Woody's Menagerie

Mulberry Grove, Illinois



This bear had no bedding or shelter in 19-degree temperatures with 30 mph snowy wind gusts.



This emaciated cougar with a protruding spine and hipbones was living in a small transport cage and intentionally kept thin for breeding.



This 4-month-old lion cub with bowed front legs showed signs of a possible nutritional deficiency.

Woody's Menagerie, operated by Gregg Woody, has accumulated numerous serious and repeat federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations. In 2010, a worker was bitten by a bear at Woody's facility.

In 2015 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) filed a complaint against Woody (AWA Docket No. 15-0147, 0148, 0149) for serious and repeat AWA violations that included failure to provide veterinary care to injured, sick, and dying animals, the death of two tigers from heat stress, failure to provide minimum space to bears and big cats, failure to provide animals with adequate shelter during bitterly cold winter conditions, and filthy enclosures.

In a 2016 settlement agreement, the USDA fined Woody \$8,000, suspended his license for 90 days, and imposed a one-year probation. Since the settlement, Woody has been cited for mis-handling a distressed 65-pound bear cub at an Iowa fair, failure to provide minimum space to a 5-month old tiger, filthy cages, exhibiting and dealing animals while having a suspended license, refusing an inspection, and harassing inspectors.

From April 2006 through July 2018, Woody acquired at least 80 bears, 28 African lions, 27 tiger-lion hybrids, 21 tigers, 7 cougars, and 1 leopard from various exhibitors—the vast majority coming from an Oklahoma exhibitor that uses bear and big cat cubs for public contact and then disposes of the older animals. Woody has sent bears and African lions to slaughter, presumably for their meat.

The following from USDA inspection reports* summarizes Woody's more serious AWA violations.

Veterinary Care

The USDA cited Woody for failure to provide veterinary care to:

- A female cougar who was "quite thin" and was kept in a transport cage.
- A 12-year-old female tiger covered with ¼ to ½-inch black hairless spots.
- A female bear with two injured paws, including a 4-inch gash that appeared to be swollen, infected, and foulsmelling.
- A 16-month-old male lion who had been showing signs of neurological impairment for five months. The cub had a tilted head, stumbled walk, was swaying and tipping over while sitting, and was "star gazing".



factsheet





A bear and a liger (tiger-lion hybrid) were kept in undersized travel cages—where they were unable to stand upright—at Woody's home site for months.



A 16-month-old lion who was uncoordinated, quivering, unsteady when walking, and swaying when sitting or standing had not been seen by a veterinarian since the symptoms began 4-5 months earlier.

- A 9-month-old female bear who could only crawl because her rear legs buckled when she tried to walk.
- Two 4-month-old lion cubs kept in a travel trailer and suffering from ringworm with numerous skin lesions over their face, ears, legs, and body.
- A young female lion with weakness in her rear legs and hip area and who walked with her front paws in a "flopping" motion.
- A 4-month-old lion cub with bowed front legs who appeared to be showing signs of a nutritional deficiency and a 9-month-old lion cub who was fed a nutritionallydeficient diet.
- A young adult female liger and a young female serval who both died.
- A spotted pig with an injured leg.

Inhumane Handling and Housing

The USDA cited Woody for:

- Mishandling two 12-year-old tigers who died of heat stress.
- Causing behavioral stress to a 65-pound bear cub who was distressed and struggling while restrained with a collar and biting at the leash and the handler during a show at a fair.
- Failure to provide minimum space to a bear and a big cat kept in undersized travel cages for 2½ months and an adult tiger who was kept in a 6-foot high cage that prevented her from being able to stand upright.
- Failure to provide minimum space to a wolf, a lynx, two 8-week-old mountain lion cubs, and a 7-month-old bear who were left caged in a trailer with no opportunity to exercise while Woody exhibited other animals at the Illinois State Fair (the inspection took place on the eighth day of an 11-day fair).
- Failure to provide minimum space to a 5-month-old tiger who could not stand upright in a 4-foot by 8-foot cage.
- Failure to provide adequate shelter to an adult lion and young bear who had no bedding or shelter available during 19-degree temperatures with 30 m.p.h. wind gusts and snowy conditions and to a deer kept in an open barn who was shivering.
- Filthy, cluttered, and unsanitary conditions, such as cages with a large amount of fly dirt and feces, a filthy refrigerator, and spoiled fruit left in a bear cage.

Safety Concerns

The USDA cited Woody for:

 Insufficient safety barriers while bringing a leashed 8month-old, 120-pound juvenile lion on stage for public exhibition.



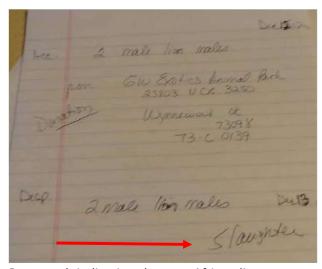
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A filthy bear cage contained rotting food with hundreds of flies.



A bear who was only able to crawl had not been seen by a veterinarian.



Paperwork indicating that two African lions acquired by Woody were slaughtered.

- Unsafe handling of a 6- to 7-month-old liger (tiger-lion hybrid) who was too big and strong to be restrained with only a dog harness and leash during public exhibition.
- Failure to adequately train and supervise a helper who
 was bitten on the side of the breast by a bear. As she
 walked past the enclosure, the bear reached her head
 through a feeding slot and bit the woman, who was
 treated at a hospital.
- Insufficient safety barrier to prevent the public, especially children, from potentially accessing a camel in the camel ride area at a county fair.
- Repeated failure to maintain perimeter fencing.

Additional Problems

The USDA cited Woody for:

- A critical violation of harassing USDA officials. The
 inspector wrote, "Mr. Woody became increasingly upset,
 combative and verbally abusive towards us. His face
 reddened and he was yelling. ... [He angrily] whipped [a
 pen] across the kitchen where it hit the wall. ... For
 safety's sake, we both knew we needed to leave as
 quickly as possible."
- Exhibiting animals at a stock show during his license suspension and refusing an inspection.
- Acquiring, disposing of, and transporting animals during his license suspension.
- Failure to maintain records of acquisition and disposition for multiple lions and bears who Woody sent to slaughter.
- Failure to divulge the presence of a bear located in a trailer across the road from Woody's property.
- Repeated failure to repair cages.
- Failure to provide sufficient lighting and adequate access to animals, including tigers and hyenas, who were kept in a barn that was so dark that the inspectors had to use a flash from their cameras in order to briefly see the animals.
- · Inadequate pest control.
- Failure to be available for the USDA to conduct animal welfare inspections on ten attempted inspections.

* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Gregg Woody, 33-C-0218, August 9, 2005, August 15, 2005, June 4, 2007, July 8, 2008, November 5, 2008, August 17, 2010, February 8, 2011, March 21, 2011, May 16, 2011, June 22, 2011, July 5, 2011, August 24, 2011, November 3, 2011, January 12, 2012, July 20, 2012, September 13, 2012, September 21, 2012, October 4, 2012, January 31, 2013, July 3, 2013, September 17, 2013, June 18, 2015, February 16, 2016, April 21, 2016, April 28, 2016, May 16, 2016, August 18, 2016, February 8, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 27, 2017, June 29, 2017, August 17, 2017, December 10, 2018.