

# Predators of the Heart

6128 Parkside Dr., Anacortes, WA 98221

**Predators of the Heart, operated by William “Dave” Coleburn, has 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 Predators of the Heart for numerous infractions, including failing to provide veterinary care to animals before finding them dead, failing to clean excess feces out of enclosures, failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm, failing to provide adequate space to allow for normal postural movement, and failing to maintain structurally sound enclosures. In 2012, the Anacortes Police Department cited Coleburn after a wolf escaped from the facility and was spotted by a member of the public on a nearby trail. In 2022, the USDA issued Predators of the Heart an official warning for failing to maintain structurally sound enclosures. Three wolf-dog hybrids were able to escape, and one of them killed a small dog, leading to the wolf-dog hybrid being euthanized.**

**Contact PETA for documentation.**

**September 23, 2022:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart an official warning for failing to maintain structurally sound enclosures. (See the entry for July 27, 2022.)

**July 27, 2022:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a critical citation for failing to keep enclosures in good repair and structurally sound. On October 19, 2021, three wolf-dog hybrids escaped under the

fence of their enclosure and one of them killed a small dog. The facility decided to euthanize the animal due to local animal control regulations.

**September 23, 2021:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to an armadillo who was found dead in June 2020.

**January 2, 2020:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a “Teachable Moment” for failing to provide a wolf-dog hybrid clean, dry bedding material.

**March 12, 2019:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have records available for review and for failing to have a written environmental enhancement plan for two marmosets.

**November 27, 2018:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**June 28, 2018:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. The facility allowed members of the public to pet wolf-dog hybrids and the animals to lick their faces. During one encounter, a wolf-dog hybrid was handled on a leash controlled only by a member of the public.

**January 16, 2018:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a repeat citation for failing to have adequate drainage in two outdoor wolf enclosures. Rain had soaked the soil, creating muddy surfaces throughout much of the enclosures.

**October 13, 2015:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have adequate drainage in a wolf enclosure, which had water accumulated in one corner.

**May 6, 2015:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to keep the facility clear of trash and for failing to have an effective fly control program. A burn pit had an accumulation of trash that consisted of old packaging from chicken and other debris. The pit was located 20 to 30 feet away from the animal enclosures, didn't have a lid, and had an excessive amount of flies swarming inside and around it.

**April 13, 2015:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**March 10, 2015:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a direct citation for failing to have adequate drainage. Two outdoor enclosures had puddles covering at least 30% of the floor space. Five wolves had mud covering their tails, all four paws, and their legs all the way up to and including their stomachs. Bedding wasn't adequate to keep the wolves dry. A citation was issued for failing to have an updated program of veterinary care. The program hadn't been signed or updated by the attending veterinarian since 2007. The facility only had guidance for wolves, with no other species listed. In addition, a citation was issued for failing to provide adequate space requirements to exhibit normal social adjustments and postural behavior. A lynx enclosure and two cougar enclosures didn't have climbing fixtures or elevated platforms. Two cougars were pacing back and forth, and other animals were lying in their enclosures and not really moving. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to provide potable water. Water receptacles in cougar, bobcat, and groundhog enclosures had moderate to heavy accumulations of dirt, mud, and green organic material.

**March 9, 2015:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have a responsible

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

**May 9, 2013:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to properly identify wolf-dog hybrids and for failing to have acquisition documents for an African crested porcupine, an Arctic fox, and two groundhogs.

**February 20, 2013:** The Anacortes Police Department cited William Coleburn for allowing an exotic animal to escape and run loose on the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Trail 304. (See the entry for February 9, 2012.)

**February 9, 2012:** A wolf escaped from Predators of the Heart. The Anacortes Police Department received a call about a "dog" running loose on a forest lands trail. When responding to the call, the officer determined that the animal was actually a wolf and called for backup. It took three officers to get the wolf into an animal control vehicle. Once inside the vehicle, the wolf tore the canopy apart and destroyed the interior, leashes, and wiring. The officer later called the licensee and was able to confirm that the wolf was from Predators of the Heart and had escaped from an enclosure with 7-foot-tall fences that had no top. The inspector noted that the licensee claimed that he had called the police department to alert it to the wolf escape. The officer found that dispatch had received a suspicious call from a man (later identified as the licensee) looking for a "white female German shepherd mix."

**February 19, 2010:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have a full perimeter fence around a bobcat enclosure.

**March 5, 2007:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a repeat citation for failing to update the program of veterinary

care to include skunks, an opossum (who had died), wolves, and a serval. In addition, the attending veterinarian wasn't making regularly scheduled visits.

**October 11, 2006:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a repeat citation for failing to update the program of veterinary care to include skunks, an opossum, chinchillas, and wolves. A citation was issued for failing to handle animals in a way that minimized risk of harm to them and the public. The licensee allowed members of the public to enter a bobcat enclosure.

**September 25, 2006:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**August 16, 2006:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**May 10, 2006:** The USDA issued Predators of the Heart a direct citation for failing to have a program of veterinary care that included all animals. Citations were issued for failing to provide veterinary care and failing to adequately observe animals daily after an opossum was found dead. On June 17, 2004, the facility had acquired two opossums. One died on January 11, 2005, after reportedly not gaining weight normally. No veterinary care was provided. In addition, the facility was cited for failing to have acquisition documents for Cosmo, a bobcat, and the address of the person from whom it had acquired Big Guy, another bobcat. A citation was issued for failing to provide chinchillas with solid flooring. Their enclosure had only wire mesh flooring, which could "cause soreness and injury to the feet." Another citation was issued for

failing to have potable water available in a shed where meat was cut. The shed had a sink that wasn't hooked up to water, with no way to clean and sanitize utensils. A citation was issued for failing to store bags of food for skunks and opossums in a manner that protected the food from deterioration or contamination. There were open bags of feed atop a table that had rodent droppings and marks from gnawing. The facility was issued an additional citation for failing to clean excess feces from an opossum enclosure. The animal was unable to access food and water without walking in feces. Another citation was issued for failing to adequately clean a shed where food was prepared and stored. Feed was spilled around the sink and on the ground, trash was piled next to the sink, and a knife used to cut meat had meat residue on it. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have a program to control rodent populations in the shed.

**February 27, 2006:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for access to the facility and inspection of records and the property.

**May 3, 2005:** The USDA cited Predators of the Heart for failing to have records available for review, including for a program of veterinary care.