

Pocono Snake & Animal Farm

424 Seven Bridge Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Pocono Snake & Animal Farm, which is owned by Noreen Lowris, has failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has repeatedly cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for numerous infractions, including failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, failing to have an adequate plan for environment enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of all primates, failing to keep enclosures in good repair, failing to have food of sufficient nutritional value, and failing to have complete records. Contact PETA for documentation.

June 14, 2021: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to provide a 21-year-old female black bear with adequate veterinary care. A tooth on her lower jaw, possibly the canine tooth, appeared to be broken or sheared and had yellow discoloration in the center. The USDA also saw this bear biting the bars of her enclosure, which the inspection report noted could “be an indicator of dental pain” that needed to be evaluated by a veterinarian. The facility stated that it was unaware of any dental issues and that the bear’s last oral exam was approximately 10 years ago.

October 5, 2016: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to have a plan for environment enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of primates that provided special

considerations for an infant vervet who had been removed from his mother and was being hand-raised at the home of an employee. The facility’s enrichment plan did not provide a written description of the diet and daily care of the animal. According to the USDA, “Improper diet or amounts may affect the growth and health of the vervet” and “[n]ot meeting his social and environmental needs may cause the infant psychological distress and affect his behavioral development.”

April 13, 2016: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care:

- Fred, a brown capuchin who was over 40 years old and had hair loss on his forearms, thighs, tail, and back
- Timmy, a tufted capuchin who was over 40 years old and had hair loss on his tail and the lower half of his body
- A female squirrel monkey who was over 20 years old and had hair loss on most of her tail
- A female potbellied pig who had hair loss on her back from behind her shoulders to her tail (The exposed skin was thick and brown.)

There were no records available during the inspection describing the extent of the hair loss or the veterinary care offered to these animals.

Pocono Snake & Animal Farm was also cited for failing to maintain the enclosure housing one bobcat. The concrete floor at the back of the enclosure had large, wide cracks in need of repair to prevent debris and dirty water from accumulating in them.

January 20, 2015: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to include two owl monkeys in the facility’s plan for environment enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of primates.

March 8, 2012: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to maintain in good repair an enclosure holding four goats, two pigs, and a fallow deer. The front enclosure wall had jagged and rough areas on the bottom of the wood fence, which posed a risk of injury to the animals.

October 12, 2010: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to keep an enclosure housing two vervets in good repair. Metal facing was detaching from the wall with the shelter entrance, which posed a risk of injury to the primates.

August 12, 2009: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for not having food that was of sufficient nutritional value for the primates. The chow on hand was expired—one bag was a year past its milling date, and another was seven months past its milling date.

March 6, 2008: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. The facility's program of veterinary care included annual distemper vaccinations for the felids and canids. But according to the records reviewed, only one animal received their distemper vaccination in 2007.

August 2, 2007: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to keep enclosures in good repair for the safety of the animals. The sloth enclosure had a hanging platform with broken wooden slats that couldn't support the weight of the animals, and an enclosure housing two goats had a narrow ledge with a space between the ledge and the wall that a goat could fall into, risking injury to the animals or escape from the enclosure.

June 19, 2006: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. The facility's program of veterinary care included a

vaccination and deworming schedule for the animals, but they were last vaccinated in May 2005 and were due for their 2006 vaccinations. The fennec fox was past due for deworming.

July 28, 2005: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to include two recently acquired vervet monkeys in its plan for environment enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of primates.

April 18, 2005: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to maintain an enclosure holding two capuchin monkeys so it could be adequately cleaned and sanitized. Three ceiling boards had been chewed or picked apart. The facility also received citations for failing to keep in good repair the latches on the back row of enclosures, which were excessively rusted, and an enclosure holding four chinchillas, which had interior boards that had been chewed along the edges, creating small gaps between the boards.

June 10, 2004: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for not having food that was of sufficient nutritional value for the primates. The chow on hand was expired—it was eight months past its milling date.

April 1, 2004: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. Although the program of veterinary care specified that animals be dewormed twice a year, the last documented deworming for most of the animals was either June 1 or July 7, 2003.

The facility was also cited for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain them:

- A heater's electric cord was running up the side of an enclosure holding two sloths.

- A red fox was housed in an enclosure that had a metal panel detaching from the wall.
- The area behind the fennec fox enclosure had a hole in the inside wall panel.

August 20, 2003: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to house two juvenile ring-tailed lemurs in an enclosure that could be readily sanitized and failing to maintain in good repair two enclosures—one housing two leopards and the other housing a cougar. Both had small back doors with severely rusted hinges and latches for the lock. The hardware needed to be replaced or the doors permanently sealed so the animals could be safely contained in the enclosures. The facility was also cited for stacking windows and wood against the outside of the perimeter fence, reducing its effectiveness in preventing animals and unauthorized people from entering the facility.

October 9, 2002: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. Although the program of veterinary care specified that animals be dewormed twice a year, the last documented deworming was on December 10, 2001. Also, a coatimundi was missing the end of their tail and had a ring of hair loss near the end of the remaining part of the tail. No records were available pertaining to the injury or treatment.

The facility also received a citation for failing to have disposition records for six animals and acquisition records for four animals.

April 15, 2002: The USDA issued Pocono Snake & Animal Farm a direct citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. Although the program of veterinary care specified that animals be dewormed twice a year and that carnivores receive vaccinations, records didn't reflect that all

animals were receiving care as specified. It was also noted that the two youngest white-tailed deer were very thin and that their ribs and hip bones were visible.

The facility also received citations for failing to have complete acquisition records for five primates, not having an environment enhancement plan to promote psychological well-being that addressed the bush babies and the marmoset, and failing to have an environment enhancement plan with special considerations for the singly housed lemur and marmoset.

April 25, 2001: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to have complete records of acquisition and/or disposition. There were no acquisition records for 24 animals and no disposition records for five animals. The USDA also cited the facility for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, as there were no animal health records available for review to ensure that the program of veterinary care for vaccinations and deworming was being followed.

Pocono Snake & Animal Farm was also cited for failing to provide water in enclosures holding 20 hamsters (the inspector also noted that "potatoes in the enclosures appeared old and drying out"); keeping the hamsters' enclosures adjacent to hardware storage and improperly stacking them on top of each other, which was problematic because ventilation was located on the top of the enclosures; and having a refrigerator in need of cleaning—it had a bad odor.

October 3, 2000: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to have records available for review during the inspection.

June 29, 2000: The USDA cited Pocono Snake & Animal Farm for failing to keep

several enclosures in good repair: The deer shelter had holes in the wood, and the concrete floors in both the cougar and leopard enclosures had wide cracks.

Citations were also issued for failing to feed the large felids a diet approved in writing by the attending veterinarian, failing to have lids on the trash receptacles, failing to store an open bag of bedding in a leak-proof container, and failing to keep the perimeter fence in good repair.