



## **PETA** Factsheet

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### **Birds & Animals Unlimited (Gary Gero)**

USDA License #93-C-0278, 2 McLaren, Ste. A., Irvine, CA 92618

**Birds & Animals Unlimited has demonstrated a chronic failure to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued four official warnings to Birds & Animals Unlimited for repeatedly failing to comply with veterinary care requirements, failing to provide animals with shelter from heat and sunlight, improper food storage, and failure to maintain enclosures to prevent escape. Birds & Animals Unlimited has also been cited by the USDA for failure to provide veterinary care, failure to provide environmental enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of primates, failure to provide shelter from the elements, failure to protect an orangutan from unauthorized access, failure to provide minimum space, failure to clean filthy and foul-smelling cages, and failure to properly maintain cages. A child actor filed a lawsuit against Birds & Animals for injuries sustained when he was bitten in the face by a chimpanzee. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**August 21, 2008:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide veterinary care to a dog whose fur was heavily matted, failure to ensure adequate protection from heat for rabbits who were housed outdoors, failure to maintain dog and cat enclosures that contained items that could not be sanitized and/or that could present a risk of injury to the animals, failure to provide a cat enclosure that could be properly sanitized, failure to provide a proper diet to squirrels, and failure to maintain acquisition records.

**July 15, 2008:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide a written program of veterinary care, failure to provide a documented plan of environmental enhancement for nonhuman primates, failure to properly clean filthy monkey enclosures which had “a buildup of grime/scale on the chain link mesh and wire sides of the enclosures,” failure to ensure adequate protection from heat for rabbits who were housed outdoors, and failure to maintain dog exercise runs that had rust and peeling paint and that could not be properly sanitized. Birds & Animals was also cited for failure to submit a single itinerary for animals in travel status in the last year. The USDA inspector wrote, “Licensee has been repeatedly requested to supply such information on a regular basis ....”

**December 20, 2006:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to properly sanitize a primate enclosure, poor housekeeping, and failure to maintain a pig enclosure that had damaged and rotting wood.

**December 19, 2006:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide adequate shelter from cold weather to rabbits, failure to provide caged squirrels with adequate access to food, failure to maintain records of acquisition and disposition, and failure to have a written program of veterinary care signed by the licensee.

**May 9, 2006:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide a travel itinerary and access to the animals to an inspector in order to conduct an animal welfare inspection.

**September 8, 2005:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide adequate drainage in a primate cage.

**March 17, 2005:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to notify the agency of a change of operation.

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**November 12, 2004:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to notify the agency of a change of operation involving the closing of one of its sites.

**October 7, 2004:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide records of veterinary care, failure to maintain a dog enclosure that smelled of urine and contained heavily rusted surfaces, and failure to maintain a cage for an orangutan named Louie that could not be sanitized because of excessive rust.

**April 1, 2004:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a current program of veterinary care, failure to provide and document veterinary care, and failure to provide adequate shelter from the elements.

**July 21, 2003:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for improperly labeling drugs and failing to dispose of expired medications.

**January 16, 2003:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain enclosures to prevent injuries and escapes.

**January 15, 2003:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide veterinary care to pigs suffering from a skin condition, failure to provide shelter from the elements, failure to provide sanitary food receptacles, and failure to have an adequate environmental enrichment plan to promote the psychological well-being of primates.

**November 26, 2002:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for filthy cages.

**September 17, 2002:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide veterinary care, improper chemical storage, failure to maintain cages in good repair to prevent injury to animals, and failure to have a complete environmental enhancement plan to promote the psychological well-being of primates. The inspector wrote, "Orangutan Jethro can no longer be handled by trainers. His current enclosure does not allow ready access to provide adequate enrichment."

**February 14, 2002:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to dispose of expired medication.

**October 25, 2001:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to protect an orangutan from unauthorized access, failure to maintain cages in a sanitary manner, and unsafe housing facilities.

**August 8, 2001:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain cages in good repair and a sanitary manner.

**January 29, 2001:** The USDA issued Birds & Animals its fourth official warning for repeatedly failing to correct veterinary care violations that were identified as far back as March 19, 1998. The USDA documented numerous instances that Birds & Animals failed to have a program of veterinary care and insufficient visits by the veterinarian. The USDA's regional director wrote, "In addition to the flagrant failure to respond to repeated citations noted above, you have had other cited violations that have been repeated over time."

**January 3, 2001:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not having a current program of veterinary care. Citations were also given for improper drug storage, insufficient lighting, inadequate cleaning, and unsanitary conditions in the food-preparation area.

**September 20, 2000:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a current program of veterinary care and regular veterinary visits.

**March 13, 2000:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of ignoring repeated requests to furnish a list of animals used in the filming of *George of the Jungle* and failure to maintain cages. Birds & Animals was also cited for poor housekeeping, inadequate animal identification, and stagnant water and debris in the pig enclosure.

**December 22, 1999:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a current program of veterinary care and sufficient veterinary visits, failure to cage animals in a safe manner, and failure to provide adequate shelter.

**October 26, 1999:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to dispose of expired medication.

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**August 5, 1999:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a current program of veterinary care, failure to supply a list of animals used in the filming of *George of the Jungle*, improper chemical storage, failure to maintain cages in good repair and sanitary manner, failure to provide minimum space, feces-contaminated and foul-smelling cages, poor housekeeping, and inadequate pest control.

**February 2, 1999:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a complete veterinary care program, failure to have an exercise program, and inadequate cleaning in the holding and kitchen areas.

**October 15, 1998:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide shelter from cold weather, failure to comply with veterinary care requirements, and improper food storage.

**June 8, 1998:** According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Birds & Animals Unlimited was among the defendants named in a lawsuit brought after a chimpanzee bit a 12-year-old actor on the face, causing a scar, during the filming of *Jungle Book: Mowgli's Story*.

**March 19, 1998:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a current program of veterinary care.

**June 30, 1997:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of a poorly maintained outdoor pen that exposed animals to exhaust and excessive heat from a large air conditioning unit operating nearby and a filthy refrigerator that contained old food and stagnant liquids. Birds & Animals was also cited for inadequate cleaning of primate cages, unsanitary food preparation, failure to maintain enclosures and structures, and delaying the inspector's access to the facility for 30 minutes.

**January 11, 1996:** The USDA issued Birds & Animals its third official warning for repeatedly failing to comply with the Animal Welfare Act. The USDA documented numerous instances that Birds & Animals failed to provide animals with shelter from heat and sunlight.

**September 27, 1995:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not providing shade to dogs, cats, and pigs kept in a holding pen with heat-absorbing concrete flooring in a poorly ventilated area as temperatures soared into the upper 80s.

**January 20, 1994:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for poor housekeeping.

**January 5, 1994:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for insufficient lighting in an orangutan enclosure that was inadequate for both the animal and for conducting an inspection.

**August 12, 1993:** In a letter to Ann Terbush, permit division of the National Marine Fisheries Service, USDA Assistant Deputy Administrator Richard Crawford wrote, "At this time, we cannot recommend the issuance of the permit requested by Mr. Gero for two California sea lions to be housed at the designated facilities."

**July 27, 1993:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide a program of veterinary care and failure to maintain enclosures in good repair. The inspector also noted that facilities lacked adequate space and sanitation features to suitably house the pinnipeds it was planning to acquire.

**July 21, 1993:** The USDA issued Birds & Animals its second official warning for repeatedly failing to notify the USDA of additional animal-holding facilities, failure to have a program of veterinary care, failure to maintain records of acquisition, failure to provide adequate shelter, improper food storage, and failure to maintain enclosures to prevent escape.

**July 16, 1993:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failing to notify the USDA of additional animal-holding facilities.

**June 2, 1993:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failing to notify the USDA of additional animal-holding facilities. The USDA also cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide shelter from the elements, inadequate perimeter fencing, insufficient lighting, and poor housekeeping. The inspector wrote, "These enclosures are dark. It is difficult to properly inspect these enclosures and view the animals."

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**May 7, 1993:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for improper drug storage, failure to provide shelter from inclement weather, and failure to maintain cages in good repair.

**April 26, 1993:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failure to maintain secure enclosures. The USDA also cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide access to property and records to a USDA official in order to conduct an animal welfare inspection.

**January 21, 1993:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not maintaining health records, a program of veterinary care, and veterinary site visits; failure to provide shelter from the elements; improper food storage; failure to maintain secure enclosures; and failure to maintain records of acquisition. Birds & Animals was also cited for poorly maintained cages that had flaking, peeling rust and failure to notify the USDA of additional animal-holding facilities.

**December 28, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not maintaining health records, a program of veterinary care, and veterinary site visits; improper food storage; failure to have adequate-sized dens; and failure to maintain secure enclosures to prevent escape. The USDA also cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain enclosures.

**December 10, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not disposing of expired medication. The USDA also cited Birds & Animals for improper food and bedding storage, insufficient lighting, failure to maintain enclosures, failure to notify the USDA of additional animal-holding locations, and failure to provide adequate shelter.

**September 10, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not providing minimum space. The USDA also cited Birds & Animals for inadequate drainage, failure to maintain enclosures, and inhumane caging. The inspector wrote, "Lower [orangutan] enclosure containing 'Sunshine' could not be inspected safely due to animal's age, size, and disposition. Emergency access to area is not possible unless specific trainers are present."

**June 2, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain enclosures in good repair, failure to provide minimum space, and failure to maintain records of acquisition.

**May 27, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to provide shelter from inclement weather, failure to maintain enclosures in a sanitary manner, failure to maintain cages in good repair, improper bedding storage, failure to have a veterinarian-approved exercise plan, inadequate pest control, failure to separate dogs who were fighting, inadequate record keeping, and failure to dispose of expired medication.

**May 12, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not disposing of expired medication. The USDA also cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain cages and failure to provide adequate environmental enhancement to a spider monkey named Zoey, who was kept in solitary confinement.

**March 31, 1992:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain cages, unsanitary food storage, failure to adequately separate incompatible species, improper drug storage, and failure to provide timely access to a USDA inspector conducting an unannounced inspection. The inspector noted that Birds & Animals was unable to produce an environmental enhancement program and that the facility may not be providing adequate enrichment to an orangutan.

**January 22, 1992:** The USDA issued Birds & Animals an official warning for repeatedly failing to comply with animal-identification requirements.

**December 11, 1991:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for unsanitary food storage, failure to have an exercise plan, inadequate record-keeping and failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not complying with animal-identification requirements.

**November 1, 1991:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for improper food storage, poor drainage, insufficient lighting, failure to maintain cages, dirty cages, failure to dispose of expired medication, failure to have an exercise plan and environment enrichment program, and failure to provide veterinary care records.

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**September 12, 1991:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to maintain cages, dirty orangutan cages, inadequate pest control, and failure to have an exercise plan and environment enrichment program.

**April 9, 1991:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a program of veterinary care and failure to comply with identification requirements.

**March 22, 1991:** The USDA cited Birds & Animals for failure to have a program of veterinary care, improper food storage, failure to provide shelter from cold weather, unsanitary drinking water receptacles, failure to maintain the cages in a sanitary manner, failure to comply with identification requirements, poor housekeeping, and failure to provide timely access to inspectors conducting an unannounced inspection.