



Captive Wildlife Report

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
5110 GANDY BLVD
TAMPA FL 33611

Report Date / Time 9/29/2021 9:08:32 AM	Report Number ISR099510 (01)	Report Case/CAD Number FWCC21OFF013675 / FWCC21CAD017457	Reporting Officer Rank / ID INVESTIGAT / WM968	Reporting Officer Name ROBERT O'HORO
Originating Agency ORI FL0588000	Reported to Agency Date 9/27/2021 8:51:39 AM	Occur Date Range 09/27/2021 08:51:39 -	Jurisdiction Private Property	Status: Clearance:
Offense Description S65W WILDLIFE EXHIBITS				

LOCATION(S)

County SARASOTA	Location Type INCIDENT LOCATION	Location Description						
Street Number 7101	Street PALMER BLVD	Apt/Lot/Bldg	City SARASOTA	State FL	Zip Code 34240	Phone Number	Ext.	

INVESTIGATION

Was Body Camera Used?	Yes
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Person: EMPLOYEE

First Name CLAYTON	Middle Name	Last Name ROSAIRE MOWREY	Suffix	Race WHITE	Sex MALE	Height 503	Weight 0	Hair	Eyes
MNI # FWC21MNI003998	SSN	Date of Birth 02/29/1980	Age 41	ID Type DL	Drivers License or other ID M600116800690	State FL	OCA / Agency ID		
Place of Birth:									
Addresses • RESIDENCE / 1834 W LEEWYNN DR, FL 34240 /									

Person: LICENSEE

First Name KAY	Middle Name	Last Name MOWREY ROSS	Suffix	Race WHITE	Sex FEMALE	Height	Weight 0	Hair	Eyes
MNI # FWC17MNI052244	SSN	Date of Birth 12/18/1948	Age 72	ID Type	Drivers License or other ID	State	OCA / Agency ID		
Place of Birth:									
Addresses • RESIDENCE / 7101 N PALMER AVE, SARASOTA, FL /									

Person: LICENSEE

First Name HANS	Middle Name J	Last Name NERGER	Suffix	Race WHITE	Sex MALE	Height	Weight 0	Hair	Eyes
MNI # FWC16MNI404033	SSN	Date of Birth 11/05/1956	Age 64	ID Type N/A	Drivers License or other ID IL LIC	State IL	OCA / Agency ID		
Place of Birth:									

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Addresses • RESIDENCE / 9819 N SOLON RD, RICHMOND, IL 60071 /

Business: CW EXHIBITOR

Business Name BIG CAT HABITAT AND SANCTUARY		MBI # FWC17MBI000315	Phone Number 1	Ext 1	Phone Number 2	Ext 2
County SARASOTA	Street Number 7101	Address PALMER BLVD	Apt/Lot/Bldg	City SARASOTA	State FL	Zip Code 34240
Other Information						

Narrative: TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Narrative Date/Time 9/29/2021 9:23:42 AM		Narrative Synopsis SIX TIGERS TURNED OVER TO STATE OF FLORIDA		
Reporting Officer ROBERT O'HORO		Officer Rank INVESTIGAT	Officer ID No WM968	Officer Org/Unit FWCC\SW REGION\SARASOTA INVEST
Officer Signature		Officer Agency FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION		

On 09/27/2021, at approximately 0930 hrs, I arrived at the Big Cat Habitat in Sarasota, FL, to conduct a routine inspection of exotic wildlife. I was met by employee Clayton Mowrey who advised me that he had a situation involving some tigers that were about to be abandoned.

Mr. Mowrey explained that Big Cat Habitat had allowed a traveling circus and it's six tigers to stay on their property during the interruptions due to Covid-19. The owner of the circus, Mr. Juergen Nerger, informed Mr. Mowrey on 09/26/2021 that he intended to leave the country and leave his cats behind. Mr. Nerger had already left and stated that he would come back to better explain his departure.

I inspected the six tigers. The facility had erected a separate 8 foot high fence around the area containing the tigers. The tigers were being kept in travel cages approximately 7.5' x 7.5' in area (see photographs). There was an exercise yard which was used daily, however, this arrangement does not meet the size requirements for permanent caging (minimum 24' x 10' x 8' high; FAC 68A-6.0122(1)(a)). Additionally, this caging does not meet any exception for travel status because of the length of time the tigers were on the property. It should be noted that one of the tigers was in permanent caging provided by Big Cat Habitat.

A records check revealed that Mr. Nerger's out of state ESA license for tigers was expired by 5 days. I contacted the Captive Wildlife Office and determined that no renewal was pending. The office also

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advised me that Mr. Nerger was currently not authorized to possess class 1 animals in Florida due to failure to provide proof of the required bond.

Mr. Nerger arrived a short time after and agreed to transfer the six tigers to Big Cat Habitat. Mr. Nerger confirmed that the business interruption due to Covid-19 destroyed his business and that he could not continue. Mr. Mowrey explained that Big Cat Habitat did not have room to keep the animals permanently, but he did have a rescue facility in Tennessee in mind. Because Mr. Nerger's license was expired, I facilitated the transfer by having Mr. Nerger release the tigers to the State of Florida and I then transferred ownership to Big Cat Habitat. I provided all parties with the needed copies of the paperwork (see attached).

I advised Mr. Mowrey that the tigers needed to be transferred out within several days due to the caging issue. We worked to place the tigers and determined that they would be transferred to Tiger Haven, Inc. in Tennessee. As of 1000 hrs. on 09/29/2021, the 6 tigers are loaded up and currently in transit to Tennessee.

End of report.

Narrative: ROUTINE INSPECTION

 Narrative Date/Time 9/29/2021 10:57:24 AM		Narrative Synopsis ROU INSPECTION; NO VIOLATIONS		
Reporting Officer ROBERT O'HORO		Officer Rank INVESTIGAT	Officer ID No WM968	Officer Org/Unit FWCC\SW REGION\SARAS OTA INVEST
Officer Signature		Officer Agency FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION		

On 09/27/2021, at approximately 1330 hrs., I continued my inspection of wildlife at the Big Cat Habitat in Sarasota, FL. Mr. Clayton Mowrey accompanied me during the inspection. The facility continues to exhibit a variety of class 1 and class 2 wildlife.

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The facility was clean and well-maintained. All animals observed appeared healthy and well-kept.

While inspecting the tiger lock down area, I noticed that the facility has recently acquired several new tigers. The facility has several large exhibit yards, but because many of the tigers are not compatible, only a few tigers are able to be out on exhibit at a time. The tigers appear to spend a substantial time in their lock downs. As a result, lock down areas must meet the minimum size requirements for tigers / lions which is 24' x 10' x 8' high for one or two tigers. *FAC 68A-6.0122(1)(a)*. In the past, the facility has been able to combine two lock down areas to create sufficient space. On this date, the facility was getting ready to move some animals, but several tigers were in single lock down areas that appeared to be under the required space. I reminded Mr. Mowrey that the animals must be provided the minimum required space when they are not out on the yard.


I also reminded him that: (1) there is no grandfathering provisions for minimum cage space; and (2) that if caging meets the square footage requirement (240 sq. ft.), but does not have a 24 ft. dimension, an approved deviation from standard caging is required.

The facility continues to exhibit several bears in open topped enclosures without the required deviations approval from the Captive Wildlife Office in Tallahassee. The facility has recently employed the former registrar from the Miami Zoo, Rachel Rogers, to help in this regard. I have spoken with Ms. Rogers and she intends to begin drafting the requests as soon as possible.

An current inventory will be attached hereto once received.

End of report.

Officer: Approving Supervisor (Supplement 01)

Officer Name LOUIS HINDS	Officer Rank LIEUTENANT	Officer ID No WM471	Officer Agency FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approval Date / Time 9/29/2021 1:32:48 PM	Officer Signature 		

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Picture

Picture Date Time 9/27/2021 10:10:07 AM	Picture Height 1080	Picture Width 1440	Picture Size 1406 KB	Resized True
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Description 9.27.21 Tiger 1. R. O'Horo.



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Picture

Picture Date Time 9/27/2021 10:10:17 AM	Picture Height 1080	Picture Width 1440	Picture Size 1438 KB	Resized True
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Description 9.27.21 Tiger 2 & Tiger 3. R. O'Horo.



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Picture

Picture Date Time 9/27/2021 10:10:25 AM	Picture Height 1080	Picture Width 1440	Picture Size 1520 KB	Resized True
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Description
9.27.21 Tiger 4. R. O'Horo.



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Picture

Picture Date Time 9/27/2021 10:10:30 AM	Picture Height 1080	Picture Width 1440	Picture Size 1585 KB	Resized True
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Description
9.27.21 Tiger 5. R. O'Horo.



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Offense Description S65W WILDLIFE EXHIBITS				

Picture

Picture Date Time 9/27/2021 11:46:13 AM	Picture Height 1080	Picture Width 1440	Picture Size 1864 KB	Resized True
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Description
9.27.21 Tiger 6. R. O'Horo.



Sup #	Officer Name Rank / ID #	Involvement On Report / Reporting Role	Officer Agency Org/Unit
01	ROBERT O'HORO INVESTIGAT WM968	REPORTING OFFICER	FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FWCC\SW REGION\SARASOTA INVEST
01	LOUIS HINDS LIEUTENANT WM471	APPROVING SUPERVISOR	FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FWCC\SW REGION\MANATEE INVEST

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The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe that the above named Defendant, committed violation(s), of law, on the below date(s) and time(s), as listed in the narratives associated with this report: Officer: Reporting Officer (Supplement01)			
Officer Name ROBERT O'HORO	Office Rank INVESTIGAT	Officer ID No WM968	Sworn and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority This the _____ day of _____, _____ DEPUTY OF THE COURT, NOTARY OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Officer Agency FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION			
Officer Signature			