

Hawthorn Corporation (John Cuneo)

USDA License #33-C-0053, 23675 W. Chardon Rd., Grayslake, IL 60030

Hawthorn Corporation, which is owned by John Cuneo, has repeatedly failed to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Hawthorn has accumulated \$272,500 in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) penalties and has had its license suspended twice. Four of Hawthorn's elephants died from the human strain of tuberculosis. In January 1997, the 18 elephants used by Hawthorn were restricted from traveling during tuberculosis treatment. Elephants with Hawthorn have rampaged, killing one person, injuring others, and damaging property. The USDA has cited Hawthorn Corporation numerous times for failure to provide veterinary care, adequate shelter from the elements, and proper food and water as well as failure to handle animals in a manner that prevents trauma and harm and ensures public safety. A 2004 USDA order required Hawthorn to surrender all elephants in its care, and in late 2005, the majority of the elephants were transferred to sanctuaries. The last two elephants were moved in early 2007. However, Hawthorn has been allowed to keep tigers they lease to facilities and circuses around the world, including the Cole Bros. Circus, Jordan World Circus, Shrine circuses, George Carden Circus, Hanneford Circus, Hamid Circus, Alain Zerbini Circus, and Tarzan Zerbini Circus. The USDA has cited Hawthorn for inadequate care of tigers dozens of times, including numerous citations for denying tigers adequate space and exercise. In one instance, Hawthorn forced eight tigers to live in small transfer cages for four months. The USDA has also repeatedly cited Hawthorn for denying tigers adequate veterinary care, denying them proper food, and failing to provide enclosures that minimize the risk of harm to the tigers and the public. In addition, dozens of tigers have died under Hawthorn's watch, including numerous juvenile ones. Contact PETA for documentation.

December 8, 2015: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failing to provide a tiger, who had previously lost three-quarters of his tail, with adequate veterinary care. He had reinjured the tail stump, which

appeared inflamed and reddened, and the facility hadn't contacted the attending veterinarian about it.

December 3, 2014: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to have its program of veterinary care records available for review at the time of inspection.

October 2012: PETA caught Lancelot Kollman (aka "Lance Ramos"), a notorious animal abuser whose USDA license was permanently revoked in 2009, exhibiting tigers owned by the Hawthorn Corporation at a Shrine circus in Fort Worth, Texas, from October 12 to 20. Because it's illegal for Kollman to exhibit tigers, PETA documented and immediately reported the violations to the USDA. PETA also documented additional violations over the course of the same week, including failure to provide tigers with adequate space, forcing tigers who appeared ill to continue performing, and leaving raw meat intended for tiger consumption outside in the blazing heat for an extended period of time. PETA's complaint prompted the USDA to open an official investigation into both Kollman and Hawthorn.

August 31, 2012: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to handle caged tigers properly. It failed to have sufficient barriers, and a member of the public was able to walk up to a cage and touch a tiger.

January 10, 2012: The USDA issued Hawthorn Corporation an Official Warning of Violation of Federal Regulations for failure to have a sufficient barrier separating animals from the public—there was an inadequate barrier between tigers in a semi-truck and curious circus attendees. The circus also failed to have a responsible employee present during periods of public contact, as the man observed erecting the ineffective barrier walked away, leaving the tigers unattended.

October 11, 2011: According to an article published by the *Chicago Sun Times*, Lancelot Ramos (aka "Lancelot Kollman") was hired to train tigers for the Hawthorn Corporation. Ramos has a sordid and infamous history of abuse and neglect of exotic animals, which led the USDA to revoke his exhibitor license in 2009. At the time of that revocation, Ramos had been cited for numerous violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act, including denying animals veterinary care, forcing animals to live in unsanitary conditions, denying animals clean water and adequate shelter, using physical abuse as a "training tool," abusing two young lions to the point that one of them died, and starving an elephant to the point that he was a full ton underweight when the USDA took the extraordinary enforcement action of confiscating him. Despite Ramos' well-documented history of

abusing animals, John Cuneo celebrated his partnership with Ramos, whom he described as a "career" tiger trainer.

June 29, 2011: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to have a written program of veterinary care and for failure to provide a wholesome diet of sufficient nutritional value approved by an attending veterinarian.

September 30, 2010: According to the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission, a Hawthorn employee who was crushed by an elephant in 2004 received a \$65,700 settlement. The man sustained pelvic fractures, a winged scapula, a dislocated ankle, and internal injuries. He was out of work for more than seven months because of 60 percent disability to his body, and his medical bills totaled more than \$300,000.

April 4, 2009: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for thawing meat for the tigers in direct sunlight for several hours with exposure to flies. This method can contaminate the food and render it unsuitable for the animals.

March 2009: The head and pelt of a white tiger found in a milk crate by the side of the road near Hawthorn's training compound in Illinois were claimed by a man who intended to make a rug out of the body parts. The tiger had been obtained from the Hawthorn Corporation.

August 13, 2008: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to give adequate space to seven tigers who had been housed in transport enclosures for almost two weeks. Three transport enclosures measuring approximately 6½ feet by 7½ feet by 4 feet high contained two adult tigers each, and another of the same size contained one tiger. The USDA also noted that the incident involving a Hawthorn employee who had been bitten by a tiger was pending further review.

August 5, 2008: According to the *Chicago Tribune*, a man practicing a circus act at the Hawthorn Corporation facility was attacked by a tiger and sustained deep puncture wounds and several scratches to his upper body, neck, and knee. The man was transported to the hospital by paramedics, who were told that the tiger had been beaten with baseball bats in an effort to get the animal to release the victim. It was the second time the man had been attacked by a tiger at the facility.

July 31, 2007: While Hawthorn Corporation was exhibiting at the Kerr County Fairgrounds in Texas, the USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to maintain

sufficient distance and/or barriers between animals and the general viewing public in order to ensure the safety of animals and the public. The inspector observed that a single thin rope was being used as a barrier in front of the tigers and wrote, "This barrier is not adequate to prevent the public or other unauthorized persons from walking under the rope and coming in contact with the tigers."

March 16, 2006: While Hawthorn Corporation was exhibiting with the Shrine circus in Springfield, Missouri, the USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give veterinary care to a male lion who had three lesions, including a 3-inch-long open scrape on his right hip and scabbed-over lesions at the base of his tail and on his left hip. The licensee said that these lesions occurred because the lion had been rubbing against the bars of the enclosure.

February 24, 2006: While Hawthorn Corporation was exhibiting with the Arab Shrine circus in Topeka, Kansas, the USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate veterinary care to three tigers who had sores on the top of their heads and near their eyes as well as "spots where no hair was present." The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to have "weapons that could immobilize, tranquilize, or [euthanize] any of the tigers if escape occurred."

February 1, 2006: Hawthorn Corporation advertised white tigers for sale in *Animal Finders' Guide*, a trade publication that caters to exotic-animal breeders and dealers, the pet trade, and hunting ranches.

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August 25, 2005: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances including failure to provide adequate foot care to three elephants. The inspector stated, "Foot problems in elephants can lead to severe disability or death. Lack of foot care in these three elephants is a serious problem and has been cited numerous times over the course of many years." The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to provide veterinary care records for numerous elephants and tigers. The USDA inspector noted that construction of shade structures had not begun.

July 2005: According to the *Chicago Tribune*, a man was mauled by a tiger at Hawthorn Corporation's facility. The man was led into an area where 14 tigers were being trained and one of them came over to the man during a photo shoot and then attacked his left leg. The injury required immediate surgery and

resulted in nerve damage.

April 26, 2005: According to documents filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawthorn Corporation gave two tigers to L&L Exotics, an exotic-animal exhibitor in Ohio with a lengthy history of poor animal care. In 2006, the USDA charged L&L Exotics with 953 violations of the Animal Welfare Act dating back to 1997, and in April 2007, L&L's USDA license was permanently revoked.

February 23, 2005: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances, including failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant, Lottie, who had foot abscesses, as well as failure to give foot care to numerous elephants, including three whose nails, the inspector reported, "[were] showing excessive cuticle growth, [were] grossly misshapen, extremely overgrown, curved, and ... weight-bearing." The inspector added, "This serious problem has been cited numerous times over the course of many years." The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to provide an adequate number of employees to care for 12 elephants. The inspector wrote, "Two new [employees] ... have no previous experience or training with elephants."

January 20, 2005: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct several previously identified noncompliances, including failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant, Tess, before her death. The necropsy report stated that Tess' death was "attributed to cardiopulmonary collapse due to prolonged lateral recumbency" and that "[r]ecumbency was considered a sequela [result] of traumatic injuries." The USDA inspector wrote that the medical records for Tess contained "multiple inconsistencies" and that "[n]o diagnostics were ever conducted to determine the cause and the extent of the swelling" of the leg. The inspector also wrote, "One month had gone by prior to administration of any pain relieving medication." The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant, Billie, whose trunk and face had several wounds, some of which were covered with scar tissue; failure to give adequate exercise to elephants, including four who had been unchained only once in the past two months and four others who had been unchained for only 20 minutes in the past two months; failure to implement, follow, and document a foot-maintenance schedule for four elephants who all needed foot care; failure to provide an adequate number of employees to care for 12 elephants, about whom the inspector wrote, the "lack of adequate training and/or supervision has led to the recent injury of the elephant groom and the injury of a general helper ..."; and failure to maintain complete

and accurate records of animal acquisition. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for providing false and misleading information regarding an elephant incident that resulted in injury to two employees. One of those employees was hospitalized and then sent to a convalescent home, and the other was unable to work for four days.

November 9, 2004: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to provide adequate veterinary care, including failure to give treatment to two elephants who were suffering from tuberculosis and whose treatment was suddenly discontinued without consultation with the USDA. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to implement, follow, and document a foot-maintenance schedule for four elephants who all needed foot care; failure to supply complete treatment records for an elephant with a swollen leg; failure to allow USDA inspectors to get close enough to observe the feet of a majority of the elephants; failure to follow the veterinary treatment plan; and failure to provide an adequate number of employees to care for 14 elephants. Hawthorn Corporation was also cited for failure to supply acquisition records for a tiger cub who had arrived at the facility the day before.

June 24, 2004: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to provide adequate veterinary care, including failure to consult with the USDA before discontinuing treatment to two elephants with tuberculosis; failure to notify the USDA that an elephant was showing signs of adverse effects of medication used to treat tuberculosis; failure to periodically weigh two elephants with tuberculosis; and failure to implement, follow, and document a foot-maintenance schedule for four elephants who all needed foot care. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to provide an adequate number of employees to care for 15 elephants. The USDA inspector noted that construction of shade structures had not begun.

March 12, 2004: According to a consent decision, John Cuneo, president of Hawthorn Corporation, admitted to 19 violations of the Animal Welfare Act in order to settle charges filed by the USDA in April 2003. Cuneo was ordered to relinquish custody of 16 elephants to USDA-approved facilities and to pay a \$200,000 fine.

March 2, 2004: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to provide veterinary approval of the diet and supplements given to the tigers. The inspector wrote, "Large felids on all meat diets are at risk for developing metabolic bone disease and need particular supplementation to insure [sic] their health."

February 27, 2004: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to give adequate space to a lion named Caesar, whose head was rubbing against the top of the transport enclosure in which he was housed. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to have a tranquilizer gun available with which to immobilize the tigers and lion in case of escape as well as failure to provide records.

February 5, 2004: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to provide adequate veterinary care, including failure to give basic foot care to four elephants because of a lack of appropriate equipment/facilities; failure to treat two elephants who had tuberculosis or to perform monthly blood tests as directed by the veterinary treatment plan; failure to provide treatment to a tiger with hair loss and a juvenile tiger with "areas of alopecia over his body" as well as "[c]onjunctivitis and swelling of the eyelids ... around his left eye"; failure to maintain records of veterinary treatment; and the use of a skin ointment that been expired for almost two years to treat a tiger. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate space to 12 tigers and one lion who were housed in transport enclosures.

November 22, 2003: The USDA seized an elephant named Delhi from Hawthorn and transferred her to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee after determining that she was in imminent danger from lack of veterinary care. Delhi had been suffering from abscesses, lesions, and severe chemical burns to her feet and was covered with scars. She was originally captured in India and acquired by Hawthorn in 1974. This was the first elephant confiscation in U.S. history.

November 21, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant, Delhi, of whom the inspector wrote, "Delhi's feet are swollen, there are 'blow-outs' on both feet, and it is apparent that her condition has worsened since the last inspection. No diagnostic tests have been performed ... despite Delhi's chronic and worsening condition." Delhi also had not been weighed during the prior year, although the veterinary treatment plan required that she be weighed every eight weeks.

October 20, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to provide adequate veterinary care, including failure to weigh an elephant, Delhi, every eight weeks as required by the veterinary treatment plan; failure to obtain accurate weights of two tuberculosis-positive elephants in order to calculate appropriate medication dosages; failure to

provide Delhi with foot care as established by the veterinary treatment plan; failure to implement a regular foot-maintenance schedule for elephants; and failure to maintain veterinary records. The USDA inspector noted that no shade structures had been constructed for the outside pastures.

September 26, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to provide appropriate veterinary care to an elephant, Judy, who had been exposed to tuberculosis-positive elephants.

September 24, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to provide adequate veterinary care, including failure to give foot-care treatment as directed by the attending veterinarians for an elephant, Delhi. The inspector wrote, "The lack of adherence to these plans may have resulted in the relapse of problems in Delhi's feet." The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to give foot care to other elephants at the facility and failure to document medical treatments, including antibiotic dosages for Delhi and treatment for a 6-week-old tiger cub with a lesion on the upper lip. The USDA inspector also noted that at the time of the inspection the temperature was 70 degrees to 75 degrees Fahrenheit and that, of the 16 elephants at the facility, only two were outside.

September 10, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to provide adequate veterinary care, including failure to give foot-care treatment for numerous elephants as directed by the attending veterinarians. This included an elephant, Delhi, about whom the inspector wrote, "The lack of adherence to these plans may have resulted in the relapse of problems in Delhi's left front foot." The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to document medical treatments, including for a 6-week-old tiger cub with a lesion on the upper lip; failure to give sufficient space to eight tigers who had been housed for four months in transport enclosures that measured approximately 6½ feet by 7½ feet by 4 feet high; failure to supply proper ventilation in a tiger facility that had "a strong urine and ammonia odor" and where the inspectors experienced "a stinging sensation in their eyes and nose"; and failure to maintain a tiger enclosure that had torn and splintered plywood flooring that could injure the animals.

July 1, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to provide shade to protect an elephant from direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day.

June 6, 2003: According to documents filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawthorn Corporation

gave a tiger named Maja to BEARCAT Hollow, an exotic-animal breeder and dealer in Minnesota. The co-owners of BEARCAT Hollow were sentenced in 2005 to 18 months and 15 months in prison for their role in the illegal trafficking of wild and endangered animals.

June 4, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to give adequate veterinary care to three elephants who had gone for at least nine months without foot care even though the facility's elephant veterinary consultant had determined that it should be done at least every three to four months. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to maintain proper sanitation in a barn in which elephants were housed. The barn had exposed fiberglass insulation hanging from the ceiling.

April 10, 2003: The USDA cited Hawthorn Corporation for failure to provide handles or handholds on the back of four shift cages that were used for tigers. The handles should have been present in order to prevent the cages from tilting when lifted and to ensure that people handling the cage would not come into contact with the animal.

April 9, 2003: The USDA filed charges against Hawthorn Corporation, several Hawthorn employees, and Walker Bros. Circus, which used Hawthorn's elephants. The complaint alleged 47 violations of the minimum standards of care established in the Animal Welfare Act that affected 12 elephants between March 29, 2001, and June 1, 2002. Charges include using physical abuse to train, handle, and work an elephant, causing physical harm and discomfort, failing to give veterinary care to an emaciated elephant, failure to give veterinary care to an elephant suffering with severe chemical burns and a bacterial infection, failure to give veterinary care to several elephants with potentially deadly foot problems, and unsafe public contact.

March 5, 2003: According to *The Edmonton Sun*, a local Shrine circus announced that it will no longer use animals from Hawthorn.

October 19, 2002: According to *The Virginian-Pilot*, an elephant handler with Sterling & Reid, David Creech, was convicted on three counts of cruelty to animals (see September 4–5, 2002) and fined \$200 on each count. The judge acquitted Creech, a Hawthorn employee, of a fourth count, which alleged that he struck an elephant over the head with a bullhook, because it was unclear from the eyewitness account which elephant trainer committed the act.

September 4–5, 2002: According to *The Virginian-*

Pilot, an elephant handler with Sterling & Reid, David Creech, was charged with four counts of cruelty to animals for allegedly beating an elephant until her hide was bloody while performing at the Norfolk Scope on August 23. The article stated, "An investigation by the officer and an outside veterinarian determined that the elephant suffered multiple lacerations." The circus is leasing its elephant act from Hawthorn. Another elephant handler, James Zajicek, a Hawthorn employee, was arrested and charged with obstructing justice.

June 20, 2002: According to documents filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawthorn Corporation gave a tiger named Ban-Siry to BEARCAT Hollow, an exotic-animal breeder and dealer in Minnesota. The co-owners of BEARCAT Hollow were sentenced in 2005 to 18 months and 15 months in prison for their role in the illegal trafficking of wild and endangered animals.

June 1, 2002: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate veterinary treatment to three elephants held in the protected contact area and in need of foot care to prevent potentially deadly foot problems. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not providing diagnostic test results for a dead lion and a dead tiger. The inspector noted that 13 white tigers had been kept in transport cages since April 23, 2002, which failed to comply with minimum space requirements. Lota, an elephant, was reported to weigh 7,200 pounds. The expert elephant veterinary consultant had determined that Lota should not be sent back on the road before reaching a weight of 7,400 pounds.

May 24, 2002: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate veterinary care to the African elephants with hard, dry, cracked skin on the back, ears, and head and overgrown nails and cuticles, which can lead to potentially deadly foot problems. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to give minimum space to its tigers and for allowing unauthorized people near the tiger cages without a handler present.

May 16, 2002: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate veterinary treatment to the elephants in the protected contact area and in need of foot care and for failure to provide diagnostic test results for a dead lion and a dead tiger.

May 4, 2002: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give adequate veterinary care to its elephants. The inspector wrote, "The owner of the Hawthorn Corporation failed to obtain the services ... of an expert elephant veterinarian ... as required. ... [The

USDA] acquired the services of an expert elephant veterinary consultant who examined Delhi on this date.” The USDA’s elephant veterinary consultant found that Delhi had numerous lesions, a swollen tail, swollen front feet with skin damage and abscess blow-outs, abscess defects on the foot pads, and a huge split nail. The consultant recommended twice-daily foot soaks, weekly foot trims, monthly weight checks, oral medications, keeping detailed medical records, providing care for skin wounds, and allowing Delhi to go outside. The veterinary consultant examined Lota the elephant and stated that she should not go on the road until she gained an additional 500 pounds and that the four elephants in the protected contact area—Frieda, Sue, Billy, and Nicholas—had nails and/or cuticles that required trimming.

April 23, 2002: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give veterinary care and for causing behavioral stress, physical harm, and unnecessary discomfort to an elephant named Delhi, who had severe tissue damage to the front feet and several abscessed areas on her body, including areas on both hips, between the eyes, the anterior portion of the ear attachment, on her head, the elbows of both front legs, and the tail. Chemical burns on Delhi’s feet were the result of the use by trainer John Caudill III—who was later fired—of undiluted formaldehyde to soak Delhi’s feet. On March 4, 2002, Delhi was found “in a serious health emergency.” Both of her front legs were twice their normal size and were swollen up to her chest. She could not bend her front legs at the elbows, was reluctant to bear weight on her front legs, and had difficulty walking. The attending veterinarian did not respond in a timely manner. The inspector wrote, “The attending veterinarian cannot wait for two to three days before going to the premises to evaluate an acutely ill animal.” The USDA determined that a USDA-chosen expert elephant veterinarian was needed to evaluate Delhi’s condition. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to provide diagnostic records, treatment records, and necropsy reports for a tiger named Java and a lion named Bunda, failure to give minimum space to 14 white tigers living in transport cages, and failure to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees.

February 22, 2002: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to clean and sanitize the elephants’ transport trailer properly.

January 2, 2002: According to a USDA letter, Hawthorn had been notified that elephants Debbie and Judy were prohibited from exhibition involving potential public contact following the October 2001 rampage in Charlotte, N.C.

December 19, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to maintain an elephant transport trailer in a manner to prevent injury to the animals.

October 27, 2001: Two Hawthorn elephants named Debbie and Judy rampaged at the Word of Life Church in Charlotte, N.C. Two church members were nearly trampled, and children had to be quickly ushered to safety. The elephants crashed into the church through a glass window, broke and buckled walls and door frames, and knocked a car 15 feet, causing an estimated \$75,000 in damages. The elephants sustained cuts and bruises. Debbie had rampaged twice before with an elephant named Frieda while she was with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. In May 1995, she smashed windows, dented cars, and crashed through a plate-glass window at a Sears Auto Center in Hanover, Pa., causing \$20,000 in property damage. In July 1995, Debbie bolted from the circus tent in Queens, N.Y., crushing parked cars and triggering a panic that left 12 people injured.

October 11–15, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing veterinary care and not maintaining facilities. An elephant named Lota had been returned to the Illinois compound two months earlier in an emaciated state, with a lump on her left hip. The property manager and trainer stated that they had never seen Lota so thin. The lump had expanded into a large, painful, fluid-filled abscess that extended down to her mid-thigh. Lota and four other elephants (Misty, Queenie, Minnie, and Lottie) were being given tuberculosis medication as a “preventative treatment.” Lota and Misty were both in need of foot care. Lota had not been weighed since 1997. There were no veterinary-care records for these animals. The inspector found several bottles of medication, said to be used on the elephants, that had no labels identifying the contents, instructions for use, or expiration date. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to maintain the structural strength of the elephant barn and improper food storage.

October 11, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not supplying veterinary care by an experienced veterinarian to elephants traveling with Walker Bros. Circus. The inspector wrote, “I spoke with the veterinarian ... that had examined the animals on 10/10/01. He stated that he was not sure about the proper treatment for the elephants because he did not have much experience [in] treating them.”

October 5, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing veterinary care and security for its

elephants traveling with Walker Bros. Circus. Delhi had an open, draining, and bleeding wound on her nail with blood stains on and around the nail and foot. The area above the nail was swollen and warm to the touch. The cuticles on both of her front feet were “very overgrown.” Delhi was limping in pain and favored her leg during the performance. There were no documents to indicate that a qualified person was providing foot care. Tess’ left eye was very teary, and she was squinting. The trainer claimed that he had run out of an antibiotic ointment to treat her eye. The inspector found two bottles of expired medication. The inspector also observed that an experienced elephant handler was not present while the public came near elephants walking freely in a pen. The inspector returned later, after the report had been discussed with the licensee, and again found that the elephants were loose and unattended.

October 2, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give veterinary care to three elephants (Liz, Delhi, and Tess, traveling with Walker Bros. Circus) with overgrown nails and cuticles. The USDA also cited Hawthorn for failure to have dangerous animals under the control of experienced handlers. The inspector observed parents and children approaching and petting elephants while no attendant was present. Hawthorn was also cited for failure to provide structurally sound enclosures. The inspector wrote, “[T]he elephants were inside an orange plastic mesh ‘fence.’ It was down in two places. ... [Local authorities] informed me that earlier in the day, at least one [elephant] was outside this enclosure. Two [elephants] were completely free from any restraint. ... A water hose was running water over an electrical cord. This area was able to be touched by both elephants and the public.”

October 1, 2001: The Harlan County Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Kentucky lodged a complaint with a county judge after observing that Hawthorn elephants with Walker Bros. Circus had “numerous red and raw spots on their ears from being speared with the hook-like device the trainer uses. ... The traveling quarters for the animals were at best cramped and inadequate. And at no time did I see any water dish or clean food be provided for any of the ... elephants.”

September 25, 2001: Hawthorn was cited for improper food storage.

July 11, 2001: Hawthorn was cited for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not disposing of expired medications and not making necessary repairs to the barn. Hawthorn was also cited for failure to give adequate veterinary care to three elephants with excessively overgrown nails.

June 27, 2001: During an inspection conducted at Walker Bros. Circus, Hawthorn was cited for failure to give adequate veterinary care to four elephants with “excessive pad and toenail overgrowth on their feet” and overgrown cuticles. The inspector wrote, “It does not appear that these animals have had proper foot care in a significant amount of time.” Hawthorn was cited for failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant named Lota, who was “excessively thin, with a protruding spine and hip bones.” The inspector wrote, “It appears that she has lost a significant amount of weight.” The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to have dangerous animals under the control of experienced handlers and failure to have adequate safety barriers. The inspector observed members of the public approaching the elephants and being loaded onto an elephant for rides while no handler was present.

June 26, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for physically abusing elephants. The inspector observed the handler gouge an elephant named Ronnie on the trunk with a bullhook, causing an open lesion, and a different handler was “observed raking the back of another elephant several times with his hook during the performance.”

May 23, 2001: Hawthorn was cited for failure to provide records of acquisition. The inspector also noted that Misty had an abscess on her left front foot and that her feet were in need of trimming.

April 13, 2001: A letter to the editor published in the *Chicago Sun-Times* stated, “I escorted a group of schoolchildren, including my 8-year-old daughter, to this year’s Medinah Shrine Circus. ... When the elephants were brought behind the curtain, the trainer began verbally abusing and hitting the elephant. We watched in horror as he swung a stick with all his force and struck the elephant in the back of the leg. This must have hurt because the elephant let out a scream that could be heard throughout the UIC Pavilion. The kids were frightened and asked me why the man was hurting the elephant.” According to documents from the city of Chicago, a cruelty-to-animals complaint was filed against trainer John Caudill, a Hawthorn employee. The elephants used at the Medinah Shrine circus were leased from Hawthorn.

March 29, 2001: Hawthorn was cited for failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant named Delhi traveling with Walker Bros. Circus. Delhi had an injury on her left front foot. The inspector wrote, “The lesion is open and bleeding today and should be evaluated by a veterinarian.”

March 1, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not disposing of expired medications. Hawthorn was also cited for failure to maintain a tiger enclosure with an “extremely rusty shift door with sharp metal edges” and an “excessively chewed/clawed” wood partition. Hawthorn was cited for inadequate ventilation in a barn with “an extremely strong urine odor.” The inspector noted that a 12-year-old white male tiger named Neve died while being transported back to winter quarters and that a 6-year-old white female tiger named Java died in June 2000.

February 23, 2001: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not repairing damages to a trailer used to transport tigers.

July 11, 2000: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of improper feeding of its tigers. Hawthorn was also cited for a trailer in disrepair.

June 6, 2000: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to dispose of expired medications, improper food storage, and failure to maintain the structural strength of a tiger enclosure with a rusted wall and sharp, exposed edges.

May 21, 2000: According to the *Hanover Sun*, John Cuneo put a killer elephant named Frieda back on tour with a traveling circus in defiance of a USDA directive that she posed an “unacceptable risk to public.”

November 16, 1999: Hawthorn was cited for failure to maintain enclosures in a manner that protects the animals from injury and for storing moldy food.

August 18, 1999: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to have annual tuberculosis tests for the elephant handlers.

July 9, 1999: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to give veterinary care to an elephant named Lota, who had a “large open wound on the right hip area.” The inspector wrote, “During the inspection the left side of the wound was weeping and bloody.”

June 16, 1999: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to have a veterinarian-approved diet plan for the tigers, handle food in a manner that prevents contamination, and submit the required itinerary.

May 11, 1999: The USDA denied Hawthorn’s request to use an elephant named Frieda in public exhibition, stating that she posed an “unacceptable risk to public,

and therefore her own, safety.” Frieda had rampaged several times while touring with Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus.

March 16, 1999: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide proper veterinary care. The inspector noted that a tiger was administered medication that had expired. Hawthorn was also cited for improper and moldy food storage.

November 26, 1998: In an interview, published in *The Evansville Courier*, with Hawthorn tiger trainer Othmar Vohringer, he recalled a serious attack: “A lion took my arm off. It was just hanging there. It had to be reattached.”

November 12, 1998: Hawthorn was cited for failure to follow the veterinary-care program.

May 18, 1998: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide veterinary care to a tiger named Bulba, who was extremely thin. The inspector also found several outdated medications, improper and moldy food storage, and unsanitary housekeeping.

May 13–17, 1998: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. An elephant had an accumulation of necrotic skin and abrasions. All elephants were in need of foot care, skin care, and exercise. The condition of the animals suggested that they had been housed in the transport trailer for an extended period of time. The inspector observed blood and blood stains on an elephant’s face and earflap. The animals did not have access to water. When the inspector instructed the handler to offer water, two elephants drank continuously from a bucket for eight minutes and two others drank continuously for five minutes.

April 7, 1998: The USDA cited Hawthorn for improper maintenance of transport trailers.

March 16, 1998: John Cuneo agreed to a fine of \$60,000 and a 45-day license suspension to settle USDA charges that his company mistreated elephants after two of his elephants died of tuberculosis in August 1996.

February 26, 1998: Hawthorn was cited for failure to have an adequate veterinary-care program and a written contingency plan for elephant escapes.

November 20–21, 1997: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failing to provide veterinary care. The tuberculosis treatment protocol prescribed for the elephants was not being followed. The inspector also found improper food storage and poor housekeeping.

October 9, 1997: Hawthorn was cited for improper food storage.

September 16, 1997: The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration informed Hawthorn that an inspection “disclosed the following potential hazard: Employees were exposed to the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* when they worked around elephants infected with tuberculosis. ... [T]his letter serves as notification of the likelihood of transmission of tuberculosis from elephants to employees.”

July 23, 1997: The USDA filed charges against Hawthorn, alleging it continued exhibiting tigers in Albuquerque, N.M., while its license was suspended.

April 10, 1997: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failing to provide veterinary care. The inspector noted that the tuberculosis treatment and testing protocol prescribed for the elephants by the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians was not being followed. Hawthorn was also cited for failing to maintain structures.

February 6, 1997: Hawthorn was cited for failure to provide veterinary care. The inspector wrote, “Lota is extremely thin and eyes appear to be sunken in.” The inspector also found outdated medication. The USDA suspended Hawthorn’s license for 21 days after the exhibitor attempted to export a baby elephant named Nickolaus to Puerto Rico although the animal had tested positive for tuberculosis.

January 4, 1997: An internal USDA document contained a list identifying facilities with animals who were at risk of tuberculosis because of exposure to Hawthorn’s elephants: Gary Johnson’s elephant compound, Utica Zoo, Catskill Game Farm, Pittsburgh Zoo, Walker Bros. Circus, Alain Zerbini, Tarzan Zerbini, George Carden Circus, Carson & Barnes Circus, Heritage Zoo, and Riddle’s Elephant Farm.

January 1997: Hawthorn’s herd of elephants was prohibited by the USDA from traveling, and John Cuneo was not permitted to introduce a breeding bull into the tuberculosis-infected herd. Fourteen of the 18 elephants were considered at high risk of being infected.

November 12, 1996: John Cuneo rejected an offer to send a 45-year-old elephant named Lota to a sanctuary. The Milwaukee Zoo donated Lota to Cuneo in 1990 despite a public outcry. The publicized transport depicted Lota being beaten onto a trailer, falling, and urinating blood. Lota was subsequently leased to circuses, contracted tuberculosis, and became emaciated.

October 22, 1996: Florida health officials obtained a court injunction to stop Liz and Lota, two Hawthorn elephants who were traveling with Walker Bros. Circus, from entering the state because they were infected with tuberculosis.

August 29, 1996: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to store food properly and maintain records of acquisition and disposition.

August 28, 1996: According to an internal USDA memo, four Hawthorn employees tested positive for tuberculosis.

August 15, 1996: USDA Acting Deputy Administrator Ron DeHaven wrote regarding discovery of a human strain of tuberculosis in Hawthorn’s elephants, “[T]he state of New Mexico has told Hawthorn to leave the state or be quarantined. ... There are huge epidemiological considerations, too, since Cuneo buys, sells, trades, and moves elephants like a livestock market.”

August 6, 1996: A 26-year-old Hawthorn elephant named Hattie, who was leased to Circus Vargas and gave rides to children just prior to her death, died of tuberculosis while being transported from California to Illinois.

August 3, 1996: A 35-year-old Hawthorn elephant named Joyce, who was leased to Circus Vargas and gave rides to children until her death, died under anesthesia for a dental exam. She was anesthetized against the advice of a veterinarian who felt the procedure was too risky for an animal in such a debilitated state. Joyce was 1,000 pounds underweight, and 80 percent of her lung tissue had been destroyed by tuberculosis.

July 18, 1996: A Hawthorn white tiger bit the hand of a carnival worker while performing at the Orange County Fair in Middletown, N.Y.

July 17, 1996: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide veterinary care and proper food and to maintain records on the animals.

June 21, 1996: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide veterinary care.

June 18, 1996: Hawthorn was cited for failure to provide veterinary care. The inspector noted, “Lack of records demonstrating observation and treatment of injury to the skin approximately 2 inches medial to Misty’s [elephant’s] left eye.” The inspector also observed that the current veterinary-care program was not being followed and records of acquisition

were not maintained.

June 14, 1996: A Hawthorn elephant named Misty, who was giving rides to children with Jordan World Circus and was previously identified as “potentially dangerous,” knocked down and repeatedly kicked her trainer. One child fell off the elephant during the incident in Casper, Wyo.

May 10, 1996: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failing to provide access to veterinary records.

May 7, 1996: Hawthorn paid a \$12,500 penalty to settle USDA charges of causing Tyke the elephant trauma and harm and of jeopardizing public safety. Police shot Tyke to death on August 20, 1994, after she rampaged and killed her trainer.

March 27, 1996: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide an adequate veterinary-care program and maintain records of acquisition.

March 25, 1996: The USDA cited Hawthorn for inadequate housekeeping, pest control, and food storage.

October 26, 1995: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide the elephants with adequate shelter and water, improper food storage, and failure to submit an itinerary.

August 21, 1995: Hawthorn was cited for failure to provide the elephants with adequate shelter.

July 28, 1995: The USDA cited Hawthorn for inadequate structural maintenance.

January 20, 1995: In an internal USDA document, Acting Deputy Administrator Ron DeHaven identified Hawthorn elephants Sue, Billy, Misty, Tony, and Hattie as “potentially dangerous.”

January 17, 1995: According to USDA documents, while Michael Pursley worked for Hawthorn, “David Polke instructed Pursley to command Hattie to ‘lay down’ (*sic*) and then beat Hattie with an ax handle. ... [T]rainers also used water and food deprivation and electric shock from a cattle prod on the elephants. ... [H]e witnessed Tommy Thompson, manager at Cuneo’s animal facility at Richmond, Ill., shock (hot shot) an elephant repeatedly for one-half hour in order to get the elephant to lay down (*sic*) and get up upon voice commands.”

December 17, 1994: A Hawthorn elephant named Dumbo died of tuberculosis.

October 26, 1994: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide veterinary care records for an elephant named Amy, who had been euthanized. Hawthorn was also cited for inadequate housekeeping and pest control as well as failure to maintain records of acquisition and disposition.

September 15, 1994: Hawthorn was cited for the second time in three months for feeding inedible food to the tigers.

August 20, 1994: While performing at the Neal Blaisdell Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, a 20-year-old Hawthorn elephant named Tyke crushed to death her trainer, Allen Campbell, attacked and injured two others, and panicked the crowd, causing several more injuries. Tyke escaped into the streets of downtown Honolulu during the afternoon rush hour. Over the next hour, police fired 87 bullets into Tyke as she charged after pedestrians and smashed vehicles throughout several blocks. Tyke died of massive nerve damage and hemorrhaging of the brain. Campbell was described as a “punishment-type” trainer who worked the elephants hard. An autopsy found that he had cocaine and alcohol in his system.

July 14, 1994: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide a program of veterinary care.

June 16, 1994: Hawthorn was cited for feeding inedible food to the tigers.

May 11, 1994: The USDA cited Hawthorn for inadequate structural maintenance.

May 9, 1994: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide a veterinary-care program and medical records. Hawthorn was also cited for failure to maintain a transport trailer for the elephants and maintain records of acquisition and disposition.

February 14, 1994: The USDA cited Hawthorn for failure to provide a veterinary-care program.

January 13–14, 1994: The USDA cited Hawthorn for unsanitary and improper food storage, poor housekeeping, and having outdated medications and dirty water containers.

July 23, 1993: An elephant named Tyke ran amok at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot, N.D., trampling and injuring a handler and frightening the crowd as she ran uncontrolled for 25 minutes.

April 22, 1993: According to an affidavit obtained by the USDA from circus worker Richard Rosio, Tyke the

elephant attacked a tiger trainer while the circus was in Altoona, Pa.

April 21, 1993: An elephant named Tyke ripped through the front doors of the Jaffa Mosque during a performance and ran out of control for an hour in Altoona, Pa. An estimated 4,500 schoolchildren had to evacuate the building, and the rampage caused more than \$14,000 in damage.

February 4, 1993: A Hawthorn employee, Bernhard Rosenquist, was charged with attempted murder, aggravated battery, and armed violence for allegedly stabbing a coworker. Rosenquist was also wanted by federal authorities for violating his probation and by the Lake County, Ill., authorities on burglary charges.

June 21, 1988: According to USDA and Canadian law-enforcement documents, while a Hawthorn elephant named Tyke was performing with Tarzan Zerbini Circus, "The elephant handler was observed beating the single-tusk African elephant in public to the point [where] the elephant was screaming and bending down on three legs to avoid being hit. Even when the handler walked by the elephant after this, the elephant screamed and veered away, demonstrating fear from his presence." The handler was John Caudill (aka John Walker of Walker Bros. Circus), who admitted to "disciplining" Tyke after she hit Caudill's brother and put a hole in his back with her tusk.

May 28, 1981: An 11-year-old Hawthorn elephant named Tina, with a one-year history of weight loss, died under anesthesia and was found to have tuberculosis.

1978: A Hawthorn Corporation elephant performing in Chicago with the Shrine circus picked up her trainer with her trunk and threw him into a pillar, killing him.