



Inspection Report

ZOOTASTIC OF LAKE NORMAN INC

Customer ID: **44266**

Certificate: --

Site: 001

ZOOTASTIC OF LAKE NORMAN INC

448 PILCH ROAD

Type: PRELICENSE INSPECTION #1

Date: 15 November 2013

TROUTMAN, NC 28166

2.131 (c)(1)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public.

***There currently is no public barrier other than the enclosure fence for some animals (2 New Guinea Singing dogs in barn, enclosure with 1 Watusi, 1 Scottish Highland bull, 4 yak and 2 alpaca, enclosure with 3 aoudad, 9 blackbuck, 4 scimitar-horned oryx, enclosure with 4 bison and 2 water buffalo, and enclosure with 2 zebra, 3 min. zebu, 1 cow, and one guanaco.) Recently, a small child was knocked down by a bison hitting the fence, even though tour guides were on the premises. This is evidence that the tour guides are not always effective in assuring the safety of the public since they were unable to prevent this incident. Given the nature of some of the animals in these enclosures, an appropriate physical barrier is necessary to assure public safety.

3.125 (a)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Structural strength. The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

***In the main barn, some of the enclosures had field fencing on the front which had large (approx. 6" by 6") openings thru which some of the animals, including goats, could put their head. Also, in outdoor hoofstock pens, some goats were getting out of their pens by squeezing under or thru gaps around gates or bottom of fence. Need to construct pens of more appropriate material to prevent animals coming thru fence or escaping their enclosure.

***Multiple shelters in outdoor hoofstock pens had structural defects. Several had gaps and holes in the roof thru which rain could fall. Some shelters had missing side panels. One shelter had a loose roof. One shelter had a very rusty metal panel on the side which was torn and jagged and could cause injury. All shelters should be kept in good repair, with functional roofs that prevent entrance of rain/snow and complete sides to provide adequate shelter from wind/rain.

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***On right side of wildebeest pen, one metal fence post is leaning over and needs to be repaired to provide adequate containment and prevent injury. In main barn, one goat pen had a broken wire at the front of the pen. Need to keep all pens in good repair.

3.125 (c)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Storage. Supplies of food and bedding shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect such supplies against deterioration, molding, or contamination by vermin.

***There were a few bags/containers of open food and bedding in the food storage room. There was also an approximately 6 inch diameter hole in the wall directly behind the feed bags. This hole opens into the main barn which is open to the outside. All open feed and bedding should be stored in containers with tight-fitting lids to prevent deterioration or contamination by vermin. Measures should be taken to restrict entrance of vermin by closing hole in wall behind feed storage rack.

***In walk-in cooler, there was an unpleasant odor. There were wooden shelves and posts holding produce which were unsealed and appeared damp and stained. Need to keep food storage areas clean and sanitary. Any wood should be sealed so that it can be properly sanitized to prevent odors and contamination of food items. Cooler should be thoroughly sanitized on a regular basis.

3.127 (b)

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

Shelter from inclement weather. Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals.

***One young zebra was in an enclosure in the main barn that had two open sides that allowed wind to come thru. The barn normally has tarps on the sides during cold weather, but these tarps had not yet been put up to provide additional shelter. Young zebra are known to be cold-sensitive and protection needs to be provided from wind in cold weather.

3.127 (d)

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

Perimeter fence. On or after May 17, 2000, all outdoor housing facilities (i.e., facilities not entirely indoors) must be enclosed by a perimeter fence that is of sufficient height to keep animals and unauthorized persons out. Fences less than 8 feet high for potentially dangerous animals, such as, but not limited to, large felines (e.g., lions, tigers, leopards, cougars, etc.), bears, wolves, rhinoceros, and elephants, or less than 6 feet high for other animals must be approved in writing by the Administrator. The fence must be constructed so that it protects the animals in the facility by restricting animals and unauthorized persons from going through it or under it and having contact with the animals in the facility, and so that it can function as a secondary containment system for the animals in the facility. .

***The perimeter fence near the new bear enclosure is slightly less than 6 feet high. There is also a large gap

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(over one foot) under perimeter fence gate near the bear pen thru which dogs or even a person could crawl. Perimeter fencing for dangerous animals must be at least 8 feet high and must restrict animals and unauthorized persons from entering the facility. Need to raise height of fence to 8 feet and fill gap under fence gate.

***There is no perimeter fence for some of the outdoor hoofstock enclosures. A variance was given for this facility under a previous license, but that variance is no longer valid since the license was cancelled and any request for variance must be resubmitted for review.

3.131 (a)

SANITATION.

Cleaning of enclosures. Excreta shall be removed from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

***There was an accumulation of old feces in some shelters and open wooden platforms in the outdoor hoofstock area. Need to remove feces on a more frequent basis to ensure animals have clean place to take shelter.

***Portions of the walls in the kinkajou enclosure and the ringtail lemur enclosure in the indoor area had dirty smears where the animals had rubbed against the wall. Need to clean walls to prevent contamination of animals.

3.131 (d)

SANITATION.

Pest control. A safe and effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

***Numerous live mice were observed in the porcupine enclosure. Several active holes were seen with mice running in and out to the feed bowl eating the feed and bread. No mouse traps or control measures were present near this enclosure. Need to have safe and effective rodent control program to prevent disease hazards and contamination of enclosure and food.

Exit briefing conducted with facility representative.

NOTE: Personnel qualifications for keeping bears are under review.

NOTE: Any perimeter fence variance that had been granted for previous license is no longer valid and must be resubmitted for approval.

APPLICANT HAS TWO MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PASS INSPECTION WITHIN THE NEXT 90 DAYS. IF INSPECTION IS NOT PASSED WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, APPLICATION FEE WILL BE FORFEITED AND APPLICANT MUST WAIT SIX MONTHS TO REAPPLY.

NO COVERED ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING SELLING OR EXHIBITING COVERED SPECIES) IS PERMITTED UNTIL USDA LICENSE IS OBTAINED.

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