



Inspection Report

Brett Carden
3901 W. State Hwy O
Springfield, MO 65803

Customer ID: **24645**
Certificate: **43-C-0270**
Site: TRA
TRA Brett Carden

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 29-SEP-2025

2.40(b)(2)

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The licensee is not using appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. APHIS inspectors observed one (1) adult Asian elephant, Betty, with a stiff gait in the right front forelimb, as evidenced by decreased ability to flex the wrist (carpal) joint as compared to the opposite limb. Betty was observed flexing the left wrist approximately 75 degrees, while only flexing the right wrist roughly 10 degrees when walking. At the time of inspection, the stiffness was observed to be slightly worse when the elephant gave rides to the public. The licensee acknowledged that the elephant is lame in that limb. The attending veterinarian (AV) was aware of the lameness/stiffness and had prescribed an anti-inflammatory medication to be used as needed. However, the lameness visible at the time of inspection indicates that the licensee is not using the prescribed medication at a frequency and/or dosage that is effective at controlling and treating this condition.

Failure to adequately treat conditions in a timely manner can lead to unnecessary distress, pain, and negatively affect the animal's health and well-being. Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. Correct by ensuring that all animals are receiving adequate veterinary care including the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat disease and injuries.
Correct by Oct. 14, 2025

2.131(b)(1) Direct

Handling of animals.

The licensee is not handling all animals in a manner that does not cause trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. APHIS inspectors observed Betty, an approx. 56-year-old elephant, walking with a stiff gait, and inspectors observed that this lameness increased when the licensee allowed members of the public to ride the elephant. Betty's walking speed decreased, and the stiffness was more clearly observed. The licensee told inspectors that the elephant's "stiffness" increases when she is ridden by members of the public, but that "she warms out of it." Allowing members of the public to ride her is causing additional lameness resulting in trauma, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma,

Prepared By: REBECCA NANNEY
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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Received by Title: Facility Representative

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overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Correct by ensuring that animals are handled as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

Correct by end of business Oct. 1, 2025

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

The inspected elephants were Betty and Janice at the New River Valley Fairgrounds in Dublin, VA.

Additional Inspectors:

Jessica Siegal-Willott

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
24645	43-C-0270	TRA	TRA Brett Carden	29-SEP-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	ASIAN ELEPHANT
000002	Total	