

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:) Dockets No. 14-0021
)
WILLIAM BRACKSTON LEE, III, an)
individual, doing business as LAUGHING)
VALLEY RANCH)
)
Respondent.) CONSENT DECISION AND
ORDER

These proceedings were instituted under the Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.)(Act), by an "Order to Show Cause Why Animal Welfare Act License 84-C-0088 Should Not Be Terminated" (Order to Show Cause) on September 10, 2013, and complaint on December 6, 2013, both filed by the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the respondent willfully violated the regulations and standards issued pursuant to the Act (9 C.F.R. § 1.1 et seq.). 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).

Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the complaint and specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admits nor denies the remaining allegations, waives oral hearing and further procedure, waives all rights to seek judicial review and otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this decision, including waiving challenges to the Administrative Law Judge's authority to enter this Decision and Order under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Constitution of the United States, and waives any action against the United States Department of Agriculture under the Equal Access to Justice

Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. § 504 *et seq.*) for fees and other expenses incurred by respondent in connection with this proceeding or any action against any USDA employee in their individual capacity.

The parties consent and agree for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision and resolving any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by respondent occurring up to and including April 23, 2021. 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 complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. William Brackston Lee, III is an individual doing business as Laughing Valley Ranch and whose business address is P.O. Box 1810, Idaho Springs, Colorado 80452.
2. At all times mentioned herein, said respondent was operating as an exhibitor, as that term is used in the Act and the Regulations, and has held AWA license 84-C-0088 at all times relevant to the present matter.¹

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Respondent having admitted the findings of fact set forth above, and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

¹ Respondent voluntarily terminated his AWA license in December 2020.

ORDER

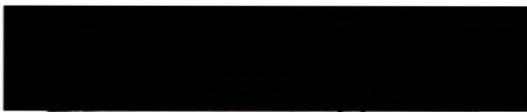
1. Respondent, his agents and employees, successors and assigns, directly or through any corporate or other device, shall cease and desist from violating the Act and the Regulations and Standards.
2. Animal Welfare Act license 84-C-0088 is hereby suspended for five years with the suspension term beginning upon issuance of this Consent Decision.
3. Any and all other alleged or potential violations of the Act by respondent occurring up to and including April 23, 2021 are hereby resolved and Complainant may not initiate any enforcement action against respondent for any alleged noncompliances or violations that took place prior to the date of the issuance of this Consent Decision and Order.


The Secretary of Agriculture specifically retains jurisdiction of this matter to enforce the terms of this Order.

The provisions of this order shall become effective immediately. Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties. This agreement may be executed in counterparts.

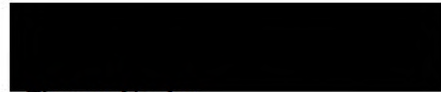
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Ciarra Toomey
Attorney for Complainant


William Brackston Lee
Respondent


Margrit Parker
Attorney for Respondent

Done at Washington, D.C.,
this 22 day of April 2021



Thermy Carlos
Administrative Law Judge