

# Indian Creek Zoo

2744 Consear Rd., Lambertville, MI 48144

**Indian Creek Zoo has failed to meet 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 this facility for numerous issues, including failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a number of animals, failing to maintain enclosures in good repair for the containment and the safety of animals, failing to have a sufficient barrier to protect animals and the public, failing to have an effective perimeter fence to contain the animals and restrict unauthorized entry, failing to provide sufficient ventilation in animal housing, failing to separate species who aren't compatible, failing to have effective rodent and fly control programs, and failing to dispose of expired medications. In 2022, Indian Creek Zoo was assessed a \$13,500 penalty to settle several alleged AWA violations.**

**Contact PETA for documentation.**

**May 22, 2023:** The USDA issued a repeat citation to Indian Creek Zoo for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair in order to contain the animals and protect them from injury. A camel enclosure had an area of bent metal siding that created a sharp edge on the wall, and a wolf enclosure had a 1.5-inch nail coming through the shelter's roof.

**October 3, 2022:** The USDA cited Indian Creek Zoo for failing to maintain a camel enclosure in good repair. There was a large gap in the fence that a camel could stick their head and neck through, posing a risk of injury or entrapment. A citation was issued to the facility for failing to have a

perimeter fence of sufficient height to keep out unauthorized people and other animals and to act as an effective secondary containment system for the animals there.

**September 28, 2022:** The USDA assessed Indian Creek Zoo a penalty of \$13,500 for violations of the AWA between November 11, 2020, and August 3, 2021. They included the following:

- Failing to maintain primate enclosures in good repair, resulting in an olive baboon biting an employee (See the entry for February 3, 2021.)
- Failing to maintain enclosures in good repair in order to contain the animals (The facility discovered that an African crested porcupine was missing from their enclosure and was never recovered. See the entry for August 3, 2021.)

The facility also was penalized for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to animals, including the following:

- A female tayra's neck was reddened and hairless with thickened skin. (See the entry for February 3, 2021.)
- A rabbit had hair loss on her ear and neck. The underlying skin was red and moist with a cream/light brown crust.
- A white-tailed deer was thin, with fecal matter staining their hocks and back legs. The brownish liquid could be seen rolling down the rear leg, below the hock.
- Two white-tailed deer also were thin.
- A white-tailed deer had overgrown hooves.
- A white goat was holding their front leg up, and a joint appeared to be swollen. (See the entry for August 3, 2021.)

**December 2, 2021:** The USDA cited Indian Creek Zoo for failing to have a responsible adult available for inspection.

**August 3, 2021:** The USDA issued a direct citation to Indian Creek Zoo for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to several animals, including the following:

- A rabbit had hair loss on an ear and the top of her neck. The underlying skin was reddened and moist and had a significant amount of cream/light brown crusting, with the thickest amount on the inner ear.
- A white-tailed deer was thin, with fecal matter staining their hocks and back legs. The brownish liquid could be seen rolling down the rear leg, below the hock.
- Two white-tailed deer also were thin.
- A large number of adult white-tailed deer had hair loss on the neck, chest, and abdomen.
- A portion of the white-tailed deer herd and fallow deer herd and one blackbuck antelope had overgrown hooves.
- A white goat was holding their front leg up, and the carpus joint appeared to be swollen.

The USDA issued Indian Creek Zoo a critical citation for failing to provide structurally sound housing to contain an African crested porcupine who had escaped and was never recovered.

**June 16, 2021:** The USDA cited Indian Creek Zoo for failing to provide a structurally sound primary enclosure to contain rabbits. A black rabbit was loose within the structure.

**February 3, 2021:** The USDA issued a critical citation to Indian Creek Zoo for failing to provide primates with a structurally sound enclosure constructed and maintained in good repair to contain the animals securely. On November 11, 2020, an olive baboon grabbed an employee's hand and bit them while the handler was locking the transfer door. The enclosure's

door had gaps that were approximately 3 inches wide, large enough for the baboon to reach through and grasp the employee's hand.

The USDA issued Indian Creek Zoo a direct citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a tayra who had a reddened neck with thickened skin and hair loss. The attending veterinarian hadn't been notified of the animal's condition. The facility was also cited for failing to provide adequate ventilation in the giraffe barn and kangaroo house, which had strong odors of ammonia, and for failing to have an effective method of rodent control in the lemur house, where there was a significant amount of rodent droppings.

**September 4, 2019:** The USDA cited Indian Creek Zoo for failing to have a safe and effective program to control flies in multiple barns housing animals. The inspection report stated that "an excessive amount of flies can be a nuisance to animals leading to undo [*sic*] stress as well as transmit disease."

**July 24, 2017:** The USDA cited Indian Creek Zoo for failing to dispose of expired medications, for failing to have a sufficient barrier around a ring-tailed lemur's enclosure to protect the animal and ensure the safety of the public, and for failing to trim weeds around the timber wolves' enclosure that could harbor rodents. A citation was also issued for failing to maintain the perimeter fence. Approximately 40 to 60 feet of fencing needed to be repaired or replaced after trees fell on it, creating a risk of animals escaping or unauthorized people or animals entering.

**October 6, 2015:** The USDA cited Indian Creek Zoo for failing to have a shift cage for a pig-tailed macaque whose enclosure had metal bars on the floor that could cause injury to the primate and weren't safe

enrichment items. A shift cage was needed to prevent the accidental opening of the enclosure and possible escape of the animal and to allow for the removal of the metal bars.

Indian Creek Zoo was cited for housing two sloths in a room used for storage. They were allowed to roam free in the room, which contained boxes and items not used in husbandry. The facility was also cited for failing to separate species who weren't compatible. Two emus were housed with four wallabies. The animals wouldn't share the shelter building, which would be a concern as the weather turned colder.