



### Inspection Report

---

Larry Wallach  
551 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Customer ID: **2134**  
Certificate: **21-C-0069**  
Site: 002  
Larry Wallach

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 10-AUG-2022

---

**2.4 Critical**  
**Non-interference with APHIS officials.**

(1) USDA officials had received a complaint alleging that a member of the public had been bitten by a sloth during an encounter at the site of the licensee. At the time of the 8/10/22 inspection, the USDA officials asked the licensee multiple times if a member of the public had been bitten during any of the sloth encounters. He told the inspectors that “nothing happened here” and that he did not get any complaint or report of someone being bitten. His answer each time that this question was asked was “No” he did not know of any bites during any encounter. The licensee also asked his employees present at the time of inspection, and they agreed that no member of the public had been bitten during an encounter.

USDA officials subsequently received documentation from the Suffolk County Dept of Health following the inspection that they were notified that a member of the public was bitten and/or scratched by a sloth on 7/24/22 during an encounter at the Licensee’s facility and the person required immediate medical care by a medical professional. As a result of the incident, the health department issued an order of “Animal Confinement” for a sloth named “Edward” on 7/24/22 and the order states: “It has been reported that on 7/24/22 your sloth was involved in an alleged biting/scratching incident. NY State Public Health Law requires a 30 day confinement of the animal for Rabies observation.....If your animal has neurological symptoms, or is not acting normal, it shall be immediately evaluated by a veterinarian and the Department

---

**Prepared By:** PAULA GLADUE  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
03-OCT-2022

**Received by Title:** Licensee

**Date:**  
03-OCT-2022



### Inspection Report

---

must be notified of the findings. The animal must be confined until 8/23/22.” A copy of the order was signed by the licensee on 7/28/22 which was thirteen days prior to the 8/10/22 inspection.

(2) At the time of the inspection on 8/10/22, the USDA officials asked the Licensee to describe how the public feeds the sloths during the encounters and he stated that the public uses tongs to hold the food fed to the sloths. The USDA officials observed the public feeding of the sloths with the food held by tongs at the time of the inspection, but pictures posted on the Licensee’s social media page the weekend immediately following the inspection show barehanded feeding of the sloths by two children and one adult who was not the Licensee.

Per this Section, a licensee shall not interfere with any APHIS official in the course of carrying out their duties. The provision of false information to inspectors at the time of an inspection interferes with the ability of the APHIS officials to carry out their duties and is considered to be a form of interference. Correct from this date 10/3/22 forward.

**2.131(c)(1) Critical**

**Handling of animals.**

According to officials at the county of Suffolk, NY department of health, they were notified that a member of the public was bitten and/or scratched by a sloth named “Edward” on 7/24/22 during an encounter at the Licensee’s facility and the person required immediate medical care by a medical professional.

As a result of the incident, the health department issued an order of “Animal Confinement” for a sloth named “Edward” on 7/24/22 and the order states: “It has been reported that on 7/24/22 your sloth was involved in an alleged biting/scratching incident. NY State Public Health Law requires a 30 day confinement of the animal for Rabies observation.....If your animal has neurological symptoms, or is not acting normal, it shall be immediately evaluated by a veterinarian and the

---

**Prepared By:** PAULA GLADUE  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
03-OCT-2022

**Received by Title:** Licensee

**Date:**  
03-OCT-2022



### Inspection Report

---

Department must be notified of the findings. The animal must be confined until 8/23/22.” A copy of the order was signed by the licensee on 7/28/22. According to the health officials, had the incident involved one of the other more recently acquired sloths, euthanasia and rabies testing of the sloth would likely have been required for public health purposes.

Per this Section during public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public to assure the safety of the animals and the public. Injuries to a member of the public during public exhibition have the potential to adversely affect the health of the animal or to result in the death of the animal.

Correct from this date 10/3/22 forward by ensuring there is sufficient distance and/or barriers between animals and members of the public whenever encounters with the animals are conducted so that there is minimal risk of harm and to assure the safety of both the animals and the public.

This inspection and exit briefing were conducted with the Licensee.

Additional Inspectors:

JESSICA GOWINS, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

---

**Prepared By:** PAULA GLADUE  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
03-OCT-2022

**Received by Title:** Licensee

**Date:**  
03-OCT-2022



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2134	21-C-0069	002	Larry Wallach	10-AUG-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000006	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000007	<b>Total</b>	