

Hochatown Petting Zoo

9177 US-259, Broken Bow, OK 74728

Tammy Virgin is the owner of Hochatown Petting Zoo and has repeatedly failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used for exhibition, as established by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Among other violations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Virgin for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, sufficient space, protection from the elements, proper handling, safe and clean enclosures, clean water, adequate barriers, supervision during guest interactions, species-appropriate housing, and failing to maintain medical records. Contact PETA for documentation.

May 22, 2025: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to clear a clogged drain and maintain all facility drainage as needed in a building housing multiple species of animals, including a pig, rabbits, and a sheep. The large drain was clogged with waste and debris, preventing the removal of waste material from the area. Standing wastewater can attract flies and pests and be a source of noxious odors that may affect the animals. She was also cited for failing to remove an unattended chemical container inside an enclosure holding two arctic foxes.

February 24, 2025: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to provide an elevated resting surface in a cat enclosure.

December 11, 2024: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to clean accumulations of waste materials from a game fowl enclosure.

There was an excessive accumulation of dried white and gray waste material on top of the two shelter boxes, which can increase disease hazards, insects, pests, and odors. In addition, a repeat citation was issued for failing to have public barriers and attendants where the public could potentially make contact with animals:

- A group of whitetail deer had no public barrier to prevent contact by members of the public.
- A kangaroo was loose in the yard area because the gate to the enclosure was left open. There was no facility attendant present.
- The gate to the goat and sheep enclosure was left open, and the goat and sheep were loose in the yard with no attendant present.

October 10, 2024: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to adequately observe and provide adequate veterinary care to Kenna, a goat who was visibly limping. Upon closer inspection, a lesion was located between her rear hooves, and a scabbed-over lesion expressing creamy yellow substance was on her outer thigh. Virgin was also cited for failing to provide kittens with sufficient height to allow them to express species-specific behaviors necessary for their welfare. The two enclosures housing four kittens were only 22 inches tall, and they lacked elevated resting surfaces.

The USDA also cited Virgin for failing to have a current program of veterinary care for dogs available for review, and for failing to have a perimeter fence of sufficient height to protect the animals by restricting animals and unauthorized persons from entering the facility, and so that it could function as a secondary containment system for the animals.

July 16, 2024: The USDA issued Virgin a direct citation for failing to provide Wilma, an

elderly goat, with adequate veterinary care. She had overgrown hooves and was visibly lame, and appeared to have difficulty lying down and standing up. Wilma was also "knuckling" over onto the lateral aspect of her right front hoof. Additionally, Virgin was cited for failing to have an effective barrier or attendant present to observe guest interactions in the following areas:

- A group of whitetail fawns in the front yard had no public barrier.
- A kangaroo had a barrier around most of his enclosure, but the gate and section next to the gate were not protected.
- Coatimundis, located next to the entrance, had public barriers, but these barriers were of insufficient distance and could allow members of the public to reach into the enclosure fence easily.

July 11, 2024: The USDA issued Virgin an official warning for the two direct citations she received on April 17, 2024, involving inadequate veterinary care.

April 17, 2024: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to have an attending veterinarian visit the facility on an annual basis, so that they could better advise the licensee on husbandry and other important matters related to proper animal care. The facility did not have documentation of the attending veterinarian's last visit. When contacted, she stated that she was not licensed in Oklahoma and had never visited the facility. She also noted that the licensee brought animals to her clinic for examination and treatment. Virgin also received a direct citation for failing to perform daily observations of the animals' health and well-being to communicate medical issues to the veterinarian. A royal palm turkey was visibly limping, with his left leg and foot noticeably swollen. The turkey had not been seen or evaluated by a veterinarian, and the representative stated that he hadn't noticed

the issue. Virgin received a second direct citation for failing to provide medical care to multiple animals:

- A dove had a head wound with a loss of feathers and a raised, circumscribed, pink/red swelling that a veterinarian hadn't evaluated.
- A female deer had a lip avulsion where the lower lip appeared to have separated from the gum line.
- A second young deer appeared to have had a broken jaw with a partial lip avulsion.
- Another young deer had a fresh, small, open, superficial wound on her back. It had fresh, bright red blood present.
- Two Patagonian cavies had what appeared to be fly bites and open wounds on both ears, with several flies present on the tips of both ears.

The USDA also cited Virgin for failing to trim the overgrown hooves on a whitetail deer and for not maintaining records of the acquisition or disposition of dogs and cats on the property, as well as previously rescued and rehomed puppies and kittens; failing to have records of acquisition and disposition for all other animals available for inspection; failing to have a written exercise plan approved by the attending veterinarian for twelve puppies in three separate enclosures; failing to have a program of veterinary care with specific instructions for the sampling and treatment of parasites and other pests in accordance with a schedule approved by the attending veterinarian for the puppies; and for failing to keep medical records and a medical plan for a red roan heeler mix puppy approximately 6-8 weeks old with a broken tail. He was being treated according to the verbal directions given by the attending veterinarian. The licensee did not maintain medical records to document the injury, plan for treatment and care, and nor track the dog's preventative care and health problems over his lifetime.

The USDA issued Virgin a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair to protect the animals from injury: two outdoor enclosures housing arctic foxes and a grey fox had exposed buried wire that could injure or trap a foot or limb, and in an outdoor enclosure housing four prairie dogs, the wooden structures, ramps, and boxes had been chewed beyond repair and needed to be replaced. "Ingesting splintered wood could potentially cause health or digestive issues for the prairie dogs contained."

Another repeat citation was issued to Virgin for failing to provide enough perches that varied in size, shape, strength, texture, and placement to comfortably house all the birds contained, thereby compromising their psychological and physiological well-being. Several enclosures housing pigeons and doves lacked sufficient or appropriate perches for the birds. An enclosure housing two pigeons had wooden perches, but they had fallen to the bottom of the enclosure and were not being utilized by the pigeons. In an enclosure housing two grey doves, the birds were perched precariously on food receptacle frames. One dove was rocking unsteadily on a metal frame. In an enclosure housing approximately seventy-five doves and pigeons, there weren't enough perches for all the birds contained.

Virgin was also cited for failing to provide two mountain coatomundis with an enclosure of sufficient vertical space to make normal postural movements and adjustments. There were no shelves, platforms, perches, or elevated resting surfaces, and both coatis were lying together on the concrete floor in the back corner of the enclosure. "Normal postural adjustments for coatis include running, climbing, jumping, and resting on elevated surfaces." Additionally, Virgin was cited for failing to provide two whitetail deer with clean water--the water receptacle

contained dark green-brown water. There didn't appear to be any other accessible drinking water.

Finally, the USDA cited Virgin for failing to clean an outdoor chicken coop enclosure, which had an excessive accumulation of excreta covering a portion of the wire flooring housing nine chickens; for housing a hamster and a degu in the same enclosure, which increased the risk of stress, disease hazards, and interspecies aggression; and for failing to provide ten peacocks shelters of sufficient size to accommodate all of them during inclement weather. The enclosure contained three shelters that were only large enough to accommodate a total of five birds simultaneously.

January 11, 2024: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to provide substrate and/or drainage to reduce the standing water and mud in the yard holding deer, goats, cavy, and pigs. The area had large areas of mud and standing water, which could contribute to hoof and foot problems.

September 20, 2023: The USDA cited Virgin for failing to have identifiable attendants throughout the facility. The public could feed and interact with a variety of animals without appropriate supervision. The facility also did not utilize public barriers, which posed a risk to both the animals at the facility and the public. Additionally, Virgin was cited for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, which would reduce the risk of injury to the animals. Two sheltered enclosures housing four raccoons and two coatomundis had excessive rusting, resulting in holes in the walls that exposed sharp edges and points.

The USDA also cited Virgin for displaying a juvenile mourning dove in a glass aquarium that only had a couple of small holes in the

wooden top of the enclosure for ventilation. "The bird appeared to have the feathers 'fluffed' out, which can be an indication of discomfort or overheating and can put the bird at risk of respiratory illness or other negative animal welfare impact... This is not an appropriate enclosure for any bird, and the dove should be removed from this aquarium and placed in an appropriate cage as soon as possible." Citations were also issued for a light placed inside the aquarium that caused excessive illumination for the enclosed bird, with no way for the animal to avoid the light, which could cause distress and discomfort to the dove and contribute to excessive heat; and for failing to provide this mourning dove with an appropriate perch.

Finally, Virgin was cited for failing to provide two ducks with an enclosure constructed with appropriate flooring material for aquatic wild birds. The flooring appeared to be 2x2 or 4x4 wire fence material, which posed a high risk of contributing to the animals' development of pressure sores from walking on this type of surface. There was no solid surface other than a wading pool, which meant that if the ducks wanted a dry surface, the wire was their only option.