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SENT VIA EMAIL

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter pertains to Save the Chimps (STC), exhibitor license 58-C-0706. Multiple sources have contacted [redacted] (b) (6) with concerns regarding the circumstances surrounding deaths, within the past few months, and injuries of chimpanzees.

(b) has heard similar concerns from multiple sources. All wish to remain anonymous, claiming fear of retaliation for voicing these concerns. (b) was informed that at least one veterinarian signed a complaint to the USDA, but we but do not know if it was actually sent or what its contents were.

AWI is urgently requesting that the USDA look into the following specific chimpanzee deaths and injuries, as well as how Andrew Halloran, Ph.D., STC's Director of Chimpanzee Care Services, addressed the circumstances surrounding these deaths and injuries. Dr. Halloran has been cited by multiple sources as central to these serious issues.

We hope the USDA will conduct a thorough investigation that includes interviewing, off-site, all staff involved with these chimpanzees and obtaining any and all records and logs relating to these chimpanzees' care and welfare including but not limited to daily care, food intake, anesthesia, sedation, social problems, fighting, and group dynamics, emails to and from STC staff, and all necropsy and histopathology reports, particularly from the University of Florida.

Following are specifics that we request be investigated:

Deaths

Tiffany, female, age 14

Tiffany, along with Tuffy, came to STC earlier this year from a private owner who treated both well, and both chimpanzees arrived at STC in good health. It is alleged that Tiffany refused to eat the standard fare given to chimpanzees at STC – food she was not accustomed to eating – and

[1] The sources contacted AWI researcher Eric Kleiman because of his central involvement in the shutdown of the Coulston Foundation – including his protecting, for years, a network of whistleblowers inside the Foundation – and STC's subsequent takeover of that lab, which included the Foundation's donating 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys to STC.

became depressed and anorexic. It is alleged that attempts to provide Tiffany with food she was accustomed to and/or would possibly eat were stopped. After Tiffany's death, multiple complaints were filed with the STC Board of Directors. The complaints were anonymous, claiming fear of retaliation.

Two STC veterinarians, Dr. Jocelyn Bezner and Dr. Amber Callaway-Lewis, were fired shortly after Tiffany's death. It is alleged that both of these veterinarians had tried to intervene on Tiffany's behalf, e.g., to provide Tiffany with different food, but were countermanded. As Tiffany's condition greatly deteriorated, these veterinarians tried IV fluids and a feeding tube.

Beth, female, DOB 3/3/84 (ex-Coulston Foundation chimpanzee)

Dr. Jocelyn Bezner, who had been a veterinarian at STC for years, and Dr. Amber Callaway-Lewis had been fired and were no longer at the sanctuary, therefore, Dr. Beth Hammond, staff veterinarian at Lion Country Safari, was brought in to handle the care of this chimpanzee. It is alleged that Beth showed clinical signs of heart failure, e.g., fluid retention, getting out of breath while ambulating, and that she had difficulty breathing prior to being sedated – and died after the sedation. It is further alleged that Beth was treated with an antibiotic and nothing else before her death.

Ritt, male, DOB 1/3/94 (ex-Coulston Foundation chimpanzee)

It is alleged that on November 24, Ritt – a healthy chimpanzee with no underlying health conditions – suffered an injury to his hand, possibly a finger broken at the joint with bone showing. Dr. Genevieve Dumonceaux, director of animal health at the Palm Beach Zoo, was brought in to care for Ritt. The day after the injury occurred, on November 25, she placed Ritt under general anesthesia, from which he never awakened. It is believed that he was not under the observation of a veterinarian or veterinary technician overnight following the surgery. He was seen by Dr. Beth Hammond on November 26. Ritt was seen by another veterinarian on November 27, and died that day after having been unconscious for three days.

Injuries

Jude, male, DOB 10/23/99 (ex-Coulston Foundation chimpanzee)
Capone, male, DOB unknown, ISIS number 1629 (ex-Coulston Foundation chimpanzee)

It is alleged that Capone and Jude had a long history of fighting, with Jude being repeatedly injured by Capone. They had once lived together, but Capone severely injured Jude, and the decision was made to separate them and erect a barrier. However, it is alleged that they still fought through this mesh barrier, and Jude lost a finger. After that injury, a barrier made of finer mesh, so that fingers could not penetrate, was put up. Despite this history of fighting and injuries, Dr. Halloran approved the removal of the barrier. Capone then began to again fight with, and injure, Jude. The barrier was eventually put back up, but they remained in adjoining enclosures.

Multiple sources have told AWI that Dr. Halloran's philosophy is, essentially, to let the chimpanzees who aren't getting along fight things out. This would be consistent with his approving removal of the barrier between Capone and Jude despite their history of intense fighting.

If that is Dr. Halloran's philosophy, AWI urges USDA to review any other similar injuries/circumstances of chimpanzees fighting without STC staff intervention, as this could result in distress and traumatic injuries like those suffered by Jude, and even deaths.

Conclusion

If these allegations are true, then the situation at STC is dire. We hope that the USDA can investigate as soon as possible and proceed accordingly. Should you need to reach (b) (6) directly, his phone number is (b) (6) and his email address is (b) (6).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)