

## Staff Summary for December 11-12, 2024

**19. Non-Regulatory Requests from Previous Meetings (Wildlife and Inland Fisheries)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Consider and potentially act on non-regulatory requests submitted by members of the public at previous meetings.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- Commission received requests October 9-10, 2024
- **Today, potentially act on requests December 11-12, 2024**

**Background**

Requests for non-regulatory action are received from members of the public under general public comment. All non-regulatory requests follow a two-meeting cycle to ensure proper review and thorough consideration of each item. All requests received in writing or public testimony during general public comment at the previous Commission meeting are scheduled for consideration at the next regular meeting. Non-regulatory requests that have been referred to staff, legal counsel, a committee, or the Department for review and recommendation are scheduled for action once a recommendation has been received.

One non-regulatory request received in October is scheduled for action today. Exhibit 1 provides the staff recommendations and rationales, developed with input from the Department, and Exhibit 2 provides the original request.

**Significant Public Comments**

Two advocacy non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 250 individuals express concern regarding SeaQuest Folsom's practices. They urge proceeding with an investigation of the facility and revoking its restricted species permits (exhibits 3-5). The original requestor provides testimony and an investigative report documenting alleged violations, urging swift action. Another NGO submits photo documentation of observed conditions (Exhibit 4). Two representative samples of individual emails are included in Exhibit 5.

**Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Adopt the staff recommendation for the non-regulatory request as reflected in Exhibit 1.

**Exhibits**

1. [Summary of non-regulatory requests and staff recommendations scheduled for action, updated December 4, 2024](#)
2. [Email and letter from Cydnee Bence, Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement, PETA Foundation, received August 28, 2024](#)
3. [Email and letter from Cydnee Bence, Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement, PETA Foundation, with attachments, received December 2, 2024](#)

Staff Summary for December 11-12, 2024

4. [Email and letter from Catherine Doyle, M.S., Director of Science, Research and Public Policy for PAWS \(Performing Animal Welfare Society\), received December 2, 2024](#)
5. [Two representative samples of 250 emails received between November 27 and December 2, 2024](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendation for action on the non-regulatory request as reflected in Exhibit 1.

**OR**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the following action regarding the non-regulatory request: \_\_\_\_\_.

**California Fish and Game Commission  
Wildlife Non-Regulatory Requests for Action — Updated December 4, 2024**

CFGC - California Fish and Game Commission    CDFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife WRC -  
Wildlife Resources Committee    MRC - Marine Resources Committee

Date Received	Name of Requestor	Subject of Request	Short Description	Category	FGC Receipt Scheduled	FGC Initial Action Scheduled	Initial Staff Recommendation
8/28/2024	Cydnee Bence, PETA Foundation	SeaQuest Folsom purported violations	Requests CFGC and CDFW investigate SeaQuest Folsom location and revoke special species permit	Admin	10/9-10/24	12/11-12/24	CDFW's Law Enforcement Division (LED) is aware of the requestors' concerns. The Commission does not direct the actions of LED. No action recommended.

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## Request to Investigate SeaQuest Folsom for Apparent Violations of Restricted Species Regulations

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**From** Cydnee Bence <cydneeb@petaf.org>  
**Date** Wed 08/28/2024 01:01 PM  
**To** Manes, Erica [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>  
**Cc** Michelle Sinnott <MichelleS@petaf.org>

Dear Executive Director Miller-Henson and Assistant Chief Manes:

Please see the attached request for investigation of SeaQuest Folsom (Restricted Species Permit No. 3260) and enclosures, sent on behalf of PETA. As discussed in the attached correspondence, a recent ABC News exposé documented over a dozen whistleblowers' allegations of apparent violations of California restricted species regulations taking place at SeaQuest Folsom. PETA urges the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to promptly investigate SeaQuest Folsom and requests that the California Fish & Game Commission promptly revoke SeaQuest's current Restricted Species Permit and deny any future permit renewal applications.

Thank you for your timely attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Cydnee Bence  
Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement  
PETA Foundation  
[cydneeb@petaf.org](mailto:cydneeb@petaf.org)  
(202) 819-2531

This message may be protected by the attorney-client privilege and/or the attorney work product doctrine. If you believe you have received this message in error, please reply to the sender that it has been sent in error and delete the message. Thank you.

August 28, 2024

Melissa Miller-Henson  
Executive Director  
California Fish & Game Commission

Erica Manes  
Assistant Chief  
Northern Enforcement District  
Cal. Dep't of Fish & Wildlife

Via email: [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov); [REDACTED]

**Re: Request to Investigate SeaQuest Folsom for Apparent Violations of Restricted Species Regulations**

Dear Executive Director Miller-Henson and Assistant Chief Manes:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to urge the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to investigate SeaQuest Folsom (Restricted Species Permit No. 3260) for apparent violations of California's Restricted Species regulations. PETA requests that California Fish & Game Commission (FGC) take prompt action and revoke SeaQuest's current Restricted Species Permit and deny any future permit renewal applications.

A person must have a Restricted Species Permit to legally possess a restricted species in California.<sup>1</sup> Restricted Species Permit holders must provide animals with adequate veterinary care, sufficient nutrition, and ensure that animals are only exhibited under "conditions consistent with the animal's health and comfort," among other required care standards.<sup>2</sup> Permittees must abide by the restricted species laws and regulations to keep their permit. Under California law, "[t]he commission or the department **shall** deny a permit and the commission **shall** revoke a permit if it finds that a permittee or applicant has failed to meet, or is unable to meet, the requirements for importing, transporting, possessing, or confining any wild animal."<sup>3</sup>

On July 25, 2024, as part of an [ABC News exposé](#), more than a dozen former employees of SeaQuest Folsom came forward with visual evidence of apparent violations of the restricted species regulations.<sup>4</sup>

The whistleblowers alleged that they witnessed an injured hedgehog running their bloody face along the enclosure wall.<sup>5</sup> A whistleblower provided ABC News with an image of the injured hedgehog stating, "this was from [the hedgehog] being stressed out and running with his nose against the glass till it

<sup>1</sup> CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2118.

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 671.2.

<sup>3</sup> CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2150(b) (emphasis added).

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit 1, Andie Judson, *'It's directly animal exploitation': Over a dozen former SeaQuest Folsom employees come forward after ABC10 investigation*, ABC NEWS (July 25, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
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OF ANIMALS  
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PETA FOUNDATION IS AN OPERATING NAME OF THE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

ENTITIES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

bled.”<sup>6</sup> Failure to address this injury and its underlying cause is an apparent violation of the restricted species regulations, which state that “adequate veterinary care shall be established and maintained” and that animals may only be exhibited only under “conditions consistent with the animal’s health and comfort.”<sup>7</sup> Allowing an animal to endure stress to the extent that they become physically injured indicates inadequate veterinary care, is not consistent with the animal’s health and comfort, and is an apparent violation of California’s restricted species regulations.

Whistleblowers also reported that baby sloths only received half of their diet.<sup>8</sup> The restricted species regulations require that permittees supply animals with food “in sufficient quantity.”<sup>9</sup> Whistleblowers alleged that the sloths at SeaQuest only received half of their diet, which is not a “sufficient quantity” of food, an apparent violation of the restricted species regulations.<sup>10</sup> This failure is especially concerning considering that, nationally, SeaQuest’s apparent inability to provide basic care has led to several sloth deaths, most recently a four-month-old sloth named Suzy who reportedly died from malnutrition at SeaQuest Woodbridge in New Jersey.<sup>11</sup>

The whistleblowers’ observations demonstrate that SeaQuest Folsom has apparently “failed to meet, or is unable to meet,” the standard of care required by the restricted species regulations.<sup>12</sup> SeaQuest’s apparently unlawful conduct caused animals to suffer, as demonstrated by its years-long history of Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations. SeaQuest’s multiple AWA citations show further apparent violations of the restricted species regulations:

- **May 1, 2023:** the USDA issued SeaQuest a repeat citation after it failed to ensure that the sloths’ enclosures maintained adequate temperatures and humidity.<sup>13</sup> This is also an apparent violation of §§ 671.2(a)(10), 671.3(a)(4) (requiring that animals are only exhibited under conditions consistent with the animals’ health and comfort, and that enclosure temperatures must be sufficient to maintain the animal’s health). SeaQuest was initially cited for the same conditions on October 11, 2022.<sup>14</sup>
- **November 2, 2022:** SeaQuest failed to notify its attending veterinarian of an “area of fur loss and flaky skin” on a wallaby’s tail, which it attempted to treat in-house rather than seeking prompt veterinary advice.<sup>15</sup> This is an apparent violation of § 671.2(a)(6)-(7) (requiring veterinary care).
- **February 7, 2019:** SeaQuest did not have a written program of veterinary care and acquisition records on hand for examination. This is an apparent

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<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 671.2(a)(6), (10).

<sup>8</sup> Ex. 1 (referencing a video of an employee discussing animal diets “Our baby sloths only got about half of their diet.”; see also ABC 10, *Over a dozen former SeaQuest Folsom employees come forward after ABC10 investigation*, YOUTUBE (July 25, 2024), at 5:04 (referencing the baby sloth’s diet), <https://youtu.be/XMFzwVALxu4>.

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 671.2(a)(1).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Exhibit. 2, USDA Animal Welfare Complaint (July 17, 2023).

<sup>12</sup> CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2150(b).

<sup>13</sup> Exhibit 3, USDA Inspection Reports, SeaQuest Folsom, at May 1, 2023.

<sup>14</sup> Ex. 3, at Oct. 11, 2022.

<sup>15</sup> Ex. 3, at Nov. 2, 2022.

violation of § 671.2(a)(6), (b) (requiring a program of veterinary care and a log of animal acquisitions).<sup>16</sup>

Despite these serious, continually documented issues, CDFW has renewed SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit every year since 2019.<sup>17</sup>

The recent and damning information provided by the whistleblowers shows conduct that appears to violate California's restricted species regulations. As Assemblyman Josh Hoover stated in his [request for investigation](#), "[i]t is imperative that CDFW investigate these allegations thoroughly to ensure that SeaQuest Folsom is compliant with all relevant state laws and regulations."

For these reasons, PETA urges CDFW to inspect SeaQuest Folsom for apparent violations of California's restricted species regulations and requests that the FGC revoke the facility's Restricted Species Permit and deny any permit renewal applications from SeaQuest Folsom.

Sincerely,



Cydnee Bence  
Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement  
PETA Foundation  
cydneeb@petaf.org  
(202) 819-2531

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<sup>16</sup> Ex. 3, at Feb. 7, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Exhibit 4, SeaQuest Folsom LLC Restricted Species Permits.

## LOCAL NEWS

# 'It's directly animal exploitation': Over a dozen former SeaQuest Folsom employees come forward after ABC10 investigation

After ABC10's initial investigation into SeaQuest - an interactive zoo and aquarium - former employees came forward warning of animal neglect.

Author: **Andie Judson**

Published: **4:49 PM PDT July 25, 2024**

Updated: **12:38 PM PDT August 2, 2024**



FOLSOM, Calif. —

That is a molded parakeet body,” Elle explained as she clicked through her photos on a aptop.

She wasn’t eating,” Elle recalled when a picture of a sickly looking sloth came up “They still had guests see her like this ”

This was from [the hedgehog] being stressed out and running with his nose against the glass till it bled,” said Elle



These animals all live, or lived, inside SeaQuest at the Folsom Palladio

To the public, SeaQuest is an interactive aquarium and zoo where customers can pet, meet and feed animals face-to-face.

But to Elle and others who worked there: “It’s directly animal exploitation that SeaQuest is profiting from.”

Elle shared photos and provided ABC10 with dozens of internal documents. By doing so, she put herself in a vulnerable position, which is why she asked we protect her identity – so we’ve changed her name for this story. She wanted to come forward to be a voice for the animals.

“It’s hard. I think about them every day,” Elle said. “It’s something every SeaQuest worker goes through – we’ve all cried together. We’ve all wanted better for the animals we fell in love with and they’re stuck there. They don’t have a voice, so I hope everybody comes together and becomes the voice for them.”

They did

After ABC10’s first investigation on SeaQuest Folsom in February, more than a dozen former employees came forward with allegations and records showing how SeaQuest operates.

I remember watching and being like, ‘She’s hitting everything. This isn’t some overdramatized thing, this is legit,’” said Elena Driscoll, who worked at SeaQuest from 2018 to 2022.

At the time of publishing this article, ABC10 spoke with 19 former SeaQuest Folsom employees. Eight agreed to be interviewed, including Elle.

Most had similar experiences and accounts, including seeing multiple animals die at SeaQuest.

“There’s probably well over 1,000 animals and fish that have died since the opening of SeaQuest Folsom,” said Elle

A thousand animals dead in six years, Elle estimates. SeaQuest opened in Folsom in November 2018.

ABC10 obtained photos and videos of SeaQuest Folsom animals hurt, sick, dying or dead. The true number that have died under SeaQuest's watch is unknown, employees say.

***Disclaimer: The following images provided to ABC10 by sources may be difficult to view.***

## **Photos: SeaQuest animals hurt, sick, dead**

*Provided to ABC10*

**Sources provided videos and photos to ABC10 to show animals hurt, sick, dying or dead at SeaQuest Folsom.**

SeaQuest, as far as I know, never had documents," said Chris Van Tassel, who worked there from 2018 to 2020. "My manager never asked me to submit anything when I found a dead animal."

SeaQuest told ABC News they have official documentation for mortalities on-site, but they did not provide an exact number of animals that've died at their Folsom location when asked.

As for why animals die at SeaQuest, employees say there's several reasons.

The prevention of not letting us take care of them when they needed it,” said Anna Higgins Davis. She worked on the marine team from 2021-2023.

A lot of stuff would either get overlooked or seen too late,” said Driscoll.

Employees told ABC10 they did their absolute best for the animals but had restrictions from corporate – like issues with the facility, which they said is unsafe.

Some employees, like Kaitlyn Johnson, worked there when SeaQuest first opened. She recounted a rush to open on Black Friday 2018 as more shoppers would be at the mall.

A converted store isn’t safe for animals, Joaquin Lopez said. He was SeaQuest’s marine manager from 2021-2022.

When you put up walls and dividers and you don’t change the air conditioning, we would face sometimes OSHA violating temperatures in the summer,” Lopez recalled.

I measured the temperature peak summer of 2022 – and it was 108 (inside),” said Higgins-Davis.

Multiple employees noted the paint chipping and animals eating it. Animals at SeaQuest don’t have access to daylight as there’s no windows in the facility. To suffice, the company painted the walls blue and the ground green – but employees noticed it chipping.

Multiple videos provided to ABC10 showed paint chips coming off the ground in animal enclosures.



[A copybara] was very well known for loving to chew on the paint that came up and chips off the floor,” said Elle “And this can cause them to get cancerous tumors ”

ABC10 asked SeaQuest about the paint chips. They did not respond.

That’s not all when it came to employees’ concerns about the facility. Small enclosures, tank leaks, open electrical sockets in enclosures, cleanliness issues – these were all serious issues, they said.

I believe with SeaQuest, all of it stems from the interactive aspect, which is what sets up failure,” said Elle.

CEO Vince Covino and his corporate team push to make more money upselling customers on what’s called “interactions,” employees said.

Interactions are premium experiences where guests can pay to touch and feed an animal. SeaQuest charges \$50 for its sloth interaction

It’s just that simple, it’s engaging and talking to the guest and showing them the animal. Helping them experience the animal,” Covino said in a video sent to the SeaQuest Folsom team that ABC10 obtained.

This corporation is run by businesspeople, not animal experts,” said Higgins-Davis.

Staffers say the company directed all their attention to interactions – leaving no time for basic animal care.

As soon as 10 a.m. starts (when SeaQuest opens), you immediately go into interactions,” said Elle “It was hard to find that opening to clean an animal’s enclosure ”

Photos of interaction schedules ABC10 obtained shows back to back appointments for SeaQuest animals interactions scheduled every 15 to 30 minutes, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SeaQuest previously denied this, saying they adhere to the law in giving “our animals break time equal to the time they spend doing interactions.” Employees disagree.

90% of the time they weren’t getting fed because there was not enough time or enough staff to do it,” said Driscoll.

Driscoll was so frustrated, she began documenting while at work

I want to show you something. This is from yesterday,” Driscoll said holding up a nearly full container of greens for the rabbit in a video shot on her cell phone. “She’s supposed to eat all of this, or they’re at least supposed to feed it out to her at night. Guess what they didn’t do last night? Feed it out to her – which means she got barely a third of her diet all day yesterday. I’m pissed.”

In another video, Driscoll goes through the fridge showing full Tupperware of food for different animals who were not fed.

This is from yesterday – our iguanas are supposed to eat all of this. Our baby torts are supposed to eat all of this. Our baby sloths only got about half of their diet,” Driscoll said in the video.

Some employees said at one point, management told them to stop feeding animals to book even more interactions.

‘Okay, you’re not allowed to feed any of the animals anymore. It strictly needs to be just what people are paying for,’” Johnson recalled. “So now people had to pay to feed every single creature that was in there.”

And then you’re watching animals not eat because they’re being partially starved due to you can only interact with guest feedings,” said Higgins-Davis.

So, we went through a period in time where the sharks started to try to eat the stingrays,” said Van Tassel

It happened with the otters too, they started eating fish in their tank,” said Olivia Deleonardis, who worked there from 2020-2021.

Then our sloths would literally cling onto the door that would open to the guests because they were so hungry,” said Driscoll.

Internal messages and a photo given to ABC10 show a fish bitten in half by a hungry shark.

SeaQuest did not respond to ABC10’s questions about withholding food from animals for paying customers only.



Out of all the employees ABC10 spoke with, Aaron Athey – who worked at SeaQuest until 2019 – was the only one who said interactions were not forced.

But she (a sloth) would come out because we would present her with celery and carrot sticks and she would come out just to eat those,” Athey said. “Nothing was forced.”

Other employees disagreed, saying Athey worked there when SeaQuest first opened and things got worse after he left.

Iena Driscoll says in SeaQuest's earlier years she was thankful to work with some very knowledgeable employees with degrees which helped them care for the animals

I got really lucky because I did have Aaron. Aaron has got a lot of zoology background and animal training. We had two (other) amazing people who came from Moorpark, which is an animal training school," said Driscoll. "But after they left (SeaQuest) – they were really big voices of advocates for us to help us get what we needed – it just kept going downhill."

We would get a write up if we personally were feeding one of the animals without a guest in there interacting with them," Elle said.

Employees said they realized SeaQuest's corporate team didn't care about the animals like they did.

That was the first time we all realized, 'Okay. They're here for the money,'" said Johnson of SeaQuest management.

Another issue was having no quarantine system when SeaQuest opened, multiple employees explained

Which is a big no-no for any aquarium," said Johnson.

Animals should always be kept quarantined for a period before being introduced to a new tank or enclosure, other animals and SeaQuest customers, employees said. This practice ensures the animals have time to adjust to their new environment and allows any parasites to die off.

Quarantining also provides an opportunity for employees to properly inspect and treat animals for any possible parasites and health issues, employees said, and that introducing new animals without this precaution can compromise the safety and health of other animals at SeaQuest, as well as customers.

Because they wouldn't bother with quarantine, you would then infect the entire tank. But then children and parents are sticking their hands in that tank – and then taking their contaminated hands to another tank," said Higgins-Davis. "Next thing you know, the whole aquarium has parasites."

Our remaining glass frog passed away" that "has been struggling with parasites," an internal SeaQuest Folsom message ABC10 obtained said. Videos and photos show the

dead frog, as well as fish and crabs with parasites

t's why employees fought for a quarantine system

Employees like Van Tassel and Johnson said they worked for hours, days and weeks to get a "pitiful excuse" of a quarantine system that consisted of placing fish, sharks and stingrays in five-gallon buckets.

*Credit: Provided to ABC10*

ABC10 obtained footage showing how several animals were kept in SeaQuest back rooms, including otters, Bengal cats, a black-throated monitor, sting rays and turtles. The cages/enclosures were much too small for these animals, employees said.

## Backroom Photos: SeaQuest Folsom

*Provided to ABC10*

Most of them (the quarantined fish) never went back to their habitats," said Johnson. They ended up dying in the quarantine."

Johnson believes they died because their enclosures were far too small. Video of stingrays in five-gallon buckets shows they had no space to swim or move.

We went to management," recalled Johnson. "We said, 'Go lock yourself in the bathroom that's about two-by-two. That's what you're putting the sharks in.'"

SeaQuest told ABC News "each location has dedicated veterinary team members who do walk-throughs of all exhibits and enclosures." But some employees said when animals got sick, SeaQuest management instructed them to do in-house treatment.

Some employees ABC10 spoke with, like Athey and Higgins Davis, have degrees in zoology and marine biology. Others are hired with no animal experience.

It was my first job working with animals," said DeLeonardis. "SeaQuest seemed like a good place to get started and I feel like they (corporate/management) totally take



advantage of people not knowing that stuff when they enter it "

Internal messages provided to ABC10 show team members figuring out how to treat birds for bumblefoot – a common bacterial infection – from a Wikipedia article

Doing in-house treatment saved SeaQuest time and money, Elle said.

Because if a person had to go take this animal to the vet, they're losing a team member on the floor to do other SeaQuest things such as sell interactions," said Elle.

If an animal did go to a vet, it was often too late – like for Mango, a toucan with Iron poisoning, Driscoll said.

A few hours later (we) ended up finding out that he just wasn't going to make it," Driscoll said. "Ended up euthanizing him."

ABC10 obtained veterinarian records showing SeaQuest animals arrived at the vet with high temperatures, dehydration, pinworms, anorexia and stress

When animals like parakeets and fish died, employees said they were told to do the necropsy – or animal autopsy – themselves.

SeaQuest told ABC News necropsies are "performed by trained experts" but did not answer any of ABC10's questions about staff performing them.

"We don't know what we're looking for," said Johnson. "We were told to watch a YouTube video."

Higgins Davis, who has a degree in marine biology and training on necropsies, was shocked by SeaQuest's practices

There was no formal report, it would just be letting the higher ups know that this animal died (like), 'Here's a possible cause based off of the limited knowledge anyone who was sending the report,' (and) there were some team members who knew absolutely nothing for what to look for," Higgins Davis said "So, there'd be a parasite outbreak that wouldn't be found until certain people did necropsies "

Higgins-Davis alleges at one-point SeaQuest management stopped allowing her to do necropsies, despite her being one of the few with the educational background to do so.

It would have to be a supervisor or manager only because they were concerned about certain information getting out,” said Higgins Davis. “I was told that if they had absolutely nobody else to do it, I was to do it because they knew I was capable. I was to send them everything, send them all my notes, and then in front of them delete everything.”

After fish necropsies, employees like Johnson and Van Tassel recalled management telling them “if everything looks fine, give it to the otters.”

Which isn’t a good thing because of our quarantine system,” Van Tassel explained. “We don’t know what parasites those fish might have had. Now we’re feeding it to something else.”

Not all employees ABC10 spoke with experienced this. Some were shocked by it. All agreed this is not a normal procedure at any animal facility.

Photos of molded parakeet bodies given to ABC10 show when some animals died at SeaQuest Folsom, they were left to rot.

A June 2023 employee complaint to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agency tasked with regulating SeaQuest, said animals in SeaQuest’s mortality fridge, where dead bodies are kept, had been there for six months. Bodies had molded and smelled, the complaint said, and SeaQuest “rarely properly” disposed of bodies.

The molding animals such as parakeets and frogs that are in the mortality fridge are next to old fecal matter samples spilling out of the sample tubes next to the molded deceased bodies that are making the fridge smell with rot in the same area/room next to quarantined live animals such as the recently bought baby capybara,” the complaint said.

The USDA deemed the complaint unsubstantiated saying a veterinary medical officer conducted an unannounced visit and that “many of the items in the complaint are not requirements under the Animal Welfare Act.”

ABC10 obtained footage of SeaQuest’s mortality fridge – the fridge was filled to the brim.

SeaQuest did not answer any of our questions about their mortality fridge or disposal of dead animals.

“We’re not supposed to tell anyone that anything died,” said Johnson. “If something is

deceased in a tank, pretend it's alive, and then we'll just go get a new one "

So, where exactly does SeaQuest get new animals from?

SeaQuest says it gets its animals from rescues and donations – which records ABC10 obtained show can be true – as well as “acquisition of surplus animals from other zoos and aquariums” and “reputable breeders.”

Employees say there's more to it. There are a lot of places SeaQuest gets animals from, they said.

Most of the fish come from regular fish importers,” Lopez said. “A majority of them are wild caught.”

We got a lot of our reptiles from the reptile expo,” said Athey.

Also Pet Smart I went and got a lot,” said Johnson “And the Food Mart ”

A Food Mart as well as the 99 Ranch Market in Folsom. Both supermarkets carry live seafood. It's where Johnson said she was sent to get crabs, catfish, trout and shrimp.

We'd go in normal clothes and stuff so no one that's there could be like, ‘Oh something weird is going on there,’” said Johnson.

Records show animals were sent from other SeaQuest locations that were shut down, like others from Littleton, Colorado where the SeaQuest closed after numerous citations and complaints.

Other times, employees had no idea where animals came from

Like baby animals coming onto site and we'd question, ‘Where are these babies coming from ’” said Higgins Davis

I realized things that management is telling me is not true,” said Deleonardis. “And I'm giving false information to customers. When I started not doing that, that's when I started getting in trouble.”

But the story is that [the animals] are rescued,” said Driscoll. “And we're rehabilitating them and rehoming them.”

Yet, in a video ABC10 obtained, CEO Covino encouraged the SeaQuest Folsom team to place their orders with him for animals

We are putting in a big order for animals for your site over the next couple of days,” said Covino. “If there’s animals that are missing from your animal inventory report, or you feel are missing from an exhibit, please send me a message.”

SeaQuest did not respond to ABC10’s questions about where they get animals from.

They just order them,” said Elle.

When you have an inadequate system and you’re causing death all the time – one of the regular things that SeaQuest was (doing was) pretty much spending \$2,000 to \$3,000 to \$5,000 on sea life pretty much every month just to replace the stocks,” said Lopez. “Vince Covino’s thing was more and more and more.”

More animals More interactions More money

SeaQuest easily saw 500 people a day – up to 1,000 people a day,” said Lopez. “And ou’d have what? 18 people working in the building.”

At one point there was 1,700 people in the building,” said Higgins-Davis.

SeaQuest told ABC News “direct interactions are a superb source of enrichment for our animals and allow our guests to develop a deeper connection with wildlife and the wonders of our planet.”

employees say it’s not enriching for the animals, it’s harmful

The animals are getting stressed because that room would be filled to the brim with people,” said Deleonardis

And so loud,” added Driscoll.

Employees provided ABC10 with multiple videos of animals appearing stressed during and after interactions.

By law, animals must have breaks from interactions. SeaQuest previously told ABC News they give “animals break time equal to the time they spend doing interactions.” Some employees say that’s not true, especially when it’s busy, animals got no breaks.

"You just write them down like you did them," said Driscoll. "They're not really ever checked."

"I worked there for four months before they told me that we were allowed to give animals breaks," said Deleonardis. "They did not tell me we were allowed to give animals breaks. They were just having me do [interactions] back to back to back to back."

When animals get stressed, like humans, they lash out. ABC10 obtained multiple incident reports of guests and employees being bitten and scratched.

But Elle said if an animal hurts someone, SeaQuest has a rule: After three incidents, the animal is euthanized.

"So that's why a lot of bites go undocumented by employees," said Elle.

It's one of many ways employees try to protect animals at SeaQuest Folsom. Internal messages provided to ABC10 show employees sounding the alarm to management over and over again.

"I have some major concerns about guest feedings," one employee wrote to SeaQuest's head of human resources.

"Keep telling management and they don't seem to care," another employee messaged in the SeaQuest work group, when they noticed a sloth's uneven pupils.

"We have a lot of animals that need our care and attention. When we are able to start one of our daily tasks only to get pulled away from it to do interactions, it makes it frustrating," another employee wrote in a message to their team. "I know that I have voiced my concerns many times and all of it goes unanswered. Or completely ignored."

Higgins-Davis sent a three-page letter directly to CEO Covino detailing her many concerns. She said she never heard back.

In just three months in 2023, records show three separate employees sent complaints to the USDA.

Two complaints – including the one highlighting concerns about SeaQuest's mortality fridge – were deemed unsubstantiated. The third was deemed "partially substantiated" due to the sloth's humidity levels being too low. Several issues the complaint highlighted – like screaming children, peeling paint, unappealing enclosures or visual barriers for Bengal

cats” are not covered by the Animal Welfare Act, the complaint said. Therefore, USDA does not investigate.

“It’s painful,” said Elle of trying to stand up for animals at SeaQuest. “It’s like watching helplessly the thing you love most in the world be ignored.”

Employees said they’d become the scapegoat when they tried to speak up.

“I found Rex (a black throat monitor) cold and dead. I also got a write up for no other reason except that she was already dead,” said Athey. “Somehow, I got in trouble for an animal having that happen to her.”

“That’s not too uncommon for SeaQuest,” replied Van Tassel. “You did something wrong – no matter how much you fought for their well-being and cared.”

“It’s not just animals that suffer at SeaQuest, employees say they do too.”

“At one point, I had woken up to get ready for work and contemplated whether or not continuing to live was an option,” said Higgins Davis. “Because I hated it so much.”

“Here I am, years later, having nightmares of my time (working there),” said Elle. “Nightmares of people kicking parakeets to where their heads are on backwards.”

Employees have suffered mentally, emotionally and physically.

“I have really bad lung disease because of ozone poisoning which happened from the ozone machines not being put in correctly,” said Johnson.

“These machines are often used to clean aquarium tank water. Ozone is a gas molecule that can “aggressively attack lung tissues” if breathed in, the American Lung Association states.

“It was leaking the whole time,” said Johnson of her time working there.

Johnson’s medical records show she inhaled ozone for nine hours a day over six months.

“I was coughing up blood and parts of my lungs quite often,” said Johnson.

She still suffers from it and she says she’s not the only one.

An internal incident report ABC10 obtained shows another employee reported “ozone exposure,” saying they had “constant nausea” since starting work at SeaQuest

A lot of us stayed so long because we love these animals,” said Deleonardis.

They stayed as long as they could for the animals. Now, they’re speaking for them – hoping this will change the way SeaQuest operates.

Unfortunately, right now with a bunch of the wildlife laws, SeaQuest wins,” said Van Tassel.

Employees have reported issues to the agency regulating SeaQuest, USDA, multiple times. Most issues were deemed unsubstantiated or outside of USDA’s regulatory requirements by not being within the Animal Welfare Act, allowing SeaQuest to continue to operate the same.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is also entrusted in overseeing and permitting certain animals at SeaQuest. The agency told ABC10 in April they had 26 animals permitted there. They said after complaints, the agency did an unannounced inspection of SeaQuest in October 2023 and found no citation violations.

Employees have told ABC10 the state agency is only responsible for a small percentage of animals at SeaQuest. Many animals, like fish and reptiles, have no regulations, sources said.

So it’s up to us – and the guests coming to visit – to fight back,” said Van Tassel. “We need our voices heard.”

Heard especially by customers, employees said.

Seeing people line up – a thousand in front of the shop – doesn’t give you a lot of faith in the public,” said Lopez.

We have to all be the voice for these animals more than anything because SeaQuest needs to be shut down,” said Elle.

ABC10 reached out to SeaQuest with over a dozen questions. The company did not provide answers to the questions, instead they referred us to the FAQ section of their website.

With in the week prior to publishing this story, SeaQuest Folsom responded to customers in Google reviews telling them there's been a "spread of misinformation" and to "not believe everything you hear on the news "

ABC10 asked SeaQuest why they're telling customers this, when they didn't respond to questions regarding the allegations brought forward by former employees - SeaQuest, again, never responded.

**WATCH OUR INITIAL INVESTIGATION HERE:** Investigating SeaQuest | ABC10 Originals



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ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT		
Complaint No. AC23-0784	Date Entered: July 17, 2023	Processed By: Michelle White
Referred To: Jeffrey Shepherd		Reply Due: August 31, 2023
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against		
Name: SeaQuest Woodbridge LLC	Customer No.: 6014242	License No.: 22-C-0161
Address: 101 Woodbridge Center Drive		Email Address:
City: Woodbridge	State: NJ	Phone No.: (732) 283-2945
Complainant Information		
Name: Rebecca Smudzinski, MA	Organization: PETA Foundation	
Address:		Email Address: rebeccas@petaf.org
City:	State:	Phone No.:
How was the Complaint received? Email		
Details of Complaint: See attached		
<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Facility recently purchased a sloth and failed to bring it to a veterinarian for several days (5 days total) despite it arriving at a much younger age.</li> <li>· It was emaciated, dehydrated, and bloated</li> <li>· When it finally did receive veterinary care, it was critically ill and needed imminent intensive care</li> </ul> <p>Seaquest obtained a sloth on May 12, 2023. Seaquest staff were told that it was 4-5 months old and weaned. It was eating solid food but was fed mostly fruits and vegetables. No protein at all. On May 17, 2023, the sloth was hospitalized after it was found unresponsive and underweight by facility staff. Veterinarian, Dr. Winkel, took over as the attending veterinarian on May 18, 2023, after the sloth was seen by her colleagues. The sloth was treated from May 17, 2023, through May 25, 2023, at the clinic.</p> <p>Once the sloth was hospitalized, it presented as a 3-month-old or younger and was small and underweight. The attending veterinarian did find that the diet was inappropriate and started her on</p>		



# USDA-APHIS-Animal Care



formula with added fiber. After treatment, for approximately 9 days, the veterinarian discharged the sloth on May 25, 2023, back to Seaquest facility as she felt that it was better for the sloth's stress level. Seaquest staff cared for her day and night through May 31, 2023, offering food and taking weights.

While at the facility, she was housed in another enclosure to keep her separate from the other sloth. By May 31, 2023, the staff found the sloth unresponsive again. The staff took her back to the clinic on the same day. Vet staff tried to revive her, but the animal was D.O.A.

A necropsy was performed. The attending veterinarian states that the histopathology has not been received as of 6-12-23.

Animal Care will continue to inspect this facility to ensure that past non-compliances are corrected and that AWA-regulated animals are protected to the fullest extent of Federal law.

Application Kit Provided:

Yes:      No:

Inspector:

Karla Wills

Date:

July 17, 2023

Reviewed By:

Jeffrey Shepherd

Date:

July 18, 2023



### Inspection Report

Seaquest Aquarium Inc  
3363 E Presidential Dr  
Suite 104  
Meridian, ID 83642

Customer ID: **502434**  
Certificate: **88-C-0216**  
Site: 006  
SEAQUEST AQUARIUM INC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 07-FEB-2019

#### 2.126(a)(2)

#### ACCESS AND INSPECTION OF RECORDS AND PROPERTY; SUBMISSION OF ITINERARIES.

Records, including the written program of veterinary care, records of acquisition and animals on hand were not available at the time of inspection for examination. Complete and accurate animal records must be kept in order to facilitate tracking of animals. Records must be maintained that fully and correctly disclose information concerning all animals purchased or otherwise acquired, owned, held, leased, transported, sold, euthanized or otherwise disposed of and shall include any offspring born while in the licensee's possession.

Correction date: 19 February 2019

#### 3.51(d)

#### FACILITIES, INDOOR.

The walls/interior surfaces on the indoor housing facilities were porous wood, which could not be readily sanitized. Interior surfaces of indoor housing facilities shall be constructed and maintained so that they are substantially impervious to moisture and may be readily sanitized for the health and wellbeing of the animals.

Correction date: 19 Feb 2019

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Prepared By: **FRANK KATHARINE, D V M**

FRANK KATHARINE, D V M    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
28-FEB-2019

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6091

Received By: [Redacted]  
Title: [Redacted]

Date:  
28-FEB-2019



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
502434	88-C-0216	006	SEAQUEST AQUARIUM INC	07-FEB-19

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000003	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
<b>000005</b>	<b>Total</b>	



### Inspection Report

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SeaQuest Folsom LLC  
430 Palladio Parkway #1801  
Folsom, CA 95630

Customer ID: **6014241**  
Certificate:  
Site: 001  
SeaQuest Folsom LLC

Type: PRE-LICENSE  
INSPECTION  
Date: 11-OCT-2022

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#### 3.126(a)

##### Facilities, indoor.

In Perry the sloth's enclosure, the temperature and humidity monitor was not functioning. The facility Standard Operating Procedure is to record the temperature and humidity weekly to ensure it is kept in the appropriate range. The last time the facility recorded the temperature and humidity was 7 Sep 2022, over a month ago. Sloths as a species are very sensitive to temperature and humidity, requiring temperature of 75-85 degrees F and 60-80 % humidity for their health and comfort. Ensuring that the temperature and humidity in a sloth enclosure can be quickly identified and corrected if out of range is important to the welfare of the sloths.

#### 3.131(c)

##### Sanitation.

In the primary food kitchen used to prepare diets for the mammals, the concrete floor had multiple areas of paint peeling, resulting in exposed concrete. The floor with exposed concrete is no longer in good repair and the porous concrete does not facilitate cleaning and disinfection of a kitchen area. Floors in kitchens must be maintained in good repair and able to be cleaned and disinfected, consistent with good husbandry practices.

---

**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
13-OCT-2022

**Received by Title:** Manager

**Date:**  
13-OCT-2022



## Inspection Report

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This is a 1st Pre-License Inspection for a Class "C" license. The inspection and exit briefing were conducted with the applicant.

All items must be in compliance within 2 more inspection(s) by 10 December 2022 or the applicant will forfeit the license fee and must wait 6 months to reapply. Please contact your inspector to schedule your next Pre-License Inspection.

Conducting regulated activities without a valid USDA license is a violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

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**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
13-OCT-2022

**Received by Title:** Manager

**Date:**  
13-OCT-2022



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6014241		001	SeaQuest Folsom LLC	11-OCT-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	CAPYBARA
000001	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000001	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	ORIENTAL SMALL-CLAWED OTTER
000003	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000002	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000002	<i>Felis sp</i>	DOMESTIC X EXOTIC CAT HYBRID
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000014	<b>Total</b>	



### Inspection Report

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SeaQuest Folsom LLC  
430 Palladio Parkway #1801  
Folsom, CA 95630

Customer ID: **6014241**  
Certificate:  
Site: 001  
SeaQuest Folsom LLC

Type: PRE-LICENSE  
INSPECTION  
Date: 02-NOV-2022

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#### 2.40(b)(3)

##### **Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).**

Attending Veterinarian was not informed of a superficial wound on the tail of Watson the Wallaby in a timely manner. On 22 October 2022 the manager identified an area of hair loss and redness, approximately the size of a quarter on the left lateral aspect of Watson's tail, and the facility cleaned and treated it. During inspection on 2 November 2022, the Attending Veterinarian saw the area of fur loss and flaky skin and asked when it happened. The wound was healing well, but the facility had not directly communicated it to the veterinarian in a timely and accurate manner. Daily observation of all animals to assess their well-being, and direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian regarding health issues are necessary to ensure that the animals at the facility receive timely and adequate veterinary care. A system should be in place to ensure that all animals are observed daily, any health problems are documented, and the attending veterinarian is notified of any problems of animal health, behavior and well-being.

Correct from this day forward.

This is a 2nd Pre-License Inspection for a Class "C" license. The inspection and exit briefing were conducted with the applicant.

---

**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
02-NOV-2022

**Received by Title:** Manager

**Date:**  
02-NOV-2022





## Inspection Report

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All items must be in compliance within 1 more inspection(s) by 10 December 2022 or the applicant will forfeit the license fee and must wait 6 months to reapply. Please contact your inspector to schedule your next Pre-License Inspection.

Conducting regulated activities without a valid USDA license is a violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

---

**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
02-NOV-2022

**Received by Title:** Manager

**Date:**  
02-NOV-2022



**Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6014241		001	SeaQuest Folsom LLC	02-NOV-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	CAPYBARA
000003	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000001	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000002	<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	ORIENTAL SMALL-CLAWED OTTER
000001	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000002	<i>Felis sp</i>	DOMESTIC X EXOTIC CAT HYBRID
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000014	<b>Total</b>	



## Inspection Report

---

SeaQuest Folsom LLC  
430 Palladio Parkway #1801  
Folsom, CA 95630

Customer ID: **6014241**  
Certificate: **93-C-1182**  
Site: 001  
SeaQuest Folsom LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 01-MAY-2023

---

### 3.126(a)

#### Facilities, indoor.

In all of the sloth enclosures, the temperature and humidity monitor was not within the parameters set by the facility. The humidity recorded on the kestrel in each of the sloth enclosures ranged from 46%-55%. Sloths as a species are very sensitive to temperature and humidity, requiring temperature of 75-85 degrees F and 60-80 % humidity for their health and comfort. The facility Standard Operating Procedure is to record the temperature and humidity weekly to ensure it is kept in the appropriate range. The last time the facility recorded the temperature and humidity was 18 April 2023, and the parameters were not within the range. Ensuring that the temperature and humidity in a sloth enclosure is corrected if out of range, and brought back into range is important to the welfare of the sloths.

Correct by 15 May 2023

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the manager.

---

**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
04-MAY-2023

**Received by Title:** Manager

**Date:**  
04-MAY-2023



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6014241	93-C-1182	001	SeaQuest Folsom LLC	01-MAY-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	CAPYBARA
000001	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000001	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000003	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000003	<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	ORIENTAL SMALL-CLAWED OTTER
000001	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000002	<i>Felis sp</i>	DOMESTIC X EXOTIC CAT HYBRID
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000015	<b>Total</b>	



California Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

RESTRICTED SPECIES PERMIT NO. [REDACTED]

Page 1 of 2

EXPIRES: 12/02/2023

Permit Type(s): **RESIDENT EXHIBITING**

**ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630**

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

RESIDENT EXHIBITING AUTHORIZATIONS

May import, export, transport, and possess only those species listed on the attached Department approved permit inventory for commercial and/or educational exhibition purposes.

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

RESIDENT EXHIBITING CONDITIONS

1. The permittee is required to follow all of the applicable requirements listed in §671, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. The permittee may add new species to the inventory only with prior written approval of the Department or as specified on the permit.
3. The permittee is responsible for renewing this permit prior to its expiration or providing notification to the Department upon transfer of animals which require renewing the permit.
4. Animals authorized by this permit shall not be transferred to persons within California unless that person has a restricted species permit authorizing that animal or species possession.
5. This permit or a copy must be in the possession of any person in possession of animals and must be immediately presented on demand by any enforcement officer.
6. This permit is not transferable.
7. Breeding is not authorized unless specified in the permit authorizations.
8. Pursuant to §671.1(a)(7), Title 14, of the CCR, restricted species imported into California under the authority of this permit must be accompanied by a current health certificate issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the animal and has found that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease. A copy of the health certificate shall be submitted to the Department within 10 business days of issuance. Health certificate may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov)
9. Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the CCR the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.
10. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(C), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of their current USDA license and most recent USDA inspection report/form if the license is required by USDA.
11. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(H), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of all current USFWS permits if a permit is required by USFWS.
12. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(J), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee who possesses an animal requiring unique identification must provide an animal's unique identification to the Department within 10 business days of receipt or transfer of an animal, the birth or death of an animal, or change in unique identification for an animal. The notice shall include the common name, scientific name, sex, and age of the animal, the date of the acquisition, transfer or death. The notice shall also contain the unique identification method for the animal. The notice may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov).
13. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(5), Title 14, of the CCR, the Department may revoke this permit at any time.

**DISCLAIMER:**

**THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.**

ISSUED BY: *Maria "Lucy" Lopez*

DATE: 12/02/2022

PHONE NO. [REDACTED]

COPIES TO:	LRB	DFW-FISHERIES BRANCH	DFW-MARK LUCERO	USDA					
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Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

- CONDITIONS CONTINUED -

14. Pursuant to 5671 1(c)(2)(K), Title 14 of the CCR every permittee is required to have on file with the Department on or before December 31 2011 documentation of an animal's unique identification if the restricted species requires unique identification.

\*\*\*\*\* NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE \*\*\*\*\*



Permit Type(s): **AMENDMENT**  
**RESIDENT EXHIBITING**

**ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER**  
**SEAQUEST**  
**430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801**  
**FOLSOM CA 95630**



**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

AMENDMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The following species is hereby added to your permit:

INVENTORY OF ANIMALS

HEDGEHOG, AFRICAN PYGMY (ATELERIX ALBIVENTRIS)  
MARA, PATAGONIAN (DOLICHOTIS PATAGONUM)

Id.	No.	Yrs.	Mos.	Sex
	1	0	0	U
	1	0	0	M

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

AMENDMENT CONDITIONS

All other conditions of the original permit, including the expiration date, remain in full force and effect.

This amendment must be attached to the original permit.

Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations, the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.

\*\*\*\*\* **NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE** \*\*\*\*\*

**DISCLAIMER: THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.**

<b>ISSUED BY:</b> Original Signed by Maria "Lucy" Lopez		<b>DATE:</b> 03/02/2022	<b>PHONE NO.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>COPIES TO:</b>	LRB	DFW-MARINE REGION	DFW-MARK LUCERO
			USDA



Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

DocID: D-0033325063-5  
Trans: 25250327 06/30/21 12:37  
Outlet: 310001-002 Fee: \$386.76  
2021 RSP - Inspection Fee (6-25 Encl)  
Valid 06/30/2021 to 12/31/2021

DocID: D-0033325062-4  
Trans: 25250327 06/30/21 12:37  
Outlet: 310001-002 Fee: \$533.00  
2021 RSP - Exhibiting (R)  
See permit for validity dates  
Permit Number: [REDACTED]

DocID: D-0033325064-6  
Trans: 25250327 06/30/21 12:37  
Outlet: 310001-002 Fee: \$65.66  
2021 Restricted Species Permit-App Fee  
Valid 06/30/2021 to 12/31/2021  
Permit Number: [REDACTED]

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

RESIDENT EXHIBITING AUTHORIZATIONS

May import, export, transport, and possess only those species listed on the attached Department approved permit inventory for commercial and/or educational exhibition purposes.

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

RESIDENT EXHIBITING CONDITIONS

1. The permittee is required to follow all of the applicable requirements listed in §671, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. The permittee may add new species to the inventory only with prior written approval of the Department or as specified on the permit.
3. The permittee is responsible for renewing this permit prior to its expiration or providing notification to the Department upon transfer of animals which require renewing the permit.
4. Animals authorized by this permit shall not be transferred to persons within California unless that person has a restricted species permit authorizing that animal or species possession.
5. This permit or a copy must be in the possession of any person in possession of animals and must be immediately presented on demand by any enforcement officer.
6. This permit is not transferable.
7. Breeding is not authorized unless specified in the permit authorizations.
8. Pursuant to §671.1(a)(7), Title 14, of the CCR, restricted species imported into California under the authority of this permit must be accompanied by a current health certificate issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the animal and has found that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease. A copy of the health certificate shall be submitted to the Department within 10 business days of issuance. Health certificate may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at spu@wildlife.ca.gov
9. Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the CCR the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.
10. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(C), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of their current USDA license and most recent USDA inspection report/form if the license is required by USDA.
11. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(H), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of all current USFWS permits if a permit is required by USFWS.
12. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(J), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee who possesses an animal requiring unique identification must provide an animal's unique identification to the Department within 10 business days of receipt or transfer of an animal, the birth or death of an animal, or change in unique identification for an animal. The notice shall include the common name, scientific name, sex, and age of the animal, the date of the acquisition, transfer or death. The notice shall also contain the unique identification method for the animal. The notice may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at spu@wildlife.ca.gov.
13. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(5), Title 14, of the CCR, the Department may revoke this permit at any time.

**DISCLAIMER: THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.**

ISSUED BY: <i>Maria Luy Lopez</i>		DATE: 10/26/2021	PHONE NO. [REDACTED]
COPIES TO:	LRB	DFW MARINE REGION	OSY-MARK LICERO





Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

- CONDITIONS CONTINUED -

14 Pursuant to §871 1(c)(2)(K), Title 14 of the CCP, every permittee is required to have on file with the Department on or before December 31, 2011 documentation of an animal's unique identification if the restricted species requires unique identification.

XENOPUS AND BUFO CONDITIONS (FPI# 09/2002)

Water drained from frog/toad tanks must be screened and/or chemically treated to prevent escape or discharge of frogs/toads and/or their reproductive material. Animals shall not be released into waters of the State.

\*\*\*\*\* NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE \*\*\*\*\*



Permit Type(s): AMENDMENT  
RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

DocID: D-0032220047-0  
Trans: 24527124 04/12/21 12:57  
Outlet: 310001-001 Fee: \$65.56  
2021 Restricted Species Permit-App Fee  
Valid 04/12/2021 to 12/31/2021  
Permit Number [REDACTED]

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

AMENDMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The following species is hereby added to your permit:

RESIDENT EXHIBITING AUTHORIZATIONS

May import, export, transport, and possess only those species listed on the attached Department approved permit inventory for commercial and/or educational exhibition purposes.

INVENTORY OF ANIMALS

PORCUPINE, CRESTED (HYSTRIX CRISTATA (NO SUBSP))

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PDWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

AMENDMENT CONDITIONS

All other conditions of the original permit, including the expiration date, remain in full force and effect.

This amendment must be attached to the original permit.

Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations, the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.

RESIDENT EXHIBITING CONDITIONS

1. The permittee is required to follow all of the applicable requirements listed in §671, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. The permittee may add new species to the inventory only with prior written approval of the Department or as specified on the permit.
3. The permittee is responsible for renewing this permit prior to its expiration or providing notification to the Department upon transfer of animals which require renewing the permit.
4. Animals authorized by this permit shall not be transferred to persons within California unless that person has a restricted species permit authorizing that animal or species possession.
5. This permit or a copy must be in the possession of any person in possession of animals and must be immediately presented on demand by any enforcement officer.
6. This permit is not transferable.
7. Breeding is not authorized unless specified in the permit authorizations.
8. Pursuant to §671.1(a)(7), Title 14, of the CCR, restricted species imported into California under the authority of this permit must be accompanied by a current health certificate issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the animal and has found that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease. A copy of the health certificate shall be submitted to the Department within 10 business days of issuance. Health certificate may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at spu@wildlife.ca.gov
9. Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the CCR the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.

**DISCLAIMER:** THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.

ISSUED BY: *Robert Fulton*

DATE: 05/04/2021

PHONE NO. [REDACTED]

COPIES TO:

LRB

DFW-MARK LUCERO

FOOD & AG

LSDA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Permit Type(s): AMENDMENT  
RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

- CONDITIONS CONTINUED -

10. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(C), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of their current USDA license and most recent USDA inspection report/form if the license is required by USDA.

11. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(H), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of all current USFWS permits if a permit is required by USFWS.

12. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(J), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee who possesses an animal requiring unique identification must provide an animal's unique identification to the Department within 10 business days of receipt or transfer of an animal, the birth or death of an animal, or change in unique identification for an animal. The notice shall include the common name, scientific name, sex, and age of the animal, the date of the acquisition, transfer or death. The notice shall also contain the unique identification method for the animal. The notice may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov).

13. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(5), Title 14, of the CCR, the Department may revoke this permit at any time.

14. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(2)(K), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee is required to have on file with the Department on or before December 31, 2011 documentation of an animal's unique identification if the restricted species requires unique identification.

\*\*\*\*\* NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE \*\*\*\*\*



Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

DocID: D-0028629872-4  
Trans: 21775847 04/10/20 09:11  
Outlet: 310001-001 Fee \$517.50  
2020 RSP - Exhibiting (R)  
See permit for validity dates  
Permit Number [REDACTED]

DocID: D-0028629871-3  
Trans: 21775847 04/10/20 09:11  
Outlet: 310001-001 Fee \$63.60  
2020 Restricted Species Permit-App Fee  
Valid 04/10/2020 to 12/31/2020  
Permit Number [REDACTED]

DocID: D-0028629873-5  
Trans: 21775847 04/10/20 09:11  
Outlet: 310001-001 Fee \$356.00  
2020 RSP - Inspection Fee (5-25 Encl)  
Valid 04/10/2020 to 12/31/2020

AUTHORIZATION(S):

RESIDENT EXHIBITING AUTHORIZATIONS

May import, export, transport, and possess only those species listed on the attached Department approved permit inventory for commercial and/or educational exhibition purposes.

LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:

430 PALLADIO PDWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

CONDITION(S):

RESIDENT EXHIBITING CONDITIONS

- The permittee is required to follow all of the applicable requirements listed in §671, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
- The permittee may add new species to the inventory only with prior written approval of the Department or as specified on the permit.
- The permittee is responsible for renewing this permit prior to its expiration or providing notification to the Department upon transfer of animals which require renewing the permit.
- Animals authorized by this permit shall not be transferred to persons within California unless that person has a restricted species permit authorizing that animal or species possession.
- This permit or a copy must be in the possession of any person in possession of animals and must be immediately presented on demand by any enforcement officer.
- This permit is not transferable.
- Breeding is not authorized unless specified in the permit authorizations.
- Pursuant to §671.1(a)(7), Title 14, of the CCR, restricted species imported into California under the authority of this permit must be accompanied by a current health certificate issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the animal and has found that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease. A copy of the health certificate shall be submitted to the Department within 10 business days of issuance. Health certificate may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov)
- Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the CCR the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.
- Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(C), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of their current USDA license and most recent USDA inspection report/form if the license is required by USDA.
- Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(H), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of all current USFWS permits if a permit is required by USFWS.
- Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(J), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee who possesses an animal requiring unique identification must provide an animal's unique identification to the Department within 10 business days of receipt or transfer of an animal, the birth or death of an animal, or change in unique identification for an animal. The notice shall include the common name, scientific name, sex, and age of the animal, the date of the acquisition, transfer or death. The notice shall also contain the unique identification method for the animal. The notice may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov).
- Pursuant to §671.1(c)(5), Title 14, of the CCR, the Department may revoke this permit at any time.

DISCLAIMER: THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.

ISSUED BY:	ROBERT FULTON	DATE:	09/14/2020	PHONE NO.:	[REDACTED]
COPIES TO:	LRB	DFW-MARINE REGION	DFW-MARK LUCERO	FOOD & AG	USDA



Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630

- CONDITIONS CONTINUED -

14. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(2)(K), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee is required to have on file with the Department on or before December 31, 2011 documentation of an animal's unique identification if the restricted species requires unique identification.

\*\*\*\*\* NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE \*\*\*\*\*



Permit Type(s): **AMENDMENT**  
**RESIDENT EXHIBITING**

ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST  
430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801  
FOLSOM CA 95630



**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

AMENDMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The following species is hereby added to your permit:

INVENTORY OF ANIMALS

- FROG, AFRICAN CLAWED (XENOPUS LAEVIS (NO SUBSP))
- SHARK, PACIFIC BLACKTIP REEF (CARCHARHINUS MELANOPTERUS)

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PDWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

AMENDMENT CONDITIONS

All other conditions of the original permit, including the expiration date, remain in full force and effect.

This amendment must be attached to the original permit.

Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations, the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.

XENOPUS AND BUFO CONDITIONS (FPB 09/2002)

Water drained from frog/toad tanks must be screened and/or chemically treated to prevent escape or discharge of frogs/toads and/or their reproductive material. Animals shall not be released into waters of the State.

\*\*\*\*\* NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE \*\*\*\*\*

DISCLAIMER: THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.

ISSUED BY: <i>Robert Fulton</i>		DATE: 12/29/2020	PHONE NO. [REDACTED]
COPIES TO:	LRB	DPW-MARINE REGION	DPW-MARK LUCERO
	FOOD & AG	USDA	



Permit Type(s): **AMENDMENT**  
**RESIDENT EXHIBITING**

**ATTN: KIMBERLY BECKLER, GENERAL MANAGER**  
**SEAQUEST**  
**430 PALLADIO PKWY #1801**  
**FOLSOM CA 95630**

DocID: D-0030464174-9  
Trans: 23104102 09/24/20 13:39  
Outlet: 310001-001 Fee: \$63.60  
2020 Restricted Species Permit-App Fee  
Valid: 08/24/2020 to 12/31/2020  
Permit Number: [REDACTED]

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

AMENDMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The following species is hereby added to your permit:

INVENTORY OF ANIMALS

ARMADILLO, THREE-BANDED (TOLYPEUTES TRICINCTUS)

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PDWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

AMENDMENT CONDITIONS

All other conditions of the original permit, including the expiration date, remain in full force and effect.

This amendment must be attached to the original permit.

Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations, the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.

\*\*\*\*\* **NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE** \*\*\*\*\*

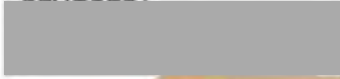
**DISCLAIMER:** THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.

ISSUED BY: <i>Robert Fulton</i>				DATE: 12/29/2020	PHONE NO. [REDACTED]			
COPIES TO:	LRB	DFW-MARINE REGION	DFW-MARK LUCERO	FOOD & AG	USDA			



Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: PETER MORDWINOW, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST



**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

RESIDENT EXHIBITING AUTHORIZATIONS

May import, export, transport, and possess only those species listed on the attached Department approved permit inventory for commercial and/or educational exhibition purposes.

**LOCATION(S) OF ANIMALS:**

430 PALLADIO PDWY #1801, FOLSOM, CA 95630

**CONDITION(S):**

RESIDENT EXHIBITING CONDITIONS

1. The permittee is required to follow all of the applicable requirements listed in §671, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. The permittee may add new species to the inventory only with prior written approval of the Department or as specified on the permit.
3. The permittee is responsible for renewing this permit prior to its expiration or providing notification to the Department upon transfer of animals which require renewing the permit.
4. Animals authorized by this permit shall not be transferred to persons within California unless that person has a restricted species permit authorizing that animal or species possession.
5. This permit or a copy must be in the possession of any person in possession of animals and must be immediately presented on demand by any enforcement officer.
6. This permit is not transferable.
7. Breeding is not authorized unless specified in the permit authorizations.
8. Pursuant to §671.1(a)(7), Title 14, of the CCR, restricted species imported into California under the authority of this permit must be accompanied by a current health certificate issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the animal and has found that they are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease. A copy of the health certificate shall be submitted to the Department within 10 business days of issuance. Health certificate may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov).
9. Pursuant to §671.1(b), Title 14, of the CCR the original permit and any subsequent amendment are subject to changes if the Department determines that an amendment is necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, an animal's welfare, and/or human health and safety.
10. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(C), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of their current USDA license and most recent USDA inspection report/form if the license is required by USDA.
11. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(H), Title 14, of the CCR, a permittee shall have on file with the Department at all times copies of all current USFWS permits if a permit is required by USFWS.
12. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(3)(J), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee who possesses an animal requiring unique identification must provide an animal's unique identification to the Department within 10 business days of receipt or transfer of an animal, the birth or death of an animal, or change in unique identification for an animal. The notice shall include the common name, scientific name, sex, and age of the animal, the date of the acquisition, transfer or death. The notice shall also contain the unique identification method for the animal. The notice may be submitted via fax at (916) 419-7586 or e-mail at [spu@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:spu@wildlife.ca.gov).
13. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(5), Title 14, of the CCR, the Department may revoke this permit at any time.

**DISCLAIMER:** THIS PERMIT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE APPLICABLE LAWS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY.

**ISSUED BY:** Original Signed by Robert Fulton

**DATE:** 05/02/2019

**PHONE NO.:** [REDACTED]

**COPIES TO:**

LRB	DPW-MARK LUCERO	FOOD & AG	USDA				
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Permit Type(s): RESIDENT EXHIBITING

ATTN: PETER MORDWINOW, GENERAL MANAGER  
SEAQUEST



- CONDITIONS CONTINUED -

14. Pursuant to §671.1(c)(2)(K), Title 14, of the CCR, every permittee is required to have on file with the Department on or before December 31, 2011 documentation of an animal's unique identification if the restricted species requires unique identification.

\*\*\*\*\* NO PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD APPEAR BELOW THIS LINE \*\*\*\*\*



State of California – Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2018 NEW RESTRICTED SPECIES PERMIT APPLICATION**  
 DFW 1312 (REV. 10/18/17)  
 IMPORTANT! YOU MAY NOT OBTAIN ANIMALS PRIOR TO APPROVAL

DFW  
 Received  
 OCT - 2 2018  
 BY  
 LRB

PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED IN  YOUR NAME  BUSINESS NAME

CDFW USE ONLY

PERMIT NUMBER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

FIRST NAME <u>Peter</u>	M.I. <u>L</u>	LAST NAME <u>Mordwinow Jr</u>	EMAIL ADDRESS <u>Pete.Mordwinow@visitseaquest.com</u>
BUSINESS NAME (IF APPLICABLE) <u>SeaQuest Aquarium LLC</u>	DRIVER'S LICENSE OR DMV ID NUMBER/STATE <u>Gov. Code 6254c</u>		DATE OF BIRTH <u>Gov. Code 6254c</u>
MAILING ADDRESS [REDACTED]	CONTACT NAME <u>Pete Mordwinow</u>		CONTACT TITLE <u>General Manager</u>
CITY <u>Sacramento</u>	STATE <u>CA</u>	ZIP CODE [REDACTED]	BUSINESS TELEPHONE/EXT. [REDACTED]
STREET ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM MAILING ADDRESS) <u>430 Palladio Pkwy #1801</u>			DAY TELEPHONE/EXT. [REDACTED]
CITY <u>Folsom</u>	STATE <u>CA</u>	ZIP CODE <u>97045 95630</u>	

**CHECK TYPE OF PERMIT** \*Fees includes a nonrefundable three percent (3%) application fee, not to exceed \$7.50 per item. (Section 700.4, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANIMAL CARE WELFARE SPECIES .....\$59.74        | <input type="checkbox"/> RESEARCH DETRIMENTAL SPECIES .....\$490.75      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANIMAL CARE DETRIMENTAL SPECIES .....490.75     | <input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENT** BROKER/DEALER ..... 490.75           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AQUACULTURE .....490.75                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESIDENT** EXHIBITING ..... 490.75   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AZA DETRIMENTAL SPECIES .....490.75             | <input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENT** NUISANCE BIRD ABATEMENT ..... 490.75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BREEDING .....490.75                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SHELTER ..... 59.74                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONRESIDENT BROKER/DEALER .....973.75           | <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE EVENT BREEDING ..... 59.74               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONRESIDENT EXHIBITING .....973.75              | <input type="checkbox"/> FISH ..... 490.75                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONRESIDENT NUISANCE BIRD ABATEMENT .....973.75 |  |

\*\*Resident means any person who has resided continuously in the State of California for six months or more immediately prior to the date of their application for a license or permit, any person on active military duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or auxiliary branch thereof, or any person enrolled in the Job Corps established pursuant to Section 2883 of Title 29 of the United States Code.

**STANDARD INSPECTION FEE IS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ENCLOSURES**

**CHECK NUMBER OF ENCLOSURES**

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 ENCLOSURES.....\$240.76           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6-25 ENCLOSURES.....337.75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-50 ENCLOSURES.....549.25           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 51-100 ENCLOSURES.....861.75          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 101-500+ ENCLOSURES.....3175.00       |

PERMIT(S) FEE SUBTOTAL.....\$	<u>828.50</u>
NONREFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE.....\$	<u>116.65</u>
STANDARD INSPECTION FEE (write-in inspection fee here)	
**AQUACULTURE INSPECTION FEE.....\$1,594.00	
Applicants for aquaculture permits shall pay this inspection fee	
***ELE/MOU INSPECTION FEE.....\$465.75	
Applicants for research permits may pay the ELE/MOU inspection fee in lieu of the standard inspection fee***	
GRAND TOTAL.....\$	<u>945.15</u>

WILL ANIMALS BE IMPORTED INTO CALIFORNIA?  YES, COMPLETE IMPORTATION SECTION  NO, EXPLAIN:

**IMPORTATION ONLY - COMPLETE NEXT PORTION OF THE APPLICATION IF YOU ARE IMPORTING ANIMALS INTO CALIFORNIA**

LIST SPECIES TO BE IMPORTED	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	ORIGIN (STATE OR COUNTRY)	
PERSON/BUSINESS SHIPPING ANIMALS		DAY TELEPHONE	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
NAME OF CARRIER	POINT OF ENTRY INTO CALIFORNIA		

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws and regulations of the State of California that all information on this application is true and correct and I am not violating any city or county laws. I agree to comply with the provisions of Section 671, Title 14, of the CCR. I understand it is unlawful to use or possess a permit which was obtained by fraud or deceit (Fish and Game Code Section 1052b). I understand that in the event that this information is found to be untrue or incorrect, the permit will be considered invalid and must be surrendered where purchased and I will be subject to criminal prosecution. I further understand that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a permit may result in revocation of current permit and/or denial of future permits. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine of not more than \$1,000.00, imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or both the fine and the imprisonment. In addition I may be subject to civil penalties as stated in Fish and Game Code Section 2125. I further certify that the animal(s) and their housing will be inspected at least once more within the next six months.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE (MUST BE IN INK) <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>9/18/18</u>
--	------------------------

**FOR DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE USE ONLY**

REVIEWED BY/DATE <u>RA 10-3-19</u>	TRANSACTION #	ISSUED BY/DATE <u>RA 5-2-19</u>
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# 1063587022



State of California – Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**RESTRICTED SPECIES PERMIT INVENTORY OF ANIMALS**  
 DFW 1313 (REV. 07/16/14) Previously FG 1313



**INSTRUCTIONS: TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK.** It is mandatory to complete all items. Incomplete forms will be returned. Copy and attach additional pages if necessary. Each page must be signed and dated by the applicant.

APPLICANT'S FIRST NAME <u>Peter</u>	M.I. <u>W</u>	LAST NAME <u>Mordwinow Jr</u>
BUSINESS NAME (IF APPLICABLE) <u>SeaQuest Aquarium LLC</u>	NUMBER OF ENCLOSURES <u>8-10</u>	

**LOCATION OF ANIMAL(S) HOUSING:** Note: Animals being held at multiple locations require inspection by the Department to determine that each of those facilities meet minimum applicable housing requirements as set forth in subsection 671.1(a)(8)(A-F), Section 671.2 (nonresident only), Sections 671.3-671.4 and/or 671.7, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

ADDRESS <u>430 Palladio Pkwy #1801</u>	CITY <u>Folsom</u>	STATE <u>CA</u>	ZIP CODE <u>97045</u>	COUNTY <u>Sacramento</u>
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTY

List all restricted animals in your possession or **TO BE ACQUIRED** in the following order: mammals, birds, fish, or reptiles. Group animals by order, family, and species. Use the following letters to denote sex: M=Male, F=Female, and U=Neutered or Unknown. Mark an "X" in the **TO BE ACQUIRED** column for animals to be acquired within the next year. **Unique Identifiers:** Use the following letters to denote unique identifying methods (See Section 671.1(c)(3)(J), Title 14, of the CCR): M=Microchip, T=Tattoo, and A=Alternative Method. Aquaculture and fish applicants: Identify the actual number in the ID number field and identify either W=Weight, V=Volume or C=Count in the method field. Remember to complete the **Importation Only** Section of the **Restricted Species Permit Application** for animals being imported into California. For California Residents Only: All native species obtained from a licensed California Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility require a Native Species Exhibiting Permit. Contact the License and Revenue Branch at (916) 928-5845 and/or (916) 928-5853 or SPU@wildlife.ca.gov if you need additional information.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ID NUMBER	METHOD	SEX	AGE	TO BE ACQUIRED
<u>Coati Mundi</u>	<u>Nasua Nasua</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>America Alligator</u>	<u>Alligator mississippiensis</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Kinkajou</u>	<u>Patus Flavus</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Armadillo *</u>	<u>Dasypodidae</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Porcupine</u>	<u>Erethizen dorsantum</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>two toed Sloth</u>	<u>Choloepus</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Asian small clawed otter</u>	<u>Aonyx Cinerus</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Capybara</u>	<u>Hydrochaeris Hydrochaeris</u>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws and regulations of the State of California that all information on this Restricted Species Permit Inventory of Animals form is true and correct. I understand that false or incomplete information may result in denial or revocation of a permit and/or criminal prosecution.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE (MUST BE IN INK) <u>X Peter Mordwinow</u>	DATE <u>9/18/15</u>
--	------------------------

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**Comment on Request to Revoke SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit**

---

**From** Cydnee Bence <cydneeb@petaf.org>

**Date** Mon 12/02/2024 02:55 PM

**To** FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept the attached correspondence regarding PETA's August 28, 2024 request to revoke SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Cydnee Bence  
Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement  
PETA Foundation  
[cydneeb@petaf.org](mailto:cydneeb@petaf.org)  
(202) 819-2531

This message may be protected by the attorney-client privilege and/or the attorney work product doctrine. If you believe you have received this message in error, please reply to the sender that it has been sent in error and delete the message. Thank you.

December 2, 2024

California Fish & Game Commission

Via email: [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

**Re: Comment on Request to Revoke SeaQuest Folsom's  
Restricted Species Permit**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to provide additional evidence of SeaQuest Folsom's apparent violations of the California's restricted species regulations and reiterate PETA's August 28, 2024 request that the California Fish and Game Commission ("the Commission") revoke its Restricted Species Permit and deny any future applications it may submit.

Under California law, the Commission "*shall* deny a permit and the commission *shall* revoke a permit if it finds that a permittee or applicant has failed to meet, or is unable to meet, the requirements for importing, transporting, possessing, or confining any wild animal."<sup>1</sup> PETA's initial request detailed how SeaQuest Folsom is apparently unable or unwilling to meet California's restricted species regulations, as evidenced by whistleblower statements, visual evidence, and USDA inspection reports.

Among the apparent violations detailed in PETA's August 28, 2024 request, whistleblowers documented a hedgehog who was reportedly so stressed that he ran his face along the glass enclosure wall until it bled,<sup>2</sup> and reported that infant sloths only received half of their diet.<sup>3</sup> The USDA cited SeaQuest Folsom *twice* for failing to ensure adequate temperature and humidity in the sloths' enclosure, and cited the facility for attempting to treat a wallaby's "fur loss and flaky skin" in-house, rather than seeking prompt, professional veterinary advice. These are only a few of the apparent violations documented by whistleblowers and regulators.

Since PETA's initial request, the USDA released another inspection report, revealing additional violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act and further apparent violations of California restricted species regulations.<sup>4</sup> USDA inspectors reported that "[i]n the wallaby enclosure, there were clusters of flies, as well as low levels of flies in various areas of the facility."<sup>5</sup> The inspector noted that SeaQuest's existing insect control

<sup>1</sup> CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2150(b) (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 671.2(a)(6), (10) (requiring adequate veterinary care, and only exhibiting animals under conditions consistent with the animal's health and comfort).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* § 671.2(a)(1) (requiring that animals be provided with a sufficient quantity of food).

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit 1, SeaQuest Folsom USDA Inspection Report (Aug. 8, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS  
FOUNDATION

Washington  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

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NAME OF THE FOUNDATION TO  
SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

ENTITIES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

program “is not effective enough to control the ongoing fly issue at the facility.” California restricted species regulations require adequate pest control and cleaning of enclosures.<sup>6</sup> The presence of “clusters of flies,” indicates that SeaQuest has failed to keep the wallaby’s enclosure adequately clean, in apparent violation of restricted species regulations.<sup>7</sup> SeaQuest’s inability or refusal to comply with basic sanitation requirements is further evidence that it “has failed to meet, or is unable to meet, the requirements for . . . confining any wild animal,” and should not hold a Restricted Species Permit.<sup>8</sup>

The Commission is uniquely empowered to address SeaQuest’s repeated failures and is “expected to make complex public policy and biological decisions on behalf of the people of California.”<sup>9</sup> In drafting California’s Fish and Game Code, legislators specifically recognized “that many animals die in captivity or transit; that some keepers of wild animals lack sufficient knowledge or facilities for the proper care of wild animals.”<sup>10</sup> The express intent of such legislation is to “protect the health and welfare of wild animals captured.”<sup>11</sup> SeaQuest’s repeated failure or refusal to meet basic animal welfare regulations show that the facility “lack[s] sufficient knowledge or facilities for the proper care of wild animals” and that intervention is necessary to “protect the health and welfare of wild animals captured.”<sup>12</sup> The Commission has the ability, expectation, and duty to implement such intervention through permit revocation and denial.<sup>13</sup>

Accordingly, PETA urges the Commission to hold SeaQuest Folsom accountable for apparent violations of California laws and regulations by revoking its Restricted Species Permit and deny any applications for renewal.

Sincerely,



Cydnee Bence  
Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement  
PETA Foundation  
cydneeb@petaf.org  
(202) 819-2531

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<sup>6</sup> Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 671.2(a)(4), (6).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2150(b).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* § 101.5.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* § 2116.5

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* §§ 2150(b), 2116.5.



### Inspection Report

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SeaQuest Folsom LLC  
430 Palladio Parkway #1801  
Folsom, CA 95630

Customer ID: **6014241**  
Certificate: **93-C-1182**  
Site: 001  
SeaQuest Folsom LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 07-AUG-2024

---

**2.131(b)(1) Critical**

**Handling of animals.**

On 19 July, 2024 a parakeet was caught in the door to the vestibule and passed away shortly after. The employees should closely monitor the animals in the enclosure while closing the switch door to the vestibule in order to prevent unintended trauma. Handling of all animals shall be done as carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma or physical harm.

Correct from the day of inspection, 7 August, 2024.

**3.131(d)**

**Sanitation.**

In the wallaby enclosure, there were clusters of flies, as well as a low level of flies in various areas of the facility. Facility has an insect control program, but it is not effective enough to control the ongoing fly issue at the facility. A safe and effective program for the control of insects and other pests shall be established and maintained.

Correct by 21 August 2024

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the general manager.

---

**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
15-AUG-2024

**Received by Title:** Manager

**Date:**  
15-AUG-2024



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6014241	93-C-1182	001	SeaQuest Folsom LLC	07-AUG-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	CAPYBARA
000001	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG
000001	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000003	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	LINNAEUS'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000003	<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	ORIENTAL SMALL-CLAWED OTTER
000001	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	BENNETT'S WALLABY / RED-NECKED WALLABY
000002	<i>Felis sp</i>	DOMESTIC X EXOTIC CAT HYBRID
000001	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE
000001	<i>Ara, Anodorhynchus, Primolius, Diopsittaca spp hybrid</i>	MACAW HYBRID
000001	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	ECLECTUS PARROT
000060	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	BUDGERIGAR / BUDGIE / COMMON PARAKEET / SHELL PARAKEET
000001	<i>Cacatua alba</i>	WHITE COCKATOO / UMBRELLA COCKATOO
000002	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	LAUGHING KOOKABURRA
000002	<i>Anas platyrhynchos domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC DUCK INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000004	<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	DOMESTIC CHICKEN (INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS / TURKIN / COCK / HEN / ROOSTER)
000002	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>	KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN
000002	<i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	PATAGONIAN CAVY / MARA
000091	<b>Total</b>	



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Elephant Sanctuary*



**PAWS**  
PERFORMING ANIMAL  
WELFARE SOCIETY  
Founded in 1984  
PROTECTION  
EDUCATION  
ADVOCACY  
SANCTUARY  
pawsweb.org



P. O. Box 849  
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Phone: 209/745-2606  
Fax: 209/745-1809  
E-mail: [info@pawsweb.org](mailto:info@pawsweb.org)  
[www.pawsweb.org](http://www.pawsweb.org)

December 2, 2024

Melissa Miller-Henson  
Members of the Commission  
California Fish & Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244

**Re: Request for CFGC and CDFW to investigate SeaQuest Folsom and revoke Restricted Species Permit**

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson and Members of the Fish & Game Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to urge the California Fish & Game Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to investigate SeaQuest Folsom and revoke their Restricted Species Permit, based on apparent violations of California's Restricted Species Regulations.

Since 1984, PAWS has been rescuing and caring for abused, neglected or retired captive wild animals. We operate the 2,300-acre ARK 2000 sanctuary in San Andreas, California, where we currently care for elephants, tigers, bears, nonhuman primates, and other wild animals. In our 40 years of operation, we have cared for a variety of species, including some of those found at SeaQuest Folsom.

Our position in support of the request for investigation and permit revocation is based on Seaquest Folsom's history of Animal Welfare Act violations (e.g., death of a parakeet, poor sanitation, inadequate veterinary care); the ABC 10 news exposé detailing animal welfare violations (e.g., inadequate diet, animal injuries and deaths) at Seaquest Folsom, based on testimony, visuals, and internal documents provided by more than a dozen former employees; and our visit to the facility in July 2024 (see below).

Clearly, SeaQuest consistently fails to meet acceptable standards of animal care, warranting license revocation.

During our visit in July, we observed the following:

**Animal care and welfare issues**

- **Lack of access to sunlight and fresh air.** The animals are confined indoors without exposure to direct sunlight and fresh air, elements that are critical to physical and mental well-being.
- **Inadequate enclosures and enrichment.** Living areas are barren and lack species-appropriate enrichment.
- **Unsuitable thermal conditions.** Extremely high ambient temperatures failed to account for the diverse needs and comfort of different species.
- **Excessive noise levels.** Chronic high noise levels in the facility significantly compromise animal welfare. Noise is a known stressor for animals.
- **Water - Ref. CDFW Code §671.2(a)(3).** We observed a water source that was very dirty.

- **Unsanitary conditions.** Overall conditions were unsanitary (see Attachment, photo #1), including filthy furniture inside an enclosure and peeling paint on a bin inside a bird enclosure, posing an ingestion hazard to the animals.
- **Nutritional concerns - Ref. CDFW Code §671.2(a)(1).** SeaQuest aggressively promotes feeding the animals, offering food for sale throughout the facility. This raises concerns about adequate nutrition and food intake monitoring, as proper nutrition is critical for animal welfare. We observed a tortoise who displayed significant “pyramiding” (see Attachment, photo #2), a malformation of the shell in which individual segments grow upward into a pyramid-like shape. This condition that can be indicative of improper nutrition.
- **Food contamination - Ref. CDFW Code §671.2(a)(2).** Food purchased to feed the animals is frequently dropped on the ground and later picked up and fed to animals by other visitors.
- **Lack of proper training.** Proper training is critical to avoiding errors that can endanger the animals. We observed an employee who left cleaning products inside a toucan enclosure (see Attachment, photo #3), risking the bird coming into contact with or ingesting it.

**Unsafe animal handling - Ref. CDFW Code §671.2(a)(8) and §671.2(a)(10)**

- Animals are left unsupervised, even though most are within reach of the public, who are urged to interact with them. We observed a toddler roughly grab the leg of an iguana who quickly retreated, with nowhere to go in the animal’s shallow enclosure. Otters are encouraged to extend a paw through an enclosure opening, where forceful handling by a visitor could cause injury (see Attachment, photo #4). These conditions are not conducive to an animal’s health and comfort as they could cause behavioral stress and injury.

**Health risks**

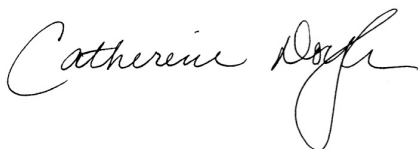
- **Pathogen Transmission.** Minimal use of hand sanitizer was observed, despite the facility’s promotion of interactions with the animals. Visitors potentially can transmit pathogens from one animal to another. Conversely, the public is at risk when touching animals such as reptiles, which are known carriers of salmonella and other pathogens. (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/reptiles-and-amphibians.html>).

In summary, SeaQuest Folsom operates like an indoor roadside zoo, failing to engage in modern animal care practices. Conditions there are not conducive to animal health and well-being.

Given the issues outlined above, I respectfully request that the Commission consider investigating SeaQuest Folsom and revoking their Restricted Species Permit, and denying future permit applications, based on apparent violations of California’s Restricted Species Regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Catherine Doyle, M.S.  
 Director of Science, Research and Public Policy  
 Cdoyle@pawsweb.org

Attachment

## PHOTO ATTACHMENT

Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)

December 2, 2024

Re: Photos accompanying comments re request for CFGC and CDFW to investigate SeaQuest Folsom and revoke Restricted Species Permit

Photo #1 - Filthy furniture in animal enclosure



Photo #2 - Tortoise with significant pyramiding of shell



Photo #3 - Cleaning products left in toucan enclosure



Photo # 4 - Otter sticking paw through opening in enclosure



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## SeaQuest Shameful Practices

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From Janet Monfredini <[REDACTED]>

Date Wed 11/27/2024 04:30 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

My email will not be coming to you as new information, which is why it is that much more unconscionable! This organization has a known and documented history of abusing the exploited animals it controls. Everything from the environments, the lack of food and humane care, and the fact that they continue to practice these abuses without penalty is shocking. Aren't we better than this?

This organization has repeatedly been cited, falling short of even the basics of the Animal Welfare Act. I am asking you to do the work which is yours to do. Please revoke their permits. Please do not allow future permit renewals and, if I could wish for the stars, please require them to release their animals to noted sanctuaries, to enable these creatures to live out the remainder of their lives in some peace and with respect and comfort. It's the least we can do for them.

Thank you for reading my comments and considering my requests. Thank you for the work you do. It is so appreciated.

Sincerely,

Janet Monfredini

## END SEAQUEST FOLSOM

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From Marcelia Nava <[REDACTED]>

Date Wed 11/27/2024 03:26 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

To whom it may concern:

Please revoke the SeaQuest Folsom Restricted Species Permit and any renewal permits. It is abuse to allow animals to be held in this way.

- I'm a California resident, and I am appalled that the California Fish & Game Commission has continued to renew SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit every year despite the facility's inability to provide animals with basic care.
- On July 25, 2024, as part of an ABC News exposé, more than a dozen former employees of SeaQuest Folsom came forward with visual evidence of apparent violations of the restricted species regulations.
- Former employees reported that SeaQuest Folsom allowed a hedgehog to endure stress to the extent that they became physically injured and failed to provide sloths with an adequate amount of food.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has repeatedly cited SeaQuest Folsom for failing to provide regulated species with adequate care and conditions as required by the federal Animal Welfare Act.
- The Commission must hold SeaQuest Folsom accountable. California law clearly states that the Commission shall revoke a permit if it finds that the permittee cannot or does not meet basic requirements.
- I urge you to revoke SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit and deny any future permit renewal applications.

Regards,

Marcelia Nava



## SeaQuest Folsom

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From Nora Schild <[REDACTED]>

Date Fri 11/29/2024 08:15 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

- I'm a California resident, and I am appalled that the California Fish & Game Commission continues to renew SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit given the overwhelming evidence of continuing violations of the Animal Welfare Act.
- If you have not watched it, on July 25, 2024, as part of an ABC News exposé, more than a dozen former employees of SeaQuest Folsom came forward with visual evidence of apparent violations of the restricted species regulations. I strongly recommend you review it.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has repeatedly cited SeaQuest Folsom for failing to provide regulated species with adequate care and conditions as required by the federal Animal Welfare Act.
- The Commission must hold SeaQuest Folsom accountable. California law clearly states that the Commission shall revoke a permit if it finds that the permittee cannot or does not meet basic requirements.
- I urge you to revoke SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit and deny any future permit renewal applications.

Sincerely,

Nora Schild

[REDACTED]

Ventura, CA [REDACTED]

## SeaQuest

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From Claudia Bruckert <[REDACTED]>

Date Sun 12/01/2024 01:20 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

- I'm a California resident, and I am appalled that the California Fish & Game Commission has continued to renew SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit every year despite the facility's inability to provide animals with basic care.
- .Former employees reported that SeaQuest Folsom allowed a hedgehog to endure stress to the extent that they became physically injured and failed to provide sloths with an adequate amount of food.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has repeatedly cited SeaQuest Folsom for failing to provide regulated species with adequate care and conditions as required by the federal Animal Welfare Act.
- The Commission must hold SeaQuest Folsom accountable. California law clearly states that the Commission shall revoke a permit if it finds that the permittee cannot or does not meet basic requirements.
- **I urge you to revoke SeaQuest Folsom's Restricted Species Permit and deny any future permit renewal applications.**

Thank you for everything you do to help animals.

Sincerely,

Claudia Bruckert