

# Brunon Blaszak's Royal Bengal Tigers

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**Brunon Blaszak's Royal Bengal Tigers (aka "Bruno's Tigers")—operated by Brunon Blaszak and previously operated by his late mother, Ada Smieya-Blaszak—is a traveling tiger show that performs at circuses and fairs. It currently exhibits five tigers: Mohina, Ada, Tasha, Bella, and Zack. Blaszak has failed to meet minimum 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 the business on seven occasions for failing to provide tigers with sufficient space, including for permanently housing tigers in travel cages that did not allow them to fully stand, stretch, or lie down. As of August 2021, the USDA had not inspected Blaszak's tigers or facilities to assess their conditions, safety, and care in nearly three years. The agency has been unable to access the facilities to conduct inspections on at least 11 occasions. Blaszak has also been cited for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair and failing to provide tigers with a sufficiently nutritious diet. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**January 25, 2020:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to provide the agency with a complete and accurate itinerary, including the address of the exhibition. The submitted itinerary listed an event in Fort Wayne, Indiana, from January 24 to 26, 2020, but Blaszak was not present when the USDA attempted an inspection.

**January 16, 2020:** The USDA issued a repeat citation to Blaszak for failing to have a responsible adult present to allow officials to conduct an inspection. The inspector attempted to perform the inspection twice and followed up with phone calls, but both times, the licensee stated he wouldn't be home for a couple of hours.

**September 30, 2019:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during the inspection process.

**January 17, 2019:** According to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) inspection report, a 14-year-old tiger named Misty died of unknown causes in November 2018. The report also noted that Blaszak did not have a disaster plan on file.

**July 30, 2018:** According to an FWC inspection report, a 13-year-old tiger named India had had a seizure while eating and died of asphyxia earlier in the year.

**July 12, 2018:** Blaszak reached a settlement with the FWC, which had denied his license to possess tigers on April 3, 2018, for failing to demonstrate that his facility was constructed on at least 5 acres of land. The settlement authorized Blaszak to maintain tigers at his Myakka City property, which is smaller than 5 acres, and renew his permit annually "for the life of the tigers in his possession." The agreement prohibits him from obtaining animals other than Class I felidae unless he meets all applicable captive-wildlife regulations.

**May 15, 2018:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany officials during the inspection process. The licensee was traveling at the time of the attempted inspection but had failed to submit an itinerary.

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**September 14, 2015:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have official records of the animals under his control. The agency also issued him a citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The metal frames of at least four enclosures used while traveling were rusted through, resulting in jagged-edged holes 2 to 3 inches in diameter. The inspector noted that the holes could lead to injury of the animals and may be affecting the structural strength of the enclosure.

**November 2, 2012:** The USDA cited Blaszak for keeping six tigers in transport cages for two days without letting them out for exercise. According to the inspector's notes, "The tigers had been in transport from Florida to Illinois for 2 days and then continued to sit in their transport cages for another 1.5 days in Illinois waiting for the licensee to finish setting up." The Inspection report stated, "The tigers must be given time to stretch, walk and move about utilizing their normal postural movements in order to maintain healthy body condition and behavioral adjustments. If animals are confined to small cages for extended periods of time they can suffer undue stress and discomfort behaviorally and physically which could lead to health issues and abnormal behavior patterns. The tigers must be let into a larger area on a regular basis for an adequate amount of time where they can exercise and move about with freedom of movement and attain normal postural and social adjustments."

**January 4, 2011:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence to restrict animals and unauthorized people from having contact with the tigers and to act as a secondary containment system for the animals in the facility. At the time of inspection, portions of the perimeter fencing were only 6 to 7 feet high, and some of the fencing was damaged, leaning over, or able to sway back and forth. Some of the

barbed wire that topped the fencing had fallen down or was too loose.

**November 30, 2010:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany an inspection. The owners stated that they were traveling, but no current itinerary had been submitted to the agency.

**April 3, 2008:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have records of inventory, a program of veterinary care, and records of regularly scheduled visits by the attending veterinarian available for inspection. The licensee was traveling with the records at the time of the inspection and had failed to submit an itinerary.

**December 7, 2006:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to be available for an inspection. He was traveling with the animals. The inspector noted that the last inspection of Blaszak's permanent facility was nearly two years prior, in January 2005.

**November 12, 2003:** The USDA attempted an inspection of Blaszak's site, but no animals were present, as the licensee was on tour with the tigers.

**August 12, 2002:** The USDA issued a repeat citation to Blaszak for failing to have a chemical restraint system on hand while traveling in case of an animal's escape. A repeat direct citation was also issued for failing to provide a tiger with sufficient space. A large male tiger was "still in the same metal enclosure from the Feb 2002 inspection," which prevented him from standing in a normal position without his head touching the top of the cage.

**February 22, 2002:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to have a chemical restraint system on hand while traveling in case of an animal's escape. Another citation was issued for failing to provide a tiger with

sufficient space. A male tiger was unable to stand in a normal position without his head or ears touching the top of the cage. While observing the tiger for 10 to 15 minutes, the inspector witnessed him touch the top of the cage three or four times.

**January 17, 2002:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to provide tigers with a diet of sufficient nutritive value. At the time, the diet consisted of raw meat with Clovite powder sprinkled on it. The product did not specify the amount of useable calcium on the label, leading the inspector to conclude that the diet was not nutritionally balanced and appeared to be insufficient in calcium. The written partial description of the diet, which was approved by the veterinarian, did not include the amount and frequency of the supplement, nor did it indicate the ratios of food types (beef and chicken), frequency of feedings, or fasting days. The inspector also noted, "The older inappetant tiger should not be fasted." The inspector "strongly recommend[ed]" that the licensee or attending veterinarian consult with an exotic-animal nutritionist.

**January 2, 2002:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to provide a permanent facility address. The owner provided the USDA with the address for the Erie County Fairgrounds in New York as the business location where the animals are housed. On January 1, 2002, a USDA agent went to the fairgrounds and was told by management that the licensee had no permanent facilities there but would stop there for a night or two during travel season or when traveling circuses came through.

**April 17, 2001:** An inspection report noted that a violation observed on November 17, 2001, had not been corrected. The licensee was granted an extension to correct the violation. The inspector noted, "The travel enclosures which are also the [tigers'] primary enclosures are too small to allow for

normal postural adjustments. Specifically, full reclining and stretching is not possible in these enclosures, which measure 74 inches by 42 inches by 48 inches high." One male tiger was about 70 inches long from nose to rump and was unable to recline fully. The licensee was required to correct the violation by July 1, 2001.

**December 6, 2000:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to provide tigers with sufficient space to make normal postural adjustments. At his permanent facility, the licensee was confining four tigers to travel wagons measuring 74 by 42 by 48 inches, while five others had access to pens. One male tiger was about 70 inches long from nose to rump and was unable to recline fully in the cages. The inspector noted, "When the licensee tours again, these wagons will become the primary enclosure for the tigers, i.e. where they sleep at night, as well as their transport enclosures."

**November 17, 2000:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to provide tigers with sufficient space to make normal postural adjustments. The licensee was confining tigers to rolling circus cages that measured 74 by 42 by 48 inches. The USDA stated that the cages required "more length and vertical height to allow for species typical behavior."

**November 23, 1999:** The USDA cited Smieya-Blaszak for failing to allow access for an inspection. During the attempt to inspect, the property manager told the USDA agent that the licensee had purchased property elsewhere, had not been at the premises since before touring that summer, and was not expected to return to the premises to use it as winter quarters. The licensee had failed to notify the USDA of her current location or of the location or address where animals were housed while not touring.

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**September 30, 1999:** The USDA issued a citation to Blaszak for failure to provide access to the facility for inspection and failure to submit a current itinerary.

**September 7, 1999:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. There were rust holes in the metal frame of the show ring and excessive rust on the tiger enclosures. The inspection report also noted that the facility needed to provide a written animal escape protocol.

**February 18, 1999:** The USDA issued a citation to Blaszak for failure to provide access to the facility for inspection. The gate was locked, nobody was on the premises, and no current itinerary had been submitted.

**May 7, 1998:** The USDA cited Blaszak for failing to provide tigers with sufficient space to make normal postural adjustments. The licensee was confining tigers to rolling circus cages measuring 74 by 42 by 48 inches. The cage height did not allow the tigers to exhibit species-typical behavior, such as stretching upwards while standing on their hind legs.