



Inspection Report

Michael Robison
203 Donelson Hills Drive
Nashville, TN 37214

Customer ID: **6015052**
Certificate: **63-C-0305**
Site: 001
Michael Robison

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 09-JAN-2024

2.40(a)(2) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The facility did not assure that the attending veterinarian (AV) had appropriate authority regarding the decision to remove the incisor and canine teeth of a male vervet named "Mojo" in September/October (date unknown) 2023. The licensee did not have any documentation/records regarding the procedure. The licensee states that Mojo was tearing off chunks of the material making up the wall of the indoor portion of the sheltered housing for the two vervet monkeys in which they were housed last fall. He stated that he became concerned when he found that Mojo was ingesting some of the material (found undigested material in Mojo's stool). The licensee stated he contacted three or four vets and decided to have the teeth extracted. When asked if one of those veterinarians was his AV he stated no and that his AV was out of the country. A conversation with the AV listed on the written Program of Veterinary Care confirmed that he had not spoken with the licensee nor performed the teeth extraction, was not out of the country in fall 2023 and that he would not have recommended or performed the teeth extraction for this situation. The Animal Welfare Act requires that every facility have an AV who shall provide adequate veterinary care and that each exhibitor shall assure that the AV has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use including such topics as housing, husbandry and handling. If the facility does not consult with or give the appropriate authority to the AV the health and well-being of the animals may be affected. The exhibitor shall assure that the facility employs an AV under formal arrangements and assures that the AV has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use. Correct by 1/12/24.

2.40(b)(2)

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The facility is not maintaining an adequate program of veterinary care. In September/October 2023 (date unknown) the facility had all the incisor and canine teeth of a male vervet named "Mojo" extracted. The inspector was able to visualize that the incisors and canines were missing in glimpses as Mojo moved around his enclosure. The extraction sites appeared healed with moist pink gums. The licensee did not have any documentation/records regarding the procedure. The licensee states that Mojo was tearing off chunks of the material making up the wall of the indoor portion of the sheltered housing for the two vervet monkeys in which they were housed last fall. He stated that he became concerned when he found that Mojo was ingesting some of the material (found undigested material in Mojo's stool). The licensee stated he contacted three or four vets and decided to have the teeth extracted. The licensee stated that his AV was

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unavailable, and he thought the procedure needed to be done quickly so he used another vet. The inspector contacted this veterinarian but this vet states that he did not remove the teeth of this licensee's monkey and checked his computer for any patient named Mojo and only found one dog named Mojo. He further stated that he would not have removed the teeth as the licensee is licensed with the USDA and he was aware of both the USDA's and AVMA's policy on the practice. The licensee was asked to provide records regarding the procedure for the inspector to review but none were provided. Based on the lack of records and inability to consult with the veterinarian performing the procedure, the inspector was unable to assure that appropriate methods were used to diagnose a condition related to the ingestion of inappropriate objects or to control/treat the condition. Removal of the canine teeth in non-human primates is not considered to be appropriate veterinary care unless prescribed by the AV for treatment of medical problems of the teeth. Removal of teeth solely for handling or husbandry purposes is not acceptable since the extractions can lead to pain and discomfort to the monkey and may result in chronic health problems. During this inspection the vervet monkeys including Mojo were housed in an indoor enclosure made of metal and away from any solid surface/destructible walls. Moving the vervets to this type of enclosure when the condition/problem was first noted could have been considered as a potential solution for the condition/problem described by the licensee as this enclosure meets Animal Welfare Act requirements and does not allow Mojo access to any wall material that may be destroyed and ingested. Appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose and treat diseases and injuries must be used to maintain a program of adequate veterinary care and provide for the health and well-being of the monkeys at the facility. Correct by 1/12/24.

2.131(a)

Handling of animals.

The licensee made a decision to remove the incisor and canine teeth of a male vervet named "Mojo" in Sept./Oct. 2023 without considering other husbandry, enrichment or training options. The licensee states that Mojo was tearing off chunks of the material making up the wall of the indoor portion of the sheltered housing for the vervet monkeys in which they were housed last fall. He stated that he became concerned when he found that Mojo was ingesting some of the material (saw undigested material in Mojo's stool). The licensee did not have any documentation/records regarding the behavioral abnormality and any husbandry or behavioral changes made to attempt to correct this issue or any veterinary/animal behavior consultations sought. Abnormal behaviors have many potential causes including inadequacies in the animal's current environment/enrichment, lingering past problems prior to facility obtaining the monkey and even illnesses/injuries/nutritional deficiencies. Licensees with monkeys must have the knowledge and experience to be able to understand and provide the special care and attention to meet the psychological needs of monkeys that have behavioral issues and seek professional guidance when needed. During this inspection two vervet monkeys including Mojo were housed in an indoor enclosure made of metal and away from any solid surface/destructible walls. Moving the vervets to this type of enclosure when the condition/problem was first noted could have been considered as a potential solution for the condition/problem described by the licensee while other options/treatments were pursued as this enclosure meets Animal Welfare Act requirements and does not allow Mojo access to any wall material that may be destroyed and ingested. Adequate experience and knowledge are needed to be able to adequately care for and support the needs of monkeys and especially those with special needs/conditions. The licensee must demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of the species of wild or exotic animals that they maintain. Correct by 2/1/24.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6015052	63-C-0305	001	Michael Robison	09-JAN-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000004	<i>Ateles belzebuth</i>	LONG-HAIRED SPIDER MONKEY
000002	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	VERVET
000001	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	COMMON MARMOSET
000007	Total	