

Single Vision Inc.

8185 Forest Hills Rd., Melrose, FL 32666

Single Vision Inc., owned by Carl Bovard, 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 the facility for numerous infractions, including repeatedly failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, repeatedly failing to feed big cats nutritionally appropriate diets, repeatedly failing to communicate animal health concerns to the attending veterinarian, failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public, failing to clean enclosures, and knowingly interfering with USDA officials in the course of carrying out their duties. During a 2020 inspection, the licensee behaved in a threatening, argumentative, sarcastic, intimidating, harassing, and aggressive manner and refused to allow inspectors to take photographs. In 2022, the licensee knowingly gave inspectors fraudulent documentation and false information regarding animals' veterinary care. The attending veterinarian later stated that she had not seen many of the animals claimed to have been examined by her. In 2022, the USDA fined Single Vision \$8,850 for 18 alleged violations of the AWA. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) also issued Single Vision a misdemeanor citation for acquiring an animal from an unlicensed facility and two written warnings for noted violations of the state's captive-wildlife rules.

Contact PETA for documentation.

September 2, 2022: The FWC found that April Cicchelli and her husband, Ryan, had illegally transferred a cougar, named Aria, from Cicchelli Second Chance Rescue & Exotics in Michigan to Single Vision in Florida. The Cicchellis had apparently unlawfully possessed Aria in Michigan without a permit. April Cicchelli stated to an FWC investigator that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources had recommended that she transfer Aria to a licensed facility. The Cicchellis and Single Vision didn't contact the FWC before transferring Aria to Florida, and the Cicchellis didn't obtain a license from the FWC. Single Vision was issued a misdemeanor citation for acquiring the cougar from an unlicensed entity.

The FWC officer also noted that the African crested porcupine enclosure had a ceiling that didn't meet the minimum height requirement under the state's captive-wildlife rules. In addition, the hybrid brown bear pools didn't meet the depth requirements for brown bears. Single Vision was issued a written warning for each of these violations and was given 30 days to correct the deficiencies.

After the FWC officer reviewed several social media posts showing "seemingly random persons" in direct contact with dangerous animals—who the licensee claimed were volunteers, although that wasn't evident in the photos—Single Vision was also verbally warned about the FWC's rules prohibiting public contact with dangerous animals over a specified weight limit.

August 16, 2022: The USDA assessed Single Vision a civil penalty of \$8,850 for 18 alleged violations of the AWA that had occurred between May 9, 2019, and March 8, 2022.

April 28, 2022: The USDA issued Single Vision a critical repeat citation for failing to

communicate health concerns about animals to the attending veterinarian (AV) in a direct and timely manner. During the follow-up exit call for the previous inspection on March 8, 2022, the licensee stated that he hadn't contacted the AV regarding the Geoffroy's cat's squinting eye, scab, and general hair loss. A repeat citation was issued for failing to have acquisition records for the savannah cat, prairie dogs, goats, pigs, New Guinea singing dog pups, and rabbits. A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair and to prevent animals from injury. The following enclosures were in disrepair:

- Coatimundi/raccoon: A wooden support beam had areas of wood rot.
- Cougar: A wooden perch had a section of wood that was splintered, exposing a nail.
- Caracal/bobcat: A wooden beam on the platform had splintered areas.
- Syrian brown bear/black bear: An area of roof fencing was warped, creating a large area that the bears could stick their paws through.

The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to have a 6-foot-tall perimeter fence to protect nonhuman primates from unauthorized individuals. A second citation was issued for failing to have an 8-foot-tall perimeter fence around the other animal enclosures. During inspection, several areas of perimeter fence were not the required 6 or 8 feet in height because of objects stacked against the fence. Areas of the perimeter fencing were also adjacent to natural shrubbery or trees that could have been used for climbing. "Sizeable" holes in other areas had been dug out by animals under the perimeter fencing. All these factors posed a risk of allowing unauthorized individuals to enter or exit the enclosures.

March 8, 2022: The USDA issued Single Vision a critical citation for interfering with USDA officials in the course of carrying out

their duties by knowingly providing false information regarding veterinary care for certain animals and fraudulent documentation of a Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). The licensee told inspectors that the AV had examined a Geoffroy's cat "with generalized hair loss on the left side of [their] body, a squinting right eye and a small, scabbed wound within a dime sized area of alopecia over the right eye." The AV later told inspectors that she had not examined the cat or been contacted by the licensee regarding the relevant health concerns. The licensee told inspectors that the AV had also observed an obese jaguar several times and suggested cutting back on his diet. The AV later told inspectors that she had never physically seen an obese male jaguar at the facility. The licensee also told inspectors that the AV had conducted regular site visits that usually took an hour to complete. The inspectors noted that this was "difficult to believe since the inspection with USDA Officials took approximately over 2 hours just to view all the animals on the property." The AV then later denied that the licensee regularly requests annual site visits and stated that she is usually only called for the occasional animal wound or abnormality. She also had not been given a PVC to review and sign in over two years. During inspection, the licensee provided Programs of Veterinary Care for a variety of species that he had recently acquired. The inspector noted that "the PVCs provided during previous inspections have been fraudulently provided to USDA inspectors." The USDA also issued Single Vision a direct citation for failing to communicate with the attending veterinarian regarding proper veterinary care, including written PVCs and regularly scheduled visits. In addition to failing to contact the AV regarding the PVC, the Geoffroy's cat, and the obese jaguar, the licensee hadn't contacted the AV regarding two geriatric tigers who were observed to have "ocular issues, neurologic signs, and slim body weights." When asked whether the licensee had had a discussion

about quality of life with the AV, there was no response. The licensee did previously contact the AV regarding a limping cougar, and she had requested that the cougar be brought into the clinic to be examined. The AV told inspectors that the cat had never been transported to the clinic and that no follow-up information regarding the cat's condition had been communicated. She also stated that the facility was "not conducive for performing proper routine physical examinations that would necessitate sedation and immobilization." The facility didn't have squeeze chutes or small lockouts where an animal could be safely sedated and examined, nor was the facility able to transport the larger and more dangerous animals to the veterinary clinic for necessary medical care.

Another critical citation was issued for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized harm to them and the public. The inspector listed 31 incidents that occurred between July 16, 2020, and January 4, 2022, in which members of the public were allowed to interact and take photos with juvenile or adult big cats with no visible restraints or established barriers. During inspection, the licensee was shown an assortment of social media posts from these interactions with the big cats over the age of 12 weeks. He claimed that the facility used volunteers who had previous experience with exotic animals, but he couldn't provide the documentation of their experience or volunteer paperwork. One of the more frequent volunteers was said to be a veterinary student at the local college of veterinary medicine (CVM), but when inspectors spoke to the college's admissions department, the individual was identified as an "undergraduate pre-veterinary student with no formal veterinary training." The licensee also admitted that some of the individuals in the social media posts were former or current employees of other USDA regulated facilities but were not employees or volunteers for Single Vision.

The inspector noted that "the licensee allows family members, personal friends and other exotic animal exhibitors to interact with dangerous animals over 12 weeks of age without being under the direct control of a knowledgeable and experienced animal handler."

Single Vision was issued a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Eleven areas were noted to be in need of repair, including a kinkajou enclosure that had an exposed screw about 2 inches in length positioned down from the wooden board above. A ring-tailed lemur enclosure had a wooden platform that was separating from the base. Various enclosures had exposed metal fence subflooring. Some portions of the fence were flush with the dirt, whereas others had metal protrusions exposed. The inspector also noted that an adolescent spotted hyena was housed in the licensee's personal residence. The hyena was given free access to the home, which posed a risk of numerous dangers, including "exposed electrical cords and many chewing surfaces that could potentially become foreign body concerns." A citation was also issued for failing to keep enclosures clean. The small-clawed otter enclosure had an accumulation of feces, mud, and leftover portions of food behind the den box, and two small holes that functioned as a drainage system were clogged. The Geoffroy's cat enclosure had a buildup of feces and leftover food next to the den box outside the enclosure fence, which had attracted numerous flying insects.

May 14, 2021: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The serval enclosure had a wooden support beam along the top of the fence that had cracked and left large, jagged pieces of wood exposed. The caracal enclosure had a splintered wooden platform that was beginning to expose screws near the edge.

The lion and tiger enclosure had a wooden den with a detached backboard, a perch platform was noted to be leaning at an odd angle, and a plastic enrichment barrel had exposed sharp edges. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to have disposition records for three serval kits, three fennec fox kits, a ring-tailed lemur, and a hybrid lemur who had all died since the last inspection.

February 5, 2021: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access and inspection of records and property.

December 15, 2020: During a routine inspection of Single Vision by the FWC, the officer noted the following violations:

- Multiple U-shaped nails had backed out and were missing from a wooden post of the cougar enclosure.
- Acquisition paperwork for a newly acquired jaguar and three lions didn't include the transferee's FWC license number.
- The enclosure for two lion cubs and a cougar cub didn't have the required safety entrance.
- The pool in the otter enclosure didn't meet the minimum requirements.
- A bird cage exhibited more than normal fecal and food buildup in the bottom of the cage.
- A carpet python enclosure contained multiple shed skins and feces.

Single Vision was verbally warned that all the noted violations needed to be corrected immediately.

October 20, 2020: The USDA issued Single Vision a direct citation for failing to maintain drinking water receptacles in sanitary conditions. The otter enclosure had three pools filled with murky brown water, pieces of grass, and sediment. The bottom of the

pools couldn't be visualized, and there were no other receptacles dedicated to potable water. The coatimundi enclosure had a water receptacle filled with the roots of dead weeds and murky water. The bottom of the receptacle couldn't be visualized. A skunk and squirrel enclosure had a water receptacle that contained a minimal amount of murky brown water, sediment, and bits of soggy food in a layer on the bottom. The tiger and bear enclosure had a large metallic pool that contained murky brown water. The bottom of the pool couldn't be visualized and there was no other water receptacle dedicated to potable water. A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The serval enclosure had a wooden platform with a section of wood worn away, exposing a jagged hole. The caracal enclosure had a platform made of darkened, discolored, and splintering wood with an exposed screw near the edge. A wooden support plank extending from the top of the tiger and black bear enclosure over the den had been substantially damaged, with about 50% of the plank still intact. The top section of the den also showed signs of wear, including discoloring and splintering wood. A repeat citation was issued for failing to have a complete inventory of all the animals at the facility. The inventory didn't list a newly acquired otter, three pot-bellied pigs, two bear cubs, or five fennec fox kits. Disposition records were missing for a raccoon, kinkajou, Prevost's squirrel, lynx, lion, and cougar. Single Vision was cited for failing to have an adequate program to control "pest" populations. The food prep shed had "excessive flies in it," and there was an "excessive accumulation of spider webs." It was also noted that the shed's entryway didn't close securely and that the area was cluttered. Another citation was issued for failing to have an environmental enhancement program for a bush baby, hybrid ruffed lemur, and owl monkey. The USDA also cited Single Vision for failing to have a program of veterinary care that

included all animals. The program didn't include a rabbit, two otters, and an owl monkey.

June 19, 2020: From a routine inspection of Single Vision by the FWC, the officer noted the following violations:

- Multiple U-shaped nails had backed out of the wooden posts for the bear enclosure.
- The facility didn't have documentation on the births of two bear cubs.

March 17, 2020: The USDA issued Single Vision a critical citation for interfering with USDA officials in the course of carrying out their duties. The licensee was noted to have conducted himself in a "threatening manner." Specifically, "[t]hroughout the duration of the routine inspection, inspectors experienced argumentative, sarcastic, intimidating, harassing, and aggressive behavior with the licensee. His body language demonstrated an increase in agitation with every observation made by inspectors—he stood cross armed, quivered his lip, his neck reddened, and he continuously wrung the neck of a drinking bottle. Inspectors felt too intimidated to take pictures of noncompliances observed, concerned his anger would grow further." A citation was also issued for not allowing the inspectors to document conditions and areas of noncompliance. When told that photos would be needed since the licensee had stated that he would appeal the citations issued, he didn't allow the inspectors to take them, responding, "No, your inspection is over."

A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair and to protect animals from injury. The following enclosures were in disrepair:

- Cougar: A broken two-by-four wooden plank extended from the top of the enclosure over the den.

- Caracal/lynx: A darkened, discolored, and splintering wooden platform had two screws exposed about 2 inches.
- Serval: Platforms were made of darkened, discolored, splintering, and bowing wood. The top of the enclosure also had bowing wood.
- Lion/tiger: The corner of the den had darkened, discolored, and splintering wood with three screws exposed about 2 inches.
- Geoffroy's cat: A platform was made of darkened, discolored, and splintering wood.

The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to maintain a lemur enclosure so that there were no sharp points or edges that could injure the animals. The wooden ladder suspended between a den and an enrichment structure had splintering wood that extended 3 to 4 inches on the underside and jagged edges, and an uneven chunk of wood was missing on the top. The inspector noted that "[t]he ladder appeared to be utilized by the lemurs often, as two lemurs were on the ladder when the observation was made."

October 15, 2019: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access and inspection of records and property.

May 9, 2019: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access and inspection of records and property.

February 12, 2018: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access and inspection of records and property.

November 21, 2017: The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to have a

responsible adult available to accompany officials for access and inspection of records and property.

July 27, 2017: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to feed the big cats diets that were wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination. The licensee was feeding the cats a mixture of different types of meat in varying ratios and quantities, depending on availability. The licensee told the inspector that a tiger had recently been diagnosed with a vitamin A deficiency. The noncommercial diet plan wasn't approved by the attending veterinarian to ensure that the big cats were receiving a nutritionally appropriate diet, including all required vitamins and minerals. A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain the following enclosures in good repair. (See the June 22, 2017, entry for more details.)

- Lion outdoor yard: The kick-in continued to be upright, posing a risk of escape. The sand in the lion "play area" had eroded and exposed the wire mesh, causing the wire not to be flat against the sand and creating gaps that could injure the cats' feet or legs.
- Tiger/lion: The fence still wasn't upright and was wobbly and sagging in some areas. The yard shelter contained plywood that had become splintered.
- Cougar/leopard: The clawed, splintered log with a metal bolt exposed was still present, and the cougar's "resting shelf" now had an exposed screwhead. The cougar enclosure now contained splintered plywood as well.
- Kinkajou: The plywood resting board was still present and continued to deteriorate.

Another repeat citation was issued for failing to have a PVC that covered all species at the facility. The inspector noted that during the previous two inspections (which had occurred five months apart), the PVC that

was reviewed didn't address the fennec fox, porcupines, servals, Geoffroy's cats, lynx, lemurs, bush baby, raccoon, fox, or squirrels, and that was still the case during this inspection. Apparently, the program was still with the veterinarian, where it had been for six months and hadn't been completed, therefore, it wasn't available for review. The USDA issued Single Vision another repeat citation for failing to have a primate enrichment plan for the bush baby and two new marmosets. The plan was also with the veterinarian for completion and had been so for at least six months. Single Vision was also cited for failing to have acquisition records for a newly acquired lynx.

June 22, 2017: The USDA issued Single Vision a repeat citation for failing to feed the big cats diets that were wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination. The licensee was feeding the cats a mixture of different types of meat in varying ratios and quantities, depending on availability. The noncommercial diet plan wasn't standardized or uniform from day to day and hadn't been approved by the attending veterinarian. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain the following enclosures in good repair:

- Lion outdoor yard: The 10-foot-tall fence had a kick-in that had become detached from the support in several locations, leaving it in an upright position. The height of the enclosure with the unattached kick-in "pose[d] a risk of escape."
- Tiger/lion: The fence was leaning, wobbly, and sagging in some areas because the support poles had been placed too far apart to keep it upright. One of the support poles had broken off from the fence, and a tree's limbs had grown close to the fence line, posing a risk of escape if one of the big cats climbed them.

- Cougar/leopard: A clawed and splintered log had an exposed metal bolt.
- Kinkajou: A plywood resting board had started to deteriorate.

The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to clean enclosures adequately. The caracal enclosure had “several hard, white ash colored feces.” A coatimundi enclosure had “large amounts of old, dried, caked on feces & food on the resting board and between the edge of the resting board and the enclosure fence,” along with numerous flies in the area. Other small mammal enclosures were also clearly not being cleaned often enough. A citation was issued for failing to have an adequate method to eliminate excess water rapidly. A wooden platform in the ring-tailed lemurs’ enclosure had a large standing puddle of green water. Other dry parts of the platform were stained with green algae. A wooden resting surface in a caracal enclosure also had a puddle of water and was stained green. A citation was issued for failing to have an adequate method to control the ant population in a Prevost’s squirrel enclosure. Bananas had been “placed on a soiled wooded platform,” and numerous ants were observed on and around the food. Single Vision was cited for failing to have a program of veterinary care that covered all species at the facility. At the time of the inspection, the PVC wasn’t available for review. A citation was also issued for failing to have a primate enrichment plan for a bush baby and two marmosets available for review.

January 12, 2017: The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The bear pen had a “hot wire” that wasn’t working. The inspector noted, “The 8 foot enclosure fence is not sufficient alone to prevent the bears from climbing out & to adequately contain these bears. The ‘hot wire’ should be operational at all times.” The elevated wooden resting surface in a big-cat enclosure had been clawed by the

cats, creating splinters and a raised nailhead. The USDA also cited Single Vision for failing to feed the big cats diets that were wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination. At the time of inspection, the licensee wasn’t feeding the cats a commercial diet and there was no veterinarian-approved diet plan. The facility was also thawing meat by setting it in tubs of standing water for extended periods, leaving it at “risk of contamination by bacteria and the attraction of flies.”

July 8, 2014: The USDA issued Single Vision an official warning for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. The facility had allowed direct contact between a bear cub and a member of the public. The cub had bitten the visitor, breaking the skin and drawing blood. (See the May 6, 2014, entry.)

May 6, 2014: The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized harm to them and the public. On April 27, 2014, a member of the public had been allowed to have direct contact with an adult bobcat and a bear cub. The cub had bitten the visitor, which broke the person’s skin and drew blood. The licensee admitted that “during the last couple weeks he [knew] of at least 2 incidents in which the bear cubs had nipped volunteers and/or visiting public while being handled.”

July 25, 2013: The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized harm to them and the public. On July 4, 2013, an adult tiger and a leopard had been exhibited separately with heavy-duty leashes while two members of the public took photos with them. The visitors had been allowed to have physical contact with the animals. The inspector noted, “There is an inherent danger present for both the viewing public and the exhibited animals when the public has direct contact with juvenile or adult big cats. The adult

tiger and leopard are too big, too strong and too dangerous to be safely handled by the general public. Trained handlers and leashes are not sufficient barriers for the tiger and leopard.”

April 4, 2012: The USDA cited Single Vision for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access and inspection of records and property.

November 9, 2010: The USDA issued Single Vision a direct citation for failing to meet the minimum requirements for primate enclosures. The ring-tailed lemur platform near the shelter had a sharp exposed screw. The inside perimeter of the enclosure also had unravelling wire mesh fencing, creating exposed sharp points in multiple locations. Single Vision was also cited for failing to maintain other enclosures in good repair. The inside perimeter of the coatimundi enclosure had unravelling wire mesh, creating exposed sharp points. In addition, the lion and tiger enclosure had a feeding platform with a nail protruding approximately 2 inches in one corner.