

# Cicchelli Second Chance Rescue & Exotics

10944 W. Rosted Rd., Lake City, MI 49651

Cicchelli Second Chance Rescue & Exotics (Cicchelli Second Chance) is owned by April and Ryan Cicchelli. The facility has failed to meet the minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Cicchelli Second Chance for numerous infractions, including repeatedly failing to provide animals with adequate heating, exposing them to extreme cold weather, failing to provide accessible potable water, failing to contact the attending veterinarian to evaluate illness, failing to have proper acquisition paperwork for new animals, failing to provide animals with light, and failing to have adequate knowledge and experience when handling dangerous felids. In 2021, the USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance an official warning for exhibiting without a USDA exhibitor's license. In 2022, during a relicensing inspection, the Cicchellis gave false information to USDA inspectors, claiming that they hadn't acquired certain animals. They didn't admit to the acquisition until inspectors announced that the USDA had documentation that demonstrated otherwise.

Contact PETA for documentation.

**February 10, 2022:** The USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance a repeat direct citation for failing to have a lockout (secondary enclosure) inside the olive baboon's heated shelter, forcing him to be

outside while the facility was cleaned and sanitized. During inspection, the temperature read 28.5 degrees. The inspector noted that "[f]orcing the animal to stay outside during these events can lead to discomfort, suffering, freezing of fingers and toes, or other injuries."

**February 3, 2022:** The USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance a citation for failing to have a responsible adult available for inspection.

**January 26, 2022:** The USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance 18 citations for violations of the AWA, including a critical citation for interfering with a relicensing inspection by providing the inspectors with false information. The facility's operator denied that they were in possession of a cougar cub and North American river otter until the inspector stated that the USDA had documentation that demonstrated the operator was in possession of both animals. A direct citation was issued for failing to contact the attending veterinarian regarding an olive baboon who had a dramatic increase of pigmented growths in front of his right ear. A direct citation was issued for failing to provide adequate heating in the shelters of an olive baboon and two rhesus macaques. During inspection, the temperature read 31 degrees in the olive baboon shelter and 37.6 degrees in the rhesus macaque shelter. The inspector noted that the ambient temperature in shelters for primates should not be below 45 degrees for more than four consecutive hours to protect their comfort and well-being. A direct citation was also issued for failing to heat the kinkajou enclosure adequately. During the inspection, the inside temperature read 45 degrees, which the inspector noted was "too low for kinkajous." A direct citation was issued for failing to have lockouts inside the heated shelters of the macaques and olive baboon. The lack of a lockout resulted in the primates being locked outside while the

indoor facility was cleaned, exposing them to extreme temperatures. At the time of inspection, the outdoor temperature was 12.3 degrees with a wind chill of 7.6 degrees. Another direct citation was issued for failing to provide a zebra with access to potable water. There was a layer of ice on top of the water trough, and when the ice was broken, the zebra drank rapidly for about 90 seconds.

The USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance a citation for failing to provide inspectors with acquisition paperwork for a cougar cub, a North American river otter, and an African crested porcupine. A citation was issued for failing to demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of handling felids, including a cougar and two servals. The facility's operator stated that they had spent four to five hours with an animal trainer from the original seller of the cougar as a demonstration of knowledge. During the inspection, the cougar was on a leash attached to a harness that was too big for the animal, fitting too loosely to enable proper handling. The inspector was also told that one of the servals was "unfriendly" and "didn't like people" but that staff had to clean the enclosure with the animals unsecured, leaving both the animals and staff vulnerable to stress or injury. Furthermore, the servals had no shelter to allow them to hide from stressors. A citation was issued for failing to maintain the surface of a hanging enrichment item for two rhesus macaques, stating "[t]he device was in disrepair with loose rope and had frayed ends." The USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance citations for failing to provide adequate lighting in the indoor barn that housed 23 animals. The inspector found that "[t]he only lighting came from three doors located on three different sides of the building." A citation was issued for failing to construct a lemur enclosure that securely contained the six lemurs. The lemurs were housed in wire dog kennels inside the heated garage of the home address. The

kennels had gaps of about 2 inches by 4 inches, large enough for the lemurs to escape, and three lemurs were observed loose in the garage at the time of the inspection. A citation was also issued for failing to seal the concrete floor of the lemur enclosure properly. Another citation was issued for failing to control "pests" in the garage used for housing lemurs, and a mouse was seen running alongside the lemur enclosure multiple times during the inspection. The USDA issued Cicchelli Second Chance a citation for failing to house a juvenile cougar and four coatimundis in appropriate enclosures. The facility's operators allowed a juvenile cougar to run loose in the house when they were home and four coatimundis were kept in a dog kennel inside the heated barn. There was a gap in the kennel large enough for them to stick their head and neck through, and the inspector noted that if the "coati were to lose [their] grip/footing [while climbing] this gap could cause injury or strangulation of the coati." An additional citation was issued for failing to house a juvenile cougar in an adequate enclosure. The facility's operators allowed the cougar to run loose in the house while they were at home during the day, and at night, she was kept in a wire dog crate measuring 4 feet by 3 feet by 2 feet in the furnace room. A litterbox in the crate took up about one-third of the floor space. A citation was also issued for failing to properly house the cougar in a sanitary and safe location. The furnace room in which she was kept "was full of miscellaneous clutter including foam strips, paper, carpets, a Nintendo controller, and a trash bag. The items were close enough to the cougar crate that the animal could reach out and grab the items with her paw. There was evidence of chewed debris in and around the animal crate at the time of inspection." Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to provide the cougar and two servals with adequate amounts of a calcium supplement with their food to support normal growth. The facility was using an

inadequate amount of a seaweed-derived calcium supplement that its packaging said was recommended for dogs. The operators didn't know the specific amount of meat fed daily to the animals and would change their reports of what amounts were fed when asked multiple times.

**May 27, 2021:** The USDA issued an official warning to Cicchelli Second Chance for exhibiting animals without a valid USDA exhibitor's license on October 11, 2020.

**August 12, 2020:** The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development imposed a quarantine on Cicchelli Second Chance after determining that the owners had unlawfully imported a rhesus macaque, a baboon, and an otter. The Cicchellis had not obtained the certificates of veterinary inspection required for importation of these species nor did they obtain the Coggins test required by law to import the horses, donkeys, and zebra they had acquired.