

# **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**

AWA Docket No. 07-0174

In re: LOREON VIGNE, an individual  
doing business as ISIS SOCIETY  
FOR INSPIRATIONAL STUDIES, INC.,  
a California domestic non-profit corporation,  
also known as “TEMPLE OF ISIS” and  
“ISIS OASIS SANCTUARY”

Respondent

### **MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

This proceeding was brought under the Animal Welfare Act (the “Act”), 7 U.S.C. § 2131, *et seq.* by Kevin Shea, the Acting Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (“APHIS”) and seeks to terminate the Respondent’s Animal Welfare License. It was initiated on August 21, 2007 with the filing of an Order to Show Cause Why Animal Welfare License Number 93-C-0611 Should Not Be Terminated. The Respondent filed her Answers to Allegations and Demonstration of Cause As to Why Animal Welfare Act License 93-C-0611 Should Not Be Terminated on September 14, 2008. On June 6, 2008, the Complainant filed its Motion for Summary Judgment. The motion was served by certified mail on the Respondent by the Hearing Clerk’s Office together with a letter advising her that any response to the motion should be filed within 20 days. No response has been received and the matter is now before the Administrative

Law Judge for disposition. As there are no genuine issues of any material fact, the Motion will be granted and an Order will be issued terminating the license.

### **Discussion**

7 U.S.C. § 2133 provides that “The Secretary shall issue licenses to dealers and exhibitors upon application therefor in such form and manner as he may prescribe....”

Express authority for the suspension or revocation of licenses for violations of the Act or regulations is found in 7 U.S.C. § 2149. The implementing regulations make it clear that a license may be terminated at any time for any reason that an initial license application would be denied. 9 C.F.R. § 2.12 Included in the list of specified reasons for denial of the issuance of a license is:

Has made any false or fraudulent statements or provided any false or fraudulent records to the department or other governmental agencies, or has plead *nolo contendere* (no contest) or has been found to have violated any Federal, State, or local laws pertaining to the transportation, ownership, neglect or welfare of animals, or is otherwise unfit to be licensed and the Administrator determines that the issuance of a license would be contrary to the purposes of the Act. 9 C.F.R. § 2.11(a)(6)

The record amply supports the existence of such a conviction by the Respondent. Her answer expressly admits pleading guilty to the offense and her belated attempts to excuse or recharacterize her conduct and the nature of the transactions underlying the conviction will not be entertained at this point. Accordingly, the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and order will be entered.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. The Respondent Loreon Vigne is an individual whose mailing address is 2088 Geysers Avenue, Geyserville, California. She is the founder and “High Priestess” of, has served as a corporate officer and has managed, controlled and directed the business activities of

Isis Society for Inspirational Studies, Inc. (Isis Society), a California domestic non-profit corporation, which is also known as “Temple Isis,” “Isis Oasis Sanctuary” and “Isis Oasis.”

2. In April of 2000, the Respondent applied for and received Animal Welfare Act License 93-C-0611 as an exhibitor which was issued in the name of “LOREON VIGNE DBA ISIS OASIS,” and continuing through April 20, 2007, she submitted annual renewal applications.

3. On or about August 1, 2006, Isis Society was indicted in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon for knowingly and intentionally conspiring with others to unlawfully sell and offer for sale in interstate commerce an endangered species (ocelots), in violation of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1538(a)(1)(F) and 1540(b)(1).

4. On or about August 2, 2006, the United States Attorney for the District of Oregon and Isis Society filed a Plea Agreement containing the corporation’s offer to plead guilty to the indicted offense, stipulated facts as to the specifics of the unlawful sales of ocelots in interstate commerce between the period of August 1999 and November of 2004 and the United States Attorney’s agreement to recommend a sentence of a fine and probation to the Court.

5. On or about January 4, 2007, before the United States District Court, Isis Society entered its plea of guilty to the violation of the Endangered Species Act, as charged. The guilty plea was found to be provident based upon the admission of sufficient facts establishing the elements of the crimes, to have been made voluntarily, and was accepted by United States District Judge Michael W. Mosman. Consistent with the Plea

Agreement, Isis Society was sentenced to pay a fine of \$60,000 and to serve a two year probationary period.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. The Respondent, as its founder, corporate officer and “High Priestess”, controlled, managed and directed the business activities of Isis Society, including the transactions found to violate the Endangered Species Act.
2. The violation of the Endangered Species Act by Isis Society is a violation of a Federal law pertaining to the transportation, ownership, neglect or welfare of animals within the meaning of 9 C.F.R. § 2.11(a)(6) and constitutes sufficient basis to terminate the license of the Respondent.
3. The Respondent is estopped from attempting to recharacterize the nature of the transactions underlying the conviction as had been recited in Isis Society’s Plea Agreement.

### **Order**

1. Animal Welfare Act License 93-C-0611 issued in the name of “LOREON VIGNE DBA ISIS OASIS” is **REVOKED** and **TERMINATED**.
2. The Respondent Loreon Vigne, Isis Society for Inspirational Studies, Inc., any agent, assign or successor of the Respondent or her related business entity or in which she is an officer, agent or representative are **DISQUALIFIED** from obtaining an Animal Welfare Act License for a period of two (2) years.
3. This Order shall become effective and final 35 days from its service upon the parties who have a right to file an appeal with the Judicial Officer within 30 days after

receiving service of this Memorandum Opinion and Order by the Hearing Clerk as provided in the Rules of Practice. 7 C.F.R. § 1.145.

Copies of this Order will be served upon the parties by the Hearing Clerk.

Done at Washington, D.C.  
July 7, 2008

---

**PETER M. DAVENPORT**  
Administrative Law Judge

Copies to: Bernadette Juarez, Esq.  
Loreon Vigne

Hearing Clerk's Office  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Room 1031, South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9203  
202-720-4443  
Fax: 202-720-9776



