

West Coast Game Park Safari

46914 U.S.-101, Bandon, OR 97411

West Coast Game Park Safari, owned and operated by Brian Tenney, has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited West Coast Game Park Safari for, among other things, failing to handle animals properly by excessively exposing neonatal cubs to the public and losing control of a 6-month-old tiger cub during a public interaction, failing to have enough adequately trained employees to maintain acceptable levels of husbandry care, failing to provide animals with water and adequate veterinary care, failing to provide a solitary chimpanzee named George with enrichment, failing to maintain enclosures in good repair, and failing to properly clean up animal waste throughout the facility. On June 1, 2023, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) found West Coast Game Safari Park in violation of the federal Big Cat Public Safety Act by knowingly allowing direct contact between the public and a juvenile male jaguar.

Contact PETA for documentation.

August 20, 2024: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to have a veterinarian who covered all species. The current attending veterinarian worked for only two days a week, did not see animals in emergent situations, and did not see or provide care for primates or birds. A citation was also issued for failing to contact the attending veterinarian regarding a capybara who was thin with visible ribs and hip bones.

The facility did not note the animal was thin and claimed the attending veterinarian was informed, but the veterinarian told inspectors that he had actually not been consulted.

Another citation was issued for failing to feed animals wholesome, palatable food. The only food available to a thin capybara were vegetables on a concrete pad, for which the animal had to compete with all the other capybaras. The facility was also thawing meat for big cats on a concrete slab adjacent to freezers, leaving it at risk of contamination. A citation was issued for failing to shear the matted coats of three sheep and a yak. Swarming flies were observed on a moist, soiled, and matted portion of the yak's chest.

West Coast Game Park Safari was also issued a citation for failing to have enough adequately trained employees. The inspector noted that based on the number of noncompliant items in the report, the facility didn't have enough employees to maintain acceptable levels of husbandry care. Another citation was issued for failing to have readily identifiable and knowledgeable attendants present throughout the facility, in which over 100 sheep, goats, and deer roam freely and have contact with the public. The inspector noted that there was no place in the park designated for the animals to go that guests couldn't enter.

A citation was issued for failing to update the environmental enrichment plan to include special considerations for a singly housed chimpanzee. In November 2023, Daphne, a female chimpanzee, died, causing George, a male chimpanzee, to be housed alone, and the facility failed to address enrichment for him at all. During the inspection, he was observed "facing the wall of his main enclosure or moving about the exhibit and looking at guests, but there was no vocalizing for attention or active

interaction with enrichment in the enclosure that is normal for the species.”

A citation was issued for failing to maintain primate enclosures in good repair. A lemur enclosure had many deck screws with sharp points, approximately 1 to 3.5 inches in length. Both baboon enclosures had sharp wire and screw points vertically exposed around 3 to 6 inches from suspended beams or from fallen perches. The wood was broken, rotting, and had jagged edges from the siding of the enclosed shelter. A citation was also issued for failing to keep a cutting table used for primate food preparation clean and sanitized. The table was worn down and no longer impervious to contamination and moisture so that it could no longer be cleaned and sanitized effectively. Another citation was issued for failing to maintain an adequate fly control program. Flies had accumulated on an overflowing trash container with no lids near the primate food preparation table.

A repeat citation was issued for failing to provide two lynxes with sufficient space to make normal postural and social movements. While one lynx was on exhibit, the other was locked in a shelter, a small area with a platform that wasn't large enough to allow adequate freedom of movement. Another citation was issued for failing to provide the two lynxes with ample and natural light cycles. The shelter for two lynxes didn't have a working light or windows. It was “very dark” while inspectors tried to observe the animal locked in the shelter.

A citation was issued for failing to have an environmental enrichment plan for birds at the facility, including special considerations for an emu who was housed with wallabies instead of other emus. Another citation was issued for failing to maintain bird enclosures in good repair. Wire mesh that was covering a water spigot in the waterfowl pond was

lifting up in several sections, creating sharp points and edges.

A citation was issued for housing a female lion in a separate enclosure located behind the owner's home that was outside the facility's perimeter fence. The inspector noted that having no perimeter fence around the enclosure left “the welfare of the lioness as well as other animals and public in the vicinity vulnerable to serious harm.”

A repeat citation was issued for failing to maintain the following enclosures in good repair:

- Support poles were inside the chain-link fence of an enclosure for a lion kept outside the perimeter. If she pushed on the chain link, she could detach the mesh from the poles, creating an opening to escape.
- The chain link dividing areas for a yak and holding pen for free-roaming ungulates was bent, with broken wire jutting into both pens. There were also two holes through which smaller animals could potentially enter.
- Fixed metal pipe and rebar were exposed in the middle of the enclosure for elk and waterbuck.
- The wooden shelter of a capybara had rotten wood and sharp points.
- Fence pipe along the base of the bobcat enclosure was rusted with jagged edges.

A citation was issued for failing to clean accumulations of animal waste throughout the facility. The inspector noted that there was “an amassing amount of [ungulate] fecal and urine waste on public walkways with significant malodor” and excessive flies in these areas. The area behind the nursery building had food waste overflowing in the trash and on the ground. The waste included bones from animal carcasses and piled on feces and hay. The area had a

strong noxious odor throughout, and flies were seen all over the waste.

A citation was issued for failing to have an effective program to control rodent populations. There was a large amount of rodent fecal pellets around the feed storage room, on furniture tops off the floor, large wooden planks, and empty feed bags had been haphazardly piled on the floor around the feed bins.

Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to clean clutter and trash from the premises. Back-holding pens for ungulates had empty plastic bags in the pens next to the food on the ground. There were also plastic containers on the ground as well as large piles of trash and debris from machinery, old vehicles, old wood, and more near the back fence of a large holding pen. A barn area used for storing metal containers of various feed was cluttered with old food bags, trash, and debris. There was also evidence of rodent droppings on the wooden crates adjacent to the food containers.

May 1, 2024: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to provide sufficient space to allow animals to make normal postural and social adjustments. Betty, a 2-year-old bear, had been moved into a den adjacent to the adult male bear two weeks before the inspection. She had only been out of the den, which was the size of a small car interior, once since mid-April. The den was barely wider than Betty was long, causing her to have to bend to turn around. She was only being allowed access to an outdoor enclosure while being supervised during this time. When the facility allowed her to go into the outdoor enclosure, she appeared nervous and was visible for less than one out of 15 minutes outside her den.

A citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Loose cyclone fencing was on the ground of the back enclosures housing sheep, goats, and llamas. The alley the animals move through between the public space and enclosures had damaged fencing and a plywood shed with holes and sharp points. A llama enclosure had multiple holes in the fencing and broken wooden fence panels. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to maintain the pond housing swans, ducks, and geese in good repair. The pond had multiple holes in the footing adjacent to the water where the wire had broken.

April 15, 2024: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a direct citation for failing to contact the attending veterinarian to obtain adequate veterinary care for animals. On October 14, 2023, a male tiger and a female tiger got into a fight during the early evening. Attendants were able to separate them for the rest of the night but did not contact the attending veterinarian and only visually inspected both tigers. They did not observe any open wounds or blood, and the male was said to have just been “sore.” The next morning, though, the 17-year-old male was found dead.

In addition, all the deer had dull, rough coats of hair on their backs. Approximately 20 of them had patchy hair loss along their bodies with a mottled appearance on their necks along with areas of complete hair loss around their eyes and on the top of their muzzles. Two of the deer appeared to be thin to extremely thin with over 75% hair loss. The attending veterinarian hadn't been consulted about this matter.

June 1, 2023: The FWS found that West Coast Game Safari Park had violated the Big Cat Public Safety Act by knowingly allowing direct contact between the public and a juvenile male jaguar on March 7, 2023. During an inspection on March 9,

2023, the facility claimed to USDA officials that public interaction with a juvenile jaguar had not occurred since December 25, 2022.

March 9, 2023: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a critical citation for allowing members of the public to interact with Lucifer, an approximately 9-month-old jaguar, and Betty, an approximately 10-month-old Syrian brown bear, on January 14, 2023. The facility tried to claim that the interactions hadn't occurred since June 21, 2022, but the inspector noted that "both animals would have still been too large and strong and over 7 & 8 months of age," that handling dangerous animals over the age of 16 weeks poses a risk of injury to the public, and that maintaining control is difficult even when these animals are leashed or distracted with a bottle.

June 4, 2022: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to maintain a bison enclosure in good repair. Boards had been used to patch a fence, and other areas had loose wire that needed to be repaired.

June 22, 2016: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a repeat citation for failing to contact the attending veterinarian before killing two bears with gunshot. On May 26, 2016, a car backfired in the parking lot, triggering a flock of peacocks to disperse, with some landing in the bear enclosures. Sugar, a 13-year-old black bear, became "agitated" as a result and began to charge the electric fence. The licensee asked one of his employees to shoot her. The employee shot Sugar and fired a second shot, which ricocheted, "mortally wounding" Spice, a 13-year-old black bear. An additional gunshot was fired at Spice to kill him.

A citation was issued for failing to have a sufficient barrier while publicly exhibiting Tiana, a 1.5-year-old tiger. The attendant

was exhibiting her by a leash attached to a choke chain, with the public behind only a 4-foot barrier. The inspector noted that the "age of this tiger, coupled with the strength of this animal renders it dangerous to the public while being restrained in this manner and with this type of barrier." A citation was issued for allowing public contact with young, immature animals. Ruckus, a 9-week-old bobcat, was displayed to the public every 90 minutes, or four times daily. In less than 10 minutes, 19 members of the public made contact with her. Many times, Ruckus was seen trying to jump away from them. Vaccination records also showed that she had received only one vaccine, during the week of the inspection, and there was no other history of vaccinations for her. The inspector noted that the "handling of this neonatal bobcat is excessive and [her] health is compromised as [her] immune system is not yet developed."

Honey, a 22-week-old black bear, was also observed interacting with the public while she was nursing on a bottle. Up to five people were trying to pet her at the same time. In 10 minutes, 38 members of the public interacted with her. A photo had also been taken of her while she was a neonate, showing four children petting, feeding, and handling her. The inspector noted that the number of interactions was "excessive," stressing her immune system, and that inexperienced members of the public feeding a neonatal bear created a high risk of causing her to aspirate.

Another citation was issued for allowing members of the public to interact with animals while they were exhibiting signs of lethargy. When a skunk and a ferret were placed on a barrier fence, they didn't move, didn't seem aware of their surroundings, and were nonresponsive to stimuli. They endured public interactions every 90 minutes, or four times a day. The inspector noted that this behavior was not normal and

that the animals were either exhausted from prolonged contact or their normal sleep cycle was being interfered with. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have responsible, knowledgeable, and readily identifiable attendants present at all times during public interactions. Many members of the public were observed feeding and petting goats, fallow deer, llamas, sheep, and reindeer without an attendant. Adults and children were picking up baby goats and sheep and chasing goats and deer. At times, mother animals were separated from their offspring.

October 15, 2015: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a repeat citation for failing to contact the attending veterinarian regarding health issues. A juvenile black bear had hair loss across the chest, the back of the ears, and around the eyes. A peccary had a red, inflamed area around the right eye that had some crusty excretion and an elongated hoof that needed to be trimmed. Another repeat citation was issued for failing to have trained personnel to conduct adequate daily assessments of animals.

September 22, 2015: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a direct citation for failing to contact the attending veterinarian regarding Ninja, a black leopard with an old tail injury that periodically became red, inflamed, and swollen because the cat licked and sucked on it. About 1 to 2 inches of the animal's tail was hairless, red, and swollen. The inspector noted that "there could possibly be a distal caudal vertebra dislocation as well." Another citation was issued for failing to contact the attending veterinarian regarding an alpaca with elongated incisor teeth, which were protruding from the lower jaw and growing upward toward the base of the leopard's nose.

January 28, 2014: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to provide animals with ample lighting. The off-exhibit enclosures housing a caracal, a bobcat, a red fox, and a tiger didn't follow natural outdoor light cycles and needed to be set according to a consistent schedule.

June 6, 2013: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a repeat citation for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The off-exhibit enclosures, housing animals used for presentations, still had loose, rusty wire across the front and doors.

November 8, 2012: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to provide a peccary with veterinary care. The animal had an overgrown hoof that was curving over the adjacent hoof. Another citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. Off-exhibit enclosures housing animals used in presentations had loose, rusty wire across the front and doors.

December 13, 2011: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to provide veterinary care to five capybaras who had dry skin and varying degrees of hair loss over 25% to 50% of their bodies. The skin condition hadn't been diagnosed.

A citation was issued for failing to provide potable water to animals at all times. The capybara water basin contained muddy water, and the bottom had an accumulation of scum and sludge that the inspector scooped up a handful of during the inspection. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to clean enclosures. The capybara shelter had an accumulation of feces that resulted in the animals not having a clean place to lie down.

November 20, 2007: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to clean the premises. The area around the food

freezers had an accumulation of buckets, wire racks, and general clutter. Off-exhibit dens for two leopards had cobwebs, and the platforms were dusty.

January 23, 2002: The USDA issued West Coast Game Park Safari a direct citation for failing to safely handle a 6-month-old tiger cub on a leash. During a public interaction with the animal, the attendant lost control of the tiger, which resulted in a goat being attacked and injured. Another direct citation was issued for failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees, as there were no other attendants present during the public interaction.

March 15, 1995: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to clean food storage areas. The freezer had accumulated drainage from meat, which had frozen on the bottom. The refrigerator also had spots of blood from old products that had been stored in it.

March 16, 1994: The USDA cited West Coast Game Park Safari for failing to have an up-to-date program of veterinary care, as the current plan had expired. Another citation was issued for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. The metal bottom of a porcupine enclosure had broken and only been repaired with a wire tie.