

Date: 14 September 2009
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The British Humanist Association
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FAO Andrew Copson
British Humanist Association
Director of Education & Public Affairs

RECEIVED
17 SEP 2009

Dear Mr Copson

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Clevedon Road, Wraxall

With reference to your letter regarding the creationist and pseudoscientific ideas advanced by Noahs Ark Zoo Farm, a copy was forwarded to our appointed inspector under the Zoo Licensing Act. He has commented that it is his opinion that the educational contribution at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm meets the requirement of the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practices.

He goes on to state that the zoo farm has large interpretation labels at most if not all of its live animal exhibits, which are generally accurate and are attractive and interesting and the premises has a written education strategy, an active education programme, and facilities appropriate for getting across its educational message. He further comments that from what he has seen a large proportion of the animal shows provide good information about the animals presented. There are informative displays on farming and local wild life and the feeling is that overall sufficient was provided to meet the educational requirements in the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice. As the licensing authority for the zoo the licence is issued after consideration of the vet's report and examination of the legislation does not provide for refusal to issue the licence on the basis of educational issues.

In respect of the zoo farm advancing creationist and pseudoscientific ideas, the inspector comments that he does not feel able to curb what could be seen as the proprietor's freedom of expression. His final comment is that under the current Defra guidance Noah's Ark Zoo Farm meets the conditions required for a licence under the Zoo Licensing Act.

Yours sincerely

Chris Gwenlan
Commercial Services Manager
Environmental and Consumer Services