

# Animal Haven Zoo

N. 1720 Buchholz Rd., Weyauwega, WI 54983

**Animal Haven Zoo, also known as “Animal Haven Farm Zoo,” is operated by Jim and Dawn Hofferber and has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Animal Haven Zoo for, among other things, failing to properly handle animals by exposing a tiger cub to a domestic dog and allowing public interaction with a 3-week-old tiger cub, failing to provide water, failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, failing to have enclosures that safely contained animals, failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, failing to provide animals with adequate shelter from sunlight and/or inclement weather, and failing to properly clean enclosures. On February 23, 2022, the USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a penalty of \$6,450 for eight alleged violations that occurred between November 2020 and November 2021.**

**Contact PETA for documentation.**

**July 29, 2024:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a critical citation for failing to maintain an emu enclosure in good repair. On July 10, 2024, an emu was found to have a cut, possibly down to the bone, which led to her euthanasia. The cause of the injury wasn’t known, but the inspector noted that the tops of leaning T-posts were protruding into the enclosure and the licensee had seen one of the emus pacing along the fence, running into the posts.

The inspector also found a shelter in poor condition with exposed edges. A repeat citation was issued for failing to provide a

sheep with veterinary care. The animal had a lump on the right side of the neck and was limping on the front left leg.

A repeat citation was issued for failing to have a suitable method to remove excess water rapidly. The brown bear enclosure had a muddy, green-colored puddle around the drinking water, forcing the bears to stand in it to drink.

A repeat citation was also issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The primary fence of the bison enclosure was leaning out and detached from its posts. There were also gaps in the bottom of the fence. The gate of an alpaca and goat enclosure lacked a latch to secure it. In addition, a fallow deer enclosure had leaning T-posts with exposed corners and a shelter with loose tin on it.

Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to provide adequate shelter for inclement weather. A shelter for zebus and Dall sheep contained thick, wet manure that hadn’t been cleaned out that summer. A facility representative stated that it might have been 4 feet deep in the back.

**April 24, 2024:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a critical repeat citation for failing to conduct adequate daily observations. A lamb carcass was found in the sheep pasture barn, where sheep had been giving birth. The body was decomposed, with maggots under it, suggesting that the corpse had been lying there for “days or longer.” A direct repeat citation was issued for failing to provide a lame peacock with veterinary care. The bird was seen limping and reluctant to walk, and his foot appeared abnormal, with one of his toes sharply deviating to the side.

A repeat citation was issued for failing to clean the perch in a shelter for two macaques containing a buildup of animal waste. Another repeat citation was issued

for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Multiple enclosures had metal and wires with sharp points exposed. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have adequate public barriers. The barrier around the wolf enclosure had gaps through which visitors could pass, and the public viewing area around the kangaroo pen also had gaps through which the inspector could have touched the male kangaroo.

**January 18, 2024:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a direct citation for failing to provide a lion and a liger with adequate bedding while it was 10 degrees outside. The lion was seen hunched inside the shelter, intermittently raising his paws off the floor and groaning. A thin layer of frozen wet straw and bones were on the floor. There were also 12 inches of snow on the ground in front of the shelter. Another direct citation was issued for failing to provide fresh drinking water to the lion. The water was frozen, and a facility representative stated that it hadn't been refreshed in two days.

**September 28, 2023:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, including appropriate methods to prevent control, diagnose, and treat diseases, to multiple bantam chickens who had white, thickened, crusty material on their feet and legs and multiple birds with excessive feather loss across their back, head, wings, and breast. A repeat citation was also issued for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, including daily observation of all animals, to a pigeon with an area of the eye that had a significant scabbed injury/lesion, an alpaca with bilateral nasal discharge, and a four-horned sheep with overgrown hooves. A repeat citation was issued for failing to have and maintain an adequate program of rat control. A rat was seen running out of a primate shelter, a space in the concrete had a rat-size hole, and there was rat excreta between the

primate enclosures. A repeat citation was also issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. A bobcat enclosure had a broken wire with a point that the bobcats could potentially touch, and a fence between the zebras and zebus was leaning into the zebu enclosure. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to have a suitable method for eliminating water rapidly. A tiger enclosure had wet, muddy areas around the drinking water with green algae-like material where the water had been, showing signs of pooling.

The USDA cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to feed a black bear food that was free from contamination. The inspector observed the bear eating a piece of meat with maggots on the end of it. The facility stated that the deer corpse obtained for feeding the bear originally had maggots on it, which had been trimmed off and discarded. A citation was issued for failing to maintain a chicken enclosure free from sharp wire points. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have a complete environmental enhancement plan for birds.

**July 24, 2023:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. A Jacob sheep was missing hair, had a bad odor, and had irritated, bloody skin around the horns. A facility representative reportedly had been treating the issue for one to two weeks per instruction from the attending veterinarian but had trouble treating the animal consistently, and the condition had not improved and "might look worse." The veterinarian hadn't been contacted again, and another repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. A goat pen had a broken panel with 4-inch points sticking into the area. A Jacob sheep enclosure had a sagging, cracked roof, low enough that the sheep's horns were bumping into it. The facility was also cited for failing to adequately clean the perch for the snow

macaques, which had a buildup of waste and was cleaned only once a week. Another citation was issued for failing to have an adequate rat control program for the primate enclosures. The investigator saw a rat running through the primate shelter along with apparent rat droppings in between the enclosures. The facility representative claimed that the rat control program used elsewhere couldn't be implemented near the primates due to a concern about chemical toxicity.

**May 11, 2023:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Wire had been exposed in the red fox enclosure after the animals dug out the back area. A tiger enclosure had exposed panel points, and scrap metal in the aoudad pen had sharp and rough edges that could injure the animals. The agency also issued a citation for failing to have an effective mouse-control program, increasing the risk of feed contamination that could make animals sick. A live mouse was seen near the food prep table and mineral storage area, and mouse droppings were seen in the food storage building.

**January 18, 2023:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. There were two holes with sharp exposed points in the diamond mesh metal of an enclosure, leaving a white tiger at risk of injury. A citation was also issued for failing to store food in a way that protected it from contamination. There were signs of rodents in the produce storage area and in a walk-in freezer used to store feed for the bears. Two live mice were seen in the areas, a hole with chew marks was found in the insulation by a door, and there were loose food and rodent droppings on and around boxes. A citation was also issued for failing to have a method to rapidly eliminate excess water. One of the shelters for three wolves had standing water in it. The

inspector noted, "Standing water in a shelter makes it so it cannot be used for animals."

**October 3, 2022:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The bottom of the bison enclosure fence had a hole in it, and an area under a section of the sika deer pen was missing—both of which could have allowed animals to escape or be injured. In addition, an area of the brown bear enclosure was dug out, exposing fencing wire that could have injured the bear. The facility was also cited for failing to properly clean and sanitize an enclosure housing two snow macaques. A perch inside the enclosure had an excessive accumulation of dried excreta that had been missed during previous spot cleanings and could have made the animals sick.

**June 23, 2022:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. An area of the black leopard enclosure had loose wires, leaving the animal at risk of injury. A citation was also issued for failing to have a public barrier in an area of the kangaroo enclosure to keep the public from reaching through the fence and touching the animals.

**April 14, 2022:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. During the inspection, an arctic fox had escaped from their new enclosure and was seen "trotting loose in the sheep/zebu pen." The muntjac enclosure had a gap at the bottom of the fence line, the bison enclosure fence had a detached top rail and an area that was leaning, a pig's shelter had a broken side, and the sika deer enclosure had a section of chain-link fence that had fallen over inside the pen. A camel enclosure had a section of wire panels that had fallen over, a piece of a fallen tree was leaning on part of the fence, and the fence was leaning into the enclosure. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to provide adequate shelter

from the weather, as many of the trees that had once provided shade and shelter from the wind in the bison enclosure had died and been removed.

The USDA also issued the facility a citation for failing to house a ring-tailed lemur in an enclosure that safely contained the animal. During the inspection, the lemur was outside the primary enclosure, and the licensee stated that the animal “gets out from in between the panels and has been doing this for awhile [sic] without incident.” A citation was also issued for failing to have adequate drainage in enclosures. The two brown bears had mud or standing water in most of their enclosure, including areas where they were fed or given drinking water. The bison had standing water in the area of their drinking water and mud in most of their pen. The male pig’s sole dry spot within his enclosure was his shelter with bedding.

**February 23, 2022:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a citation and notification of penalty for eight alleged violations that occurred between November 2020 and November 2021. The facility was fined \$6,450 for the following:

- **November 2, 2020:** Animal Haven Zoo failed to construct and maintain animal enclosures properly to contain the animals. Four prairie dogs escaped their enclosure due to an improperly repaired hole, and three remained unaccounted for at the time of the inspection.
- **On or about May 5, 2021, and May 20, 2021:** The facility failed to handle a neonate tiger cub as expeditiously and carefully as possible so as not to cause the cub stress, trauma, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. On or around May 5, 2021, Animal Haven Zoo allowed a young tiger cub to be exposed to a dog. On May 20, 2021, the facility allowed school-age children to pet and take photos with Dozer, a 3-week-old tiger cub.

- **August 26, 2021:** The facility failed to seek veterinary care for a young rabbit who had dried discharge on their right ear and around their eyes as well as hair loss on their left hind foot. The animal was observed to be in poor condition, and the mother had stopped letting them suckle.

The facility failed to provide nine rabbits with sufficient shade. Their enclosure had insufficient natural shade, and the two shelters didn’t have adequate space to accommodate all the animals.

Animal Haven Zoo failed to maintain housing facilities in good repair to protect animals from injury and contain them. Several enclosures had fencing that was broken, bent, or otherwise damaged, some with holes, sharp points, or loose wires.

The facility failed to provide a liger with water as often as necessary for the animal’s health and comfort. The liger’s water receptacle was empty, had a hole in it, and hadn’t been filled since the previous afternoon. Once given water, the liger drank continuously for at least four minutes.

- **November 30, 2021:** Animal Haven Zoo failed to seek veterinary care for a brown Texas Dall lamb who showed signs of scours (diarrhea), was thin, and walked in a weak, hunched manner.

The facility failed to maintain housing facilities in good repair to protect animals from injury and contain them. Several enclosures had fencing that was broken, bent, or otherwise damaged, some with holes, sharp points, or loose wires.

**January 24, 2022:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for

failing to maintain structurally sound enclosures to protect animals from injury. In the enclosure housing three juvenile tigers, there was a 12-inch-by-6-inch hole in the bottom of a metal panel, with sharp points on both sides and the top. In addition, the USDA cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to provide two rabbits, whose inner ears were crusted and/or scabbed, with adequate veterinary care. A citation was also issued for failing to have adequate shelter for four aoudads. The inspector observed that the male aoudad was lying at the entrance of the sole artificial shelter and the three females couldn't get into it. The inspector noted that "[t]he 3 female aoudads have access to dry bedding and windbreaks created by the rocks in the enclosure, however in very inclement weather [the] lack of an additional shelter would not protect the 3 females if the male decides to not permit them into the shelter."

**November 30, 2021:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a direct repeat citation for failing to have an attending veterinarian evaluate a Texas Dall lamb who had signs of scours (diarrhea), was thin, and had been seen walking around in a weak and hunched manner. The inspector also noted an indirect noncompliance, as a "whitewooled sheep" with a lump on the left side of their face hadn't been evaluated by an attending veterinarian to determine if treatment was needed. The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to avoid injury to the animals and prevent escape. A muntjac enclosure had a chain-link fence that was broken, exposing sharp points. A tree branch had fallen on one portion of the fence in the Barbary sheep enclosure, bending and damaging it. Wire mesh fencing in an enclosure for fallow deer had become detached from the frame, and there was a large hole in the fence with loose wires. The red fox enclosure had an approximately 3-inch gap "between the bottom of the gate and the top of the

fencing" that ran the entire length of the gate, along with two panels that had become separated from each other in another part of the enclosure.

**August 26, 2021:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a direct citation for failing to provide a liger with water for about 20 hours. The licensee stated that the liger's current water receptacle had a hole in it and that he had a new water trough but hadn't installed it. According to the licensee, the water receptacle was last filled around 4 or 5 p.m. the night before the inspection. The licensee provided water during the inspection, and the liger began to drink "immediately" and "continued to drink for over four minutes."

The USDA issued the facility another direct citation for failing to provide nine rabbits with adequate shelter. The two shelters provided weren't large enough for all rabbits to "comfortably fit in," and there was insufficient natural shade from the surrounding trees.

The USDA also issued a direct citation for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a young rabbit in "poor condition." The rabbit had dried discharge in the right ear, mild discharge around the eyes, and hair loss on the left hind foot. The licensee stated that he had noticed the condition the day before but "hadn't attended to it." The inspector noted that the delay in treatment could cause "discomfort in the rabbit" and, if the ailment is contagious, risk spreading it to other rabbits. The inspector observed multiple other animals who hadn't received adequate veterinary care. A pot-bellied pig's right tusk was growing into the right upper cheek—the inspector couldn't see the end of the tusk. An African crested porcupine had problems with both eyes, which were pale in color and had pale-colored discharge in the corners. A white goat had an abnormally growing hoof, and an older alpaca had front toenails that were

overgrown, although the inspector noted that the other alpacas' toenails had been trimmed. The USDA further cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a white rabbit who had a scab and hair loss on the nose. The licensee wasn't aware of the rabbit's condition and "indicated it wouldn't be worth treating."

In addition, the USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a repeat citation for failing to keep the following enclosures in good repair.

- **Muntjac:** Chain-link fencing was broken and had exposed points.
- **Sika deer:** A panel was bent and leaning and had become disconnected from the top of the post, and a section of fence was bent and damaged across the top.
- **Barbary sheep:** Tree branches had fallen on two portions of the fence, and the top of the fencing was bent and damaged.
- **Fallow deer:** The gate's wire-mesh fencing had become detached from the framing, and there was a large hole in it with loose wires.
- **Camels:** Wire panels between the two camel pens had become bent and had sharp points.
- **Wolves and bison:** The fence between the two enclosures had a post that was leaning.

The USDA also cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to adequately clean an enclosure housing nine rabbits and another housing seven. The enclosures had "an excessive accumulation of rotten food and soiled waste that was covered in flies." The USDA additionally cited the facility for failing to maintain rabbit enclosures in good repair. The enclosure housing seven rabbits had loose wire mesh with exposed points, and a rabbit hutch by the nursery housing two rabbits had two screws with exposed points. The rabbits could reach these sharp points,

causing an injury risk.

**June 9, 2021:** The USDA cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to retain complete disposition records for two tiger cubs born on April 29, 2021. The inspector noted that such records are necessary "so that animal tracing can be done if needed (for example—health tracing)." The USDA also issued Animal Haven Zoo a critical citation for failing to handle animals in a manner that didn't cause trauma, overheating, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. On or around May 24, 2021, an Animal Haven employee transported a male tiger cub less than 4 weeks old to a classroom and exhibited him to the class. The investigator noted that public exhibition of the infant cub put him "at risk for getting sick," as "[n]ondomestic cats of this age do not have a completely developed immune system and are unable to fight off disease and infection."

**November 2, 2020:** The USDA issued a critical citation to Animal Haven Zoo for failing to maintain its facilities in good repair to contain animals and protect them from injury. The citation resulted from an incident in which prairie dogs had escaped from their enclosure because of an "improperly repaired hole" in the enclosure wall. One prairie dog was observed during the inspection, while three remained unaccounted for.

**August 8, 2016:** The USDA cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to provide an alpaca with adequate veterinary care. The inspector observed that the alpaca had a wound on the front right leg approximately 6 inches to 8 inches long and 3 inches wide. The investigator noted that "[m]ost of the wound was scabbed over; however, there were a few areas that appeared to be flesh that were bright red in color" and that the alpaca was "using his hind leg to itch the wound." According to the inspector, the owner stated that the wound was caused by

clippers during shearing two weeks prior and that the attending veterinarian hadn't been contacted. The owner further stated that he was self-treating the wound with scarlet oil at first, then with "a horse wound spray that was purchased at a local farm supply store," which he applied every two to three days after the oil ran out. However, no bottle could be found during inspection.

**July 5, 2016:** The USDA cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to provide eight Jacob sheep with shelter from inclement weather after the animals tore down a plastic structure in their enclosure that had previously served as a shelter.

**June 26, 2014:** The USDA cited Animal Haven Zoo for failing to have an effective rodent-control program. Rodent feces were observed near food. Citations were also issued for failing to have barriers to prevent the public from interacting with the camels and kangaroos and failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Multiple areas of fencing around the buffalo enclosure were damaged, and perches in the tiger and liger enclosures had damaged wood and exposed nails. Finally, a citation was issued for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence around all enclosures. The camel and hyena enclosures had no perimeter fence. The fence around the buffalo, silver fox, and New Guinea singing dog enclosures had a foot-wide breach.

**February 25, 2014:** The USDA issued Animal Haven Zoo a direct citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to an approximately 1-year-old lion. He was observed twitching his head and face, and he was unwilling to walk in the corner of his enclosure. He also had irregular eye and tongue movement. In addition, a citation was issued for failing to have an environmental enrichment plan for the ring-tailed lemurs.