

Woody's Menagerie (Gregg and Karen Woody)

1909 Old Park Ave., Mulberry Grove, IL 62262

Gregg and Karen Woody, dba "Woody's Menagerie," have failed to meet the minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited the exhibitors for repeatedly interfering with agency inspections (including lying to, verbally abusing, and threatening inspectors), repeatedly exhibiting regulated animals on a suspended license, repeatedly failing to maintain adequate records, repeatedly failing to have an established program of veterinary care, repeatedly failing to contact a veterinarian for injuries and illnesses, repeatedly failing to provide animals with adequate space, repeatedly failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, failing to have adequately trained handlers, failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public, and failing to provide animals with shelter from the elements. In 2016, the Woodys were ordered to pay an \$8,000 penalty and their license was suspended for 90 days to settle allegations of violations of the AWA that had occurred between 2011 and 2013. In the last two decades, the Woodys have done business with at least 40 facilities and have made deals involving at least 121 different species.

March 8, 2023: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a citation for failing to have records available for inspection. There were no inventory, acquisition, disposition, transportation, or brokering records available. A citation was also issued for

failing to have a program of veterinary care available for inspection, and another was issued for failing to have a contingency plan available for inspection. The inspection report noted that the Woodys had also failed to produce records on March 2 and September 22, 2022. On February 6, 2022, the Woodys were advised via e-mail to have records available at the site for inspection.

September 29, 2022: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a documented contingency plan in the event of an emergency or a natural disaster.

March 2, 2022: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a critical citation for refusing inspection of records and the property. When officials arrived at the facility to inspect four big cats, Gregg Woody claimed that he was too busy to accompany inspectors and that he didn't have access to the animals, as his daughter had the key and was at work.

March 10, 2020: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

December 10, 2018: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

August 17, 2017: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to provide a tiger with adequate space to allow for normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. A 5-month-old tiger was housed in a 4-by-8-foot enclosure that didn't allow the animal to assume a natural position of standing and stretching to his full height. The tiger bumped the top of his head on the roof when he tried to stand up.

June 29, 2017: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to handle animals in a way that didn't cause them trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. The inspector observed "Woody's Educational Wildlife Show," during which the licensee brought Dottie, a 65-pound, 5-month-old brown bear, out of a transport vehicle with a leash and a 1-inch-wide red nylon-type dog collar around her neck. The inspector noted, "During the exhibition, the bear was observed struggling and did not seem accustomed to/acclimated to the collar restraint being used. The bear was trying to pull away from the handler, tossing [her] head and biting at the leash." The inspector added that "the bear appeared distressed and was trying to bite the handler." They also noted that a bear of that size, when distressed and trying to bite, cannot be adequately controlled with a collar and leash and that the struggling and biting at the collar were signs of behavioral stress.

March 27, 2017: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a repeat citation for conducting regulated activity on a suspended license. On March 8, 2017, Gregg Woody reacquired Dixie, a 10-month-old wolf, from the USDA licensee to whom he had "donated" her. On March 21, 2017, Gregg Woody acquired and transported 10 black bear cubs, keeping four of them at his facility. The inspector noted, "A suspension prohibits any brokering, exhibiting or transporting during the time of suspension."

February 28, 2017: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a critical citation for interfering with, verbally abusing, and threatening USDA officials. During an exit interview, "Mr. Woody became increasingly upset, combative and verbally abusive towards [inspectors]. His face reddened and he was yelling. He began verbally attacking [them] by accusing [them] of having personal agendas, and purposefully [sic] not lifting his suspension immediately." When

inspectors told Gregg Woody that they didn't have the authority to lift the suspension, he accused them of lying and "continued to rant about HSUS, PETA, the USDAs' [sic], and [their] personal agendas' with those groups to get him out of the animal business." The inspectors noted that it was "impossible to say anything because he was yelling and would not stop to listen to anything [they] tried to say." The inspectors were unable to finish the exit interview and couldn't discuss the items that they felt should be monitored or improved or ask Gregg Woody any questions because they were "concerned that anything [they] said might inflame him more and cause his bad behavior to become even worse." While signing the inspection reports, Gregg Woody wrote his name in an "exaggerated and furious manner," and when his pen stopped working, he "whipped it across the kitchen where it hit the wall and fell to the floor."

The inspectors noted that they "felt [their] anxiety peak during the exit interview" and felt that they needed to leave as quickly as possible, without discussing the harassment/interference citation with him. The inspectors stated that they "truly did not know what actions he would take in his fit of anger."

February 28, 2017: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a repeat citation for conducting regulated activity on a suspended license. On January 27, 2017, they acquired an 11-week-old cougar, and on February 27, 2017, they gave Dixie, a 10-month-old wolf, to another USDA licensee. A citation was issued for failing to have complete acquisition and disposition records. Seven acquisitions and disposition records didn't have the full addresses of the people involved in the transaction or their USDA license numbers. Another citation was issued for failing to clean and sanitize dog enclosures adequately. The outdoor runs of five dachshunds hadn't been

cleaned for several days, and multiple piles of feces were in them.

February 15, 2017: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for exhibiting animals at on February 9, 2017, on a suspended license. Another citation was issued for refusing to allow an inspection of records and the property. "The licensee stated that if his license was suspended then he did not have a license and [the USDA] had no authority to do an inspection. [Inspectors] explained that he still had a license but it was currently suspended. He insisted that if he was suspended then he didn't have a license and [they] could not inspect."

October 20, 2016: Gregg and Karen Woody agreed to pay an \$8,000 civil penalty and their AWA license was suspended for 90 days to settle the allegations raised in the USDA's July 17, 2015, complaint. They were also ordered to cease and desist from violating the AWA.

August 18, 2016: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

August 18, 2016: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to provide animals with adequate space to allow normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. A wolf, a lynx, two 8-week-old mountain lion cubs, and an approximately 7-month-old bear cub were housed in a trailer while the Woodys exhibited other animals at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The animals had remained in their enclosures, which didn't have sufficient space for species-specific postural adjustments, in the trailer for the entire event and hadn't been let out for exercise. The Woodys were also cited for failing to house dogs in an enclosure with floors that could be sanitized properly. The dogs were housed in the trailer, which had a wood floor. The licensee claimed that the

manufacturer said it would be waterproof. Inspectors had the licensee spray water on the floor, and later that day, the wet spot had soaked into the wood, indicating that it wasn't impervious to moisture and couldn't be sanitized adequately.

July 21, 2016: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) issued Gregg Woody a written warning for failing to secure an importation permit prior to importing tiger cubs to the Zoological Wildlife Foundation (ZWF) in Florida. E-mails produced by the ZWF during an investigation revealed that Woody had indicated that all paperwork was in order to import the cubs and transfer ownership, but the FWC had no record of permits issued to Woody for the two cubs. He later claimed that he believed the ZWF was going to apply for the permits.

May 16, 2016: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. In the liger enclosure, a section of angle iron had become separated from the wall frame and ran along the bottom of a guillotine door. The loose piece was moved when the ligers would drag their feet over the surface or step on it, which created a gap, posing a risk of injury. A citation was issued for failing to maintain surfaces in animal enclosures so that they could be readily cleaned and sanitized. Two "doggy door" flaps had corners that were chewed, and a section of plastic wall covering a pen had been chewed, exposing bare wood beneath and preventing adequate cleaning and sanitizing. A citation was also issued for failing to clean and sanitize enclosures. Two "doggy doors" had a buildup of brown-and-black grime and dirt on the wall/insert area around the doors. The Woodys were also cited for failing to remove an excessively chewed tire in the liger enclosure. The inspector noted that the item had become a potential hazard due to ingestion or entrapment.

April 28, 2016: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

April 21, 2016: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

February 16, 2016: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a program of veterinary care that addressed all animals. The current program only addressed dogs. A citation was also issued for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and to the public. An approximately 6- to 7-month-old liger was restrained with a dog harness and a leash during public exhibition. The inspector noted, "At this age and size the liger is too big and strong to be adequately restrained by only a dog harness and leash. If the liger was determined to reach someone or something in the audience there is a strong possibility that the snap on the leash or the harness could fail. A dog leash and harness are not meant to restrain a liger."

July 17, 2015: The USDA filed a formal complaint against Gregg and Karen Woody for over 40 alleged violations of the AWA between 2011 and 2013.

June 18, 2015: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a current inventory of all regulated animals. A citation was also issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. An approximately 8- to 12-inch-long square metal pipe was sticking out into the liger enclosure approximately 4½ to 5 feet off the ground. The pipe had previously supported a wooden surface used by the ligers to rest on, but the boards had been removed,

leaving only the metal framing. The inspector noted that "the ligers could jump up or stand up and injure themselves" on the pipe. The door to the taliger and tiger/lion enclosures wasn't secured when open or closed and was "freely moving," creating an entrapment hazard.

2014: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission issued Gregg Woody three citations related to unlawfully possessing and transferring lions, a tiger, and a lemur to Kay Rosaire, dba "Big Cat Habitat & Gulf Coast Sanctuary," in Sarasota, Florida.

September 17, 2013: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

July 3, 2013: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to establish and maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. A spotted pig was observed to be unable to put their full weight on their front right foot. They had an "exaggerated limp, toe touching when trying to walk." Gregg Woody claimed that the pig was "fine the last time he saw [them] the night before." The veterinarian hadn't been contacted about the injury.

June 12, 2013: Gregg Woody transported lions, a tiger, and a lemur to Kay Rosaire, dba "Big Cat Habitat & Gulf Coast Sanctuary," in Sarasota, Florida, without proper permits. (See the 2014 entry.)

January 31, 2013: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a direct citation for failing to establish and maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. On December 17, 2012, Tabitha, a young adult liger, died. No necropsy could be performed, because Gregg Woody had provided only "a bucket with a stomach and intestines" for the veterinarian to examine. The veterinarian

was also unable to confirm the identification of the animal without a carcass. Gregg Woody stated that the veterinarian hadn't been contacted prior to the liger's death. A young female serval who had been acquired on December 24, 2012, died within three days before the inspection, after acting sick. A veterinarian wasn't contacted, no medical treatment was offered to the animal before she died, and a necropsy wasn't completed. Another citation was issued for failing to make, keep, and maintain disposition records. Two animal dispositions weren't documented after the death of a serval in January 2013 and the disposition of a porcupine. Disposition records for multiple lions and bears were also incomplete, with no information of the disposition, except for the word "slaughter." A citation was also issued for failing to provide animals with adequate space to allow normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. Gigi, an adult tiger, was housed in a 6-foot covered enclosure. She was observed trying to stand up and stretch but was not able to extend to her full height and had to hunch her head down between her shoulders. The Woodys were also cited for failing to provide animals with wholesome, palatable diets free from contamination. A 4-month-old lion cub with bowed legs appeared to be showing signs of possible diet insufficiency. The Woodys weren't following the approved diet plan that the veterinarian had created. A citation was also issued for failing to allow Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officials to inspect and photograph the facilities, property, and animals. The middle barn containing several animals had minimal lighting, consisting of one very dim light bulb in the center of the ceiling. The tiger and hyena enclosures and the animals contained in them were unable to be seen completely to determine whether there were any mechanical, sanitation, or health issues. Another citation was issued for failing to provide the same animals with ample lighting in their enclosures.

October 4, 2012: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a repeat direct citation for failing to establish and maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. Bailey, an approximately 9-month-old brown bear, was observed dragging her back end with limited weight bearing on her back legs while walking. Her back legs "would fold under her as she walked." The bear would occasionally vocalize, and the bottoms of her back feet were pink, which the inspector noted might have been painful and contributing to her apparent mobility issues. Two 4-month-old lion cubs housed in a travel trailer had "numerous skin lesions in the form of hairless circular patterns all over their face, ears, legs and body." The licensee had been treating the animals for ringworm, but the condition had worsened and the veterinarian had not been contacted. Another lion showed signs of weakness in her back legs and hip area, walking with her back legs "splayed to the outside" and her front paws "flopping." The veterinarian had not been contacted regarding the weakness and unsteadiness in her gait.

September 21, 2012: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to establish and maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. Scotty, an approximately 16-month-old lion, was showing signs of ataxia (poor muscle control) and instability while sitting and walking. His head was frequently tilted, and he stumbled while walking, swayed while sitting, and would tip over sideways and fall against the fencing to lie down. He also appeared to have some impairment of vision. He didn't seem to track visual stimuli or focus when he was looking at something, which the inspector described as a "star gazing" type of stare. The primary veterinarian hadn't been contacted, and Gregg Woody stated that the lion had been showing these symptoms for at least four or five months. Another citation was issued for

failing to respond appropriately to alleviate the impact of climatic conditions. According to Gregg Woody's records, two 12-year-old tigers, Sabrina and Sierra, had died due to extreme heat during the summer. The USDA issued a citation for failing to keep the facility clean. Large amounts of clutter and debris littered an area near several enclosures. Another citation was issued for failing to control fly populations. Excessive flies were observed in and around enclosures. Scotty the lion was covered with them while resting, and numerous flies were observed in the small mammal house and central barn.

September 13, 2012: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

July 20, 2012: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a citation for failing to maintain dog enclosures in a way that allowed them to be readily cleaned and sanitized. The paint was peeling on the top floor of the travel enclosure containing four dachshunds, exposing bare wood, which the inspector noted is generally porous and cannot be cleaned properly. Another citation was issued for failing to have an adequate method to control fly populations. Excessive numbers of flies were present in the travel trailer containing four dachshunds, and there was no form of fly control. The Woodys were also cited for failing to identify all dogs under their control properly. The licensee stated that they were microchipped but didn't have a scanner to verify the identification.

January 12, 2012: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a direct citation for failing to provide animals with shelter from inclement weather. The lion and young bear enclosures didn't have any shelter or straw available for the animals to keep warm. It was 19 degrees and snowing, with wind

gusts up to 30 mph. A tarp was wrapped around three sides of the lion cage, but the wind was still blowing through the enclosure and the concrete floor was covered with a sheet of ice. The bear enclosure had a small wind block on two sides, but the wind was still blowing through it and there was no straw or shelter for the bear. A white-tailed deer housed in a barn was observed to be shivering. The pen had straw, but there was nothing to block the cold wind blowing through the barn. A repeat citation was issued for failing to provide animals with adequate space to allow normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. A 1-year-old bear and a 7- to 9-month-old liger had been housed in travel enclosures since October 2011. The enclosures were "too small to allow for proper body posturing and movement over a long period of time." A repeat citation was also issued for failing to have and maintain an adequate perimeter fence. The perimeter fence around the dangerous animal enclosures had numerous areas along the south and west sides with 1-foot gaps between the ground and the bottom of the fence. There were also gaps in the gate and along the southwest corner, through which animals could have escaped.

November 3, 2011: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Paint was peeling from the wire mesh enclosures in the petting zoo, which could be ingested by and pose a hazard to the animals. A citation was also issued for failing to store food in a way that protected it from deterioration or contamination. The trailer used for transport was dirty and cluttered with soiled bedding and other items among open bags of food.

August 24, 2011: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a direct citation for failing to provide a brown bear cub with adequate space to allow normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of

movement. The bear cub was housed in a travel trailer inside a cage that didn't allow the animal to turn around without rubbing the sides and bars of the cage or assume a standing posture. The inspector also noted that a liger cub was housed in a cage adjacent to the bear that soon wouldn't be sufficient in size, as the animal grew larger. A repeat citation was issued for failing to have records of acquisition and disposition of all animals. Karen Woody claimed that the records "were on the road with the licensee." The inspector noted that Gregg Woody had been advised during the last two inspections that the records needed to be available at the home facility. A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. A wire was still poking through a bear enclosure, the wood supports on the ceiling in the liger enclosure were still chewed and splintered, and a connecting door in the lion enclosure still needed to be repaired. A repeat citation was issued for failing to have and maintain an adequate perimeter fence. Areas of the perimeter fence remained unfinished, and there were multiple areas with gaps.

July 5, 2011: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a repeat citation for failing to allow Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officials to carry out a thorough inspection. During the inspection, a bear who had not been previously inspected was identified. When Gregg Woody was asked when he got the bear, he stated that the animal was at his place in a trailer across the street during the last inspection (June 21, 2011). The inspector noted that during the last inspection, it was made clear to Gregg Woody that all animals needed to be inspected and that he claimed that they had all been seen. The presence of the fourth bear had not been divulged. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The primary enclosure housing two bears had a large piece of pointed wire protruding into an area where the bears had direct contact with it.

June 21, 2011: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a direct citation for failing to establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care. A mountain lion "appeared quite thin, with the hip bones and spine showing more than normal." The animal's coat was "puckered in appearance and did not have the usual shine and healthy look in appearance." Gregg Woody claimed that he was told that she needed to be thin for breeding and thought that she looked fine. A 12-year-old tiger had hairless, dark black spots all over her body. When asked how long she had had these spots, Gregg Woody stated that she had had them since he picked her up in January 2011, after being on loan for six years. The attending veterinarian had not been contacted because "she seemed fine to him." A bear had multiple injuries to her paws, including a 4-inch gash on one. The inspector noted that white fatty tissue or a "possible pussy substance" could be seen in the wound and that it smelled "sour." Another paw appeared malformed, which the inspector noted could be due to swelling or infection. The pad cover appeared to be peeling off the bottom of the toe with pink-and-white fleshy material protruding from between the pad cover and the base of the toe. Gregg Woody claimed that the injuries must have just happened because he hadn't noticed them, but Karen Woody told the inspector that she had been applying iodine spray to the bear's paw for a few days.

A citation was issued for failing to clean enclosures adequately. Numerous cages had large amounts of flies, dirt, and feces along the bars of the cages or inner walls. "Old blood water" had collected in the bottom of a fridge where meat and some fruit were stored. A pile of old fruit in the bear enclosure was attracting hundreds of flies and other insects into the enclosure throughout the day. A citation was issued for failing to have up-to-date acquisition and disposition records for all animals. There

had been numerous sales of older animals and acquisition of new animals but no documentation. Gregg and Karen Woody were cited for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Poles and support beams in the lion's and liger's primary enclosures were chewed and splintered, and a wooden shelter in the lion pen had a hole chewed in the top corner large enough that "the lion could step through and damage his leg and/or sustain a more serious injury." The USDA also issued the Woodys a citation for failing to have and maintain an adequate perimeter fence. A newly constructed fence hadn't been completed for half of the needed area, and multiple areas had gaps that could allow animals to escape or unauthorized people to enter.

May 16, 2011: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody a repeat citation for failing to allow Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officials to carry out an inspection. Gregg Woody refused to allow the inspection to take place because "he was too busy to allow an inspection on [that] date as he was leaving in a few hours and did not have the time, and that he needed to be the one to do the inspection with."

March 21, 2011: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

February 8, 2011: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. A single rope had been used to create a barrier surrounding the camel ride area. The inspector noted that the public could easily enter the area and encounter the adult camel, named Pete.

September 27, 2010: The USDA issued Gregg and Karen Woody an official warning for failing to have handlers who

demonstrated adequate experience and knowledge of the species they maintained, after a "helper" had been bitten by a bear. (See the August 17, 2010, entry.)

August 17, 2010: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have handlers with adequate experience and knowledge of the species they cared for. In July 2010, a "helper" walked by a bear enclosure while holding feed scoops and one of the bears stuck her head through the feeding slot and bit the "helper" on the side of her breast. The individual sought treatment at a hospital.

November 5, 2008: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. An 8-month-old lion cub weighing approximately 120 pounds was exhibited to the public on stage with a leash and collar. The inspector noted that the animal was "too big to be exhibited to the public in such a fashion. If the cub turned on the handler and managed to get loose, the public could be injured."

July 8, 2008: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

June 4, 2007: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to maintain an adequate perimeter fence. The fence was "exhibiting signs of age" and needed "to be repaired or replaced." It had gaps and was sagging in some areas.

August 15, 2005: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

August 9, 2005: The USDA cited Gregg and Karen Woody for failing to feed a 9-

month-old lion cub a wholesome, palatable diet free from contamination. At the time of the inspection, the lion cub's diet consisted only of chicken muscle meat without any supplemental vitamins or organ meats. The inspector noted that the current diet didn't "provide for the proper nutritional requirements of the lion cub."