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 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.

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 his or her 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 an area that was leaning and where the top rail was detached, a pig’s shelter had a broken side, the sika deer enclosure had a section of chain-link fence that had fallen over inside the pen, and 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 in good repair. 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...
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.

August 26, 2021: The facility failed to provide nine rabbits with sufficient shade. Their enclosure had insufficient natural shade, and the two shelters did not have adequate space to accommodate all the animals.

August 26, 2021: 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.

August 26, 2021: The facility failed to provide a tiger with water as often as necessary for the animal’s health and comfort. The tiger’s water receptacle was empty, had a hole in it, and had not been filled since the previous afternoon. Once given water, the tiger drank continuously for at least four minutes.

November 30, 2021: 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 the face had not 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 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 could not 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.”
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 had not yet 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 were not 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 had not received adequate veterinary care. A pot-bellied pig’s right tusk was growing into the right upper cheek—the inspector could not 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 was not 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:

- Munjac: 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 adequately to 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 did not 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 had not been contacted. The owner further stated that he was self-treating the wound with scarlet oil at first, then “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.