

January 22, 2026

USDA/APHIS/Animal Care

Via e-mail: ac.complaints@usda.gov

Re: Request to Investigate Apparent Unlicensed Exhibition of Regulated Animals by Mystic Misfits d.b.a. "Canton Grand Safari" (Lic. No. 74-C-1155)

Dear USDA Animal Care:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) investigate Mystic Misfits d.b.a. "Canton Grand Safari" (license no. 74-C-1155) for apparent Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations involving the unlicensed exhibition of regulated animals during a 21-day suspension of their USDA license.

On January 2, 2026, the USDA sent Canton Grand Safari a letter suspending their Class C exhibitor's license for 21 days "effective upon receipt of this letter" for violations of the AWA and failing to meet the minimum standards for animals between August 25, 2025 and December 31, 2025. (*See Exhibit 1.*) During the suspension period, Canton Grand Safari "must not buy, sell, transport, exhibit, or deliver for transportation, any AWA-regulated animal." (*See Exhibit 1.*)

However, Canton Grand Safari appears to be continuing to exhibit regulated animals to the public, as recently as January 15 and the weekend of January 17-19. On January 16, Facebook user Shayna Lee Cleveland posted a photo album of a child and an adult touching and petting the animals at Canton Grand Safari, with the caption "[w]e visited the ole gator park (canton grand safari adventure) [sic] yesterday..." (*See Exhibit 2.*) On January 19, Facebook user Tatom's Exotic Reptiles posted a video showing a man with a black and white ruffed lemur climbing on his head and shoulders, tagging Canton Grand Safari and stating in the caption "[w]e had a blast out there this past weekend..." (*See Video 1.*)

The exhibition of regulated animals appears to violate 9 C.F.R. § 2.10(c), which states that "[a]ny person whose license has been suspended or revoked shall not buy, sell, transport, exhibit, or deliver for transportation, any animal during the period of suspension or revocation, under any circumstances, whether on his or her behalf or on the behalf another licensee or registrant.." *See also* 7 U.S.C. §§ 2133 (licensing of dealers and exhibitors) and 2134 (valid license for dealers and exhibitors required). Please investigate Canton Grand Safari's apparent unlawful exhibition and take appropriate enforcement action. Because Canton Grand Safari appears to be openly flouting their license suspension, it is imperative that the USDA take decisive action to ensure this unlawful conduct ceases. In addition, this conduct should prevent the USDA from reinstating or issuing a license to Canton Grand Safari in the future.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
FOUNDATION

Washington
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

PETA FOUNDATION IS AN OPERATING
NAME OF THE FOUNDATION TO
SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

ENTITIES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please inform me of the complaint number that your agency assigns to this correspondence.

Very truly yours,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Willow Hecht.

Willow Hecht, M.Sc.
Assistant Manager of Captive Wildlife, Captive Animal Law Enforcement

A solid black rectangular box used to redact contact information, likely a phone number or email address.