

# Tri-State Zoological Park

10105 Cottage Inn Ln. N.E., Cumberland, MD 21502

**The Tri-State Zoological Park of Western Maryland (aka “Tri-State Zoo”) is owned by Bob Candy. Tri-State Zoo has repeatedly failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The USDA has cited Tri-State Zoo repeatedly for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, failing to maintain enclosures, failing to provide primates who are held alone with environmental enrichment, failing to keep lions and tigers in secure enclosures, failing to provide adequate shelter from wind and cold temperatures, and allowing the buildup of excessive amounts of feces and waste in multiple enclosures. In March 2013, the USDA suspended the facility’s AWA license for 45 days and ordered it to cease and desist from violating the AWA. In May 2015, the USDA issued an official warning to the Tri-State Zoo for violating the AWA. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**December 26, 2019:** Following a six-day bench trial that took place the previous month, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland issued a ruling in PETA’s Endangered Species Act (ESA) lawsuit against Tri-State Zoo. The court ordered the roadside zoo to relinquish two tigers and one lion to an accredited sanctuary and prohibited it from owning or possessing endangered or threatened species in the future. The judge described conditions for ESA-protected animals at the facility as “fetid and dystopic.”

Since PETA notified Tri-State of its intent to file suit in December 2016, five of the nine animals originally at issue have died, including a lemur named Bandit who had mutilated his penis and a tiger named India who was so ravaged by sepsis that pus-filled pockets had formed in her heart, tongue, and diaphragm. The court found that all these animals had died prematurely and endured tragic deaths and that Tri-State’s failure to provide them with adequate veterinary care violated the ESA. Tri-State has appealed the district court’s ruling, and that appeal remains pending.

**October 5, 2017:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to keep a nest box in the porcupine enclosure in good repair. A flap only provided coverage for half of the opening to the box and also had jagged edges.

**October 6, 2016:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to have a veterinarian with exotic-cat experience examine a lion who appeared thin and had prominent pelvic bones, a rough coat, and watery discharge around the eyes.

**December 2, 2015:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to store food in a way that minimizes the risk of contamination. The facility had open boxes of fruits and vegetables outside, and cats were resting inside them.

**September 24, 2015:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat violations for failing to repair broken wires in the fence surrounding animals used in a petting zoo, failing to keep the grounds free of excessive amounts of excreta and debris, and failing to repair a wooden ramp—which had holes, splinters, and protruding nailheads—in an enclosure housing a wild cat. The facility was also cited for failing to clean water bowls that contained a buildup of dark brown-green material.

**May 29, 2015:** The USDA issued an official warning to the Tri-State Zoo for violations committed between November 6, 2014, and March 4, 2015. These violations included failing to have adequate fencing for the enclosure housing the tiger and the enclosures holding animals used in a petting zoo, failing to prevent the entry of unwanted humans into the perimeter fence area, failing to provide the animals with clean and dry shelter, and failing to maintain a clean facility, as the enclosure housing the coatimundi repeatedly contained excessive feces and the kitchen and food-storage area had rodent feces.

**May 27, 2015:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat violations for failing to provide structurally sound primary fencing around enclosures holding animals used in a petting zoo and failing to remove excessive feces from the enclosure housing the coatimundi. In addition, it was cited for having a gate that didn't close properly surrounding the enclosure housing the squirrel monkey, having excessive accumulation of debris near the area housing the lemur and macaques, failing to repair a large hole in the wood around the area housing a lemur, and having excessive weeds and high vegetation in the enclosure housing the New Guinea singing dog, denying the animal full access to the outdoor enclosure. The facility was also cited for having multiple areas of perimeter fence in need of repair, including a section along the front of the zoo that was missing wood boards, loose boards in the fence between the enclosures housing the puma and tiger, a gap in the wire mesh in the fence surrounding the enclosure housing the serval, an area at the back of the facility with no perimeter fence, and a broken fence post around the enclosure housing the puma, causing the fence to fall below the required height of 8 feet.

**March 4, 2015:** The USDA cited Tri-State

Zoo for repeat violations for failing to maintain a secure perimeter fence to contain the tigers and failing to provide structurally sound primary fencing around enclosures holding animals used in a petting zoo. In addition, the USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to dispose of waste properly outside an enclosure housing pigs; failing to have proper drainage in the enclosure housing pigs, which was excessively muddy with puddles of water that could lead to foot problems; failing to have proper drainage in the stall holding an alpaca, which had standing water and mud that could lead to foot problems; buildup of food waste and excessive feces in the enclosure housing the coatimundi; and the presence of rodent feces on the floor of the feed room.

**November 6, 2014:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to develop and follow an environmental enrichment plan to promote the psychological well-being of a marmoset who was confined alone. The facility was also cited for failing to provide structurally sound primary fencing around enclosures holding animals used in a petting zoo. In addition, the USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for three repeat violations for failing to provide a secure perimeter fence to prevent the entry of unwanted humans into animal enclosures, failing to provide a secure perimeter fence to contain the tigers in the event of an escape, and failing to maintain surfaces in the kitchen that can be effectively cleaned and sanitized.

**April 24, 2014:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to prevent contamination, minimize disease, and reduce odors by allowing the buildup of food, excreta, urine, and debris in the litter pan of one of the kinkajous.

**January 27, 2014:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to heat the building holding Japanese macaques sufficiently.

The facility let the temperature drop below 45 degrees in the building. Tri-State was also cited for having open bags of feed and an excessive amount of feed spilled on the floor that could harbor and attract pests. In addition, the facility was cited for failing to provide a secure perimeter fence to prevent the entry of unwanted humans and animals.

**August 21, 2013:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to maintain fencing in good repair so that it could protect the animals in the facility by restricting the entry of unauthorized humans and animals.

**April 25, 2013:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to store food in a manner to prevent contamination and failing to maintain the enclosure holding bobcats in good repair to protect the animals from injury.

**March 22, 2013:** A USDA judicial officer issued a Decision and Order formally finding that Tri-State Zoo had committed dozens of violations of the AWA, including failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees, failing to provide the animals with adequate veterinary care, allowing the buildup of feces in multiple enclosures, and failing to keep multiple enclosures in good repair. The USDA ordered Tri-State Zoo to cease and desist from violating the AWA and suspended the facility's AWA license for 45 days.

**September 14, 2012:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat violations for failing to keep an enclosure holding a skunk sanitary, because of excessive food waste and the presence of flies. It was also cited for failing to keep premises clean and in good repair after wooden fencing was found warped and excessively chewed on by the animals and two 3-inch holes were found in the concrete floor of the exhibit housing white tigers.

**July 3, 2012:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo

for repeat sanitation violations for enclosures holding tigers. The enclosures had cracks in the concrete that could inhibit sanitation and the prevention of disease. The facility was also cited for repeat facilities violations. The enclosure holding the white tigers had a dividing fence that wasn't tall enough to prevent the tigers from jumping into the next enclosure.

**March 2, 2012:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat sanitation violations for enclosures holding tigers. They had cracks in the concrete that could impede sanitation and disease prevention. The facility was also cited for repeat facilities violations for the enclosures holding lions and tigers. The fence for the enclosure holding lions wasn't sufficient to contain them, and the enclosure holding the white tigers had a dividing fence that wasn't tall enough to prevent them from jumping into the next enclosure. The enclosure holding another tiger had a ledge that was wide enough to allow the animal to gain footing and possibly leap out of the enclosure.

**November 2, 2011:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for sanitation violations for an accumulation of building materials in the areas holding the mountain lions and tigers and for failing to maintain an effective program to control insects. Many cockroaches were found in the building housing the kinkajou.

**October 6, 2011:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat sanitation violations for enclosures holding tigers. They had cracks in the concrete that could inhibit sanitation and the prevention of disease. The facility was also cited for repeat facilities violations for enclosures holding lions and tigers. The fence for the enclosure holding lions wasn't sufficient to contain the animals, and the enclosure holding the white tigers had a dividing fence that wasn't tall enough to prevent them from jumping into the next

enclosure. The enclosure holding another tiger had a ledge that was wide enough to allow the animal to gain footing and possibly leap out of the enclosure. The USDA also cited the facility for improper sanitation for allowing the buildup of a brown material in the enclosure housing the kinkajou.

**June 9, 2011:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat sanitation violations for enclosures holding tigers. They had cracks in the concrete that could impede sanitation and disease prevention. The facility was also cited for repeat facilities violations for enclosures holding lions, and tigers. The fence for the enclosure holding lions wasn't sufficient to contain the animals, and the enclosure holding white tigers had a dividing fence that wasn't tall enough to prevent them from jumping into the next enclosure. An enclosure holding another tiger had a ledge that was wide enough to allow the animal to gain footing and possibly leap out of the enclosure.

**February 10, 2011:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for a repeat violation for allowing the public to view a tiger with no barrier to prevent direct contact with the animal. The facility was also cited for a repeat violation for enclosures holding tigers. The enclosure holding white tigers had a dividing fence that wasn't tall enough to prevent them from jumping into the next enclosure. An enclosure holding another tiger had a ledge that was wide enough to allow the animal to gain footing and possibly leap out of the enclosure. In addition, the facility was cited for repeat sanitation violations for enclosures holding tigers. They had cracks in the concrete that could impede sanitation and the prevention of disease.

**September 29, 2010:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for multiple violations, including failing to provide sufficient barriers between a squirrel monkey and the public. The enclosure was covered with wire mesh that

had openings wide enough to allow the squirrel monkey's hands or a person's finger through. In addition, the facility failed to keep part of an enclosure holding Arctic foxes in good repair and to maintain an effective program of pest control in the exhibit holding lemurs, where a live mouse was seen in the enclosure. The facility was also cited for enclosures holding tigers as they allowed for the possibility of escape and had damage that could impede proper sanitation and disease prevention.

**May 19, 2010:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for a repeat facilities violation for the fence around the enclosure holding the lion, which wasn't sufficient to contain the animal. The facility was cited for another repeat violation for improper waste disposal. Excreta and mulch were in the water of the pool in an enclosure holding tigers. In addition, an enclosure holding a tiger contained a tree that was tall enough to allow the tiger to climb up and escape. Furthermore, the facility was cited for failing to maintain a program of adequate veterinary care for goats with hoof problems. It was also cited for failing to keep water receptacles clean and sanitary. The drinking water for a lion was found to be greenish in color because of improper sanitation.

**August 3, 2009:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for multiple violations, including failing to provide two limping goats with adequate veterinary care, failing to provide proper environmental enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of a squirrel monkey and a lemur who were each held alone, failing to provide a secure enclosure to contain a lion properly, allowing an accumulation of trash and food waste to build up outside the building holding birds, and failing to remove excessive amounts of feces in the enclosures confining goats, pigs, cougars, servals, and bobcats. It was also cited for failing to dispose of waste

properly in an enclosure holding tigers. The enclosure contained a pool with excessive amounts of feces and urine. It was also cited for failing to minimize the risk of harm to animals and the public—a single barrier fence between a binturong and the public was broken, preventing unwanted public contact with the animal.

**March 11, 2009:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to maintain structurally sound fencing around enclosures holding farmed animals and cougars.

**September 3, 2008:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat noncompliances, including failing to provide an updated program of veterinary care and failing to prevent food contamination. Chemicals were being stored near food sources. The facility was also cited for failing to keep food receptacles clean and sanitary.

**June 2, 2008:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to provide an updated program of veterinary care, failing to provide five ferrets with shelter from sunlight, failing to remove two- to three-day-old uneaten carcass remains from an enclosure holding lions, failing to maintain a program to control pests in the enclosure holding tigers, failing to provide a barrier fence around the enclosure holding porcupines, and allowing unused equipment to accumulate in the building holding binturongs. It was also cited for failing to dispose of waste properly from an enclosure holding tigers, which contained excessive amounts of feces and urine. In addition, the facility was cited for failing to minimize the risk of harm to the public and the animals by allowing visitors to touch and take photos with tigers with no barrier fence and allowing the public to come into direct contact with a lion.

**September 26, 2007:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to maintain enclosures so that they protect primates from injury. A

pigtail macaque was found dead in his enclosure, possibly of electrocution from chewing on a cord for a heat lamp. In addition, the facility was cited for failing to maintain acquisition and disposition records on some of the animals, failing to construct an enclosure for a lion with materials of sufficient strength to contain the animal, failing to provide adequate shelter from the elements in the enclosure holding cougars, and failing to provide a perimeter fence around the enclosures holding the tigers and coatimundis.

**May 23, 2007:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for three repeat violations for failing to maintain the fencing in good repair around the pen holding llamas and goats, failing to control pests, and failing to clean a buildup of dirt, excreta, and hair in the enclosure holding tigers.

**November 29, 2006:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to maintain the fencing in good repair around the pen holding the llamas and goats, failing to have adequate shelter from the elements in the enclosures holding Arctic foxes and Japanese macaques, and failing to remove excessive amounts of feces and food waste from multiple enclosures. In addition, the enclosure holding Japanese macaques contained a doghouse with a cracked roof and sharp edge.

**September 7, 2006:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat violations for failing to maintain an adequate veterinary-care program for goats with overgrown hooves and failing to provide an adequate perimeter fence around the enclosure holding servals in order to prevent an escape.

**May 17, 2006:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for repeat violations for failing to provide a lemur who was housed alone with an environmental enrichment plan, failing to construct an enclosure for a lion with



materials of sufficient strength to contain the animal, having a crack in the wall of the building confining reptiles that was in need of repair, having an accumulation of bedding and rodent feces under the enclosures holding the fennec fox and agouti, failing to drain excess water properly from the pen holding pigs, failing to control pests effectively in the enclosure holding binturongs, and having a staff inexperienced in animal care and husbandry. In addition, the facility was cited for failing to provide a proper barrier fence between a cougar and the public.

**March 29, 2006:** According to *The Baltimore Sun*, a fire broke out at Tri-State Zoo, killing as many as 100 animals, including turtles, parrots, iguanas, monkeys, and a python. The state fire marshal later determined that the fire was caused by a faulty electrical wire.

**February 14, 2006:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to correct previously identified violations for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. The facility was keeping expired medications, and two angora rabbits were found to be “thin with prominent bony processes along the spine and pelvis.” One of the rabbits had matted fur that needed to be clipped to prevent irritation and abscesses from developing. In addition, these rabbits had old, caked-on food and feces in their food bowl and were not provided with adequate shelter from wind and cold temperatures.

The facility was also cited for a repeat enclosure violation because the enclosure holding a lemur didn’t meet the required minimum size requirements, preventing the animal from comfortably turning around or making normal postural adjustments. This enclosure, along with multiple other enclosures holding primates, had sanitation violations for the excessive buildup of feces. Furthermore, the facility didn’t have a

complete plan for providing the primates with environmental enhancement. It was cited with repeat facilities violations for failing to provide tigers and cougars with adequate shelter from winter conditions. In addition, the enclosures holding lions and tigers were not structurally sound or maintained in good repair to contain the animals properly. The cage holding the lions had large gaps, and the fence around the enclosure holding tigers wasn’t secure and presented a point of escape if more of it broke. The facility was cited for another facilities violation for two Arctic foxes who escaped from their enclosures on September 28, 2005, because they still hadn’t been captured [See January 9, 2006]. Sanitation noncompliances included excessive amounts of feces buildup in multiple enclosures, a strong odor of urine buildup in the building confining reptiles, excessive amounts of rodent feces in the kitchen, and the presence of mice in the hog food bag. Feeding noncompliances included failing to have a diet for the big cats that was approved by a veterinarian and improperly storing food. The facility was also cited for a repeat noncompliance for having a staff inexperienced in animal care and husbandry.

**January 9, 2006:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo with a facilities violation for two Arctic foxes who escaped on September 28, 2005, and still hadn’t been captured.

**January 5, 2006:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. A rabbit was found with nails that were curling around the pen wire, and another a rabbit was found to be excessively thin and had a matted coat. A goat with a genetic leg condition had overgrown hooves. The facility was also cited for having incomplete animal records to indicate the acquisition and disposal of animals, storing food improperly, failing to dispose of waste properly, and failing to

keep enclosures reasonably clean. Four outdoor cages holding rabbits were excessively dirty with hair and urine, and an excessive amount of feces was found in a cage that held one rabbit. It was also cited for failing to sanitize enclosures properly. The enclosures holding squirrel monkeys, capuchin monkeys, and lemurs had excessive buildups of feces. Cages holding macaques had an excessive buildup of dirt and debris. There were dirty food containers, and a wheelbarrow full of feces and waste was directly outside the door of the enclosure holding squirrel monkeys. Tri-State was also cited for failing to remove excreta from enclosures. The pen holding livestock was full of mud and feces, and feces from the hoofstock were in public areas. Tri-State was further cited for failing to maintain adequate pest control. Rodent holes were found in the pen holding Arctic foxes and in the feed storage area, and three live mice were seen in that area. It was also cited for failing to keep facilities used for storing animal food or bedding free of clutter and failing to keep buildings and grounds clean and in good repair. Pans in a cage holding rabbits were rusty and deteriorating, and enclosure walls were damaged and missing plaster. Tri-State Zoo was also cited for failing to provide macaques with sufficient space, leaving them unable to make normal postural adjustments. It was also cited with a repeat violation for failing to provide primates with environmental enhancement and enrichment (see September 28, 2005). It was also cited for failing to ensure that facilities were in good repair to protect and contain animals, as a cage holding tigers was found with an unattached covering, leaving the tigers capable of entering the visitor area. It was cited for failing to store food properly. Meat freezers were filthy, and thawed deer rib cages were rotting in the bottom of a freezer. Tri-State was further cited for failing to have suitable drainage. Pens holding llamas and goats contained

standing water, forming a mixture of mud and feces, and sheep, pigs, and goats had little, if any, dry space to lie down. Tri-State was also cited for failing to provide wholesome, uncontaminated food of sufficient quantity and nutritive value. A salt block for llamas and a goat was found lying in the mud, and the facility veterinarian had not approved and signed off on the diets for the big cats. Finally, the facility was cited for failing to have sufficient and adequately experienced people caring for primates, failing to provide species-appropriate ample lighting, failing to provide tigers with adequate shelter during inclement weather, and failing to construct a perimeter fence that protects animals and the public by restricting animals to the facility and keeping unauthorized people out.

**September 28, 2005:** The USDA cited Tri-State Zoo for failing to provide rabbits with sufficient shade to prevent overheating and discomfort. Rabbits had dug two large holes as a way to get cool. It was also cited for failing to have an environmental enrichment plan for primates that addressed the special needs of a capuchin monkey, a pigtail macaque, and a rhesus macaque, who were each confined alone. It was cited for failing to provide adequate shade structures in the enclosure holding lions and failing to have a perimeter fence around the enclosures holding Arctic foxes and coatimundis. USDA inspectors found cracked glass in the enclosure housing squirrel monkeys, equipment and building materials haphazardly located outside the main entrance to animal enclosures, missing wire resulting in large openings in the wire fence of pens holding llamas and goats, and a damaged ceiling with exposed insulation in the area holding large birds.