

October 12, 2021

Major Grant Burton Section Leader, Captive Wildlife Investigations Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement

Via e-mail:

Re: Request to Investigate Lancelot Ramos Kollman and Jennifer Walker Caudill for Apparent Violations of Florida Law

Dear Major Burton:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) investigate Lancelot Ramos Kollman and his partner, Jennifer Walker Caudill, for possessing and exhibiting kangaroos, a spider monkey, and ostriches without permits in apparent violation of Fla. Stat. § 379.3761 and Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-6.003. Kollman and Caudill reside at 12611 Andrews Road, Wimauma, FL 32340 ("the Facility") where they operate Jenny's Petting Zoo, which is open to the public on a regular basis and offers private events. They also exhibit animals in circuses and traveling shows.

Florida prohibits the possession of captive wildlife, including kangaroos, spider monkeys, and ostriches, for exhibition except as authorized by permit. A permit authorizes the permit holder to keep a specific type and number of animals. Facilities holding spider monkeys must meet special requirements, including that the FWC inspect and approve the facility prior to issuing the permit. Facilities that permanently exhibit ostriches (Class II wildlife) must adhere to minimum land area and fencing requirements. A person who possesses captive wildlife for the purpose of public display without having first secured a permit commits a Level Two violation and is subject to fines and penalties.

In September 2021, PETA requested all captive wildlife permits issued to Kollman, Caudill, and Jenny's Petting Zoo from 2020 to present. In response, the FWC provided a permit approved on January 20, 2021, authorizing Caudill to possess two zebras for mobile exhibit, and a similar permit issued in December 2019.⁶ There were no permits for any other species and no permits issued to Kollman or Jenny's Petting Zoo.

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AFFILIATES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
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¹ Fla. Stat. § 379.3761(1); Fla. Admin. Code Ann. R. 68A-6.003(1)–(2). Kangaroos and spider monkeys are Class III wildlife; ostriches are Class II wildlife. Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-6002(c), (1)(b)(34).

² Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-6.004(1).

³ See id. R. 68A-6.004(3)(c), (4).

⁴ See id. R. 68A-6.010.

⁵ See Fla. Stat. §§ 379.4015(2)(a)(10), (2)(b), (5)–(6); Fla. Stat. § 775.083(1)(e).

⁶ See Exhibit 1, PRR and Response.

Public records and photographs posted by visitors to Jenny's Petting Zoo show Kollman and Caudill possessing and exhibiting kangaroos, a spider monkey, and ostriches, all in apparent violation of Fla. Stat. § 379.3761 and Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-6.003, as evidenced by the following:

- Photos taken at Jenny's Petting Zoo and posted on Facebook in 2021 show two kangaroos, two ostriches, and a spider monkey exhibited to the public at the Facility. Kollman and Caudill do not hold permits to possess these animals in Florida.
- A certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), issued on August 3, 2021, by Dr. Larry Britt—a veterinarian in Plant City listed in FWC records as the veterinarian for Caudill's animals—identified Lance Kollman shipping two kangaroos and one spider monkey from Florida to 962 Murphy Avenue SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.8 The CVI listed Kollman as the carrier/transporter, consignor/present owner, and the consignee. On August 7, Kollman was documented exhibiting kangaroos, a spider monkey, and zebras at "Tilanta," a birthday party for rapper and social media influencer Ti Taylor hosted at this same Atlanta address.9 Again, Kollman does not hold a permit to possess these animals in Florida. Notably, Kollman is not authorized to exhibit animals or transport them for exhibition under federal law because the U.S. Department of Agriculture permanently revoked his Animal Welfare Act license in 2009. 10

Additionally, since November 2019, Caudill has acknowledged operating a permanent exhibit at her home, yet has only obtained a mobile exhibit permit. The FWC should require Caudill to be relicensed as a permanent exhibit and require her to meet the full requirements mandated in Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-6.010.

Because Kollman and Caudill possessed and publicly exhibited captive wildlife, including two kangaroos, a spider monkey, and two ostriches, without a permit, they both appear to have violated Fla. Stat. § 379.3761 and Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-6.003. PETA respectfully requests that the FWC investigate Kollman and Caudill for their apparent violations and hold them both fully accountable. Could you please confirm that the FWC is investigating this matter and intends to enforce Fla. Stat. § 379.3761? You can reach me at ________. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Rachel Mathews

Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement

⁷ See, e.g., Exhibit 2, Photos.

⁸ See Exhibit 3, CVI.

⁹ See Video 1 starting at 4:24 and Video 2 at 12:00; see also Welcome to Tilanta, EVENTCREATE, https://www.eventcreate.com/e/tilanta2 (last visited Oct. 7, 2021).

¹⁰ See Lancelot Kollman Ramos v. U.S. Dep't of Agric., 322 F. App'x 814, 823 (11th Cir. 2009) (affirming the Judicial Officer's decision to revoke Kollman's license). PETA has separately reported this transport and exhibition to the federal government.

¹¹ See Exhibit 1, PRR and Response.