

March 10, 2026

USDA/APHIS/Animal Care

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

Re: Request to Investigate Apparent Animal Welfare Act Violations by
Zoological Wildlife Foundation (License No. 58-C-1275)

Dear USDA Animal Care:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture investigate Zoological Wildlife Foundation ("ZWF"; license no. 58-C-1275) for apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) involving incompatibly housing two clouded leopards, resulting in severe injuries.

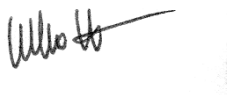
On February 6, 2026, ZWF [posted a photo](#) to their @limbaniZWF Instagram account showing a clouded leopard, Petra, under sedation following the amputation of her left front limb. (See Exhibit 1.) The caption states "in the attempt to revive the clouded leopard population, her mating partner, the male clouded leopard, injured our poor Petra and left her in critical conditions [*sic*]. . . She had countless severe puncture wounds on her paw and lower leg. . . and the only option to save her was to amputate the entire leg up to the shoulder." The caption further states "[w]e are asking for donations to help save this amazing animal and help us continue to rebuild their dying population," suggesting that ZWF may continue to attempt to breed these two animals, despite Petra's catastrophic injuries.

It appears that ZWF failed to separate these two incompatible animals, in apparent violation of 9 C.F.R. § 3.133, which requires that "[a]nimals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible. Animals shall not be housed near animals [who] interfere with their health or cause them discomfort."

Please ensure that ZWF is providing Petra and all animals with adequate veterinary care, shelter, space, food, and water and that the animals are otherwise handled in accordance with the AWA and its regulations. Please also hold ZWF fully accountable for all violations that you discover during your investigation.

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,



Willow Hecht, M.Sc.

Assistant Manager of Captive Wildlife, Captive Animal Law Enforcement

WillowH@petaf.org

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.)