

June 12, 2024

Roxanne Mullaney, D.V.M.
Deputy Administrator
USDA/APHIS/Animal Care

Via e-mail: [REDACTED] ac.complaints@usda.gov

Re: Request for Immediate Investigation of Apparent Animal Welfare Act Violations by Sally Powell, dba Honey Hill Farm (License No. 61-C-0170)

Dear Dr. Mullaney:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture urgently investigate Sally Powell, dba Honey Hill Farm (License No. 61-C-0170) for apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

According to multiple videos posted to social media, two adult camels exhibited by Honey Hill Farm escaped their enclosure at Cedar Point Amusement Park on or about June 11. In a video posted to [Facebook](#), the camels are seen running through a crowd of people, including elderly individuals and young children. (See Video 1.) The camels were unrestrained and there was clearly no staff member present to protect the public or the camels from harm. In another video posted to [TikTok](#), one of the camels comes within inches of severely injuring a member of the public, while bucking and kicking, undoubtedly due to stress. (See Video 2.) Camels are large, dangerous animals that require special care in order to protect the public. Camels can be unpredictable, and have seriously injured and even trampled humans to death, and have sometimes been killed as a result.¹

It appears that Powell is exhibiting these camels in a manner that violates 9 C.F.R. § 2.131(c)(1), which requires that “[d]uring 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.”

Powell appears to have further violated the AWA by failing to secure the camels in accordance with 9 C.F.R. § 3.135(a), putting them at risk of severe injury. Moreover, 9 C.F.R. § 2.131(a) and (b) require that persons who maintain wild and exotic animals “must demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of the species they maintain” and that “[h]andling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, ... behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.”

¹ See, e.g., news articles, [Camel tramples 2 people to death in Texas](#), January 11, 2015; [Man trampled, bitten by camel in Md. suffers severe head injuries](#), July 14, 2017; [6 children, 1 adult injured after camel gets loose at circus](#), September 16, 2018; see also USDA Inspection Report, Shirley Farms, License No. 63-C-0201, March 15, 2022 (critical citation for failure to secure a [camel who had trampled two men to death](#)).

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.)

Please immediately ensure that both camels are thoroughly examined for injuries they may have sustained during their escape. Please also ensure that these camels and any other animals exhibited by Powell at Cedar Point Amusement Park are provided with adequate veterinary care, as well as sufficient food, water, shelter, and that they are otherwise handled in accordance with the AWA. Please hold the licensee fully accountable for any and 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,

Meghan Tiemann

Meghan Tiemann
Captive Wildlife Specialist, Captive Animal Law Enforcement
[REDACTED]