

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE		REPORT#: 2016202712R040
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT		APPROVED
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<i>CASE TITLE</i> GW EXOTICS	<i>REPORT DATE</i> 09/28/2018	<i>CASE NUMBER</i> 2016202712
	<i>REPORTING OFFICER</i> Matthew Rogers - SA0733	<i>CASE STATUS</i> LEAD CLOSED
	<i>APPROVED BY</i> John Brooks, SA0591 - 10/25/2018 Michael Merida, SA0573 - 10/19/2018 Matthew Rogers, SA0733 - 09/28/2018	
<u><i>SUBJECTS OF REPORT</i></u> JOE SCHREIBVOGAL - THE GAROLD WAYNE INTERACTIVE ZOOLOGICAL PARK		

SYNOPSIS

This report documents an interview of Robert ENGESSER and his wife, Pat Engesser, on 09/13/2018 in Canton, Illinois, by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Merida and Special Agent Matthew Rogers.

*DISTRIBUTION**Internal List*

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Title: GW EXOTICS

INV:2016202712

Report: 040

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Interview of Robert ENGESSER

On 09/13/2018, at approximately 9:55 a.m., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Rogers and Resident Agent-in-Charge (RAC) Michael Merida interviewed Robert ENGESSER at the Canton, Illinois, fairgrounds. The non-custodial interview took place inside ENGESSER's camper, next to the circus tent that contained his animals on display. ENGESSER's wife, Pat, was present during the interview. The interview was audio-recorded (see audio files WS600271.mp3 and WS600272. mp3).

ENGESSER made the following statements during the interview:

- ENGESSER has known Joe MALDONADO for approximately 7 years.
- ENGESSER stated that, on display in Canton, Illinois, was a white Bengal tiger, a Siberian lynx, and a 4½ month old lion, all born at ENGESSER's place in Florida. ENGESSER later recanted and stated he purchased the 4½ month old lion from MALDONADO for \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00. SA Rogers photographed the false documents and the lion cub (Attachment 1, Images of paperwork and lion).
- Pat Engesser retrieved documents for the animals which are currently with Engesser's traveling zoo. Pat Engesser said, while looking at the documents, that she had "Bruiser," who is a tiger cub born in Florida, "Nala," who is a lion cub born in Florida, and "Thumper," who is a tiger born in Florida.
- RAC Merida asked ENGESSER if ENGESSER had any animals, received from MALDONADO, that were recorded as born at ENGESSER's home in Florida. ENGESSER stated, "No," and "I don't think so." ENGESSER later recanted, stating "Nala" was purchased from MALDONADO and recorded as born on ENGESSER's property in Florida.
- Pat Engesser stated all the paperwork for the cubs received from MALDONADO is at ENGESSER's property in Florida.
- ENGESSER stated he has received and purchased animals from MALDONADO in the past. RAC Merida asked ENGESSER about a purchase that took place in November 2017. Pat Engesser stated they would not have bought a cub in November because they only travel until the first week of December.

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- ENGESSER stated they had a lion cub, in November 2017, that was born from his lions “Kiera” and “Samson.” ENGESSER stated there was a litter of three lion cubs from “Kiera.” Two of the lion cubs died quickly after birth, and the third cub was later put down for neurological disorders.
- ENGESSER paid MALDONADO in cash and through money transfers, via Walmart.
- ENGESSER stated that, if he bought anything from MALDONADO in November 2017, it had to be a tiger cub. ENGESSER reiterated the lion he had on the road with him in November 2017 was born from “Kiera.”
- Pat Engesser and ENGESSER stated they never received a liliger from MALDONADO. ENGESSER stated the liligers are too hard to place once they are done traveling with the zoo.
- Once ENGESSER admitted the 4½ month old lion cub was purchased from MALDONADO, he stated he paid MALDONADO a \$2,000.00 cash deposit and a \$2,000.00 money transfer through Walmart.
- ENGESSER stated he visited MALDONADO’s place last year and this year. ENGESSER could not recall the date he visited MALDONADO last year.
- ENGESSER stated he purchased big cats from MALDONADO and created paperwork to make it look like the 4½ month old lion and a tiger were born at his place. ENGESSER purchased cats from MALDONADO at least 6 or 7 times in the past. RAC Merida showed ENGESSER the following chart:

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CVI #	Date	From	To	Form	#	Type	Notes	Remarks
1994055	12/23/2014	GW Zoo	Robert Engesser 58C0259	ODAFF Vet Inspection	2	Tiger	2 F Cubs 2wks	Sale
2039500	10/26/2015	GW Zoo	Robert Engesser 58C0259	ODAFF Vet Inspection	1	Tiger	1M orange 3wks	Exhibition/Sale
2039483	1/19/2016	GW Zoo	Robert Engesser 58C0259	ODAFF Vet Inspection	1	Tiger	1 F Tiger 1wk	Sale
2130044	3/18/2017	GW Zoo	Robert Engesser 58C0259	ODAFF Vet Inspection	1	Tiger	4wks-orange	Donate
2146351	5/9/2017	GW Zoo	Robert Engesser 58C0259	ODAFF Vet Inspection	1	Tiger	5wks 'hybrid'	Exhibition
2161641	10/9/2017	GW Zoo	Robert Engesser 58C0259	ODAFF Vet Inspection	1	Tiger	Orange M 7wks	SALE
	1/23/2018	Beth Corley 73C0167	Robert Engesser 58c0295	Delivery Receipt	1	Tiger	F 4wks	Donation
2191859	1/23/2018	GW Exotics	Robert Engesser 58c0295	ODAFF Vet Inspection	1	Tiger	F 4wks	Sale

- ENGESSER stated he believed all the cats listed above would have been purchases. There might be two more purchases.
- ENGESSER stated there would be USDA transfer paperwork for all the animals, regardless of whether it was a sale or donation. ENGESSER stated the paperwork for the sale of the 4½ month old lion cub would show the cub was born at ENGESSER's property in Florida.
- ENGESSER stated he picks up the big cat cubs from MALDONADO's place in Oklahoma. ENGESSER dealt with either MALDONADO or John Reinke. ENGESSER stated he took the animals to his veterinarian to obtain the health certificates needed for animals purchased from MALDONADO.
- ENGESSER stated the 01/23/2018 tiger, documented in the chart above, was a purchase from MALDONADO and documented as born at ENGESSER's property in Florida. The paperwork shows the tiger as a donation, but it was a sale. ENGESSER paid \$2,000.00 for the tiger cub. ENGESSER stated he paid \$2,000.00 for tigers from MALDONADO.

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- ENGESSER paid MALDONADO in cash because ENGESSER operates a cash business.
- ENGESSER stated he purchased cats from MALDONADO until the laws changed. After the laws changed, he purchased a couple of cats that were listed as donations.
- When asked about how ENGESSER and MALDONADO created false documents, ENGESSER replied he would purchase the cubs and, if they needed to be shown as born at ENGESSER's place, then record them as born at his place. The animals are tracked on the USDA inventory ENGESSER is responsible for maintaining.
- MALDONADO never stated anything to ENGESSER about wanting to kill Carol Baskin of Big Cat Rescue.
- Pat Engesser contacted "Greg," at ENGESSER's place in Florida, who did not locate any paperwork for a November 22, 2017, transaction of a lion cub with MALDONADO. ENGESSER stated Pat Engesser brought the lion cub, which had been on display in Odessa, Texas, from December 6 through December 10, 2017, from their home in Florida. ENGESSER stated he went from show to show in Texas.

SA Rogers and RAC Merida ended the contact at approximately 10:55 a.m., and departed the Canton, Illinois, fairgrounds.

Phone Call to Confirm ENGESSER's Telephone Number

On 09/13/2018, at approximately 2:00 p.m., RAC Merida attempted to contact ENGESSER via cell phone number 352-246-6942. ENGESSER did not answer the phone call, and RAC Merida did not leave a voice mail. At approximately 2:13 p.m. ENGESSER contacted RAC Merida, via cell phone, and advised he had missed a telephone call from the number. RAC Merida identified himself and informed ENGESSER he wanted to confirm 352-246-6942 was a good contact number for ENGESSER. ENGESSER stated that was his cell phone number and he could be reached at that number. ENGESSER advised that, during the November 22, 2017, timeframe, he recalled being in Kokomo, Indiana, at Buttons Dodge. ENGESSER indicated he had work done on his vehicle on November 21 and 22, 2017.

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS

MALDONADO, Joseph Allen – see Report 002.

ENGESSER, Robert Luce – see Report 032.

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PRIOR VIOLATIONS

None to document as no new subjects have been identified at this time.

WITNESSES

Matthew Rogers, Special Agent
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
1230 Jungermann Road
St. Peters, Missouri 63376
Telephone: 636-922-9090

Michael Merida, Resident Agent-in-Charge
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1499 Bradfordton Road
Springfield, Illinois 62711
Telephone: 217-793-9554

Pat Engesser
P.O. Box 2060
Chiefland, Florida 32644
Second Address:
15491 NW 30th Avenue
Trenton, Florida 32693

LAWS VIOLATED

To be determined by the case agent.

EVIDENCE

Audio Recordings/Videos Recordings/Photographs Created by Law Enforcement

1. Two (2) audio recordings titled "WS600271.mp3" and "WS600272.mp3" created by SA Rogers, stored at the FWS Office of Law Enforcement, St. Peters, Missouri.
2. Eight (8) photographs titled "IMG_0363.jpg" through "IMG_0370.jpg" created by SA Rogers, stored at the FWS Office of Law Enforcement, St. Peters, Missouri.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of photographs taken by SA Rogers on 09/13/2018 (8 pages).

Date 6/28/18

Circle one: Sale Exchange Transfer Donation

Seller/Donor

Robert Engesser
15491 NW 30th Ave
Trenton FL 32693
USDA# 58-C-0295

Buyer/Receiver

Robert Engesser
215 Monroe St
Martinsburg WV 25404
USDA#

State permit #
if needed

State Permit #

Identification of animals being delivered

No. of Animals	Individual ID	Species	Sex	Age	Remarks
<u>1</u>		<u>At. Lion</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>7wks</u>	

Delivered by PATRICIA Engesser - owner/manager

Delivery Receipt (completed by buyer or receiver)

By (Signature) Robert Engesser Title Manager Date 6/28/18

Notes: Transferred from farm to road show



Attachment: 1

Page: 2 of 8



Attachment: 1
Page: 3 of 8



Attachment: 1
Page: 4 of 8

Date: 1-23-18

BUY/SELLER: BETH COLEBY
25803 N. OL 3250
WILMINGTON OK 73198

BUYER/RECIEVER ROBERT ENGROSSER
15491 NW 30th AVE
TRENTON FL 32693

USDA# 73-C-0139

USDA# 58-C-0295

IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS BEING DELIVERED

No. of Animals	Individual Identifiers	Species	Sex	Age	Remarks
1	Thumper	TIGER	F	6 WEEKS	

Delivery Receipt-To Be Completed By Buyer Or Receiver

By (Signature) Robert Engrosser Title 1/26/18 Date 1/26/18
Owner

Transporter RSE Vehicle Chery Tag 202 40 Buyer/Seller Beth Engrosser
Donation
Donation

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & FORESTRY
CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION
 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 • (405) 522-6141 • Fax (405) 522-0756

Permit Number: 5800295
 State: FL Zip: 32693

Name of Consignor/Owner: GW Zoo Premise ID #: 730139 Name of Consignee: Robert Engressor
 Complete Physical Address: 25803 NW 32nd Way Greenwood State: OK Zip: 73098 Complete Physical Address: 15491 NW 35th Ave Trenton
 Origin Address (if different from above): 405-645-5197 Destination Address (if different from above): 352-463-7292

NUMBER IN SHIPMENT: 1 Area Status: TB Free Accredited # _____
 Mexican Cattle Horse Dog/Cat TB MAA Certified # _____
 Beef Cattle Swine Poultry BR Free VQ # _____
 Dairy Cattle Sheep/Goat Other: Tiger BR.A Other: _____
 Other: _____ Herd Test Dates: _____

Purpose of Movement (check all that apply): INTERSTATE INTRASTATE
 Breeding Feeding Grazing Slaughter Sale Exhibition Other _____

OFFICIAL/USDA EARTAG NUMBER OR OTHER OFFICIAL ID	BREED	SEX	AGE	VACCINATION For: _____ Date: _____	Negative Test Date	Accession #	Date of Negative Results (72 hrs)	Negative Test Date	Negative Test Date	Negative Test Date	Other Test
											Lab
<u>1. Orange Tiger</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>3 weeks</u>								Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab
											Lab

This tiger cub appears healthy and ready for transport.

VETERINARY CERTIFICATION: I certify, as an accredited veterinarian, the above described animals have been inspected by me on (date) 01-23-18 and they were not showing signs of infectious, contagious, and/or communicable disease (except where noted). The vaccinations and results of test are as indicated on this certificate. To the best of my knowledge, the animals listed on this certificate meet the state of destination and federal interstate requirements. No warranty is made or implied.

USDA Accreditation # 038349
 ISSUE DATE 012318

Owner/Agent Statement: The animals in this shipment are those certified to and listed on this certificate.

APPROVED BY STATE OR FEDERAL OFFICIAL: 219.859

Signature: J. Green DVM Certifying Veterinarian (Signature)
 Certifying Veterinarian (Print or Type): J. Green
 Phone: 405-645-9149

Owner/Agent Signature: _____

ORIGINAL - RETURN TO ODAFF within 7 days of completion PINK - ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT GOLD - VETERINARIAN

This certificate is valid for 30 days

Attachment: 1
Page: 6 of 8

SAFARI-463-0500

PHONE NO. : 352 463 0500

Jan. 15 2018 04:14PM P2

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE APPLICATION AND PERMIT

Issued Under Authority of the Wildlife Code of the State of Florida
(Chapter 68A, Florida Administrative Code)

by the
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 498-6253

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE (NO PENCIL):

SENDER and/or TRANSPORTER:

NAME: Beth Corley

BUSINESS NAME: G.W Zoo

ADDRESS: 25803 N. County Rd 3250

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Wynnewood, OK 23098

TELEPHONE: 405-665-1003

RECIPIENT: and transporter

NAME: Robert L. Engesser

License ID: 401-129586

BUSINESS NAME: Engesser's Exotics LC aka Jungle Safari

ADDRESS: 15491 NW 30th Ave

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Trenton, FL 32693

TELEPHONE: Ofc: 352-463-7292 cell: 352-246-6942

We/I wish to apply for a permit to transport import (circle one)

1 tiger cub

(List type(s) and number(s) of wildlife)

for educational commercial non-commercial/rehabilitation (circle one) purposes, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Robert L. Engesser
Signature

1/16/2018
Date

DO NOT WRITE BELOW LINE, FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY.

NOT VALID WITHOUT FWC STAMP



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approved By: AL

Date: 1/18/18

Permit Effective Date: 1/18/18

Expires: 3/4/18

Denied By: _____

Date: _____

Reason: _____

Received
Investigations Section

JAN 16 2018

Section Leader Office
By: _____

Revised 10/7/05

Attachment: 1

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Date 4/8/18

Circle one: Sale Exchange Transfer Donation

Seller/Donor

Robert Engesser
15491 NW 30th Ave
Trenton FL 32693
USDA# 58-C-0295

Buyer/Receiver

Pat Engesser
15491 NW 30th Ave
Trenton FL 32693
USDA# 58-C-0295

State permit # App/ID 15987
If needed Lic ID 401-129566

State Permit # 15987
401-129566

Identification of animals being delivered

No. of Animals	Individual ID	Species	Sex	Age	Remarks
1		Thumper tiger	F	3 1/2 mo	
<u>TRANSFERRED from Road to farm</u>					

Delivery Receipt (completed by buyer or receiver)

By (Signature) Pat Engesser Title owner Date 4/8/18

Notes: