



Inspection Report

MOUNT HOPE AUCTION INC
PO Box 82
Mt Hope, OH 44660

Customer ID: **2156**
Certificate: **31-B-0031**
Site: 001
MOUNT HOPE AUCTION, INC.

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 03-NOV-2022

2.131(c)(1) **Repeat**

Handling of animals.

During the auction, members of the public were observed walking into holding areas containing caged, potentially dangerous, animals including skunks, raccoons, foxes, a kinkajou, and porcupines. These areas were behind secondary fencing which have posted signs stating, "please keep hands out of pens," "danger very aggressive animals," and "please keep gate closed." Despite the signs, members of the public were observed inside the secondary fence, and many were attempting to touch or pet the animals. At various points of the inspection, no facility employees were present to deter the public from handling the animals. The inspectors notified staff members about the animal contact, however, a consistent attendant was not present in these areas to observe the public during the duration of the auction. In the hoofstock barn, members of the public were observed touching and petting two juvenile dromedary camels. The public were able to put their hands into the enclosures and easily make contact with the camels. No facility employees were observed in this area of the hoofstock barn to deter the public from interacting with the animals.

Failure to ensure appropriate distance and/or barriers, can allow for unintended interactions and lead to harm to the animals or the public members. The facility is responsible for safe exhibition of the animals while on auction grounds, including sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animals and general viewing public so as to assure the safety of both animals and the public.

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2.131(d)(2)

Repeat

Handling of animals.

During the auction, members of the public were observed petting a dromedary camel and attempting to touch numerous smaller mammals (fox, raccoon, porcupines). In these areas, the facility did not have readily identifiable employees on hand during the public interactions with the animals. The facility has signage trying to deter people from touching the animals, however, members of the public continued to contact the animals.

A lack of readily identifiable attendants to deter the public from contacting the animals can allow for unintended interactions which could lead to harm to the animals or members of the public. A responsible, knowledgeable and readily, identifiable employee or attendant must be present at all times during periods of public contact whether intended or not.

3.61(a)

Repeat

Primary enclosures used to transport live rabbits.

Many of the primary transport enclosures for the rabbits were not structurally sound and did not contain easily accessible openings, projecting rims, or adequate handholds.

At least 10 of the rabbit enclosures were made of small, light weight laundry baskets with a wire covering over the top. When these enclosures were stacked, they would buckle and break at different points. The inspection team observed two rabbits escape from this type of enclosure during the auction. Approximately, 50% of the enclosures did not contain openings to allow easy access in case of an emergency with the rabbit. 70% of the enclosures also did not have projecting rims to ensure adequate ventilation is maintained or handholds to prevent tilting and contact with the animal. Sharp, broken wires, were also observed in 3 of the rabbit enclosures.

A lack of appropriate openings, projecting rims, and handholds on primary transport enclosures can make it difficult to remove the animal in the case of an emergency, allow for inadequate ventilation if the cages are stacked, and can cause unintentional contact between the handler and the animal during transport. Inadequate structural strength of enclosures

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and sharp protrusions can also allow for escape, entrapment, or cause injury to the animals. All primary transport enclosures for rabbits must be structurally sound, contain openings that are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of live animals, contain projecting rims or other devices on the exterior walls to prevent obstruction of the ventilation, and provide adequate handholds for lifting animals without tilting or risk of contact with the animal. Primary enclosures must also be free from any protrusions that could be injurious to the live rabbits.

3.66(c) Repeat

Handling.

After being consigned to the auction, several of the rabbit enclosures were stacked 3-4 enclosures high and tightly packed together on large wagons. A few enclosures were found tilted to the point of almost falling, and eight were stacked with heavy wooden enclosures on top of light weight, plastic enclosures which could potentially collapse under the weight. While moving the rabbits from the check-in area to the holding area, a few rabbit enclosures were tilted to the point of almost falling.

Inappropriate stacking of enclosures can allow for decreased ventilation and unstable structures which can impact rabbit health and safety. Primary enclosures used to transport rabbits must not be needlessly tilted or stacked in a manner which may result in their falling.

3.87(a)(3) Primary enclosures used to transport nonhuman primates.

The transport enclosures used to house two squirrel monkeys had openings that allowed the nonhuman primates to put their arms outside the enclosures. The inspection team observed one squirrel monkey reach through the enclosure openings to remove a sticker on the outside of the enclosure. The sticker was then pulled into the enclosure and pulled apart by the animal.

Openings that allow for nonhuman primates to reach outside the enclosure can result in injury to the animal, public

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observers, or other nearby animals if unintended contact is made. Nonhuman primates must be securely contained within the enclosure and cannot put any part of its body outside the enclosure in a way that could injure the animal or persons/animals nearby.

Correct by: December 10, 2022.

3.137(a) Repeat
Primary enclosures used to transport live animals.

Several of the primary transport enclosures for the mammals, including degus, skunks, and capybara, did not contain easily accessible openings, projecting rims, or adequate handholds. Approximately 10% of these enclosures did not contain openings or doors to allow easy access in case of an emergency with the live animal. 30% of the enclosures holding these mammals also did not have projecting rims to ensure adequate ventilation is maintained or handholds to prevent tilting and contact with the animal. A lack of appropriate openings, projecting rims, and handholds on primary transport enclosures can make it difficult to remove the animal in the case of an emergency, allow for adequate ventilation if the cages are stacked, and can cause unintentional contact between the handler and the animal during transport. All primary transport enclosures for subpart F animals must contain openings that are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of live animals, contain projecting rims or other devices on the exterior walls to prevent obstruction of the ventilation, and provide adequate handholds for lifting animals without tilting or risk of contact with the animal.

3.137(c)
Primary enclosures used to transport live animals.

The size of two of the enclosures was not sufficient for the animals to turn freely and make normal postural adjustments. One wire and wood enclosure housing an adult African crested porcupine, was not large enough for the animal to turn around freely. When the animal lay down, its head would touch one end of the enclosure with its quills protruded from the other end. Another wire enclosure, housing a fox, was not large enough for the animal to make normal postural

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adjustments. The animal did not appear to be able to stand and was not able to lie normally as its body touched all sides of the enclosure.

Enclosures that are too small or created in a way that inhibit the natural movements of the animals can cause unnecessary stress and discomfort.

Enclosures used to transport live animals shall be large enough to ensure that each animal has sufficient space to turn about freely and to make normal postural adjustments.

Correct by : December 10, 2022.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

Rania Gollakner, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2156	31-B-0031	001	MOUNT HOPE AUCTION, INC.	03-NOV-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000008	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000002	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>	ARCTIC FOX
000004	<i>Bos grunniens</i>	YAK
000005	<i>Equus quagga</i>	BURCHELL'S / GRANT'S / CHAPMAN'S / PLAINS ZEBRA
000005	<i>Axis axis</i>	AXIS DEER / SPOTTED DEER / CHITAL
000003	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	COMMON ELAND
000003	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>	ZEBU
000001	<i>Potos flavus</i>	KINKAJOU
000008	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
000098	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000129	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000012	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
000002	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	RACCOON
000013	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000003	<i>Monodelphis domestica</i>	GREY SHORT-TAILED OPOSSUM
000057	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
000001	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	VIRGINIA OPOSSUM
000145	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
000009	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000003	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000001	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE
000001	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	CENTRAL AMERICAN AGOUTI
000004	<i>Nasua olivacea</i>	MOUNTAIN COATI
000002	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000043	<i>Octodon degus</i>	DEGU
000014	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000002	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>	DROMEDARY CAMEL
000020	<i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i>	RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL
000002	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
000002	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	CAPYBARA
000011	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	STRIPED SKUNK
000002	<i>Cynomys parvidens</i>	UTAH PRAIRIE DOG
000001	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000003	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY
000023	<i>Graphiurus lorraineus</i>	AFRICAN DORMOUSE
000002	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>	SOUTHERN TAMANDUA
000008	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	ROCK HYRAX
000012	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	ASIATIC WATER BUFFALO
000016	<i>Osphranter rufus</i>	RED KANGAROO
000007	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	NILGAI
000016	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000703	Total	



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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