UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:

TRIPLE D GAME FARM, INC., a Domestic Profit Corporation within the state of Montana,

Respondent.

AWA Docket No. 24-J-0013

COMPLAINT

There is reason to believe that the Respondent named herein has violated the Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 2131 *et seq.*) (AWA or Act), and the regulations (9 C.F.R. Part 2) (Regulations) and standards issued thereunder (9 C.F.R. Part 3) (Standards). Therefore, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues this complaint alleging the following:

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. Respondent, Triple D Game Farm, Inc., is a Domestic Profit Corporation within the state of Montana and whose business mailing address is P.O. Box 5072, Kalispell, MT 59903.
- 2. Respondent's registered agent is Lorney J. Deist whose mailing address is 190 Drake Drive, Kalispell, MT 59903.
- 3. At all times material herein, the Respondent was operating as a Class C Exhibitor as that term is defined in the Act and the Regulations and held AWA Certificate Number 81-C-0016.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

On or about January 7, 2019, the Respondent violated the Regulations (9 C.F.R. §
 2.131(b)(1)) as follows: a silver fox kit escaped the perimeter fencing and was never recaptured.

- 2. On or about September 23, 2019, the Respondent violated the Regulations (9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1)) as follows: a North American river otter was found deceased approximately one week after failed attempts were made by trainers to re-crate the animal.
- 3. On or about May 12, 2020, the Respondent violated the Regulations (9 C.F.R. § 3.133), by failing to meet the Standards, as follows: a female Arctic wolf was found deceased after being left unsupervised overnight with a male wolf that was removed from a separate enclosure due to compatibility concerns with another female Arctic wolf the day before.
- 4. On or about November 12, 2020, the Respondent violated the Regulations (9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a)), by failing to meet the Standards, as follows: a pine marten was found decapitated in a fox pen after escaping its enclosure.
- 5. On or about December 2, 2021, the Respondent violated the Regulations (9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1)) as follows: two-thirds of a snow leopard's tail was discovered in an adjacent enclosure after contact was made with another snow leopard during routine shifting of cats.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that for the purpose of determining whether the Respondent has in fact violated the Act and the Regulations and Standards issued thereunder, this complaint shall be served upon the Respondent. Respondent shall file an answer with the Office of the Hearing Clerk, Room 1031-South Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9200, in accordance with the Rules of Practice governing proceedings under the Act (7 C.F.R. §§ 1.130-162.13). Failure to file an answer shall constitute an admission of all the material allegations of this complaint.

APHIS requests that this matter proceed in accordance with the Rules of Practice governing proceedings under the Act, and that such order or orders be issued as are authorized by the Act (7 U.S.C. § 2149) and warranted under the circumstances.

Done at Washington DC

this ___ day of _ 2023 Digitally signed by MICHAEL

WATSON

Date: 2023.11.03 07:53:47 **WATSON** -04'00'

Dr. Michael Watson, Acting Administrator Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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