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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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In re:)	AWA Docket No. 09-0085
)	
ZOOLOGICAL IMPORTS 2000, INC.,)	
a Florida corporation)	
)	CONSENT DECISION
Respondent)	AND ORDER

This proceeding was instituted under the Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (the "Act"), by an Order to Show Cause Why Animal Welfare Act License 58-B-0306 Should Not Be Terminated filed by complainant on March 31, 2009. This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provisions of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

The respondent admits the facts set forth below as findings of fact, specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, waives further procedure, and consents and agrees to the entry of this decision, for the purpose of settling this proceeding. The complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent Zoological Imports 2000, Inc., is a Florida corporation ("Zoological Imports, Inc."), whose registered agent is Mario S. Tabraue, 16225 SW 172 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33187, and whose principal address is 16225 SW 172 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33187. At all material times alleged herein said respondent was operating as a dealer, as that term is defined in the Act and the Regulations, and held AWA license 58-B-0306. Mario S. Tabraue is an officer (President) and director of respondent Zoological Imports, Inc., and was the signatory of respondent's 2008 renewal application for AWA license 58-B-0306.

2. On approximately September 2008, Mario S. Tabraue, on behalf of respondent Zoological Imports, Inc., and acting within the scope of his employment and/or office, negotiated the sale or acquisition of two tigers from T.I.G.E.R.S., an AWA- licensed (56-C-0116) exhibitor whose principal is Bhagavan Antle (“Antle”). Respondent Zoological Imports, Inc. further negotiated the transfer or sale of one of said tigers to Thunderhawk Big Cat Encounter, LLC (“Thunderhawk”), through one of its principals, Ray Thunderhawk. At no time has Thunderhawk held an AWA license.

3. On or about September 27, 2008, Thunderhawk acquired the two tigers from Antle and transported them from South Carolina or Boston, Massachusetts, to Miami, Florida.

4. On or about October 3, 2008, Thunderhawk delivered one of the two tigers to respondent Zoological Imports, Inc..

5. On or about October 3, 2008, respondent Zoological Imports, Inc., through Mr. Tabraue, falsified an APHIS Form 7020 (Record of Acquisition, Disposition or Transport of Animals (Other Than Dogs and Cats)), to misrepresent that respondent had acquired the two tigers directly from Antle, and that the animals had been delivered to respondent by an employee of Antle.

6. On or about October 3, 2008, respondent Zoological Imports, Inc., through Mr. Tabraue, prepared a second APHIS Form 7020 (Record of Acquisition, Disposition or Transport of Animals (Other Than Dogs and Cats)), falsely representing that respondent Zoological Imports, Inc. had delivered a tiger to Thunderhawk, by “donation,” falsely representing that the Thunderhawk’s AWA license was “pending,” and falsely representing that the tiger had been in the possession of respondent.

7. During a routine inspection of Zoological Imports, Inc. on October 15, 2008, USDA

Veterinary Medical Officer Mary Moore inquired as to the acquisition of disposition of animals since the previous inspection. Respondent Zoological Imports, Inc., through Mr. Tabraue, knowingly made false and fraudulent statements to Dr. Moore regarding the two tigers, and knowingly provided Dr. Moore with the two falsified and fraudulent 7020 Forms to corroborate the false statements. On or about October 16, 2008, respondent Zoological Imports, Inc., through Mr. Tabraue, admitted to Dr. Moore that the two Forms 7020 were false and fraudulent, and that Mr. Tabraue had knowingly created and submitted them to Dr. Moore.

Conclusions of Law

The respondent has admitted the facts set forth above and the parties have agreed to the entry of this decision. Therefore, such decision will be entered.

Order

If upon service of a duly-issued subpoena, respondent's registered agent and president, Mario Tabraue, fails to appear in *In re Thunderhawk Big Cat Encounter, LLC*, AWA Docket No. D-09-0040, or in any other Animal Welfare Act proceeding before the Secretary that involves the admitted facts set forth in the Findings of Fact above, or to testify as to such facts admitted herein, this consent decision and order shall be vacated, and the instant administrative proceeding (AWA Docket No. 09-0085) to terminate Animal Welfare Act license 58-B-0306 shall proceed.

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The provisions of this order shall become effective on May 10, 2009. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

ZOOLOGICAL IMPORTS 2000, INC.,
a Florida corporation
Respondent

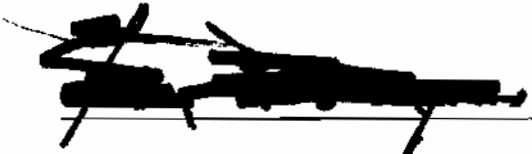
By  

Mario Tabraue, President



Colleen A. Carroll
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.
this 27th day of May, 2009



Administrative Law Judge