
**NJ DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
MEMORANDUM**

TO: SEAQUEST WOODBRIDGE
FROM: KATE SZOSTAK
SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF JUNE 24, 2021
DATE: 06.28.2021

TIME: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

PRESENT: CPO Sean McManus, Kate Szostak

PURPOSE: Following up on letter sent April 21, 2021 regarding unapproved interactions posted on FaceBook. SeaQuest also posted an image of a Capybara, the caption of which stated it was in their New Jersey location. A health certificate was not received, nor did the facility ask if they could possess a Capybara.

WEATHER: Mostly sunny, temps in the upper 70s.

OBSERVATIONS: Arrived at the Woodbridge Mall and waited for CPO McManus to arrive.

When we entered the facility, Katharine Karpuk met us at the entrance. I asked her about the capybara and she said that they definitely do not have one. I explained that on their SeaQuest Woodbridge Facebook page, there is a picture and a video of a girl feeding a capybara, the latter of which is against New Jersey Fish and Wildlife regulations. Under the video, the caption stated that the Capybara was from the New Jersey location. Katharine explained that this was a mistake on corporate's part and that they do not possess a capybara. After inspecting the entire facility (both front and back of house), it was determined that the facility does not in fact possess a capybara.

We then met Dennis Ferrier. This was my first time meeting him after several emails and phone calls, so it was good to meet the new manager after Brayden Albertoni left the previous year. Dennis was brought up to speed regarding the capybara Facebook post. He explained that he has been trying to get this corrected with the SeaQuest corporate office, however he has not been having the best luck with this.

The water for the sloth is normally running into a container below, from which the sloth drinks, however the bowl had tipped backwards slightly to prevent the water falling into

the drinking area. Dennis informed me that he is currently working on getting this fixed. The sloth box was moved closer to the feeding tubes so that the animal can still get food via the approved interactions in a quicker fashion so the animal did not have to move from one side of the enclosure to the other.

There are plans to add a day and night light cycle to the prehensile-tailed porcupine exhibit. There were a couple flies in the enclosure, but not enough to be problematic.

Two birds (green wing macaw and yellow-fronted amazon parrot) are on display outside of cages, but there is a barrier to prevent people from getting access to them. While there is normally someone at the location, there was no one there at the time of inspection. However, Dennis explained that he has two security cameras pointed at the animals and he is able to watch over them from his office to make sure the public is unable to get too close to them.

In the back, they are currently holding unregulated animals that are to be rehomed. They did have one day gecko, but they are currently looking for a new home for that animal as well. They are also looking to rehome the pacman frog, which is in the back. Dennis explained that he does not like to take on animals if he knows that he is not going to be able to exhibit them. He does not want an animal to remain in quarantine forever. The frog is listed on their permit, however he does not currently have room for an exhibit for the frog.

The exhibits appeared to be clean and free of unnecessary debris. The animals looked healthy and had access to food and/or water.

Other observations:

- Observed the guests and there were no unapproved interactions taking place at the time of the visit.
- See photos