



<p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">USDA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL WARNING NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION</p>	<p>CASE NUMBER: TX220152</p> <hr/> <p>ALLEGED VIOLATOR: Houston Interactive Aquarium and Animal Preserve</p> <hr/> <p>ADDRESS (City, State, ZIP Code): Houston, TX 77032</p>
<p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following alleged violation(s) of Federal laws:</p> <p>Date of Alleged Violation: April 27, 2022</p> <p>9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) Handling of animals.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.</p> <p>Date of Alleged Violation: February 24, 2022</p> <p>9 C.F.R. § 3.129(a) Feeding.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health. The diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.</p> <p>Date of Alleged Violation: February 24, 2022</p> <p>9 C.F.R. § 2.131(e) Handling of animals.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity, and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being, taking into consideration such factors as the animal's age, species, breed, overall health status, and acclimation.</p> <p>Date of Alleged Violation: February 24, 2022</p> <p>9 C.F.R. § 3.132 Employees.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Such practices shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.</p>	

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published federal regulations to ensure the welfare of animals and help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts that are detrimental to the public interest, APHIS is providing you with an Official Warning for the alleged violation(s) described above. This Official Warning is not to be construed as a final agency action, or as an adjudicated finding of a violation. If APHIS obtains evidence of any future violation of these federal regulations, APHIS may pursue civil penalties, criminal prosecution, or other sanctions for this alleged violation(s) and for any future violation(s). If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning or alleged violation(s), please contact the APHIS official listed in this notice.

APHIS OFFICIAL (Name): Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.	OFFICE ADDRESS: 4700 River Road, Unit 84 Riverdale, MD 20737	
APHIS OFFICIAL (Title): Deputy Administrator, APHIS, Animal Care	DATE ISSUED: June 27, 2022	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (970) 494-7478