



Inspection Report

BOB STEELE, III

Customer ID: 3129

Certificate: 74-C-0837

Site: TRA

BOB STEELE, III

THE GREAT BEAR SHOW
2245 KELLYVILLE CUT OFF

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

JEFFERSON, TX 75657

Date: Mar-12-2012

2.131 (c) (1) REPEAT

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

Sec. 2.131(c)(1) Handling of animals. During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public.

* The public barrier being used at this location is a pipe and drape system typically used as trade show booths. It is made of aluminum pipe and a curtain type material that measures 36 inches high from the top of the rail to the floor. This curtain type material is hanging from and attached to the top rail but is free hanging and could easily be gotten under or through(the gaps) by members of the public. At one point, during the speaking portion of the show, but before the bears were removed from their enclosure, a young child was setting on the floor and looking either through or under the drape barrier and had to be asked by the exhibitor to please close the curtain and stand up from the floor. This pipe and drape public barrier was approximately 48 to 52 inches away from the enclosure. Also, only one handler was present during the open exhibit, bear performance and photo shoot.

*The pipe and drape public barrier was opened up by taking down one of the rails during the photo shoot. This was done so that members of the public could come behind the barrier to have their photos taken. However, because there was no additional trained attendants or helpers this made for easy access to the bear enclosure while the handler was occupied with bringing in members of the public, accepting money and taking photographs.

*Three bears were removed from and returned to their enclosure all at one time by only one handler. When they were removed for the performance, they were led to three stainless steel chairs. One of the old males took a seat on his haunches in the first chair and the handler released the leash. The second male then took his seat in his chair and again the handler released the leash. Then the third bear took her chair and the handler followed behind her and snapped her leash into the chair. At this time, the handler then walked to the second bear and snapped his leash to the chair and then the first bear was snapped into his chair. The two big males were setting alone in their respective chairs and not under direct control for approximately 30 seconds while the others were being guided to and snapped into their chairs that are all chained together. There were no other trained helpers or handlers when the bears were being led out of the enclosure and seated.

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* Two of the bears (Andy, 21 year old, 478 lb. male and Cindi, 13 year old, 200 plus lb. female) were taken from their chairs and performed scooter and dancing routines. While they were performing these routines these two bears were allowed off of their leashes for approximately 20 to 30 seconds each. The bears were performing close to the pipe and drape cloth barrier and there were no additional trained helpers or handlers..

* Jacki (21 year old, 454 lb. male) was taken from is chair and led to a pedestal table with a ladder type ramps. The bear climbed the ramp and turned his body towards the crowd and did a teeter totter type act from atop of the pedestal. Once the bear was on the pedestal table the bear was close enough to the pipe and drape barrier that the handler even stated during the act that he would have to move this pedestal back for the next show because of the close proximity to the pipe and drape barrier.

This pipe and drape public barrier is not a sufficient barrier. Members of the public could easily go under or through this barrier. The bears when out of the enclosure and/or off leash could easily go through this barrier if spooked or provoked. Adequate public barriers that provide sufficient protection to the bears and the general public must be used at all times. Also additional trained helpers or handlers should be present to assist with the safety of the bears and the public during exhibits, performances and photo shoots.

* The photo booth used for members of the public to have their pictures taken with a bear consists of approximately 1/8 luan plywood back drop riveted to a 1/2 inch square tubing frame. This backdrop is approximately 48 inches wide and 62 inches tall. It is hinged approximately 24 inches from each end so that it can stand in a square c shape. In the middle of the backdrop a piece of 3/16 plexiglass is triple hinged to the backdrop. This plexiglass is 41 7/8 inches deep (away from the backdrop) and is also approximately 62 inches tall. This plexiglass alone is not a sufficient enough barrier to protect members of the public during photo shoots because the plexiglass is very wobbly and it and the backdrop could easily be overturned by a person or an excited bear. The bear (Andy, 21 year old and 478 lb. male) is setting in and chained or snapped onto a stainless steel chair weighing approximately 60 lbs. This chair is not heavy enough that the bear couldn't move it if excited. There is a hole cut into the backdrop. The exhibitor explained the hole was for the purpose of chaining the bear chair to an immovable object such as the exhibitors transport trailer. He stated that when he can pull his transport trailer inside a building or when he has an outside exhibit he chains the bear chair to the transport trailer. However when these options are not available he is not not chaining the bear chair to an immovable object. At this indoor exhibit the bear chair was not chained or tethered to anything as the trailer could not be parked inside the building. This bear chair must always be anchored to an immovable object during public photo shoots. This must be done to assure the safety of the bear and the general public.

This inspection was conducted at the Sioux Falls Sportsmen's Show at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The inspection was conducted with Bob Steele, Owner.

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