

November 5, 2021

Investigation Report: Babby Farms- Animal Care Complaint

Babby Farms
5900 El Paso Rd
Caldwell, ID 83607

Investigators: Nicole Walrath (DVM) and Tricia Hebdon of Idaho Fish and Game; Deb Lawrence (VMO) and Christie Hammons (VMO) of Idaho State Department of Agriculture; 2 Gem County Sheriff Deputies were also present

On November 5th, at 9 am, investigators arrived at Babby Farms to inspect animal care complaints. The entrance to the facility is restricted access via gates with employees having remote control access. Facility consists of 3 main buildings on site with animals, and multiple outdoor pens and enclosures. Minimal debris noted with equipment well maintained and pest management in place.

Animal enclosures were assessed for cleanliness, adequacy and safety. Enclosures were fit to contain each respective animal, mainly consisting of chain-link panels. Appropriate food and clean water were noted in all enclosures evaluated. Satisfactory shade and bedding materials were provided along with noted enrichment pieces in each enclosure. Limited odor and fecal matter were present throughout. Staff were actively feeding and cleaning throughout the inspection.

Animals were inspected for the following: behavior, lesions, lameness, and body conditions scoring. Observations occurred from outside enclosures for the safety of the animals and the inspectors. Lesions were noted when present. Lameness was assessed when animals were seen walking. Body condition was rated based on a 9-point body condition scoring (BCS) scale, ranking from 1 (emaciated) to 9 (obese).

Building 1 (slides 2- 5) had individually-housed animals in chain-link enclosures, which each had bedding, food, and water. Building 1 provides winter housing for some of the animals displayed in the outdoor enclosures less tolerant of low ambient temperature and also animals needing close observation or treatments. This building is also used for diet preparation with storage of well-preserved food and medications. Kitchen was clean and well organized. Written plans for meal preparation, treatments and enrichment were noted on the walls on clip boards and dry-erase boards. Animals under IDFG jurisdiction present in Building 1: a Binturong, a Prehensile-tailed Porcupine, a Small-clawed Asian Otter, and four African Spurred Tortoises.

Building 2 (slides 6-10) had individually-housed animals in climate controlled room, chain-link, aquarium, or lead free caged enclosures, which each had bedding, food, and water. The building has several education room separated from the animal enclosures. This building was additionally used for storage of feed and equipment. A shed in this building stored the majority of the food, which was built with multiple layers of insulation to prevent rodent invasion. Hay barn adjacent to this building was provided adequate storage of descent quality hay and straw provided to the animals. Animals under IDFG jurisdiction present in Building 2: an African Grey Parrot, a Rose-Breasted Cockatoo, a Severe Macaw, a Blue Crowned Conjure, five Brushed Tailed Bettongs, a flying squirrel, an iguana, two Geoffrey's Marmosets, two Russian Turtles, a Northern Tamandua, and two Two-toed Sloths.

The outdoor enclosures were primarily chain-link enclosures or paddocks, which each had bedding, food, and water containing the exotic mesopredators, avian, rodents, primates, hoof-stock and kangaroos. The primate indoor facility (slide 11) provided continual climate controlled indoor access to all primates. Some animals are no longer on display in the outdoor enclosures due to temperatures and have been moved to winter enclosure in Building 1. All cement flooring in this facility were power washed. Animals under IDFG jurisdiction present in current outdoor enclosures: a Black-capped Capuchin, two Spider Monkeys, two Binturong, two Bobcats, a Eurasian Eagle Owl, a North American Porcupine, eight Red Kangaroos, and three Small-clawed Asian Otters.

Animal and Enclosure Assessments:

African Spurred Tortoises: 4 (slide 13) - All four tortoises were housed in large, dispersed, indoor, chain-linked enclosure of Building 1 with basking areas. The enclosure provides sufficient size and space for the species. Appropriate diet and clean soaking water was provided. He had smooth carapace with no deficits. Animals were quiet and alert with an optimum (5/9) body condition. Animals are apparently healthy.

Black-capped Capuchin Monkey: 1 (slide 14) - "Minnie" was housed in a large outdoor run that had an access door leading to the indoor portion of the primate facility. She was quiet and alert with good, slightly overweight body condition (6/9) and a shiny, smooth coat condition. Animal is apparently healthy.

Black-Handed Spider Monkeys (slide 15) - "Mogli" was housed in a large outdoor run that had an access door leading to the indoor portion of the primate facility. Extremely interactive while being bright, alert and responsive and a shiny, smooth coat condition. His body condition is considered obese (8/9) but still maintains good mobility and natural behavior. Animal is apparently healthy.

Black-Handed Spider Monkeys (slide 16) - "Mario" was housed in a large outdoor run that had an access door leading to the indoor portion of the monkey facility. He was calm, active and alert with good, lean (4/9) body condition for a juvenile and a shiny, smooth coat condition. Animal is apparently healthy.

Binturong: 3 (slide 17) - "Bagheera" was housed in the Winter Quarters building with vertical space and arboreal bedding. Enclosure was clean and dry with fresh food and water. He was interactive while being bright, alert and responsive with good slightly overweight (6/9) body condition and a shiny, full coat condition. This binturong is a male and normally kept separate from the female binturongs housed outdoors. He was moved to winter quarters earlier than the females because he is alone and unable to share body heat if it gets cold. The females will be moved inside when the weather gets colder. "Buddha" and "Baloo" were housed outside in large clean, adjoining enclosures with a shallow water feature and shade clothes provided. Both had individual open arboreal bedding as well as enclosed ground nesting boxes with food bowls and fresh water. Both animals were quite, alert and responsive with good slightly overweight (6/9) body condition and a shiny, full coat condition. All three animals are apparently healthy.

Bobcat: 2 (slide 18) - Both animals were housed in separate, large, outdoor enclosure with an empty water feature, several enrichment pieces and shade provided. Both animals were provided high platforms as well as enclosed ground nesting boxes with food bowls and fresh water. "Babs" was extremely active with enrichment and bright, alert and responsive. She is in optimum body condition

(5/9) and a shiny, full coat condition. “Bob” has been declawed. He was quite, alert and content with a heavy body condition (7/9) and a shiny, full coat condition. Both animals are apparently healthy.

Brushed Tailed Bettongs: 5 (slide 19) - All 5 were housed in sufficiently sized indoor enclosures. Each male was in there own enclosure and the three females shared an enclosure. “Alice”, “Adelaide”, “Emma” were bright, alert and responsive with good, slightly overweight body conditions (6/9) and a shiny, smooth coat condition. “Darwin” and “Charles” were both quiet, alert and content with good, slightly overweight body conditions (6/9) and a shiny, smooth coat condition. Appropriate food and forage were provided along with enclosed nest boxes. All animals are apparently healthy.

Eurasian Eagle Owl: 1 (slide 20) - “Archie” was housed in an individual outdoor cyclone fenced enclosure with minimally sufficient size and vertical space for the species. Appropriate diet was provided along with variety of perches and some flight space. He had normal plumage and color and were alert and responsive. Animal is apparently healthy.

Flying Squirrel: 1 (slide 22; no image documented) – “Cheeks” was housed in a lead-free vertical standing cage indoors with several enrichment pieces and sufficient size and vertical space for the species. Appropriate diet was provided along with variety of hammocks/pouches to provide dim environment and bedding and several pieces of enrichment. “Cheeks” was not fully evaluated due to his location in the enclosure. Generally quiet and content with a shiny, smooth coat condition. Full assessment of behavior and body condition was not completed.

Geoffrey’s Marmosets: 2 (slide 21) - Both animals were housed in lead-free vertical standing cages indoors with several enrichment pieces and sufficient size and vertical space for the species. Appropriate diet was provided along with variety of hammocks/pouches to provide bedding and several pieces of enrichment. “Manny” was extremely interactive while being bright, alert. “Molly” was less interactive but still bright, alert and responsive. Both animals have optimum body condition (5/9) and a shiny, smooth coat condition. Both animals are apparently healthy.

Iguana: 1 (slide 22) - “Iggy” was housed in a vertical aquarium with basking platform and shallow water feature. This enclosure provides sufficient size and vertical space for the species. Appropriate diet and clean soaking water was provided. He had smooth new skin and normal color with no signs of inadequate sloughing and a complete tail. Animal was quiet and alert with a slightly overweight (6/9) body condition score. Animal is apparently healthy.

North American Porcupine: 1 (slide 23) - The animal was housed in an outdoor cyclone fenced enclosure with several enrichment pieces and shade provided. Appropriate food, forage and water were provided along with enclosed nest box. He was bright, alert and responsive with good, slightly overweight body conditions (6/9) and a shiny, full coat condition. Animal is apparently healthy.

Northern Tamandua: 1 (slide 24) - “Trinidad” was housed in an indoor chain-linked enclosure with vertical space and branches appropriate for the species. Appropriate food and water were provided along with enclosed nest box. He was bright, alert and responsive with optimum body conditions (5/9) and a shiny, full coat condition. Animal is apparently healthy.

Prehensile Tailed Porcupine: 1 (slide 25) - The animal was housed in an indoor chain-linked enclosure with vertical space and perch appropriate for the species. Appropriate food and water were provided

along with enclosed nest box. He was bright, alert and responsive with optimum body conditions (5/9) and a shiny, full coat condition. Animal is apparently healthy.

Psittacine birds: 4 (slide 26) - African Grey Parrot: 1 “Annabelle”, Rose-Breasted Cockatoo: 1 “Rosie”, Severe Macaw: 1 “Andre”, and Blue Crowned Conjure: 1 “Azule” were all housed in individual, lead-free vertical standing cage indoors with several enrichment pieces and sufficient size and vertical space for the species. Appropriate diets were provided along with variety of perches and occasional flight space. All birds had normal plumage and color and were alert and responsive. All four animals are apparently healthy.

Red Kangaroos: 8 (slide 27) - one adult male, three adult females and a joey occupied the west paddock and three females occupied the east paddock. Both paddocks constructed of wood post and beam with metal paneling and gates. Appropriate food and clean water along with covered and enclosed barns with straw bedding was provided. All of the kangaroos were extremely interactive while being bright, alert. The intact male was presenting with dominance behavior including posturing and sent marking visible due to coloration of glandular secretions on neck and chest. Joey present in pouch of one of the females in the same west paddock. A female in the east paddock presented with mild stereotypic behavior however this female was partially blind and managing well. All animals are in optimum to heavy body conditions (5-7/9) with shiny, smooth coat condition. All animals are apparently healthy.

Russian Turtles: 2 (slide 28) - “Fast” and “Furious” was housed in individual, indoor, shallow plastic enclosures with basking areas. The enclosures provides sufficient size and space for the species. Appropriate diet and clean soaking water was provided. He had smooth carapace with no deficits. Animals were quiet and alert with an optimum (5/9) body condition. Animals are apparently healthy.

Small-clawed Asian Otters: 4 (slide 29) - “Yang” was housed in a chain-linked enclosure indoors. Enclosure was clean and dry with fresh food and water. He was interactive while being quiet, alert and responsive with good slightly overweight (6/9) body condition and a shiny, full coat condition. This otter was isolated from three young otters in the indoor/outdoor exhibit due to fighting. It was quite timid and hid under his wooden bed until the keeper brought out food, whereupon it came out and ate. He was moved to winter quarters earlier than the other three because he is alone and unable to share body heat if it gets cold. “Zhi”, “Pascal”, and “Zhang” are juvenile otters housed in an indoor-outdoor exhibit attached to Building 2. The outdoor portion of the exhibit contained a water feature that had been turned off for the winter but still had some water with dead leaves in it, but was reasonably clean. All three animals were extremely active, alert and responsive with optimum (5/9) body condition and a shiny, full coat condition. All four animals are apparently healthy.

Two-toed Sloths: 2 (slide 30) - Two sloths were housed in large, climate controlled, enclosed room with vertical space and arboreal bedding and branches appropriate for the species. A large humidifier was operating in the middle of the room with temperature and humidity monitors. Enrichment pieces and defecation locations were provided. Animals were bright, alert and responsive with optimum body conditions (5/9) and a shiny, full coat condition. Both animals are apparently healthy.

See attached document containing slides referenced.