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Date: January, 29 to February 24 2014

To: Dr. Peter Kirsten SACS. **From:** Juan F. Arango ACI.

Subject: Compliant E14-109, (PETA) Call of the Wildman Ernie Brown

Business Name: Animal Planet, Sharp Entertainment, Call of the Wildman, Ernie Brown.

Inquiry: Unlicensed activity search; and mistreatment of animals used on the Call of Wildman show of April 2012 "The Mama Drama"

Outcome of the inquiry: For this inquiry the following people were interviewed and/or contacted:

Ernie Brown Jr. (Call of the Wildman)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Animal Planet).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Sharp Entertainment).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SVP of Production for Sharp Entertainment.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Broadbent Sanctuary)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (KY Wildlife Center)

The Mothers Jones investigation Link:

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/01/animal-abuse-drugs-call-of-the-wildman-animal-planet>

This is what We Know:

Sharp Entertainment is in charge of all production activities for the program.

Sharp made anyone involved in the show sign a 1 million dollars confidentiality agreement; because of this contract, people are very fearful to speak with Aphis officials.

Ernie Brown is an employee of Sharp.

Although they deny it, Sharp Entertainment acquires, holds, uses and disposes of the animals during and after filming the show. (This was confirmed by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) email, multiple sources and records)

Sharp Entertainment does not have a USDA, Animal Care License to exhibit animals.

The baby raccoons case from April 2012:

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The raccoons were acquired by Sharp on April 5 at least 7 days before they were released or transferred on April 12. (Information confirmed by other sources, and records)

The raccoons were received by Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary and transferred immediately to KY Wildlife Center. (Broadbent's vet diagnosed dehydration and started with treatment of the animals).

The animals arrived to the KY Wildlife center emaciated, and dehydrated; one of the baby raccoons died.

Ernie Brown Jr reported to KY Fish and Wildlife that he captured the raccoon kits and he released them in the wild (KY F & W records)

Sharp E. told us that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) rescued the raccoon kits; and then after filming the show they were given to a rescue facility; additionally there were no records available from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to show Aphis officials.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) from Sharp E. informed us by email that "The NWCO officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who rescued the kits, was driving home when he saw a dead mother (which appeared to be struck by a car) and 3 dead kits, along with 3 living kits on the side of the road. He immediately called production and told them he would bring the kits to us, knowing we were in contact with a reliable rehabilitation center, rather than humanely euthanizing them. He did not report, document, the rescue of these kits on his NWCO form because he was not acting as a paid nuisance control officer at the time of the rescue."

Sharp contradicted themselves when they told us that "The animals remained in the care of the individuals who recovered them, and later said "A member of the production team consulted with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary, [REDACTED] regarding the care of the kits, which were fed formula via syringe, kept warm, and monitored for any signs of distress or any change in condition that would indicate illness or injury".

Sharp told us that "As of May 2013, Sharp Entertainment hired an animal exhibitor holding a Class C Exhibitor license to oversee ALL animal-related activities and taping."

It is unclear whether the class C license authorizes any one to oversee other facilities or businesses and that this "oversight" exempts the other facility from the requirement of obtain their own license.

It appears that Sharp Entertainment and/or Ernie Brown Jr. had acquired animals to be used in the show from unlicensed individuals (per the AWA), and potentially non-compliant sources (per our limited knowledge of KY law). Also, based on the age and medical history of the raccoon kits used on the show, and what appeared to be inappropriate handling, it is likely that these animals experienced unnecessary deprivation and distress, accompanied by a lack of adequate veterinary care, which threatened their health and wellbeing.

The answers Sharp entertainment provided to Aphis officials are contradictory and incomplete, (Questions and answers are attached)

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Sharp entertainment did not adequately answer all of the questions posed by the USDA; they did not tell us who currently holds the Class C license that they hired to oversee the work with the animals. (This person or entity may need to be cited because he/she is doing a job that is not part of his business under his class C license. Under false pretenses, this person may be trying to cover Sharp E. under his Class C License.)

Conclusion:

Using animals acquired from KY state licensed nuisance wildlife people for exhibition may be a violation of KY state law. Also, using wildlife obtained from "trappers" may also be in violation of KY DNR laws, based on our limited knowledge of state law. We have shared this information with the state for the purpose of promoting State/Federal cooperation.

It appears that Sharp Entertainment could not legally become licensed to use trapped or captured native wildlife without circumventing state law. It would appear that the only legal source is a rehabber who is also licensed with USDA, Animal Care, or a captive raised animal owned by a licensee.

We have very grey areas here, there is a lot of information associated with this complaint to process in multiple States, and we received contradictory information from some of the companies and people implicated in this search.

It is my opinion that in spite of the fact that we have already obtained a large amount of information in this unlicensed activity search; a more exhaustive and detailed investigation may need to be done; for the repercussions that will come from a decision in this matter could affect future exhibitions of this type.

Best Regards,

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

ACI.

ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6008