

# Natural Bridge Zoo

5784 S. Lee Hwy., Natural Bridge, VA 24578

Natural Bridge Zoo has failed to meet minimum standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Among other issues, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with veterinary care, failing to keep food free from the risk of contamination, failing to provide clean drinking water, failing to maintain enclosures, failing to provide animals with dry enclosures, failing to provide dry bedding, failing to clean enclosures, and failing to provide animals with food and water. In 2015, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries suspended Natural Bridge Zoo's permit for nearly two months. The facility's owner, Karl Mogensen, was assessed more than \$60,000 in civil penalties by the USDA and had his exhibitor license suspended on two separate occasions for 30 days each. In 2023, dozens of animals were seized after a search warrant was executed at the facility by the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. In 2024, Mogensen's children took over the facility and relicensed it under JIG Ventures LLC. Contact PETA for documentation.

**March 27, 2024:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have a current inventory on hand, including records of births and deaths. Many animals had been transported somewhere else, but the inventory of animals currently at the facility hadn't been updated. Additionally, there was no record of a muntjac who had gone missing the day after being born. Another citation was issued for failing to have an

environmental enrichment plan for birds at the facility.

**March 4, 2024:** After a six-day jury trial in the Rockbridge County Circuit Court, involving an appeal by Karl Mogensen and his wife, Deborah, of the district court's decision, the county was awarded custody of 71 animals who had been seized from Natural Bridge Zoo in December 2023. (See entries from January 19, 2024, and December 6, 2023, below.) After 10 hours of deliberation, the jury found that these animals had been subjected to cruel treatment or deprived of adequate care.

**January 19, 2024:** Following a seizure hearing that took place over three days, the Rockbridge County General District Court found that the county, represented by the Virginia Attorney General's Office, had proved beyond a reasonable doubt that animals confiscated from Natural Bridge Zoo on December 6, 2023 (see entry below) had been subjected to cruelty or inadequate care. The county was awarded custody of the majority of the seized animals, including primates, exotic birds, turtles, and giraffes.

**December 6, 2023:** The Virginia Office of the Attorney General's Animal Law Unit and Virginia State Police executed a search warrant at Natural Bridge Zoo. Over the course of two days, the state seized nearly 100 living animals, the bodies of 28 deceased animals—including a tiger who had to be euthanized on-site—and 11 different body parts of animals. Seizure hearings were subsequently held and resulted in the state retaining custody of most of the animals. Asha, the solitary elephant previously held at Natural Bridge Zoo, had been moved by the facility on December 1, 2023, to Two Tails Ranch in Florida. (See entries dated January 19 and March 4, 2024.)

**June 16, 2023:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have readily identifiable attendants present when the public had direct contact with animals. Multiple enclosures had only a primary fence, with either metal chain-link fencing or horizontal wood beams, which allowed the public to have direct contact with animals through the gaps in the fencing. The facility also sold feed to the public to allow them to feed the animals without public attendants.

**January 24, 2023:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain enclosures in good repair. A muntjac enclosure had a hole in the wooden threshold at the entrance, a corner of metal edging bent away from the wall that exposed sharp edges and two screws, and a shelter with two old, rotten wood ceiling boards that had large holes and wood caving into the shelter.

**January 5, 2022:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have direct control of an elephant when members of the public were present. In August 2021, elephant rides were conducted in a large ring with the animal walking a path around the inner perimeter. During the rides, the handler wasn't visible or was seen in the center of the ring, multiple feet away from the elephant.

**August 3, 2021:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. Several llamas and sheep had overgrown hooves, and the sheep's hooves had started to curve inward. In addition, a female llama had hair loss on the inside portion of her hind legs. The exposed skin appeared thickened, rough, and flaky.

**August 19, 2019:** The USDA issued a citation and notification of penalty to Natural Bridge Zoo for several alleged violations of the AWA. A settlement agreement was

offered with a penalty of \$41,500 to settle the egregious alleged violations, including the following:

- The facility failed to seek immediate veterinary care for a mandrill who was wounded by another mandrill and suffered blood loss. The veterinarian examined the mandrill hours after a keeper first observed the wound but was unable to save the animal.
- It failed to euthanize a sick guinea pig properly. Instead, the animal was forcefully thrown to the ground in an effort to end his or her life. Natural Bridge Zoo also used this bludgeoning method to kill other guinea pigs. Inspectors discovered 10 dead guinea pigs with broken ribs and pelvic bones in the freezer used to keep feed for big cats.
- It failed to provide adequate veterinary care after staff denied a sick tiger cub potentially lifesaving care. Natural Bridge Zoo administered an enema to a tiger cub ("Meaty") on April 18, 2015. The following day, the cub was taken to the veterinarian for treatment of lethargy and dehydration. On April 25, 2015, the cub was taken to the veterinarian again, but Natural Bridge Zoo declined the veterinarian's recommendations for intravenous fluids and hospitalization. The tiger cub died later the same day.
- It failed to handle animals so that there was a minimal risk of harm to the animals and the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animals and the public, specifically babies and young children. On multiple occasions, Natural Bridge Zoo used tiger cubs Daxx and Deja for photo sessions through the age of 17 weeks and when they weighed more than 40 pounds.
- It failed to have an elephant named Asha under the direct control of the animal handler during public exhibition. Members of the public were allowed to

ride, take photos with, and feed her without the handler nearby.

**September 11, 2018:** A week after Natural Bridge Zoo notified the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries that a wattled crane had escaped, the animal was found dead, apparently from hitting a power line.

**October 24, 2017:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for the repeat violation of failing to have attendants or sufficient distance and/or barriers present during interactions between the public and animals. The public was permitted to walk directly up to several enclosures, including a temporary pen with two young llamas. There were no barriers present to discourage public contact, and there were no attendants present. The fencing had spaces large enough for guests to reach through and touch the animals.

**June 20, 2017:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for the repeat violation of failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. Inspectors observed that a female camel had a large amount of fluid soaking the hair on the back of her rear legs down toward the feet. A thin trail of the fluid was also noted on the right front leg and was red in color. The USDA also cited Natural Bridge Zoo for the repeat violation of failing to have attendants or sufficient distance and/or barriers present during interactions between the public and animals. An official with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service observed that an elephant was without a handler when the public was present. The barrier between her and the public consisted of either a single-strand electric wire fence or areas of livestock panel that were not structurally strong enough to contain an adult elephant should she choose to get out. In addition, temporary pens were set up to allow public interaction with a young camel and goats. There were no barriers or signs present to discourage public contact, and there were

no attendants present. The fences had spaces large enough for guests to reach through and touch the animals.

The USDA also cited the facility for the repeat violations of failing to maintain enclosures in good repair and failing to maintain a functional primary enclosure fence. The roof of the building housing lemurs had areas of deterioration and a 2-foot section that appeared to be sagging. Water was leaking into the building through the damaged areas. Several areas of the primary enclosure fencing for multiple animals had trees and vines growing through, making them impossible to inspect. The roadside zoo was also cited for failing to provide two gibbons with an enclosure of sufficient height to allow for normal movement such as swinging, failing to have a safe and effective program to control rodent populations around numerous enclosures, and failing to have a perimeter fence for some portions of the facility. Several primary enclosures backed up to a country road with no secondary perimeter fence between the animals and the road. Another section had an area where the public could climb up a short rise to get directly up to the giraffe enclosure fencing, and a third area of the facility, which held the camel and kudu enclosures, adjoined the property of a neighbor, whose dog was seen running along the fence adjacent to the camels.

**February 22, 2017:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for the repeat violation of failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. One male giraffe had an approximately 4-inch crack in his left rear hoof, and there was no documentation to indicate that this issue had been observed by staff. Two female giraffes had excessively overgrown hooves on both front feet. A female nyala was seen standing with a hunched posture, and her coat wasn't smooth like those of the other nyalas in the

area. The front of her body didn't coordinate with the rear when walking, resulting in a swaying motion. When she attempted to run down a slope, her gait was uncoordinated and her front legs crossed each other as she moved. The instability in her gait caused her to wobble in an attempt to regain her balance without falling over. The licensee stated that the condition was first observed in August 2016. There was no documentation to indicate that this nyala ever received any veterinary evaluation.

The USDA also cited Natural Bridge Zoo for the repeat violations of failing to maintain enclosures in good repair and failing to maintain a functional primary enclosure fence. The roof of the building housing lemurs had areas of deterioration and a 2-foot section that appeared to be sagging. Water was leaking into the building through the damaged areas. Several areas of the primary enclosure fencing for multiple animals had trees and vines growing through, making them impossible to inspect. The facility was also cited for failing to have sufficient ventilation in a building housing lemurs, birds, and rodents. Inspectors noted that the building had a strong odor of ammonia, and the amount of ventilation wasn't sufficient to remove the odor.

**August 9, 2016:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. The attending veterinarian had recommended "diagnostics and [a] physical exam" because of a spider monkey's enlarged abdomen, but the veterinarian wasn't allowed to complete the recommended procedures. Another spider monkey was euthanized after, according to the licensee, "going downhill for quite some time." But there were no veterinary records prior to the day when the animal was euthanized. At least four goats had multiple areas of hair loss, and a white sheep and a goat had visible areas of swelling. The facility was

also cited for failing to have a handler with the elephant at all times when the facility was open, failing to have an attendant present in the walk-through area, and failing to have an effective barrier around many enclosures in the walk-through area.

The USDA also cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have a primate enhancement plan that addressed special considerations for primates showing potential signs of psychological distress, failing to maintain the flooring in the enclosure holding African crested porcupines, failing to have a perimeter fence around several enclosures, and failing to maintain the perimeter fence in other areas. It was covered with overgrown vegetation, making it impossible to inspect.

**December 15, 2015:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. Several had excessive hair loss, and a camel had an abnormal gait. The facility was also cited for failing to contain a red ruffed lemur named Wally, who was able to get out of the enclosure and into the "keeper common area"; failing to have a primate enhancement plan that addressed special considerations for primates showing potential signs of psychological distress; and failing to clean the floor of the walk-in freezer. It was dirty, ice had accumulated on it, and several areas contained frozen blood that had dripped onto it. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to maintain the perimeter fence. It was covered with overgrown vegetation, making it impossible to inspect.

**May 19, 2015:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. Asha, an African elephant, was in need of foot care for all four feet, and her skin appeared "dry and thickened." And a 15-year-old serval appeared thin, and her spine and hip bones

protruded slightly. The facility was also cited for failing to handle rabbits properly. They were being housed in metal water troughs, and temperatures at 4 p.m. ranged from 85 to 87 degrees inside and near the enclosures. Several rabbits displayed signs of heat stress by panting and elongating their bodies. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to provide auxiliary ventilation in the building holding five mandrills. Temperatures were in the 90s in the building, and two of the animals didn't have access to the outdoors.

The facility was also cited for failing to feed tiger cubs properly. Four cubs, who were born on April 9, 2015, and removed from their mother within one hour of birth, had been fed a diet that was inappropriate for their age and species, and the one cub still remaining at the facility had a rough hair coat, a prominent pelvis, and a pot-bellied appearance. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to maintain two enclosures used to hold primates (they were severely rusted), failing to have appropriate primary enclosure fencing for the pigs, and failing to maintain the enclosure holding muntjacs, which was overgrown with grass and weeds.

**April 2, 2015:** The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries suspended Natural Bridge Zoo's permit to exhibit wild animals after the second USDA inspection of the year found 44 violations of the AWA. (See March 10, 2015.)

**March 10, 2015:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with veterinary care. A goat had multiple areas of hair loss and appeared intensely itchy. When her hair was parted, numerous live lice were observed. In addition, two muntjacs had excessively long front hooves, a camel had significant swelling (about the size of a tennis ball) on the base of her neck, a rabbit had a watery discharge

coming from his eye, a mandrill had hair loss over the top part of both arms, a juvenile mandrill had hair loss on the inside of both elbows, and a zebu died the day after being tranquilized by facility personnel in order to trim his hooves. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for not noticing the aforementioned conditions and not being able to see the muntjacs daily—the current design of the shelter prohibited seeing them when they went under the shed. The facility was also cited for failing to have dosages of ketamine for use in sedating or tranquilizing primates in the program of veterinary care.

The USDA also cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain several enclosures. Among other areas in need of repair, a few enclosures holding primates were extremely rusted, the enclosure holding three snow macaques had multiple sharp points from a broken chain-link fence, the wood guillotine doors to the shelter in the enclosure holding five mandrills were worn and chewed, the enclosure holding three Japanese macaques within the gift shop had a window ledge that was warped and separating from the building wall, and fences needed to be repaired around the enclosure holding eight pygmy goats and around the yard holding 24 llamas. The facility was also cited for failing to have documentation regarding the nutrition, care, and enrichment that was given to two infant capuchins who were removed from their mothers, bottle-fed, and then sold. One was 4 weeks old, and the other was 2 weeks old.

The USDA also cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have dry enclosures for 86 animals who were held in six outdoor yards that were excessively muddy, failing to clean the water troughs used for 16 zebras (the troughs had a layer of greenish-brown material on the bottom), failing to provide a cougar with dry bedding, failing to clean the enclosures holding an African crested porcupine and the elephant, failing to remove accumulated bird droppings from



the stalls holding a nyala, and failing to have an effective pest-control program in the barn holding the nyala, as evidenced by the numerous bird droppings.

**February 16, 2015:** According to *The Roanoke Times*, the Virginia Attorney General's Office launched an inquiry into Natural Bridge Zoo after the USDA's four-day inspection resulted in a 27-page report detailing numerous violations. (See January 6, 2015.)

**January 6, 2015:** The USDA issued 31 citations to Natural Bridge Zoo, including for failing to have a number of animals listed on the program of veterinary care; listing "IV Pentobarbital or Gunshot" in the program of veterinary care under the "guidance for euthanasia" of carnivores, hoofed stock, primates, and elephants (a gunshot is acceptable as an emergency means of euthanasia but shouldn't be listed as a routine method); missing guidance information in the program of veterinary care regarding the dosing of various drugs, deworming of various species, anesthesia monitoring, and more; and failing to dispose of several expired drugs, two of which had expired in 2011. It was also cited for failing to provide 35 animals with veterinary care, including two oryxes who had significant lameness; guinea pigs with hair loss and scabs; camels with abnormal skin conditions; a cougar who had reddened and moist skin on the right hind leg; a giraffe who needed her hooves trimmed; capuchins suffering from hair loss and one who was missing part of an index finger; a small mandrill who had hair loss; a pygmy goat with a white vulvar discharge, hair loss, and significant crusting around her nose; a llama who had a mass under his jaw; a miniature zebu who had long, misshapen claws on both hind legs; and all the muntjacs, who had fur on their rump area that was ruffled and standing on end, which could indicate several problems. Two also had large brown

material under their tails, which was consistent with caked-on runny feces.

Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to observe animals in order to identify the care that they needed. Personnel couldn't see the bears when they went into the den area over the winter. The den area was constructed of concrete block and was boarded up for the winter for warmth.

Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for its euthanasia methods regarding guinea pigs. Ten dead guinea pigs were in a refrigerator. The licensee told the inspector that they were old breeders culled from the colony to be given to the big cats. He also said that he killed them by slamming them against a hard surface. When asked to demonstrate, he lifted a dead guinea pig above his head and threw it forcefully against the concrete floor. The facility was also cited for failing to have acquisition or disposition records for 124 animals, having an incorrect number of current animals in its records, failing to have direct control of the elephant Asha (she was allowed to roam free on a 1,600-acre property owned by friend across the street from the facility), and failing to handle tiger cubs carefully. They had been torn away from their mother at birth and put on display in the gift shop at 2 to 3 weeks old. They were then used in photo sessions at 3 to 4 weeks old, which exposed them to the public before they were immunocompetent.

Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to handle a De Brazza's monkey properly. Staff repeatedly jabbed at him with wooden sticks in an attempt to make him move out of an undersized "pet" carrier into a small squeeze cage in order to provide him with medical treatment. The staff members were also making loud noises in an attempt to scare him, talking loudly about other things, and joking. During this time, he was moving frantically in order to avoid being jabbed by the sticks. The facility was also cited for failing to provide a singly housed De

Brazza's monkey with additional environment enhancement. The monkey was being held in a room without other primates. (The report didn't indicate if this was the same monkey staff members were trying to force out of a carrier.)

Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited for failing to handle tiger cubs properly (in one case, a tiger cub who was too big and strong to be used in direct public contact was being used for photo opportunities), failing to have a sufficient public barrier around the enclosure holding the elephant Asha, failing to supply sufficient heat to guinea pigs who were being housed outdoors, failing to have a safe enclosure for guinea pigs (it had a rotted area), failing to provide guinea pigs with sufficient space, failing to clean the enclosures holding 97 guinea pigs and their litters (the enclosures contained excessively wet and dirty bedding beneath a layer of clean bedding), failing to clean the hutches holding rabbits (excessive debris had accumulated in them), failing to store produce properly (it was being stored in open boxes on the floor of the "keeper building" against shelves with cans of paint and next to enclosures holding primates), failing to lock the padlock for the door of the outdoor area used by the black-and-white lemur, failing to fix the partition between the gift shop and the outdoor enclosure used for the snow macaque (the glass had an 8-inch vertical crack and "circular puncture-type damage," which could potentially lead to injury), failing to meet minimum space requirements for a spider monkey, and failing to have a current primate environmental enhancement plan that included all the primates and had been approved by the current veterinarian.

The facility was also cited for failing to clean the enclosure housing primates, as "[n]early every non-human primate primary enclosure at this facility is excessively dirty." It was also cited for failing to have an effective rodent-control program (numerous rodent

holes and dead rats were found); failing to maintain several enclosures; failing to clean the walk-in freezer, which was filthy and had uncovered and dirty livestock carcasses used for feeding piled on the floor; failing to keep the hay stored in the hayloft above the stalls free from contamination of bird feces, feathers, and alive and dead pigeons; failing to provide a camel and a blesbok with adequate shelter; failing to provide several animals with outdoor yards that were free of excessive mud; failing to have an effective perimeter fence; and failing to provide the bears with food and potable water. The owner of the facility said they weren't provided with food or water from December 1 until March in order to encourage hibernation. The inspectors saw a bear walk out of a den and into an enclosure.

**June 24, 2014:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide the Asiatic bears with adequate shade (the shade cloth over the enclosure was tattered and had become folded under, and the den that they were provided with was 3 degrees warmer than the outside temperature) and failing to have an adequate gate in the perimeter fence. The new gate had space under it that was high enough for small animals such as skunks and foxes to enter the property.

**February 19, 2014:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain the concrete flooring in the center enclosure housing primates. A low spot had developed where water stood, causing the concrete to degrade so much that the floor could no longer be sanitized.

**September 26, 2013:** The USDA again cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide a giraffe with veterinary care. Her overgrown rear hooves needed to be trimmed.

**August 13, 2013:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide a giraffe with veterinary care. Her overgrown rear

hooves needed to be trimmed.

It was also cited for not providing the bears with a separate water receptacle for drinking water. There was only a large metal tub filled with water that the bears would climb in to cool off. The water would become dirty, and algae grew on surfaces of the tub.

**February 28, 2013:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for not providing guinea pigs, who were housed outdoors, with heat in their enclosures when necessary. In addition, the facility was cited for failing to keep some sections of the fencing in good repair.

**August 26, 2010:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain the wooden shelter in the enclosure holding a De Brazza's monkey (it had been chewed in several areas, rendering it no longer able to be cleaned) and failing to maintain the cage holding the squirrels. One of the "limbs" had been chewed through and was in danger of coming loose and injuring the animals.

**May 26, 2010:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain the metal siding on the shelter used for kudus. It was loose and torn, leaving sharp edges that could injure the animals.

**December 3, 2009:** The USDA again cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide fallow deer with sufficient shelter. There wasn't enough room to house all the deer during inclement weather.

**September 2, 2009:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide a white camel with veterinary care. She had a large, fly-covered, oozing lesion on her side, and there was no evidence that she was being treated for it. The facility received repeat citations for not supplying enough room to house all the fallow deer (they also lacked sufficient shade) and failing to maintain an area along the fence line that

separated the enclosure for camels and zebras. There had been significant erosion under the fence, loosening the material along the bottom, and animals could be injured if they slipped or slid on the sloped ground.

**March 31, 2009:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain its facilities. The metal siding on the shelter used for goats was torn and coming loose, leaving sharp edges; the metal siding on the shelter housing kudus was loose; the fencing was sagging along the bottom of one side of the pasture holding kudus, which could injure their feet or legs; and a round bale of hay kept in the shelter intended for fallow deer was taking room away from them.

**August 20, 2008:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to install a gate that would sufficiently prevent animals from entering the zoo. The new gate that had been installed had a gap at the bottom large enough for wildlife such as raccoons and small domestic animals to enter.

**December 18, 2007:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to construct and maintain a small enclosure holding a capuchin. Broken, rusted wires protruding from a window covering could injure the animal, and enclosure materials had deteriorated, making it difficult to clean and sanitize the area. The facility was also cited for not supplying appropriate shelter to two juvenile camels who were housed during the day outdoors with no shelter of any kind and to a juvenile bear who was being housed in a "corncrib type enclosure" that had a very high roof but no other shelter.

**October 12, 2007:** Karl Mogensen was assessed a civil penalty of \$10,000 and had his exhibitor license suspended for 30 days by the USDA to settle past AWA violations, including failing to construct and maintain



safe housing facilities for the animals and failing to store food in a manner that protects it from contamination.

**August 20, 2007:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for storing potentially toxic items above food-storage areas, failing to provide camels with adequate shelter in the event of inclement weather, and failing to maintain an effective pest-control program. Many flies were seen in the food areas landing on food-preparation surfaces and clean bowls.

**June 15, 2007:** The USDA filed a complaint against Karl Mogensen and Natural Bridge Zoo for 13 violations of the AWA on four previous inspections. (See November 7, 2006; November 8, 2005; May 12, 2005; and October 8, 2004.)

**June 5, 2007:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide the camels with adequate shelter in the event of adverse weather.

**November 7, 2006:** The USDA again cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide camels and a zebu calf with adequate shelter, failing to provide two tigers with adequate shelter during rain (one of the tigers didn't have a dry area), failing to have a perimeter fence around the new exotic-ungulate shelter, and failing to keep the side gate to the main zoo property closed. The inspectors were able to drive onto and leave the property unnoticed.

**May 10, 2006:** The USDA issued repeat citations to Natural Bridge Zoo for not adequately protecting food supplies (a bottle-fed camel was being housed in the food storage and preparation area), not properly cleaning the night house for the snow macaque (it contained excessive old bedding and waste material), failing to maintain fencing in a few locations, and not having an adequate perimeter fence.

**November 8, 2005:** The USDA again cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to ensure that food stayed free from contamination (a zebu calf and two capuchins were being housed in the food storage and preparation area), failing to clean enclosures properly (the wire front of the enclosure holding a capuchin and an enclosure holding a lemur both had a buildup of waste material), failing to maintain the fencing at the farm holding zebras (it was in disrepair), failing to maintain two shelter boxes for servals (the boxes were coming apart), failing to maintain the shelters used for camels (a support pole had rotted at the bottom and was sagging), failing to have a perimeter fence around the farm holding zebras and ostriches, and failing to close a side gate to the main zoo property during the day. The gate was part of the perimeter fence, and with it open, it couldn't act as a secondary containment system.

**May 12, 2005:** The USDA again cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to clean the wire front of the enclosure holding a capuchin that had a buildup of waste material, failing to maintain the fencing at the farm holding zebras and ostriches (it was in disrepair, and ostriches had been escaping from the pasture), and failing to have a perimeter fence around the farm holding zebras and ostriches.

**October 8, 2004:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have a perimeter fence around the pastures holding the ostriches and zebras, failing to clean the enclosures holding marmosets (it contained a buildup of waste and scent-marking material on all the wooden perches), failing to maintain the work counter next to the sink in the food-preparation area (it contained scored vinyl that had detached from the wooden base and was no longer able to be cleaned), failing to ensure that food stayed free from contamination (vegetables were left in an open box in the kitchen and were

noted to have numerous flies on them, and a spider monkey was being held in the kitchen with no physical separation between him and the food storage and preparation area), and failing to have effective fencing. In the pasture enclosing the nilgai and the zebu, there were gaps between the fencing and the ground that were large enough to admit other animals, and the pasture fence at the farm holding zebras had low areas that had allowed an animal to escape. The facility was also cited for failing to clean several primate enclosures. The enclosure holding the squirrel monkey had a buildup of excreta on the bottom, some of the enclosures holding marmosets had excreta buildup on the concrete blocks, and the wire front of the enclosure holding a capuchin had a buildup of waste material on it.

**July 21, 2004:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have effective fencing in several areas of the facility. The fencing between the enclosures holding ostriches and zebras was sagging, and part of the bottom was lying on the ground on the zebras' side. There was a gap in the fencing at the ground level at the back of the sitatunga enclosure. A cattle panel at the bottom of the entrance gate to the enclosure holding fallow deer was loose and bent, and wires were protruding into the enclosure. A corner post of the gate to the road was loose and leaning, and the fencing used to enclose the juvenile white tiger was 4 feet, which wasn't high enough to ensure containment.

**June 23, 2004:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have a perimeter fence at two off-site properties that held the nilgai, the zebu, and zebras and failing to have an effective fence around the enclosure holding the nilgai and the zebu. It had areas of erosion that caused significant gaps between the fencing and the ground, which could allow small animals to enter the enclosure.

**December 20, 2003:** According to *The Roanoke Times*, two Asiatic black bears escaped from a holding area on December 11, 2003. One bear broke into a home through a window, and Karl Mogensen and a Rockbridge County sheriff's deputy shot that bear to death in the house. The other bear was shot at least twice before fleeing into the woods and, two days later, was shot and killed by a man who claimed that he was unaware of the escape. The USDA opened an investigation.

**August 19, 2003:** The USDA again cited Natural Bridge Zoo for housing guinea pigs outdoors without approval from the deputy administrator.

**July 21, 2003:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for housing guinea pigs in inadequate facilities (they were in a wire enclosure on the ground without shade or shelter) and failing to supply adequate veterinary care to a guinea pig who was very thin, had a poor hair coat, had two broken teeth, and had copious saliva down the front of her. Natural Bridge Zoo was also cited again for failing to clean the front fencing for the two indoor enclosures holding capuchins and ring-tailed lemurs. There was a buildup of waste materials, and the front of the enclosure holding the lemurs appeared rusted.

**April 22, 2003:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide animals with environmental enhancement to promote their psychological well-being. A capuchin was observed pulling his fur and was missing fur on his tail and arm, and a mandrill had a large bare area on his arm. The inspector thought he had pulled the fur out. The inspector noted that "they are still expressing some potential signs of psychological distress as indicated by fur plucking." The facility was again cited for keeping animals in the food-preparation area, making it impossible to keep the area

sanitary, and failing to clean the front fencing of the two indoor enclosures holding capuchins and ring-tailed lemurs. The enclosures contained a buildup of grease and waste.

**December 20, 2002:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain the fence enclosing the camels. A post was loose, causing the fence to buckle and create a possible means of escape.

**August 11, 2002:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to have the proper health certificates for three Japanese snow macaques who were sold and transported to another state and failing to maintain three enclosures for primates. The enclosures had unsealed wood, making it impossible to sanitize them. The facility received repeat citations for not storing the monkey biscuits properly, not keeping the food-preparation area sanitary (animals were being housed in the same area), and failing to maintain the perimeter fence. It had several gaps, allowing small predatory animals onto the property.

**September 11, 2001:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide two guinea pigs, who had patchy hair loss and a crusty skin condition, with adequate veterinary care; not properly disposing of expired medication, some of which had expired seven years before; failing to maintain the surfaces of the enclosures holding capuchins and a lemur (they were constructed with press board that had deteriorated in areas, making them impossible to clean); failing to maintain enclosures housing servals, which contained deteriorating climbing and resting boards; failing to maintain the perimeter fence (it contained several gaps, allowing small predatory animals onto the property); and failing to maintain a sanitary food-preparation area. Birds and guinea pigs were being housed in the same area, and

many wood surfaces had deteriorated, making them no longer able to be cleaned.

**November 1, 2000:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for housing guinea pigs in outdoor facilities, not providing the large felids with a veterinarian-approved diet, not having a secondary perimeter fence in the back portion of the zoo, and failing to maintain the fence surrounding the pen housing camels, which had a gap.

**June 16, 2000:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to provide an effective barrier between three bear cubs and the public and failing to have an employee present at all times.

**April 26, 2000:** The USDA cited Natural Bridge Zoo for failing to maintain the structural strength of the perimeter fence and the corner post of the enclosure holding a Siberian tiger, failing to implement adequate pest control (rodent droppings and live mice were found in various areas), failing to provide adequate veterinary care and facilities, and failing to keep records for the feral rabbit population on the property, which was a result of domestic rabbits who had escaped and bred uncontrollably.

**October 1994:** The USDA assessed Karl Mogensen a civil penalty of \$10,000, \$3,500 of which was suspended and held in abeyance, and his license was suspended for 30 days. Among other violations, he was charged with keeping animals in incompatible groups and failing to provide structurally sound housing, adequately protected food and bedding, waste removal, adequately ventilated and lighted indoor housing, outdoor shelter from inclement weather and the sun, and adequate veterinary care.

