for repeat violations for failing to maintain acquisition and disposition records for all animals, failing to have a sufficient public barrier in front of several enclosures housing animals, failing to secure the door to the outdoor tiger area, failing to have an enclosure of sufficient height to ensure containment of two lions, failing to secure gates in a manner that contained the animals and prevented injury and unwanted entry, and failing to repair the following: exposed wire fencing surrounding the pigs, sharp points in the fencing surrounding multiple enclosures housing animals, a detached shift door for the bear shelter with protruding metal that could injure the bears, and damaged fencing surrounding the sheep, goats, and deer.

January 12, 2017: The USDA cited Wilson's for a repeat violation of failing to construct the enclosure holding lions in a manner that would ensure containment.

March 9, 2016: The USDA cited Wilson's for a repeat violation of failing to provide a written environmental enrichment plan to encourage appropriate species-typical behavior for primates. The facility was also cited for a repeat violation of failing to construct the enclosure holding lions in a manner that would ensure containment.

November 17, 2015: The USDA cited Wilson's for repeat violations of failing to provide a written program of veterinary care, failing to provide a written environmental enrichment plan to ensure psychological health of primates, and failing to construct the enclosure holding lions in a manner that would ensure containment. The facility was

also cited for failing to repair or replace a structure with a detached wall in the pen holding sheep and goats.

July 9, 2015: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to drain water that was in the enclosure with three tigers. The enclosure had been constructed with openings, allowing for rain to enter and causing the area to become excessively muddy.

May 8, 2015: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to have adequate structures in the following instances: Kulans were kept in an enclosure whose barrier fence was made out of a single rope and was inadequate to prevent the public from coming in contact with the animals, the enclosure holding lions wasn't constructed in a manner that would ensure containment, and in the pen holding potbellied pigs, a portion of fencing was exposed and bent upward into the enclosure. The facility was also cited for the repeat violations of failing to have the following documentation or programs: a written program of veterinary care, proper enrichment for a spider monkey who was being housed alone, and a written environmental enrichment plan for primates.

August 12, 2014: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a written program of veterinary care, a written environmental enrichment plan for the lemurs and the singly housed spider monkey, and records of acquisition and disposition. The facility was also cited for failing to maintain adequate structures in the following instances: Kulans were kept in an enclosure whose barrier fence was made out of a single rope and was inadequate to prevent the public from coming in contact with the animals, and the shelter in the exhibits holding goats, alpacas, donkeys, and sheep wasn't large enough to protect all 35 animals from inclement weather. The facility was also cited for a repeat violation for

failing to construct the enclosure holding the lions in a manner that would ensure containment.

May 29, 2014: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to construct an enclosure that would prevent the escape or injury of the goats being held there.

March 15, 2013: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to keep a written record of acquisitions, dispositions, and animals on hand. The facility was also cited for the repeat violations of failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The enclosure holding lions wasn't constructed in a manner that would ensure containment, the enclosure holding goats had a fence that was leaning outward and had two damaged boards, and the perimeter fence wasn't tall enough to prevent unauthorized entry of animals and humans.

December 12, 2012: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

September 12, 2012: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The enclosures holding the lemurs had openings big enough for babies to escape and adults to put their heads through, the enclosure holding lions wasn't constructed in a manner that would ensure containment, the enclosure holding goats had a fence that was leaning outward and had two damaged boards, and the perimeter fence wasn't tall enough to prevent unauthorized entry of animals and humans. The facility was also cited for failing to have adequate barriers around the enclosures holding primates.

November 8, 2011: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain disposition records for the bison, sloth, and Asiatic bear. The facility was also cited for failing to

sanitize an enclosure holding baboons that had an excessive amount of feces.

September 1, 2010: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to construct barrier fences around the enclosures holding kulans and lemurs that were adequate in preventing the public from coming in contact with the animals.

August 19, 2009: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The side gate of the enclosure holding kulans was constructed with rusty chain-link that was detached on one end, the enclosure holding aoudads had a gate that was tied to a fence post with wire, the enclosure holding deer had a gate that was attached to the posts with wire and a cargo strap, the fence around the enclosure holding wallabies was partially detached from the post, the shelter in the enclosure holding deer was missing boards and didn't adequately protect the animals from wind and rain, and the areas housing the kulans and pigs contained an excessive amount of feces.

April 10, 2009: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to keep proper records of a camel, monkey, zebra, baboon, deer, and an aoudad. The facility was also cited for failing to clean the premises properly. The inspector found piles of trash, broken receptacles, sheep wool, and miscellaneous equipment throughout the property.

March 31, 2009: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

August 19, 2008: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to provide a written program of veterinary care. It was also cited for the repeat violation of failing to provide an enrichment plan to promote the psychological well-being of primates. The

facility was also cited for the repeat violations of failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: A section of tin ceiling with a sharp edge was hanging into the enclosure holding bears, and the chain-link of the gate in the enclosure holding gazelles and emus was bowed outward.

May 14, 2008: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: A section of tin ceiling with a sharp edge was hanging into the enclosure holding bears, the dividing fence in the enclosure holding gazelles and emus was leaning backward and had a 2-inch gap held together with wire, and three cross boards in the barn were worn down to half their original width. The facility was also cited for repeat violations of failing to provide records of acquisitions, dispositions, and animals on hand and failing to provide an environmental enrichment plan.

April 30, 2008: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: A section of tin ceiling with a sharp edge was hanging into the enclosure holding bears, the dividing fence in the enclosure holding gazelles and emus was leaning backward and had a 2-inch gap held together with wire, three cross boards in the barn were worn down to half their original width, a storage room had an excessive amount of spilled feed and a cracked egg on the floor, and a container holding feed didn't have a lid, exposing the feed. The facility was also cited for repeat violations of failing to provide records of acquisitions, dispositions, and animals on hand and failing to provide an environmental enrichment plan.

September 7, 2007: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The enclosure holding deer and aoudads had several areas of fencing bent outward at the top and

a section that was detached from the support beam, the enclosure fence in the area holding llamas and gazelles had a 2-inch gap between the gate and fence, the chain-link fencing in the safari area was sagging in several areas and had two gates that were attached with wire at the top only, and the fencing around the exhibit with zebras had a broken wooden corner support beam and was loosely attached with wire to a rusty hog panel gate. The facility was also cited for failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees.

August 23, 2007: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The enclosure holding deer and aoudads had several areas of fencing bent outward at the top and a section that was detached from the support beam, the enclosure fence in the area holding llamas and gazelles had a 2-inch gap between it and the gate, the chain-link fence in the safari area was sagging in several areas and had two gates that were attached with wire at the top only, and the fence around the exhibit with zebras had a broken wooden corner support beam and was loosely attached with wire to a rusty hog panel gate. The facility was cited for failing to provide a shade or inclement weather shelter in the enclosure holding monkeys, failing to sanitize the enclosure with cavies and cockatoos that had a buildup of bird feces, and failing to have a sufficient number of employees. The facility was also cited for failing to have the following documentation: a written program of veterinary care, records that the veterinarian had visited the premises, and records of acquisitions, dispositions, and animals on hand.

December 19, 2006: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: A barn had unused cages and other equipment stored haphazardly throughout it, the barn's feed

storage area had open containers of feed, and the enclosure fence of the exhibit holding deer and aoudads was bent downward and detached from the support beam at the top.

October 30, 2006: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

March 13, 2006: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to have an up-to-date program of veterinary care and a primate enrichment plan that had been reviewed, updated, and signed by a veterinarian. The facility was also cited for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The enclosure holding lemurs was moderately dark and didn't have enough light to permit a routine inspection of the animals or provide a regular diurnal light cycle, the pen holding goats had a gate that was loosely attached to a pole with wire, areas of the fence in front of the enclosure with zebras wasn't properly buried in the ground and had gaps, the enclosure holding leopards had multiple fence rails missing, and the barrier fence of the enclosure holding lions wasn't attached to the supporting posts at the top, and the left side of the fence had an area that was bent and caved inward.

February 28, 2006: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

May 3, 2005: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to have an up-to-date program of veterinary care, records of acquisition that included all animals at the facility, and an environmental enhancement program that had been reviewed, updated, and signed by a veterinarian.

July 1, 2004: The USDA cited Wilson's for

the repeat violations of failing to provide an up-to-date program of veterinary care, records of acquisition and disposition for all animals, and an environmental enhancement program that had been reviewed, updated, and signed by a veterinarian. The facility was also cited for failing to repair a shelter in the enclosure holding deer and aoudads that was leaning and missing boards.

May 26, 2004: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

July 3, 2003: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to provide a singly housed capuchin with special consideration of enrichment and failing to provide the following documentation: records that a veterinarian had performed an annual visit, records of acquisition and disposition for all animals, and an updated environmental enrichment plan that considered all primates at the facility. Wilson's was also cited for a repeat violation of failing to complete the perimeter fence.

April 3, 2003: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to supply acquisition and disposition records for review and failing to replace the rotted swings in the enclosure holding monkeys. The facility was also cited for the repeat violation of failing to complete the installation of a perimeter fence.

March 17, 2003: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

October 16, 2002: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

June 12, 2002: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to keep the following items in

good repair: Several containers used for animal and food wastes had standing, foul smelling water, which served as a breeding ground for mosquitos and had many flies and fly larvae present; an enclosure holding monkeys had a large accumulation of feces; and the perimeter fence around the enclosures holding caviés and lions wasn't of a sufficient height and had gaps. The facility was also cited for a repeat violation of failing to identify a hybrid wolf properly.

August 20, 2001: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to provide two hybrid wolf dogs with proper identification tags. It was also cited for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The enclosure housing two monkeys had peeling paint, the enclosure housing a single deer had a puddle of foul water that needed to be drained, and the temporary housing holding hybrid wolf dogs had moldy feed on the floor and in containers, debris on the ground, and mold or dirt on the walls.

November 6, 2000: The USDA cited Wilson's for the repeat violations of failing to supply adequate shelter to five lemurs who were being housed outdoors without supplemental heat and failing to fix a fence that was too short and had gaps large enough for dogs and other small mammals to enter. The facility was cited for failing to meet the following requirements of a perimeter fence: The fence was not 8 feet high in all areas, there were gaps in it next to the gift shop, and there was no fence around the front pasture. The facility was also cited for failing to provide evidence that a veterinarian had made the required visit to the premises on an annual basis.

March 30, 2000: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain the following in good repair: Two branches in the enclosures holding tamarins had protruding nails, the fence around the large pasture had gaps along the bottom and needed to be

replaced, a gate for the enclosure holding gazelles wasn't properly secured, the enclosure holding a lion had gaps and needed to be extended to prevent escape, a container with dog food didn't have a lid, bags of grain and dog food were stored on the floor, equipment in the center of the barn wasn't stored neatly, a barrier fence wasn't provided around the enclosures holding lions, a shelter for primates didn't safely provide heat that would prevent the ambient temperature from falling below 45 degrees, and the enclosure holding two pigs had a gap along the bottom, allowing a pig to escape and roam in the front pasture during the inspection.

The facility was also cited for failing to address the eight to 10 cats who were loose on the premises. They weren't included in the program of veterinary care and weren't part of a vaccination or parasite program.

March 29, 2000: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

January 19, 2000: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

January 6, 2000: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials during an inspection.

October 15, 1999: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to provide adequate structures in the following instances: The barrier around the enclosure housing four monkeys was a single strand of rope, which wasn't sufficient to prevent public contact; the enclosure holding 15 sheep, two camels, and an alpaca had approximately 30 feet of bent wire along the top; the enclosure holding two addaxes didn't have

a shelter, and it had a section of fence that was bent and curled inward; the enclosure housing eight deer didn't have a shelter; an enclosure holding deer, aoudads, and longhorns didn't have enough shelter; and the stall housing the tapir had an accumulation of excreta.

The facility was also cited for failing to provide the following records at the time of the inspection: acquisition and disposition records, a written program of veterinary care, and a written plan to promote the psychological well-being of primates.

May 18, 1998: The USDA cited Wilson's for failing to maintain the following structures in good repair: The perimeter chain-link fence of the enclosures holding camels and fallow deer wasn't secure and had noticeable sagging, the perimeter fence around the enclosures holding the lions and binturong had a gap large enough for a small person to pass into the enclosure, the barn had mud and standing water in the central passage area, the enclosure holding the binturong contained a large accumulation of straw bedding that was covered with dry and discolored fecal material, an empty stall in a barn contained a large accumulation of feces and straw bedding, and the rear areas of the enclosures holding lions and a binturong had areas of high grass.

The facility was also cited for failing to provide rabbits with bedding material and failing to provide a pregnant monkey with adequate shelter.

January 13, 1994: The USDA assessed Keith and Blaine Wilson, operating as Wilson's Pet Farm at the time, a civil penalty of \$5,000, and they were suspended from operating the facility for 30 days. They were charged with failing to establish, maintain, or provide structurally sound housing, adequately protected food and bedding, and a physical environment to promote the

psychological well-being of primates.