

A to Z Film Animals

31 Monte Vista Rd., Belen, NM 87002

A to Z Film Animals, owned by Chelsey and Kip Lewis, has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited the facility for failing to provide animals with adequate shelter to protect them from inclement weather, failing to have adults present for inspection, and failing to sanitize water receptacles properly. In 2020, Kip Lewis pleaded no contest to three counts of unlawfully importing nondomestic animals into the state of New Mexico. Contact PETA for documentation.

January 13, 2022: The USDA issued a citation to Chelsey Lewis for failing to clean and sanitize the water receptacle in the dogs' indoor kennel area. The rim of the plastic water receptacle had been chewed excessively by the dogs, resulting in dirt and grime becoming embedded in the plastic, which could not be cleaned or sanitized properly.

December 27, 2021: The USDA issued a citation to Chelsey Lewis for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) officials during an inspection.

August 11, 2021: The USDA issued a citation to Chelsey Lewis for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Both the outdoor enclosure for four dogs and the enclosure for three wolfdogs had a large hole with an exposed ground metal panel lying on top of it. The metal fence also had multiple sharp edges and holes large

enough for the dogs to step into and become caught.

August 25, 2020: Kip Lewis pleaded no contest to three counts of importing live game animals into New Mexico without a permit and was sentenced to 364 days of unsupervised probation. Chelsey Lewis pleaded no contest to one count of being an accessory to importing live game animals into New Mexico without a permit. Her sentence was deferred pending completion of 364 days of unsupervised probation. Upon completion of probation, on August 24, 2021, her charge was dismissed, but the record of the charge still exists.

November 14, 2019: The USDA issued a citation to Chelsey Lewis for failing to have wind or rain breaks at the entrance to the four wolfdogs' wooden outdoor shelter. A citation was issued for failing to have a written program of veterinary care available for review at the time of inspection. Chelsey was also cited for failing to have acquisition records for four wolfdogs.

July 26, 2019: Following an April 2019 seizure, Kip Lewis was criminally charged with six counts of unlawful importation and Chelsey Lewis was charged with six counts of being an accessory to unlawful importation. The charges were related to the unlawful importation of a mountain lion, coyote, skunk, red kangaroo, capuchin monkey, and raccoon.

April 8, 2019: After the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish determined that unlawfully imported animals had not been exported out of New Mexico as required, it executed another search warrant at Chelsey and Kip Lewis' Belen, New Mexico, property. The search warrant affidavit explained that the Lewises had attempted to deceive the department by forging documents and "did not act in good faith and follow directives to remove the animals from the State of New Mexico."

State officials seized six unlawfully imported animals: a coyote, raccoon, striped skunk, red kangaroo, capuchin monkey, and prairie dog. According to Kip Lewis, the mountain lion and the American alligator had both died. (See the December 15, 2018, entry.)

December 15, 2018: The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish served a search warrant at Chelsey and Kip Lewis' Belen, New Mexico, property related to the unlawful importation of nondomestic animals into the state of New Mexico without valid importation permits from the department. While searching their property, officials found a number of animals in the Lewises' possession who had been unlawfully imported into the state, including a mountain lion, a raccoon, an American alligator, a coyote, a striped skunk, a red kangaroo, a capuchin monkey, and a prairie dog. The Lewises were directed to export these unlawfully imported animals out of New Mexico.

April 18, 2018: The USDA issued a citation to Chelsey Lewis for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany APHIS officials during an inspection.

March 8, 2017: The USDA issued a citation to Chelsey Lewis for failing to provide Skittles, a camel, with adequate shelter to protect the animal from inclement weather. The wall of the shelter was bowing outward because of warping, which resulted in large open gaps along the back corners of the shelter that allowed wind and rain to enter it.