



# Captive Wildlife Report

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
 10247 N. SUNCOAST BLVD.  
 CRYSTAL RIVER, FL

Report Date / Time <b>9/26/2018 2:45:16 PM</b>	Report Number <b>ISR057064 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>FWNC18OFF006354 / FWNC18CAD001706</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>INVESTIGAT / WK370</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>KENNETH HOLMES</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>FL0218000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>9/6/2018 12:57:14 PM</b>	Occur Date Range <b>09/06/2018 12:57:14 -</b>	Jurisdiction <b>Private Property</b>	Status: Clearance:
Offense Description <b>S65W WILDLIFE EXHIBITS</b>				

## LOCATION(S)

County <b>GILCHRIST</b>	Location Type <b>INCIDENT LOCATION</b>	Location Description <b>Class I Big Cat Facility</b>					
Street Number <b>2219</b>	Street <b>SW 45TH AVE</b>	Apt/Lot/Bldg	City <b>BELL</b>	State <b>FI</b>	Zip Code <b>32619</b>	Phone Number	Ext.

## Person: LICENSEE

First Name <b>ROBERT</b>	Middle Name <b>GENE</b>	Last Name <b>MULLEN</b>	Suffix	Race <b>WHITE</b>	Sex <b>MALE</b>	Height <b>5'09"</b>	Weight <b>200</b>	Hair <b>BROWN</b>	Eyes <b>BLUE</b>
MNI # <b>FWC13MNI017991</b>	SSN	Date of Birth <b>02/28/1966</b>	Age <b>52</b>	ID Type <b>A</b>	Drivers License or other ID <b>M450767660680</b>	State <b>FL</b>	OCA / Agency ID <b>2755</b>	Place of Birth: <b>OHIO, OH, UNITED STATES</b>	
Addresses • RESIDENCE / 2219 SW 45TH AVE, BELL, FI 32619 / 407-402-3204									

## Business: CW EXHIBITOR

Business Name <b>PM PRODUCTIONS ENTERTAINMENT</b>	MBI # <b>FWC16MBI000748</b>	Phone Number 1 <b>407-402-3204</b>	Ext 1	Phone Number 2 <b>407-701-0551</b>	Ext 2	
County <b>gi</b>	Street Number <b>2219</b>	Address <b>SW 45TH AVE</b>	Apt/Lot/Bldg	City <b>BELL</b>	State <b>FL</b>	Zip Code <b>32619</b>
Other Information						

## Charge: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Counts <b>1</b>	Charge <b>379.4015</b>	Arrest Offense Code Description
Charge Degree <b>SECOND DEGREE</b>	Charge Level <b>CRIMINAL VIOLATION COURT REQUIRED</b>	General Offense Code <b>PRINCIPAL</b>
Charge Description <b>VIOLATION OF FLORIDA ADMINISISTRATIVE CODES PERTAINING TO WILDLIFE AS PERSONAL PETS - GENERAL REGULATIONS, PUBLIC CONTACT; TRANSFER OF WILDLIFE AND RECORD KEEPING [68A-6.0023]</b>		
UCR Code / UCR Description		

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Administrative Code - Description <b>68A-6.0023(1) - NO PERSON SHALL MAINTAIN CAPTIVE WILDLIFE IN ANY UNSAFE OR UNSANITARY CONDITION</b>
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**Charge: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

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Charge Degree <b>SECOND DEGREE</b>	Charge Level <b>CRIMINAL VIOLATION COURT REQUIRED</b>	General Offense Code <b>PRINCIPAL</b>
Charge Description <b>VIOLATION OF FLORIDA ADMINISISTRATIVE CODES PERTAINING TO WILDLIFE AS PERSONAL PETS - STANDARD CAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVE WILDLIFE [68A-6.004]</b>		
UCR Code / UCR Description		
Administrative Code - Description <b>68A-6.004(1) - NO CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SHALL BE CONFINED IN ANY CAGE OR OTHER ENCLOSURE WHICH CONTAINS MORE INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS, OR IS SMALLER IN DIMENSION THAN AS SPECIFIED OR IS NOT EQUIPPED AS SPECIFIED</b>		

**Charge: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

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Charge Description <b>VIOLATION OF FLORIDA ADMINISISTRATIVE CODES PERTAINING TO WILDLIFE AS PERSONAL PETS - GENERAL REGULATIONS, PUBLIC CONTACT; TRANSFER OF WILDLIFE AND RECORD KEEPING [68A-6.0023]</b>		
UCR Code / UCR Description		
Administrative Code - Description <b>68A-6.0023(1) - NO PERSON SHALL MAINTAIN CAPTIVE WILDLIFE IN A MANNER WHICH RESULTS IN THE MALTREATMENT OR NEGLECT OF SUCH WILDLIFE</b>		

**Narrative: ROUTINE INSPECTION**

Narrative Date/Time <b>9/28/2018 2:20:12 PM</b>	Narrative Synopsis <b>MULTIPLE CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS FOR CLASS I BIG CAT FACILITY</b>		
Reporting Officer <b>KENNETH HOLMES</b>	Officer Rank <b>INVESTIGAT</b>	Officer ID No <b>WK370</b>	Officer Org/Unit <b>FWNC\NC REGIONALACH UA</b>
Officer Signature 	Officer Agency <b>FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>		

On 09/06/18 at about 1200 hours, I, Inv. Kenneth J. Holmes of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation

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Commission performed a captive wildlife inspection at 2219 SW 45th Avenue, Bell in Gilchrist County, Florida. Robert G. Mullen (W/M; DOB 02/28/66) had valid commercial licenses (ESA, ESC, App ID 11726) for the possession of captive wildlife to include tigers, cougars, and servals at the location. He was doing business as PM Productions Entertainment, Inc (PMPE). According to State of Florida Division of Corporation website, PMPE is no longer an active corporation since 09/23/2016. The 5-acre parcel was owned by his former spouse Christine M. Pechacek (W/F; DOB 07/25/1981). The property was zoned residential and R. Mullen resided on the property. No one was home at time of inspection; however I did later contacted R. Mullen about my findings listed below.

The inventory I observed included 2.0 tigers (1 male white tiger), 1.0 cougars, 0.0.1 American alligator (~ 4' long), 0.0.1 Cinnamon capuchin, 0.0.1 Albino Burmese python, 0.0.1, Fishing cat, 1.0 Ring-tailed lemurs, 0.0.1 kinkajou, 0.0.1 Burmese python (Albino) and several parrots and other non-venomous reptiles.

The caging were primarily the same since last inspection, except for modifications to the tiger cage described later in this report. There were eight outdoor cages within an eight foot perimeter fenced compound (Figure 1). Five cages were occupied with the following wildlife; 1) two tigers (Fig. 2), 2) cougar, 3) Fishing cat, 4) Capuchin monkey and Ring-tailed lemur, and 5) Kinkajou. The compound gate was locked and I was not able to perform a thorough examination of the cages, in particular the structural integrity. However, I did not observe any integrity issues from my vantage point other than the gap under perimeter fence documented below..

There was also a trailer used exclusively to house and maintain wildlife and domestic animals (Fig. 3-5). Currently, the following wildlife were held inside the trailer; a small American alligator, a Burmese python (Fig. 5), parrots and other non-venomous reptiles. There was also empty temporary caging that was previously used for the Class 3 mammals including the wildlife currently housed outside. These cages were smaller than the minimum standards and R. Mullen previously stated were used during cold weather or nighttime security.

R. Mullen corrected the insufficient structural strength issue in the tiger cage observed in past inspection(s). I did not identify this correction until R. Mullen stated he added six gauge welded wire panels to the inside of the existing wire. I verified this through photographs. R. Mullen stated he still planned on moving the tigers into different caging in near future.

I observed the following non-compliance issues;

- 1) The tiger cage did not have a sufficient elevated platform(s) required per 68A-6.004 (4)(a)1. b, Florida Administrative Code (FAC) that states,

**68A-6.004 Standard Caging Requirements for Captive Wildlife.**

(4) Carnivores and Certain Omnivores with Similar Requirements:

(a) Wild felines

1. African and Asian lions; tigers.

b. Each cage shall have an elevated platform(s) that shall accommodate all animal(s) simultaneously. Each cage shall have a

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claw log, unless the animal(s) front claws have been removed.

This has been an on-going issue and he has been advised in past he was not in compliance with either not having an elevated platform or the elevated platform was too small.

- 2) Fecal and food wastes was not removed from in and around cages causing unsanitary conditions. 68A-6.0023(1) & (5)(d), FAC states,

**68A-6.0023 General Regulations Governing Possession of Captive Wildlife; Public Contact; Transfer of Wildlife and Record Keeping Requirements.**

(1) No person shall maintain captive wildlife in any unsafe or unsanitary condition, or in a manner which results in threats to the public safety, or the maltreatment or neglect of such wildlife.

(5) Sanitation and Nutritional Requirements

(d)Waste: Fecal and food waste shall be removed daily from inside, under, and around cages and stored or disposed of in a manner which prevents noxious odors or pests. Cages and enclosures shall be ventilated to prevent noxious odors.

There were multiple cages with unsanitary conditions due to fecal and food wastes including the following cages; tigers', Burmese python and Ball python. The tigers' cage had multiple fecal piles within the cage. Some of the piles were starting to degrade into the soil showing the piles were there for greater than 24 hours (Fig. 6). Also, behind the tiger cage there was a moist pile of fecal waste, food waste and hair. There was a strong odor in the area and the pile was attracting flies. It appeared the cement floor was hosed off and the waste just left on outside of cage.

The Burmese python and Ball python cages also had multiple piles of feces, in addition to skin sheds (Figs 5 & 7). Although it depends on food consumption, these species only defecate once or twice a month and shed their skin even less. This was a clear indicator wastes were not being removed on a daily basis as required.

The failure to remove the wastes as required was also an on-going issue and R. Mullen was previously issued a warning for the violation.

- 3) The cages were not cleaned and maintained as required per FAC 68A-6.0023(5)(e) listed below,

**68A-6.0023 General Regulations Governing Possession of Captive Wildlife; Public Contact; Transfer of Wildlife and Record Keeping Requirements.**

(5) Sanitation and Nutritional Requirements

(e) Cleaning and maintenance: Hard floors within cages or enclosures shall be cleaned a minimum of once weekly. Walls of cages and enclosures shall be spot cleaned daily. The surfaces of housing facilities, including perches, shelves and any furniture-type fixtures within the facility, shall be cleaned weekly, and shall be constructed in a manner and made of materials that permits thorough cleaning. Cages or enclosures with dirt floors shall be raked a minimum of once every three days and all waste material shall be removed. Any surface of cages or enclosures that may come into contact with animal(s) shall be free of excessive rust

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that prevents the required cleaning or that affects the structural strength. Any painted surface that may come into contact with wildlife shall be free of peeling or flaking paint.

The failure to clean the cages as required was an on-going issue at the facility. In addition to what was previously documented about the waste, the dirt floors in the tiger cage were hard packed showing it had not been raked in sometime. The cages housing the cougar and Fishing cat, as well as the cages that during previous inspections housed a coatimundi and a serval, were overgrown with weeds (Fig. 8). This made it impossible to rake the floor to remove wastes as required.

All the indoor cages with the exception of the cage housing the American alligator were unclean. Fecal waste and grime were observed on surfaces on the cages including walls, cage wire, perches and toys (Figs 4 & 5). The reptiles' substrate appeared old in most caging. It was matted, discolored and in some instances damp. The floor to the cage previously known to house the monkeys was also covered in fecal waste.

- 4) The perimeter fence surrounding the Class I and II wildlife caging had a large gap under the fence in the southwest corner (Fig. 10). An eight foot perimeter fence surrounding cages housing Class I and II wildlife is required. It acts as a secondary containment to contain wildlife that has escaped the primary cage or enclosure. Due to the gap the perimeter fence was not a sufficient secondary containment.

He had previously added dirt and solid debris to fill the sink hole. It did not appear the sink hole was getting larger and may just be to the soil settling. I will keep monitoring the sink hole since its proximity to the cage could endanger the wildlife or allow escape.

- 5) The two tigers were very thin with the white tiger the thinner of the two. I applied the USDA's Animal Welfare Inspection Guide's Body Condition Chart (BCC) to classify the body conditions tigers (see attached document, *Body condition- tiger*). The BBC rates the body conditions from 1 to 5; 1 as emaciated, 2 as underweight, 3 as optimal body weight, 4 as overweight, and 5 as obese.

The white tiger was a body condition of 2, borderline 1. The tiger's hips and vertebrae protruded and the abdomen had a tucked appearance. However, the ribs were only slightly showing and there was still muscle in thigh area. Its eyes were clear; however the tigers was lethargic with a slow and deliberate gait.

The orange tiger was underweight. I classified the body condition as a 2. The tiger's hips somewhat protruded and had a tucked-in appearance, but the ribs did not show and the vertebrate showed only slightly. The orange tiger had more musculature than the white tiger. Its eyes were clear. The orange tiger was more alert and had more energy than the white tiger.

I observed past issues with the tigers being thin and responded to a complaint in the past about the tigers and a cougar being emaciated (FWNC18OFF005333). The complaint was reference to R. Mullen's

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exhibition of his wildlife at the Missouri State Fair. The complaint as a whole was unfounded since the cougar and orange tiger were not emaciated when I examined them, particularly the cougar which was in optimal health. However, there was cause for concern with the white tiger since it was very thin. R. Mullen stated the tiger had been sick and lost a significant amount of weight. However, R. Mullen had documentation the tiger was under veterinary care. It also appeared the tiger had put on weight since the complaint photos were taken.

During some previous inspections I observed one or more of the tigers being thin. R. Mullen had stated the tigers had internal parasite and were being treated and/or the tigers were predisposed to being thin due genetic inbreeding issues. He stated the tigers came from [REDACTED] whose tigers were known to have inbreeding issues. The tigers would gain weight in subsequent inspections, but I never observed the tigers with optimal weight.

\*There are captive wildlife license for possession of tigers issued to a persons with same last name.

I contacted R. Mullen's attending veterinarian, Doctor Clifford Addison, DVM. I advised him of the condition of R. Mullen's tigers. I told him R. Mullen was unaware of my inspection and this call. Since I did not have R. Mullen's consent to obtain veterinarian medical information, I did not ask Dr. Addison about any specific examination information. Dr. Addison stated the last time he examined the tigers was in beginning of 2018 at Mullen's property. He did not observe the tigers in the same condition that I described as being extremely thin. Dr. Addison also stated R. Mullen had not been in recent contact with him about the tigers.

I then spoke with R. Mullen over the phone about my inspection. In reference to the five issues I document above, R. Mullen stated the following;

- R. Mullen said that he did make an elevated platform, but the tigers tore it apart. He stated he would have to frame it in metal to keep the cats from destroying, but did not want to for the safety of the cats (exposed metal edges could injury tigers). I advised that there were other facilities able to have wood platforms in tiger cages; however maintenance was required depending on how well the platforms were built and the cat's clawing and biting habits. I told him enrichment items could be added to attract the cats to scratch and occupy their attention, instead of clawing on den box.
- R. Mullen admitted that he washed out the tiger cage and left the wastes outside the cage. He said he works forty hours a week and cleans on weekends. He stated if I inspected on Monday his cages would be a lot cleaner than the end of the week. I advised he was required to remove fecal waste daily and thoroughly clean on a weekly basis.
- R. Mullen was aware of the gap under the perimeter fence. He stated he meant to add more dirt to close the gap and fill the sink hole.

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- R. Mullen stated that his tigers have always been thin saying the [REDACTED] lineage is known for being thin with other inbreeding issues. He said the tigers always have round worms (internal parasites), but the load might be higher than normal. He also said he was working with Dr. Addison on a deworming regiment. I advised him that I had already spoke with Dr. Addison and stated he did not tell me about any discussion of a deworming regiment and were unaware that the tigers were very thin. He stated he had text correspondence with Dr. Addison from several weeks ago that he would forward to me. I requested these text again via email on 09/08/18. R. Mullen stated his old cell phone broke and would be transferring the text data to a new phone this weekend. He would forward the text to me after the transfer. I have not received this information prior to submitting this report (~09/28/18).

R. Mullen stated he obtained meat for his animals from Mystic Jungle\*. He also picks up road kill to supplement foodstuff. He did not have any records/receipts to show amount and dates the foodstuffs were acquired. He stated he could document this information in future if needed. I advised him it was needed.

\* Vera and Mark Chaples doing business as Mystic Jungle, Inc (MJI) is a Class I licensed wildlife facility in Suwannee County.

R. Mullen also stated the tigers are thin because he no longer performs with them; therefore they lost muscle weight. I advised him that this is counter to my experience and observations where Big Cats and other wildlife become overweight with lack of exercise. I also advised him if he had the required elevated platforms it would stimulate the tigers to move and get more exercise. In addition, I told him he could still exercise and train his tigers like he did when he was conducting public performances with his cats and should do so if it would maintain the health of the tigers.

Due to past statements from R. Mullen and the Chaples', I already had knowledge that MJI was providing meat to R. Mullen for free. I contacted V. Chaples and asked what quantity and quality of meat they provided to R. Mullen. She stated they keep the higher quality of meat for their own wildlife. She estimated they give R. Mullen between 30 to 40 pounds per week of poor quality meat including necks, hamburger and pork. I asked V. Chaples and later another Big Cat facility licensee in good standing what quantity of meat was enough to sustain two tigers. They independently stated they feed between 8-12 pounds of high quality meat per tiger per day depending on season with one fasting day per week. During the summer the cats tend to eat less and in winter they eat more. Vitamin and mineral supplements were also often added. This calculated to 48 to 72 lbs. of meat per week. Therefore 40 lbs. of meat per week would not be enough for even **one** tiger.

I contacted FWC veterinarian Mark Cunningham, DVM. I asked whether tigers on a deworming regiment normally carry a certain amount of internal parasites, in particular round worms. I described R. Mullen's facility including the tigers were kept on dirt flooring, livestock pens near, although downhill, for the tiger enclosure. He stated round worm eggs can persist in the soil and re-infect treated animals. In addition, the worms can become resistant to medication with repeated use. He stated changing medication could be an option.

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In reference to the tigers, past observations documented above showed they fluctuated in weight from near emaciation to thin, but they never gain optimal condition. This fluctuation indicated lack of sufficient nutrition. Whether this was a result of under feeding or persistent internal parasite load, it was the responsibility of R. Mullen to properly care for the cats to include providing sufficient sustenance and/or preventing internal parasites. 68A-6.0023(1) and (5)(c) states,

**68A-6.0023 General Regulations Governing Possession of Captive Wildlife; Public Contact; Transfer of Wildlife and Record Keeping Requirements.**

- (1) No person shall maintain captive wildlife in any unsafe or unsanitary condition, or in a manner which results in threats to the public safety, or the maltreatment or neglect of such wildlife.
- (5) Sanitation and Nutritional Requirements:
  - (c) Food: Food shall be of a type and quantity that meets the nutritional requirements for the particular species, and shall be provided in an unspoiled and uncontaminated condition. Clean containers shall be used for feeding.

I recently inspected another licensee who was conducting a traveling exhibition that included five tigers (Loomis Brother Circus). The five tigers included two white tigers. The licensee stated the white tigers were of [REDACTED] lineage. All the tigers were of optimum weight with a body condition of 3.

I will monitor the tigers in future inspections and request R. Mullen to provide sufficient documentation of proper veterinarian care and feed sources. I also provided this information about the tigers to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA) including photographs. I was advised a USDA Big Cat specialist was concerned about the tigers, stating the white tiger was close to being critically underweight. I was advised USDA would also follow-up on the welfare of the tiger.

I will issue Citation 287510C to R. Mullen for the following criminal misdemeanor\* violations document above;

- 1) Maintaining captive wildlife in an unsanitary condition; to wit fecal waste not removed from in and around a tiger cage, a Burmese python cage and Ball python cage per FAC 68A-6.0023(1) and pursuant to FAC 68-6.0023(5)(d).
- 2) Maintaining captive wildlife in an unsanitary condition; to wit multiple cages to include a tiger cage, cougar cage, Fishing cat cage and birds cages not cleaned and/or dirt floors not raked per FAC 68A-6.0023(1) and pursuant to FAC 68-6.0023(5)(e).
- 3) Failure to equip a tiger cage as required; no elevated platforms per FAC 68A-6.004(1) pursuant to 68A-6.004(4)(a)1.b.

**379.4015 Nonnative and captive wildlife penalties.**

- (2) LEVEL TWO.-Unless otherwise provided by law, the following classifications and penalties apply:
  - (a) A person commits a Level Two violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:



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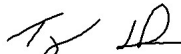
2. Rules or orders of the commission relating to captive wildlife not specified in subsection (1) or subsection (3).

(b) A person who commits any offense classified as a Level Two violation and who has not been convicted of a Level Two or higher violation within the past 3 years commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

This report will also serve notice to R. Mullen to properly care for the tigers and document such by maintaining records and/or receipts of feed bills. I also issued a verbal warning to fix the gap under the perimeter fence.

End of report

**Officer: Approving Supervisor (Supplement 01)**

Officer Name <b>HARRISON, TYLER</b>	Officer Rank <b>LIEUTENANT</b>	Officer ID No <b>WN187</b>	Officer Agency <b>FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>
Approval Date / Time <b>10/1/2018 3:16:43 PM</b>	Officer Signature 		

**RELATED REPORT(S)**

Report Name	Report Number / Description		
<b>Resource Citation</b>	<b>287510C</b>		
Sup #	Officer Name Rank / ID #	Involvement On Report / Reporting Role	Officer Agency Org/Unit
01	<b>KENNETH HOLMES INVESTIGAT WK370</b>	<b>INVESTIGATOR / REPORTING OFFICER</b>	<b>FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FWNC\NC REGIONALACHUA</b>
01	<b>HARRISON, TYLER LIEUTENANT WN187</b>	<b>APPROVING SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FNN\WNWREGION\GHQ</b>

The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe that the above named Defendant, committed violation(s), of law, on the below date(s) and time(s), as listed in the narratives associated with this report:

**Officer: Reporting Officer (Supplement01)**

Officer Name <b>KENNETH HOLMES</b>	Office Rank <b>INVESTIGAT</b>	Officer ID No <b>WK370</b>	Sworn and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority This the _____ day of _____, _____ DEPUTY OF THE COURT, NOTARY OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Officer Agency <b>FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>	Officer Signature 