

Waccatee Zoological Farm

8500 Enterprise Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Waccatee Zoological Farm has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Waccatee for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, failing to provide animals with adequate shelter from inclement weather, failing to have a diet for felids that has been approved by an attending veterinarian, failing to have sufficient enrichment for the primates in order to promote psychological well-being, failing to provide sufficient space, failing to keep enclosures in good repair, failing to keep food and water receptacles clean, failing to have an effective “pest”-control program, and failing to have a means to remove excess water rapidly from enclosures. Documentation is available upon request.

February 28, 2022: The USDA assessed Waccatee Zoo a penalty of \$7,800 for alleged violations of the AWA between March 5, 2020, and May 5, 2021. These included repeatedly failing to provide multiple animals with adequate veterinary care and failing to keep water receptacles clean and sanitary.

January 12, 2022: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoo for failing to keep enclosures housing ring-tailed lemurs and tufted capuchins clean. The perimeters of the enclosures had a network of several cobwebs with dead insects, suggesting that

the areas had not been cleaned for months. The facility was also cited for failing to ensure that supplies of food were stored in a manner that protected against deterioration and contamination. Two publicly accessible vending machines contained pelleted food for animals that was caked together and beginning to deteriorate.

October 20, 2021: The USDA issued Waccatee Zoo a repeat citation for failing to provide two Patagonian caviés and three aoudad sheep with adequate veterinary care. The two caviés had crusting ulcerative lesions on the tips of their ears, and one of the caviés had fresh blood on their left ear. Several flies were seen swarming around the ears of both caviés, who were constantly swatting and rubbing due to the irritation and discomfort. The three aoudad sheep had pronounced forelimb lameness, and one of them was reluctant to stand and chose to crawl along the ground rather than standing upright. The inspector observed that, once standing, the sheep had lameness with minimal ability to bear weight on the right forelimb, making it difficult to walk. The facility was also cited for failing to have attendants present during public interactions with animals, including goats, zebu, sheep, camels, deer, and a llama, as well as for failing to maintain primary enclosure fencing in good repair. An approximately 30-foot section of the zebra primary enclosure fencing had three loose and/or broken poles that allowed the fence to sway back and forth, no longer providing structural support to adequately prevent potential escapes or injuries to the zebras, and an approximately 10-foot section of primary enclosure housing for the peccaries was leaning outward, compromising the structural integrity of the fence and allowing for potential injuries or escapes.

May 5, 2021: The USDA issued Waccatee Zoo a direct repeat citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care after the

inspector found two lame aoudads who had not received treatment. One female aoudad remained seated when the rest of the herd moved to the back of the enclosure. When she stood up, the inspector noted “a profound right-forelimb, minimally-weight bearing lameness.” The second aoudad was seen limping on the left foreleg. The facility representative stated that they intended to treat the female but hadn’t noticed the second limping sheep. Neither animal had received treatment at the time of inspection. A direct repeat citation was also issued for failing to supply clean drinking water to multiple animals. The water receptacle for the aoudads and fallow deer “contained cloudy, brown water” through which the bottom of the receptacle could not be seen. “Floating on top of the water were clumps of brown and green plantlike material. Once drained, the receptacle had copious amounts of brown sludge sitting on the bottom.” A further citation was issued after a new staff member failed to follow the facility’s cleaning protocol, resulting in an adult capuchin’s escape from their enclosure. Despite being supervised by a tenured staff member, the new staff member did not lock the capuchin out of the indoor exhibit and the animal escaped from the enclosure during daily cleaning.

January 26, 2021: The USDA issued Waccatee Zoo a repeat citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. The inspector found two adult llamas with “noticeably overgrown hooves” and noted that “the toenails were strikingly overgrown, deviating to the side.” The inspector explained that overgrown hooves can be painful and that “[u]nder chronic conditions, the conformation of the toes can become compromised, resulting in long-term malformations.”

October 22, 2020: The USDA issued Waccatee Zoo a direct repeat citation for failing to identify, control, diagnose, and

treat animals in need of veterinary care after finding a Dall ram with “significantly overgrown dewclaws with profound amounts of crusting and ulcerative lesions encompassing all four distal limbs.” The left fore and hind hooves were noticeably overgrown, the dewclaws of all four legs exceeded 3 inches, and the ram had thick layers of crusting covering the hair above each hoof. The ram also had ulcerative lesions with fresh blood on all four legs. The facility representative said that the ram was “mistakenly overlooked,” but the inspector noted that the severity of the condition suggested that the issues had been ongoing for “some time”. A direct citation was issued because a camel did not have clean drinking water. The water receptacle had “murky, dark green water” such that you could not see the bottom of the receptacle. A further citation was issued because a red fox had a “gumball-sized growth” on their left foreleg that the facility had not noticed. Another citation was issued because of the facility’s failure to manage weeds in the enclosures of two yaks and one kangaroo. The weeds had become so overgrown that none of the animals could be seen in the outdoor areas. When a kangaroo was coerced to present themselves, the animal was only partly visible. The inspector noted that “[a]ccumulation of unwanted wildflowers, grass, and weeds inhibits the facility’s ability to conduct daily observations and assess pest control.”

March 5, 2020: The USDA issued Waccatee Zoological Farm a repeat citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care—a zebu and two llamas had significantly overgrown hooves. The facility was also cited for failing to provide adequate shelter from inclement weather. The shelters for the zebu and peccaries were excessively soiled and muddy. There were no dry areas available to the animals within the enclosure, including directly under

the shelter, where there was standing water and mud.

June 26, 2019: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to clean the excessively dirty interior housing of the singly housed coatimundi. The resting boards had a black film on most surfaces, fecal matter and food waste was caught between a front board and the resting boards, and there was an accumulation of fur on the board behind the inside cage.

March 28, 2018: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a crab-eating macaque who was observed licking the tip of his tail, which was bare of skin with red tissue showing (possibly from frostbite), and two black bears who continued to exhibit abnormal repetitive behavior. The inspector stated, "This abnormal behavior was cited on 5-9-17 as behavior needing veterinary evaluation, and habitat and husbandry modifications. At this point the proposed new enclosure for the bears has not been started. The enclosures have not been modified nor any husbandry changes made to provide for normal activities and normal postural adjustments like foraging, climbing, and clawing. The physical needs of the bears needs [sic] to be addressed by the veterinarian and caretakers, and changes made to address these needs."

Waccatee was also cited for failing to provide sufficient enrichment to promote psychological well-being to the primates, as evidenced by several primates exhibiting stereotypical behavior: A male baboon repeatedly paced in circles and figure eights on an elevated area of boards; a female baboon exhibited a swaying behavior; and Handsome, another baboon, repeatedly rocked back and forth sideways, tossed his head, stood up, circled in place, then resumed rocking. The male crab-eating macaque had "floating limb syndrome,

where his left leg slowly floats up, he sees it, and attacks it."

December 28, 2017: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide several animals with adequate shelter from inclement weather. Some enclosures contained doghouse-type structures without any flaps or windbreaks to help hold in the animals' body heat. And some enclosures had three-sided shelters that didn't have any bedding to help the animals nest and retain body heat. The temperatures had been unseasonably cold, with night temperatures dropping to the 20s with windchills in the teens.

May 9, 2017: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care for several animals: A goat had overgrown rear claws, and several aoudads had overgrown hooves; two squirrel monkeys had severe hair loss and redness over their hind legs and most of their tails; a 4-year-old lion appeared to have incoordination in his hind legs; and abnormal repetitive behavior was observed in two black bears, a young cougar, and two hamadryas baboons.

Waccatee was also cited for failing to keep several enclosures in good repair and failing to provide sufficient space for three American black bears to make normal postural and social adjustments and for cougars in two enclosures that weren't high enough and didn't have any provisions for substantive climbing. The inspector stated, "All of the enclosures need to be of adequate size to allow the contained animals to make all normal postural adjustments. This includes space to walk, climb, and stretch to a completely extended upright position. The bear enclosures also need to have water features for species typical exercise and thermoregulation."

Waccatee was also cited for failing to have a written feeding plan for the felids that has been approved by an attending veterinarian. The inspector noted, "One young adult male lion appears to be exhibiting hind limb weakness and incoordination, which can be caused by a number of etiologic agents including dietary malnutrition."

February 6, 2017: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to properly clean several enclosures holding primates and failing to have an effective means of "pest"-control, as evidenced from mice feces in the commissary and a live mouse seen on a shelf containing feed bags. Rodent holes were also seen around several enclosures.

May 24, 2016: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to properly clean several enclosures holding primates and failing to separate a female tiger—who had sustained a 2-inch-deep laceration over her left shoulder blade—from a male tiger. The inspector noted that "measures were needed to protect the female from excessive male roughness."

August 25, 2015: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to keep in good repair a wooden visual barrier between two bears and the pool enclosure that was shared on alternate days with two tigers. Some of the boards were wet, were rotting at the bottoms, and had been pulled off by the bears, leaving slightly rough edges in places.

April 30, 2015: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to have an effective "pest"-control program, as evidenced by numerous mice who were observed running around enclosures holding rabbits, and failing to have a suitable method to rapidly eliminate excess water from the front of the enclosure holding

two tigers and the double-sided enclosure holding two black bears.

February 18, 2014: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a speckled gray pygmy goat who was apparently wheezing and had a very slight clear eye discharge and to a leopard whose ear pinnae were completely swollen. Fluid sounds could be heard when she shook her head.

Waccatee was also cited for failing to keep a storage building in an enclosure holding eight zebras in good repair so as to prevent potential injuries to the animals. The building was off the ground at least 2 feet, several boards were missing from the underpinning, and nailheads were protruding from where the boards used to be. Waccatee was also cited for three broken boards on one side of an enclosure holding bears.

August 27, 2012: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to nine Patagonian caviés who had raw or scabbed ear tips and a white rabbit who had hair loss and what appeared to be wounds on his lower back.

May 2, 2012: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to replace a "shift board" in the tower housing 15 lemurs that was excessively worn and no longer able to be sanitized, failing to replace three pieces of logs that were excessively worn and greasy in an enclosure with two vervet monkeys, and failing to clean the plastic water bottle in the enclosure holding a raccoon. It had a layer of brown slime on the inside.

August 18, 2010: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to several

animals: Two zebus had overgrown front feet; a black potbellied pig had flaky, scaly skin on the back; and an elderly potbellied pig had what appeared to be a growing inguinal hernia. The animal had not been seen by the veterinarian since the hernia appeared at least two months prior.

Waccatee was also cited for failing to maintain structures in good repair. Resting boards were wet and rotted through in an enclosure holding Rudy, a De Brazza's monkey, and a 6- to 12-inch gap was under the chain-link fence with exposed edges in front of the enclosures holding a zebra and a zebu. Waccatee was also cited for failing to provide sufficient environmental enrichment for baboons and failing to remove an accumulation of building materials, miscellaneous items, and weeds adjacent to a petting zoo area in order to prevent rodents from hiding.

June 14, 2010: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to have written exemptions from the attending veterinarian that would indicate a medical reason for seven individually housed primates not to be paired or housed in a group and failing to frequently clean the shelter in a pasture holding 39 Barbados sheep and six fallow sheep that had an accumulation of fecal pellets.

March 12, 2009: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a pygmy goat who needed his hooves trimmed more frequently and failing to maintain the chain-link divider fence holding bison and deer. It was torn in a few areas where a male deer had rammed it with his horns.

June 18, 2008: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a coatimundi who was found listless in an enclosure the previous day. He was placed in the den,

and an attempt was made to get him to eat. At 4 p.m. the following day, he was in the den but wasn't moving. He was taken to the veterinarian's office during this inspection. (The caretaker had informed the owners that the animal was ill but didn't take any further action, believing the animal was too old to help further.) The coatimundi died during the night. The veterinarian stated that the physical exam showed he was infested with fleas and dehydrated. Waccatee was also cited for a llama who had three overgrown, curving hooves.

The USDA also cited Waccatee for failing to keep in good repair the door leading to an enclosure holding 22 rabbits (it was rusted, had a broken wire edge, and had several nails sticking out); failing to have an effective "pest"-control program, as evidenced by a live mouse in the enclosure containing rabbits, rodent feces in an enclosure holding two capuchins, and two live mice in the same area; failing to have a complete public barrier around the enclosure holding five ring-tailed lemurs; failing to properly maintain an enclosure containing 30 Patagonian cavies (holes were "dug down to and below the chain link floor of the shed and shelter area," posing a danger that the animals could get trapped by the suspended chain-link flooring); and failing to provide sufficient shelter from inclement weather for 44 aoudads and 16 peccaries.

June 18, 2007: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to keep in good repair fencing between an enclosure holding a kangaroo and another holding miniature horses, in order to prevent any potential danger to the animals.

February 20, 2007: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to keep in good repair fencing between an enclosure holding a kangaroo and another

holding miniature horses, in order to prevent any potential danger to the animals.

February 20, 2007: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to keep in good repair fencing in two enclosures to prevent any potential danger to the animals.

June 28, 2005: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to keep the main enclosure holding rabbits in good repair (the bottom of a metal wall was rusted through, leaving holes in several places and rough edges), failing to keep the food receptacle for the Patagonian cavies clean (there were large chunks of old caked-on feed on the bottom underneath the fresh food), and failing to provide clean water to animals. A couple of water receptacles had algae.

June 2, 2004: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to keep several fences in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain them.

November 12, 2003: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide an enclosure for the colony of ring-tailed lemurs that would safely contain them (a juvenile ring-tailed lemur was going in and out through the wire panels of the outdoor enclosure), failing to provide sufficient enrichment items for the primates to promote species-typical activities, failing to adequately clean the wooden shelter building holding two lemurs (there had been an excess accumulation of spiderwebs and mud dauber nests), and failing to maintain in good repair enclosures holding water buffalo and fallow deer, in order to protect the animals from injury and to contain them.

November 14, 2002: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to have a suitable method to eliminate excess water rapidly. Bear and Scottish Highlander

steer enclosures contained several low areas with standing water.

January 24, 2002: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to clean enclosures holding rhesus and capuchin monkeys, which had an accumulation of animal and/or feed waste, and an area between an enclosure holding a chimpanzee and the "Antique Barn," which had trash and supplies.

September 25, 2001: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a camel who had evidence of diarrhea, failing to have a complete primate environmental enhancement program, failing to keep premises free of accumulation of trash and excess vegetation, failing to keep several enclosures in good repair and in a manner that protects animals from injury and contains them, and failing to remove building supplies from the enclosure holding white-tailed deer.

June 14, 2001: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to maintain two rabbit feeding receptacles that were rusted and/or dirty, failing to keep a couple of enclosures in good repair to reduce the risk of injury to the animals contained within, failing to remove excess fecal debris in an enclosure holding coatimundis, and failing to remove an accumulation of trash and building supplies from an enclosure holding white-tailed deer.

August 17, 2000: The USDA cited Waccatee Zoological Farm for failing to provide adequate veterinary to several auodads who appeared to be exhibiting signs of lameness or injury, failing to keep an enclosure holding coatimundis in good repair to reduce potential for injury to them, and failing to have screen doors on the food prep room to reduce the potential for flies to enter.