

Tanganyika Wildlife Park

1000 S. Hawkins Ln., Goddard, KS 67052

Tanganyika Wildlife Park, operated by Jim Fouts, has failed to meet 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 Tanganyika for, among other things, repeatedly failing to supervise public interactions with animals—including when workers failed to notice a lemur sitting on the head of an infant during a public encounter and allowed a child to get close enough to a pygmy hippopotamus to be bitten on the hand so severely that stitches were required—improper handling and transporting of immunocompromised neonatal lynx cubs, failing to provide solitary primates with adequate enrichment, repeatedly failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, and repeatedly failing to maintain proper perimeter fencing. Tanganyika also deals wild animals to other roadside zoos across the country. Records show that since 2015, Tanganyika has shipped at least 300 animals, nearly 20 of whom were neonatal exotic cats (under the age of 4 weeks), to at least 57 facilities in 26 states. Contact PETA for documentation.

March 29, 2022: The USDA cited Tanganyika for housing guinea pigs in an outdoor enclosure without prior approval from the deputy administrator. Guinea pigs may not be subjected to unsafe climatic conditions, and all outdoor housing must be approved by the USDA.

November 4, 2021: The USDA issued Tanganyika an official warning for failing to handle animals “as expeditiously and

carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.” (See the June 21, 2021, entry below.)

June 21, 2021: The USDA issued Tanganyika a critical citation for making Eurasian lynx kittens available for transport to another facility before the age of 28 days. The kittens were only 20 days of age when transported. According to USDA policy, “Neonatal nondomestic cats have special handling and husbandry needs and are placed in danger when they are exposed to members of the public and/or stressful conditions, including transportation. Cubs under 4 weeks of age (28 days) do not have a developed immune system, are susceptible to a wide variety of diseases including those of domestic cats, and cannot thermoregulate.”

July 30, 2019: The USDA issued Tanganyika a citation for failing to have a responsible adult available for the inspection process.

September 9, 2017: The USDA issued Tanganyika an official warning for failing to comply with regulations issued under the AWA after a child was bitten by a pygmy hippo. (See the November 16, 2016, entry.)

February 13, 2017: The USDA issued Tanganyika a citation for failing to have a responsible adult available for the inspection process.

November 16, 2016: The USDA issued Tanganyika a critical citation for an incident that had occurred on October 16, 2016, in which a child was bitten by a pygmy hippo. “The child was allowed to get close enough to the pygmy hippo that when she tried to throw the food, the animal bit her hand,” which required medical attention. A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect the

animals from injury. A board was missing on top of a resting platform in a honey badger and lynx enclosure, leaving a gap; a metal support on a sliding door in the serval enclosure was rusted; and a wood board at the base of a warthog enclosure was broken. A citation was also issued for failing to maintain a guillotine door in the colobus building in good repair. The wire to the door went through openings in the metal ceiling, and the ceiling was torn at both of the openings, leaving a jagged edge. The wire to the door was also frayed, causing sharp ends of the wiring to be exposed. Both issues were within reaching distance to the colobuses. A citation was also issued for failing to store a bale of peat moss used for bedding and a bag of primate biscuits in a sealed container.

September 28, 2015: The USDA cited Tanganyika for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect animals from injury. There was “a hole with a rough, splintered edge in the wood board lining the wall of a jaguar enclosure,” and a zebra enclosure had an exposed drainage pipe with a broken edge on the ground. A citation was issued for failing to store food with adequate protection against deterioration or contamination. Rabbits intended to be used as food were stored uncovered in the walk-in freezer. One of them had a large amount of ice accumulation due to a leak from the freezer fan above where the animal was stored.

July 16, 2014: The USDA cited Tanganyika for an incident on July 10, 2014, in which an unrestrained lemur was photographed sitting on the head of an infant in a car seat. The attendant in the lemur encounter exhibit hadn't noticed that the lemur was interacting with and sitting on the infant. Tanganyika was cited for housing five adult giraffes in an enclosure that had the potential to allow public contact with the animals. The moat that separated the giraffes and the public had become full of sediment, raising the

ground level enough that it allowed contact between them. During inspection, three members of the public walked over and stood on the wall surrounding the moat. A citation was issued due to excessive rust on the keeper's gate to the outside yard of the colobus enclosure. The rust had caused holes and jagged edges on the metal tubing of the gate. The USDA cited Tanganyika for failing to have an adequate 8-foot perimeter fence in some areas. During a sample survey of approximately 30% of the fence along the south side of the park, inspectors found numerous holes and gaps between the lower edge of the fence and the ground. There were areas in which the lower section of fence was loose from the tension wire, allowing gaps, and 10 perimeter fence posts were leaning in, which caused the fence to sag.

July 9, 2012: The USDA cited Tanganyika for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect animals from injury or escape. An approximately 3-foot-long section of fence between the alpaca and sheep enclosures had curled up, causing a gap under the fence. A citation was also issued for failing to maintain an 8-foot perimeter fence. During inspection, three sections of the perimeter fence were found to be in need of repair and were no longer the required 8 feet in height. A support post had been bent over and was no longer supporting the fence, trees had pushed down the top of the fence on one section, and another section near the entrance road had been pushed down.

April 13, 2011: The USDA cited Tanganyika for failing to ensure that all medications used at the facility weren't expired. The inspector found three medications that were between six months and five years past their expiration dates and were comingled with current medications. The USDA issued a citation for failing to offer sufficient provisions in the environmental enrichment plan to ensure

the psychological well-being of two individually housed primates. They were unable to see or hear each other while being housed in the giraffe barn. A citation was issued because Tanganyika had failed to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect the animals from injury or escape. Goats were apparently able to leave their enclosure. There were two holes, 3 to 5 inches in diameter, in the walls of the giraffe enclosure. An elevated resting platform for a tiger had a 12-inch rusted angle iron section on the top edge, and at least one of the metal guides for a sliding metal door for two snow leopards was “rusted to a point that the structural integrity [was] jeopardized and rusted jagged edges [were] present.” A citation was issued because the facility had failed to control rust in the lemur enclosure. A 5-foot-long section of lower metal wall of the interior of the enclosure was severely rusted, with a 3-inch-long section that was completely rusted through.

February 3, 1993: A keeper was hospitalized in serious condition with wounds to his face and neck after being mauled by a tiger at Tanganyika Wildlife Company. The big cat lunged through the open door of a cage and attacked when the keeper bent down to pick up something. A second keeper attempted to beat the tiger away with a shovel and then shot and killed the animal.