John and Pamela Pape own Wild Woods Animal Park. The Papes have failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited John and Pamela Pape for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, failing to clean enclosures adequately, failing to provide animals with clean drinking water receptacles, failing to drain and clean swimming pools, refusing access for an inspection, and failing to have an adult available to allow for an inspection.

June 8, 2021: The USDA issued John and Pamela Pape a direct citation for failing to provide three animals with adequate veterinary care. The Papes had apparently not even contacted a veterinarian to evaluate the following animals in poor condition:

- A female bobcat had a very thin coat in poor condition and displayed significantly abnormal behavior. She was unwilling to move, and when forced to, she appeared unsteady, she had a noticeable head tilt and a full-body tremble, and her front leg appeared to be malformed. The licensee stated that he hadn’t noticed any abnormalities since the last time he had observed the animal two days prior.
- A male bobcat appeared significantly thinner than the female bobcat sharing the same enclosure. His hips, spine, ribs, and scapula were clearly visible.
- An otter didn’t want to move out of her shelter box. She appeared unstable on her hind end when she was forced to move. The licensee stated that they believed the otter had had a stroke in the past year and that she was unable to swim or move around normally.

John and Pamela Pape received repeat citations for failing to have accurate records of animals at the facility and failing to keep several enclosures clean:

- An enclosure holding two raccoons had a flat metal pan with an excessive buildup of fecal material and grime.
- Spent bedding and an accumulation of fecal material were found in four additional enclosures holding eight raccoons.
- The river otter and bear enclosures had swimming pools that contained black water. The licensee stated that the pools hadn’t been drained or cleaned since the previous fall.

In addition, the USDA cited the Papes for failing to provide clean drinking water receptacles in the primary enclosures of the raccoons, bears, skunks, otter, bobcats, and wolf. The receptacles held a buildup of fecal material, grime, and food particles. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to store animal husbandry items in a suitable and sanitary storage area—the indoor area of the main building housing several animals was also being used for food preparation and had an office area. A building inside the bear enclosure’s secondary containment fence was also being used for storage.

May 18, 2021: The USDA issued a critical citation to John and Pamela Pape after the inspector was refused access for the inspection of records and the property. After the inspector explained that it was a routine, unannounced inspection, “Mrs. Pape then stated she was not ready for an inspection
and that [the inspector] would have to come back another day."

**March 25, 2021:** The USDA cited John and Pamela Pape for failing to have current and accurate records of animals at the facility and failing adequately to clean several enclosures:
- Excessive feces and spent bedding were found in four enclosures holding 10 raccoons. Feces were on the floors, in catch pans, and around shelter boxes in all four enclosures.
- The enclosure of a bobcat had a floor covered with feces, dirt, and spent bedding.
- An enclosure holding two cougars had a dried, urine-stained floor and a layer of dust, dirt, and grime covering the walls.
- The floor of an enclosure holding two bobcats had a buildup of feces, spent food, and bones.

**January 21, 2021:** The USDA cited John and Pamela Pape for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials and allow for an inspection.

**April 5, 2018:** The USDA cited John and Pamela Pape for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials and allow for an inspection.

**July 12, 2016:** The USDA cited John and Pamela Pape for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials and allow for an inspection.

**June 18, 2015:** The USDA cited John and Pamela Pape for failing to have a written feeding plan for the large felids, failing to clean six enclosures—all of which had feces, hair, and dirt buildups—holding a total of 10 animals, and failing to keep the food preparation area in the main building for indoor tiger housing organized and clean.