



Inspection Report

Kirby Van Burch

Customer ID: 323664

Certificate: 43-C-0320

Site: 001

Kirby Van Burch

Kirby Van Burch Theatre

7812 Cozy Cove

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: May-19-2011

BRANSON, MO 65616

2.40 (b) (2) REPEAT DIRECT NCI

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

***** On inspection on May 6, 2011, a white 5 year old adult male tiger "Charlie" had a dull haircoat and an overall thin appearance with readily visible spine, and long bones of the front and hind legs. The point of his shoulder and his hip bones were prominent. The tiger's muscle mass was not balanced throughout his body, with the hind legs displaying less muscle than the front legs. These signs can indicate an underlying medical condition. "Charlie" was reluctant to rise from his perch even when prompted by the caretaker by verbal and visual coaxing. The tiger had difficulty standing up and rose without placing his left hind foot on the perch's surface. While standing, the tiger repeatedly extended his left hind leg behind him but would not bear weight on it. He was reluctant to jump off of the perch and instead gingerly slid to the floor. The tiger had a hopping gait and only placed his left hind foot on the floor for balance, without bearing weight on it. At no time during the inspection did the tiger hold his left hind leg in a normal position or bear weight on it. He stood for only a short period of time before laying down on the floor. These signs can indicate pain and can be the result of injury or an underlying medical condition.

Pad lesions and/or limping were noted in the Attending Veterinarian's records in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 with the most recent notations being on October 27, 2010; on February 22, 2011; and on April 14, 2011. The April 14, 2011 notation indicated that "Charlie" was non to partial weight-bearing on his left rear foot but no differential diagnoses or treatments plans were documented. According to the caretaker, "Charlie" had not been on medication since March 1, 2011. He had been treated with antibiotics multiple times over the past 2.5 years, but the records did not document the response to treatment and were not complete enough to determine if the problem resolved following treatment. The records documented that the caretaker reduced the antibiotic dose if the animal became "sick" following treatment; however, there was no documentation that the Attending Veterinarian had knowledge of or approved the reduction in dose to ensure that the dose was adequate for the animal. Neither "Charlie's" body condition nor weight was documented in the records.

The May 6, 2011 inspection report instructed the licensee to have "Charlie" examined by a qualified, licensed veterinarian by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 13, 2011 in order to ensure that accurate diagnoses and

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appropriate treatment plans are developed and followed. Although "Charlie" was examined by a licensed veterinarian on May 13, 2011, appropriate treatment plans have not been developed and followed to address each of his problems. "Charlie" was only visually inspected from a distance of approximately 7 feet and no diagnostic tests were performed to rule out potential causes and/or determine the cause of the problems. The record listed the Attending Veterinarian's assessment as "slightly thin/pad lesion". The treatment plan for the foot states, "Soak foot daily in Epsoms salts for 10-15 min. 1-2 times daily. Recheck in approx 2 weeks." It does not address treatment of the potential causes of the animal's pad lesion, lameness, or pain. The Attending Veterinarian assessed the animal as slightly thin and the treatment plan for this states, "increase daily diet by 1 lb processed turkey." The cat's diet is still inadequate. The plan from the Attending Veterinarian states it consists of 5 pounds Nebraska diet, 1.5 pounds chicken, and 3 pounds turkey. The plan does not state what type of turkey or chicken, does not indicate whether the chicken or turkey is supposed to contain bones or only meat, and does not include supplementation to ensure that it meets the unique nutritional needs of tigers. Inappropriate meat based diets without appropriate consideration for vitamin and mineral content and appropriate nutritional supplementation can lead to the development of veterinary medical problems such as metabolic bone disease and pathological fractures, which can be painful and lead to permanent disfigurement.

On May 19, 2011, "Charlie" still has a poor hair coat, thin body condition, and reduced muscle mass in his hind limbs. His hair coat was rough and had a tufted appearance. "Charlie" has readily visible and prominent bony structures including his hip bones, long bone of his thighs, and his shoulder structures.

"Charlie" is still reluctant to rise, has a hopping gait and only placed his left hind foot on the floor for balance and only occasionally beared partial weight on it. Additionally, "Charlie" is exhibiting lameness on his left front leg and was not observed bearing any weight on this paw. Inspectors also observed this left front lameness on May 12, 2011, but the Attending Veterinarian did not document this problem on his visit on May 13, 2011 during his examination. When "Charlie" stood up from a laying position, he held up his left front leg and did not bear any weight on it. When the caretaker verbally coaxed him to walk across the enclosure, he was reluctant to stand. When he finally stood, he only walked using primarily his right front and hind legs without using his left legs. When he reached the caretaker, he quickly layed back down. When the caretaker prompted the tiger to stand on his hind legs, he stood but shifted all of his weight to his hocks and was not bearing weight on the pads of his hind legs.

Inspectors observed multiple lesions on the pads of at least three of the tiger's feet; on May 13, 2011 the Attending Veterinarian only noted an ulcer on the tiger's left hind foot. On the left hind foot, inspectors saw a nickel sized roughened area that was brown to gray in color on the outer most toe. On the left front foot inspectors observed a roughened area that was approximately the size of a dime and was dark brown to red in color on the third digit. On his right front foot, a reddened roughened area was present on his central pad that was approximately the size of the tip of a pencil eraser (approximately one-fourth inch). The pads on the right hind foot could not be fully visualized for evaluation. Areas of hair loss were noted on both hind legs. On the right hind leg, the hock had an approximately 2 inch by 1 inch area of hair loss with pink skin. On the left hind leg, the hock had an approximately 1 inch by one-half inch area of hair

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loss. The lameness and sores on the pads of the feet could be caused by various medical and/or environmental conditions, which could be painful.

The caretaker stated that this is the worst that "Charlie"s lameness has ever been and that he has not seen any improvement from the use of the Epsom Salts. Although the Attending Veterinarian prescribed the Epsom Salt soaks on May 13, 2011, records indicate that the facility did not begin soaking the tiger's foot until May 17. The facility has been soaking the foot in the transport cage for 1 hour in the Epsom Salt Solution. The caretaker stated the tray that fully covers the floor of the cage is filled with 2 gallons of water and 4 cups of Epsom Salts. The tiger stands and lays in this solution for 1 hour and is intermittently observed during this period. He is unsure how much time the left hind foot pad spends in contact with the solution. The caretaker stated that the Attending Veterinarian stated that the pad sore could be occurring due to urine contact. He also stated that "Charlie," like the other big cats at the facility, was declawed on all four feet as a cub.

*****The licensee must have "Charlie " fully examined by a qualified, licensed veterinarian by 8:00 pm today, Thursday, May 19, 2011 in order to ensure that accurate diagnoses and appropriate treatment plans are developed and followed in a timely manner for all of the animal's veterinary medical problems.

This is a focused inspection report limited to a white, male tiger named "Charlie".

This inspection was conducted Kate Ziegerer, VMO, Konnie Plumlee, VMO, and Tanya Tims, SVMO, with facility representatives on May 19, 2011.

A "Notice of Intent to Confiscate" was hand delivered during the exit conference that was conducted on May 19, 2011 with Kate Ziegerer, VMO, Konnie Plumlee, VMO, and Tanya Tims, SVMO, with Phil Ledbetter, IES, Carson Buckman, IES, Larry Carson, IES, and facility representatives on May 19, 2011.

THIS ANIMAL SHALL NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSPORTATION TO A VETERINARIAN FOR EXAMINATION AND CARE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM ANIMAL CARE IN WRITING. For further information contact Dr. Robert Gibbens, Animal Care Western Regional Director, at 970-494-7478 or Dr. Katheryn Ziegerer, Veterinary Medical Officer, at 240-461-9284.

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