



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-20-2011

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 May 6, 12, and 19, 2011 inspectors observed that Charlie has a thin body condition, poor hair coat and reduced muscle mass on his hind legs. On May 6, Charlie had difficulty rising and walking and was lame on his left hind leg. On May 12, and 19, inspectors observed that Charlie worsened to the point that he had lameness on both his left front and left hind legs, and he walked using only his two right legs. On May 19 inspectors observed lesions on the pads of at least three of Charlie's feet. The pad lesions and lameness can be painful, and could be occurring as the result of injury or an underlying medical condition. While the lameness could be due solely to the ulcerated pads, this could also be due to more serious problems including osteomyelitis (infected/inflamed bone(s) in the foot) or a metabolic bone disease which may result in painful fractures in one or more bones of the limbs. Without conducting appropriate diagnostic tests and/or procedures the cause of these veterinary problems can not be determined in order to develop appropriate treatment plans.

Pad lesions and/or limping were noted in the Attending Veterinarian's records in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, October 2010, and in February and April 2011. Over the past 2.5 years, antibiotics have been prescribed but the records do not document the response to treatment and were not complete enough to determine if the problems resolved. With the exception of radiographs taken when Charlie was a cub in 2006, no diagnostic tests or procedures have been performed to determine the cause.

The cat's diet appears to be inadequate. The facility still is not including any supplementation to ensure that it meets the unique nutritional needs of tigers. Inappropriate muscle meat diets without appropriate consideration for vitamin and mineral content and appropriate nutritional supplementation may 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. Optimal nutrition will aid in the healing process.

The May 6 and May 19, 2011 inspection reports instructed the licensee to have Charlie fully examined by a

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

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qualified, licensed veterinarian in order to ensure that accurate diagnoses and appropriate plans are developed and followed in a timely manner. A "Notice of Intent to Confiscate" was delivered with the inspection report.

As a result of these inspection reports, the facility requested that the Attending Veterinarian examine Charlie on May 13 and May 19. However, the facility still did not complete any diagnostic tests or procedures. After the May 13 exam, the Attending Veterinarian prescribed epsom salt soaks for the foot, but the facility did not begin treatment until May 17. Charlie's condition has continued to deteriorate even with the addition of this treatment. The Attending Veterinarian's records did not document all of the problems that were observed by the inspectors, and treatment plans were not developed for all of the problems observed by the inspectors. The diet prescribed after the May 13 examination appears to still be inadequate.

After the May 19 examination, the Attending Veterinarian prescribed pain medications but did not prescribe any treatments or environmental modifications to attempt to cure the conditions. The veterinarian visually examined the cat from a closer position, but did not document palpation of the animal or perform any diagnostic tests or procedures to determine the cause of the problems.

On inspection on May 20, 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 bore partial weight on it. Additionally, Charlie is exhibiting extreme lameness on his left front leg. He elevated his left front leg consistently each time he attempted to walk. He is still primarily walking with his right front and right rear legs and is reluctant to place either of his left legs onto the concrete. Charlie repeatedly rested his left front paw on the metal bar of the enclosure wall, rather than resting it on the concrete surface.

The painful pad lesions and lameness have been described by this veterinarian multiple times since 2006 when Charlie was less than one-year-old. No documented efforts have been made to improve the substrate on which Charlie is housed, determine the cause of these painful problems, or to find appropriate treatments. All treatments have been based on observation from a distance, and at no time has any effort been made to do diagnostics such as culture of the lesions, radiographs of the paws to screen for possible deep tissue or bone infection, careful scrutiny and palpation of the pads, evaluation of the toes for declaw complications, or the application of appropriate medications which may help the pads to heal. The recently prescribed foot soaks appear to have made the problem worse. All of the cats at this facility are housed continuously on a concrete surface which is commonly associated with the development of chronic pad ulcers. Charlie still has not received adequate veterinary care to address all of his problems.

This is a focused inspection report regarding the conditions of Charlie, an adult white tiger. This inspection was conducted Kate Ziegerer, VMO, Konnie Plumlee, VMO, Tanya Tims, SVMO, and Laurie Gage, VMO with IES investigators Phil Ledbetter, Carson Buckman, and Larry Carson and facility representatives on May 20, 2011.

A "Notice of Confiscation" was hand delivered with this inspection report during the exit conference that

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was conducted on May 20, 2011 with Kate Ziegerer, VMO, Konnie Plumlee, VMO, Tanya Tims, SVMO, Laurie Gage, VMO, and Jeff Baker, VMO, with IES investigators Phil Ledbetter, Carson Buckman, and Larry Carson and facility representatives.

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