

# Stump Hill Farm (Cyndi Huntsman)

6633 Klick St., Massillon, OH 44646

**Stump Hill Farm has failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to provide veterinary care, repeated failure to give environmental enrichment and minimum space to primates kept in solitary confinement and suffering from psychological distress, failure to provide shelter from inclement weather, filthy and foul-smelling enclosures, failure to provide drinking water, failure to maintain enclosures, and improper waste disposal. Stump Hill Farm buys animals at auction and prematurely removes infant animals from their mothers for commercial purposes. Jack Hanna has used infant animals from Stump Hill Farm for appearances on *Good Morning America*. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**March 2, 2016:** The Ohio Department of Agriculture issued an order placing Stump Hill Farm under quarantine while it conducted an investigation into the facility's alleged illegal possession of dangerous wild animals. The order cited multiple instances in which owner Cyndi Huntsman exported animals, including two tiger cubs, without a permit.

**October 26, 2015:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for repeat violations for failing to observe the health and well-being of the animals on a daily basis and failing to provide the following animals with adequate veterinary care: a wolf with a 4-inch-by-2-inch mass with moderate hair loss on her back left leg and a lemur with an abrasion between the toes of his right front foot, causing him not to bear weight on that foot. The facility was also cited for repeat violations for failing to repair an area of exposed plastic-coated flooring in an enclosure housing five pigs that could potentially injure the animals and failing to have an adequate perimeter fence around the facility.

**June 29, 2015:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for repeat violations for failing to provide a tiger, who had a circular wound on the right flank that was roughly half an inch deep and exposing underlying tissue, with veterinary care and failing to perform daily observations on him to assess his health and well-being. Stump Hill was also cited for repeat violations for failing to repair broken fencing in the enclosure

housing three foxes, failing to replace a rusted feeder in an enclosure housing two foxes, and failing to have an adequate perimeter fence around the facility. In addition, Stump Hill was cited for failing to control a population of several dozen flies in the room housing a baboon and failing to clean a dirty feeder with moldy food in an enclosure housing three rabbits.

**March 16, 2015:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for eight AWA violations, including four repeat violations: failure to keep accurate disposition records, failure to maintain rabbit enclosures properly, failure to have an adequate perimeter fence, and failure to provide a number of animals with safe, structurally sound enclosures. In addition, Stump Hill received new citations for failure to provide a Syrian brown bear with an enclosure free from mud (the primary enclosure was extremely muddy and had no available dry area apart from the den box), failure to maintain the brown lemur enclosure properly (rust covered more than 90 percent of the front section of the outdoor portion), not recognizing that a wolf named Squishy was displaying abnormal behavior, and failure to provide her with adequate veterinary care. She was observed shaking her head, having a right head tilt, and scratching at her right ear. The inspector wrote that her symptoms were "a classic indication there is some irritant in the animal's right ear." The licensee said that she thought Squishy's actions were a sign that she wanted attention, so the licensee hadn't sought veterinarian treatment for her.

**December 5, 2014:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for 14 AWA violations, including interfering with an inspection by failing to report the possession of a juvenile tiger. The licensee was asked multiple times in various ways about the presence of a juvenile tiger on the premises, and each time, the licensee responded that there were no young or juvenile tigers on the property. When visiting with the attending veterinarian, the vet confirmed that his clinic had treated an injured tiger cub, Lilly, a few days earlier. The inspector returned to the property and told the licensee what he had learned. She confirmed that there was a cub and that "she had 'forgotten' about this tiger because it was housed in another enclosure on the property which was located away" from where other big cats were kept to reduce stress and contamination.

The inspector also questioned the licensee about a specific enclosure that was next to one containing an adult lion on one side and two adult tigers on the other. The space in the fence was large enough for the big cats to injure any animal in the other enclosure, so the inspector asked the licensee if animals were ever placed in that enclosure. The licensee said no but later during the inspection admitted to putting Lilly in there while staff cleaned her enclosure. Stump Hill was cited for placing Lilly in

the enclosure near the other big cats, who were able to reach her through the wire fencing. Lilly had been injured in her primary enclosure, which resulted in a wound on her leg and the amputation of a toe. The licensee claimed that the injury occurred when Lilly got her paw stuck between metal piping and she chewed on her own paw and leg in an attempt to free herself.

Stump Hill was also cited for failing to have the record of acquisition for Lilly at the time of the inspection and for failing to provide the wolf and wolf-dog hybrid enclosure with sufficient shelter. It was also cited for the bedding in the two igloo houses in this enclosure, one of which had a small amount of straw and the other only leaves. The bedding was “significantly wet” and soiled with mud and feces. The igloo shelters also had significant chew damage and brown staining and a layer of grime on top of them.

Stump Hill was also cited for failure to have a documented exercise plan for the wolf hybrid. The licensee stated that the wooden rabbit enclosures were cleaned every six months with a power washer instead of cleaning and sanitizing at least once every 30 days with the appropriate detergent followed by disinfectant.

It was also cited for failure to provide safe housing, as a Sulawesi crested macaque enclosure had several sharp points from a section of wire mesh that had been cut to hang a water bottle. There was a hole underneath the metal chain-link fencing of the primary enclosure for two white tigers, and the guillotine door for this enclosure was in disrepair, which could result in injury to or the death of an animal. A black electrical cord was within reach of a young kangaroo, nails were exposed in a fox enclosure, the white igloo enclosure used as a den for a young grizzly bear was in disrepair, a white plastic pipe approximately 5 inches in diameter with a jagged edge protruded about 6 or 7 inches out of the ground in the goat and donkey enclosure, inadequate perimeter fencing surrounded the facility and could lead to an animal’s escape, new rodent holes were observed throughout the facility, and the enclosure for two red foxes had plastic igloo shelters that were covered with urine, feces, dirt, and grime. Stump Hill was also cited for having multiple loaves of bread in the pantry with significant amounts of “dark green to white material” on their surface, and some loaves were more than 50 percent covered with this material.

**December 4, 2014:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to have a responsible party present so that an animal-welfare inspection could be conducted.

**August 26, 2014:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm again for failure to clean and maintain a baboon’s

indoor resting perch, which was dirty and smeared with feces, and the outdoor lemur enclosure, which had an excessive accumulation of feces. The enclosures for the wolf, red foxes, brown bear cub, and adult black bears were all in need of cleaning as well.

**August 5, 2014:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to have a responsible party present so that an animal welfare inspection could be conducted.

**July 26, 2013:** The USDA issued a notification of penalty for Stump Hill Farm for \$2,571 for previous AWA violations, including allowing reindeer to fall out of a moving transport trailer onto a highway (see January 6, 2012) as well as other AWA violations noted under February 21, 2013, and November 1, 2012.

**February 21, 2013:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for inadequate veterinary care and noted the following: an African lion was reluctant to walk and was favoring one of his front feet (a claw appeared to be imbedded into the pad of his second digit, and it was red, swollen, and ulcerated); a wolf known as Squishy had an area of hair loss about the size of a hand over her hip, and the skin appeared crusty; an Arctic fox was unsteady, his walking was wobbly, and he bumped into structures (he later died on April 18); and two wallabies had died in December, and although the licensee stated that they died after displaying what appeared to be neurological symptoms, no pre- or postmortem diagnostic testing was performed. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to clean four outdoor rabbit enclosures properly—they had excessive build-up of excreta and other debris. The resting perches of the lemur enclosures were dirty. A plastic table that the male baboon sat on in his enclosure was covered with feces and grime. The black leopard enclosure, the ferret enclosure, and a black bear enclosure all had excessive feces. The wolf enclosures had grime on the plastic igloo shelters. The fennec fox enclosure had fecal matter and grime on the nest box and plastic resting surface. The fronts of the den boxes for the bears’ enclosures were dirty. Stump Hill Farm also received repeat citations for failing to maintain the female baboon’s indoor enclosure, which was rusty and corroded around the edges; failure to control rodents effectively; and failure to provide a white tiger with a shelter box.

**November 1, 2012:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm again for not vaccinating many of the domestic cats that roam freely—diseases can be transmitted between domestic cats and exotic felines. It also received a repeat citation for failure to control rodents; inadequate sanitation, as debris and various vegetables were on the ground in the food-storage

area near the bear enclosure; and deficient housing facilities. The door between the capuchin's indoor and outdoor areas required repainting, and the inside door of the brown lemur enclosure was rusty and required either repair or replacement. It was also cited for failing to clean the access door and front ledge in the brown lemur enclosure.

**March 8, 2012:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm again for failure to supply adequate housing for four adult tigers who were kept in enclosures with tops that were only 6 feet high, preventing the cats from moving freely (see October 24, 2011).

**January 6, 2012:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to handle animals properly, stemming from a December 18, 2011, incident in which Stump Hill was transporting a reindeer for exhibition when the back door of the transport trailer opened and the animal fell out of the moving vehicle onto the highway. Stump Hill Farm admitted that the back of the trailer had not been locked or pinned before transport.

**December 14, 2011:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to give veterinary care to a ferret whose jaw (under the chin on the left side) was partially swollen, soft, and hairless. The area was also ulcerated. Stump Hill was also cited for failure to maintain three rabbit enclosures in a sanitary manner—they had an excessive buildup of excreta and other debris. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to maintain the baboon indoor enclosure, which had a rusty front panel. It was also cited for failure to provide a tiger with secure housing—the open top was less than 10 feet high. The black-leopard enclosure also had two rusted support poles, which could affect their structural strength. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to supply clean water to the two adult black bears. The water trough was rusty. It was also cited for failure to maintain a freezer in sanitary condition. The freezer needed all items removed and a thorough cleaning. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for improper rodent control. Several rodent holes were found on the premises.

**November 8, 2011:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for inadequate veterinary care for having a juvenile tiger who had been born at the facility declawed on both front paws, a practice that had been banned under the Animal Welfare Act, unless for medical reasons, in 2006.

**October 24, 2011:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to maintain an up-to-date program of veterinary care (PVC). The one it had on file was written 11 years prior, and many species listed were no longer at the facility. In addition, six species currently at the facility were not in the PVC. It was also cited for failure to follow the PVC in many

instances: The program stated to use Frontline as treatment for ectoparasites, yet Stump Hill used another product, which caused hair loss and skin irritation on a coatimundi. Stump Hill regularly used a specific product when an animal had diarrhea, although the PVC did not provide guidelines for using the product. The PVC stated that fecal tests should be done biannually, but Stump Hill stated that only a representative sample was taken occasionally or when an animal developed diarrhea and didn't respond to the previously mentioned treatment. Approximately 22 domestic cats roam freely on the property, and the PVC stated that domestic cats need to be vaccinated, as they may transmit diseases to exotic felines. But there are no records to indicate that this was being done. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to give adequate veterinary care to a female pot-bellied pig whose skin was peeling along her back. It was also cited for failure to maintain records, as there were no records of acquisition for two llamas, five goats, and one sheep nor were there records of the disposition of one tiger cub and the deaths of a zebra, two deer fawns, and a bobcat. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for portions of sharp fencing that were protruding in a baboon's enclosure, posing a risk of injury to the animal. It was also cited for failure to maintain the capuchin enclosure—the nest box was covered with carpet that was excessively soiled, and the feeding board had an excessive accumulation of organic debris. Stump Hill Farm was also cited again for failure to provide a tiger with an adequate enclosure—the enclosure did not have a top (See February 24, 2011). Stump Hill Farm was also cited for various facility inadequacies. A top support bar was bent downward in the cougar enclosure. Two metal upright support poles in the lynx enclosure weren't structurally sound—both were nearly rusted through, and one was loose. The resting perch in the cougar enclosure was missing several boards. The resting perch for the black leopard was rotted and broken. The resting perch for the coyote was leaning, and the support bar beneath was bent. The resting perch for the red fox was rusted. The camels had pushed out several metal wall boards in their barn, posing a potential hazard to the animals' legs or feet if they stepped into the spaces created. Two tigers had dug a hole near the front of their enclosure about the size of a basketball, which could eventually become an escape route. In addition, Stump Hill Farm was cited for a number of outdoor inadequacies: a fallen tree on a section of perimeter fence, an overgrown tree with extending limbs that caused the support bar to fall out of the south section of fence, a gate on the east side of the perimeter fence with a 12-inch gap, a gate behind the kangaroo enclosure with a gap below it at least 8 inches, two of three main gates with gaps beneath them of at least 8 inches, and the main entry door gate with a gap of approximately 12 inches. The inspector also noted that the main gate had been left open for at least two hours. Stump Hill Farm was also

cited for failure to supply adequate housing for four adult tigers who were kept in enclosures with tops that were only 6 feet high, preventing the cats from moving freely.

**February 24, 2011:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to give adequate veterinary care to a female black bear named Little Bear. She had hair loss along her forearms and hindquarters and down her hind legs. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to supply an adequate enclosure for a tiger—the enclosure didn't have a top.

**April 9, 2008:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to use an experienced handler while exhibiting a juvenile lion. The handler was a volunteer.

**April 18, 2007:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to have a responsible party present so that an animal welfare inspection could be conducted.

**July 13, 2005:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to provide perimeter fencing adequate to prevent physical contact between the animals inside the enclosure and animals or people outside the perimeter fence. The USDA also cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to provide perimeter fencing that adequately served as a secondary containment system in the event of an animal escape.

**December 12, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing minimum space, environmental enrichment, and veterinary care. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for having filthy cages, failure to maintain records of acquisition, and failure to have a complete program of veterinary care. An Egyptian fruit bat with a reddish-pink enlargement on the left wing joint area had not been examined, diagnosed, or treated by a veterinarian. Records were incomplete for 21 Egyptian fruit bats and one sugar glider acquired from an unlicensed source. The fruit bats were left in a dog kennel. The inspector wrote, "[T]he animals need space enough for the passive and pregnant females to hide from more aggressive ones. The cage lacks space to allow flight and exercise with freedom of movement." The lemur enclosure had an "accumulation of urine and brownish fecal matter." The inspector also noted, "Animals are in contact with excreta. More frequent cleaning is needed." The new enclosure for the chimpanzee "does not provide sufficient space." The environmental enrichment plan for primates was incomplete and was not being followed. The inspector wrote, "The infants that are hand reared are not addressed and how the special attention is given after they are separated from the mother." The chimpanzee named Toot is still isolated from other primates, and the environmental enrichment plan does not address

his special needs.

**November 20, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not providing a chimpanzee with minimum space. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to provide access to veterinary-care records and the primate enrichment plan.

**October 11, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not providing a chimpanzee with minimum space.

**August 22, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not having a program of veterinary care, not providing a chimpanzee with minimum space, and not offering environmental enrichment to a chimpanzee, a spider monkey, and a lemur kept in solitary confinement.

**July 12, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not having a complete program of veterinary care, not providing a chimpanzee with minimum space, and not offering environmental enrichment to a chimpanzee, a spider monkey, and a lemur kept in solitary confinement.

**May 22, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing a chimpanzee with minimum space and not offering environmental enrichment to a chimpanzee and a spider monkey kept in solitary confinement. The USDA also cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to offer environmental enrichment to a capuchin kept in solitary confinement, failure to have a complete program of veterinary care, poor sanitation, and inadequate pest control. The fruit bat enclosure had a large pile of decayed and contaminated fruit mixed with feces, and there were a large number of gnats and flies, with the potential to transmit disease, causing a nuisance to the animals.

**January 3, 2001:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of not providing a chimpanzee with minimum space and not offering environmental enrichment to a chimpanzee and spider monkey kept in solitary confinement.

**November 20, 2000:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to correct previously identified noncompliances of inadequate veterinary care, an incomplete veterinary-care program, incomplete recordkeeping, failure to maintain enclosures and surface areas, improper feeding and food storage, inadequate humidity and temperature controls for the



primates, failure to provide primates with minimum space and environmental enrichment, failure to provide drinking water, and filthy enclosures. The inspector wrote, "There were no veterinary care notes recorded after September 9, 2000. ... Treatment records provided are very sparse. They do not list all the young born, animals that died, cause of death, if a post mortem was done, etc. ... With the present number of deaths and injuries, there [need] to be some post mortems done to identify the cause of death for animals 'found dead.'" The revised program of veterinary care still contained deficiencies and did not list adequate vaccinations or tuberculosis testing for the care of the species on the premises. Parasite control remained confusing and poorly organized, and there were no records of veterinary exams, treatment, or information given by the veterinarian to the owners. Recordkeeping was "very incomplete and almost impossible to decipher." There were no records for several animals who died. Records were incomplete for animals sold or transferred (including an 11-month-old tiger, a 5-week-old bear, a 9-week-old raccoon, a 5-week-old leopard, a baby lemur, a lion, and a 5-pound leopard). An African leopard acquired on April 26, 2000, and a 5-pound leopard acquired on September 19, 2000, were not on the premises, and a sugar glider was missing. The floor in the mountain lion enclosure was worn and covered with snow and ice, causing the animals to slip as they walked on it. There had been no changes made since the previous inspection to the chimpanzee enclosure, which failed to meet minimum space requirements. The environmental enrichment plan remained unchanged and was inadequate. The inspector wrote, "As of 12:30 p.m., there was no evidence of fresh water having been given to the outside animals. What water was visible was frozen." The tiger enclosure remained wet and filthy, and the lion enclosure contained an excessive buildup of feces. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for improper waste disposal. A raccoon had died five days earlier and was still lying on top of the cage. Stump Hill Farm was cited for failure to provide a lion with shelter. The inspector wrote, "The weather was bitter cold and very windy." Stump Hill Farm was cited for failure to have an adequate number of knowledgeable employees to care for the animals.

**October 27, 2000:** According to the *Beacon Journal*, Stump Hill leased a declawed tiger cub to the Massillon High School's football team to serve as a "mascot." The tiger attacked and injured a dog and spent months stored in a garage.

**October 10, 2000:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to provide veterinary-care records. There were no records of treatment for an injured binturong, an armadillo who had died, and a spider monkey and a black wolf on medication, and there were no lists of vaccines and dates given and no record of tuberculosis testing for primates. The program of

veterinary care was inadequate and did not list vaccines for the canids, hoofstock, and other exotic species. The parasite-control information was confusing and poorly organized. Tuberculosis testing was missing for several species, and there were no records of veterinary exams or treatment. Stump Hill Farm was cited for inadequate recordkeeping. There were no dates recorded for several animals who died or were sold (including a kinkajou, an armadillo, a sugar glider, and a caracal who died). There were no birth dates for a baby llama, pygmy goats, fawns, or a joey. There were no records for a fennec fox purchased at auction. Records were incomplete for newly acquired animals (including a red fox, bobcats, lynx, servals, a raccoon, and sugar gliders), and several animals (including a tiger cub and squirrel monkeys) were out on loan with no record of their whereabouts. Stump Hill Farm was also cited for failure to provide primates with environmental enrichment. The chimpanzee had a TV but no perch, climbing surfaces, or manipulanda—objects that can be moved, used, or altered in some manner by the primate's hands—leading the inspector to write, "Riding in a car dressed in clothing is not enrichment." None of the items listed in the enrichment plan was given to the spider monkey, and the other primates had no climbing and swinging structures or manipulanda. (The spider monkey was kept in solitary confinement and was "very withdrawn and nonresponsive," and the chimpanzee was also kept in solitary confinement. Both animals were identified as being in distress and requiring a special program to encourage normal behavior.) In addition, Stump Hill Farm was cited for the following: failure to give veterinary care to a reindeer in need of hoof-trimming and an overweight cougar having difficulty getting up and moving; failure to maintain enclosures in a manner that would prevent serious injury for lemurs, a fox, camels, tigers, and bears; inadequate maintenance of surface areas to facilitate cleaning for the primate, lemur, and fox enclosures; improper feeding and food storage, storing foods near toxic chemicals, and storing unwrapped dead animals in the food freezer; failure to have reliable controls for heat and humidity in the indoor primate enclosure; failure to have adequate perimeter fencing for the lynx, servals, bobcats, alpaca, camel, deer, big cats, wolves, and bears; poor housekeeping (there was a buildup of junk, debris, and clutter throughout the facility); failure to provide the required itinerary for animals taken off site for exhibition; inadequate pest control (the inspector wrote, "There was excessive evidence of rodent activity in the facility"); failure to provide minimum space to primates (the chimpanzee cage was barely adequate and did not meet minimum height requirements, the black lemurs' cage was inadequate, and the spider monkey was in a cage that was barely half the minimum size required); and inadequate drainage in a tiger enclosure that had a green, slimy, foul-smelling, feces-contaminated mud

hole (the tiger had no drinking water and the enclosure was covered with dirt and feces, and the inspector wrote, “[The tiger] had no clean area, even in his shelter, to escape the filth”).

**June 22, 1999:** The USDA cited Stump Hill Farm for failure to give adequate veterinary care to a deer in need of hoof-trimming; failure to have a current veterinary-care program that included all species in inventory; failure to have written records documenting veterinary care; failure to have a current environmental enrichment plan for primates (the existing plan had not been updated since 1992); giving animals dirty, slimy, algae-contaminated drinking water in rusty water receptacles; and failure to maintain the camel enclosure in a manner that would prevent serious injury.

**November 15, 1998:** According to the website of Cleveland’s Benedictine High School, Stump Hill Farm leased a 1-month-old, 8-pound tiger cub to the school to serve as a “mascot” for the basketball team. The cub was still nursing, his vision was not fully developed, and his movements were uncoordinated. He was hauled around to sporting and alumni events and television studios.