

April 22, 2014

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
Eastern Regional Director
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Via e-mail: betty.j.goldentyer@usda.gov

Re: Request for Investigation of Wolf Run Wildlife Refuge (61-C-0118)

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) urgently inspect Wolf Run Wildlife Refuge (Wolf Run) (license number 61-C-0118) for possible violations of Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requirements for adequate facilities (9 C.F.R. § 3.125) and a program of veterinary care (9 C.F.R. § 2.40) as well as the AWA's prohibition on transporting animals to unlicensed facilities (7 U.S.C. § 2134).

News reports indicate that three animals, who have been identified as either wolves or wolf-dog hybrids, escaped from the facility on April 16, and PETA has learned that as of this morning—six days later—only two had been recovered. (Exhibit 1.) The 80-pound adult animals were apparently able to escape by digging under a broken gate at the facility, and two of the animals were seen chasing a school bus before they were captured, after having been at large for approximately 20 hours. *Id.* This is not the first time that an animal has escaped from Wolf Run. Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources records indicate that a deer escaped from the facility in 2011, and as described below, a ram broke through a fence at Wolf Run in late 2013. (Exhibit 2.)

A concerned citizen recently informed PETA that Cupcake, a ram who was held at Wolf Run, sustained multiple fractures after allegedly "breaking in" to a wolf-dog hybrid pen. The animal was later transferred to Tic Tac Farm (Tic Tac), an apparently unlicensed exhibitor in Morrison, Tenn. As detailed in the appendix that follows, Facebook posts from Wolf Run founder and CEO Mary Kindred indicate that she was aware of Cupcake's aggression and propensity to charge since at least August 2013. (*See also* Exhibit 3, Request for Investigation of Apparently Illegal Exhibition by Tic Tac Farm, USDA Complaint Number E14-178.) Reportedly, after Cupcake had been injured, a veterinarian recommended euthanizing the dangerous ram, but Kindred ignored his advice and instead "set [Cupcake's] legs [her]self"—i.e., without the assistance of a licensed veterinarian—before transferring the injured animal to Tic Tac **one month later**. It is not known whether Kindred provided Cupcake with analgesic or antibiotic medications to reduce Cupcake's suffering or prevent infection.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please hold Wolf Run accountable for any and all AWA violations, and please inform me of the complaint number that your agency issues to this correspondence. I can be reached at 202-540-2191 or BrittanyP@petaf.org.

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Counsel

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PETA FOUNDATION IS AN
OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Appendix

In a March 13, 2014, Facebook post concerning Cupcake the ram, Kindred commented that:

When he was of age, he was castrated but it did not take. He was one of the most dangerous animals on our property but we kept him and had him on Petfinder.com for adoption to experienced people. **A month prior** to Tic Tac Farm taking him, he rammed through a fence [sic], I've never seen anything like it, and broke three legs. He was vetted by Dr. Joe Yokum who suggested we put him to sleep. I set the legs myself and when Patrick took Cupcake his legs had begun to heal. He had also already been sheared once but upon tearing down the fence he became reinfested with burrs. (Exhibit 4) (emphasis added)

According to this post, Kindred, who is not a licensed veterinarian, undertook to treat Cupcake **herself**, disregarding a licensed veterinarian's recommendation, despite the AWA's requirement that an exhibitor "shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use." 9 C.F.R. § 2.40. It is not known whether Cupcake, after having broken three of his legs, was given analgesic and antibiotic medication to reduce his suffering and prevent infection during the month when he apparently languished at Wolf Run. Kindred also reportedly allowed Cupcake's coat to become severely matted and infested with burrs and failed to shear him for at least one month prior to transferring him to Tic Tac Farm. Allowing a sheep's coat to become matted can result in discomfort, skin problems, or flystrike.

Kindred apparently knew of Cupcake's strength and the danger that he posed at least as of August 13, 2013, when she posted to Facebook that:

At 2AM I had to pepper spray cupcake for charging me ... yesterday he almost broke my finger. He is so unpredictable but one thing I've learned ... if you are empty handed you are safe. Carry anything? You're his latest target. He was supposedly neutered. NOT ... now we have a dangerous bottle raised ram. We flipped and attempted to place him in a breeding situation. No one wants him so we are going to begin to fundraise for this boy's castration. \$125.00 from Dr. Yokum at Advanced Animal Clinic in Nicholasville. We are begging anyone who would like to help this sweet beast to donate. It's not a lot of money so anything you can give will really help us to reach that goal of 125.00 You can go to our website and donate there. (Exhibit 5)

The AWA requires facilities to be "constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved" and "structurally sound and ... maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals" (9 C.F.R. § 3.125), but Kindred failed to provide Cupcake with housing sufficient to contain and prevent injury to the intact, dangerous ram. Kindred knew of Cupcake's aggression and propensity to charge, but she apparently did not neuter Cupcake or safely contain him, resulting in serious injuries to the ram.

Please also investigate whether Wolf Run has the capacity to care adequately for the animals it holds captive. The facility has posted to Facebook regarding its "dire financial straights," including concerns that it cannot buy food for animals (Exhibits 6-7), and the fact that Wolf Run apparently could not afford to pay \$125 to castrate an "unpredictable" and "dangerous" ram for his own safety and well-being as well as that of the public and Wolf Run's staff, raises serious questions regarding whether Wolf Run can afford to provide its animals with the adequate program of veterinary care required by 9 C.F.R. § 2.40 or a sufficient number of employees to maintain a professionally acceptable level of husbandry, as required by 9 C.F.R. § 3.132, among other basic requirements.