

**Carrie Leo** <carrieleo15@gmail.com>

Licensee

6 messages

Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>
To: Christopher.maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov

Sun, Sep 30, 2018 at 7:57 AM

Mr. Maldonado,

I would like to talk to you about a Texan resident, who recently moved to Texas with a plethora of animals, two of which are not his to be moving around the state.

I first would like to confirm his licensing status as he has told a colleague that he has received all of his permits/licenses to possession and exhibition of the species he has; at least one of which is indigenous.

Thank you.

Christopher Maldonado
<Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov>
To: Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>Mon, Oct 1, 2018 at 9:20
AM

Dear Ms. Leo:

Thank you for your emailed concern. Can you please offer me the individual's name and any other contact information so that I can confirm if a permit has been issued? With few exceptions, TPWD is only going to regulate species that are native (indigenous) to Texas. Some of the exotics (nonindigenous) species we do regulate are controlled exotic snakes and some invasive aquatic species.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Chris Maldonado

TPWD – WL PERMITTING OFFICE

4200 Smith School Road

Austin, Texas 78744

From: Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 6:57 AM
To: Christopher Maldonado <Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov>
Subject: Licensee

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Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>
To: Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov

Mon, Oct 1, 2018 at 7:34 PM

Hello Mr. Maldonado,

Thank you so much for your prompt response. The person's name is Tyler Thomas and his business partner is Nicholas Stacey, although licensing is usually under Tyler's name or his business' name which is Fragile Planet Wildlife Center. However, he may be hiding under his partner's name so I thought I'd give you his as well.

Tyler was associated with Oak Creek Zoological Conservancy from May 2017 to June 2018. He then moved his menagerie to Southern Texas in Brownsville I believe. One of his colleagues, Michelle Smith of Mini S Exotic Zoo in Mineola. She helped store a badger from him, which is my understanding is indigenous to Texas. She has a couple lemurs pictured on her website that look like an awful lot like that Tyler has and the enclosures in the background look a lot like the ones at Oak Creek. They may be pictures transferred from Frenchak's or Tyler's website or facebook pages to Ms. Smith's website.

I don't mean to sound like an alarmist. However, if my understanding of "black market" activity is correct, that is exactly what Tyler and Ms. Smith are doing. In fact, Tyler stole three animals from me and took them from New York State into Texas in May-June 2017 without telling me at all. I was in the hospital for surgery and asked him to take care of my badger and fisher cat and ranch fox and he basically stole them from me. He is telling me that the fisher and badger are dead which I know they are not. The fox I do believe is deceased as she was of the quite advanced age of 13-14 years old. Ms. Smith only has a fur-bearers propagation license for six otters and was never licensed for the badger that she wants me to believe drowned in her pool she has set up for the otters. I have record of this conversation with Ms. Smith and I. This was a change of story from a previous conversation only a day or two earlier when she had told me directly that she had the badger and the "owner", Tyler, came out of the blue to pick up the animal stating that he now has the proper license for it. As far as I can tell, he does

not and I doubt that he will get one since he is hiding the badger from me and does not want any record of it.

Likewise, he falsified paperwork on the New York State side in September 2017 when he listed the fisher on a permit of his as a "loan to Oak Creek Zoo" and never giving notice to the state that the fisher or badger were leaving the state until September, several months after the animals were already moved out of state without my permission. I did not know about the move until mid-July 2017 so he probably thought it was safe to acknowledge and document transfer of my animals since I came to find out what happened. However, in talking to the owner of the zoo, Courtney Lee Frenchak, she stated that she didn't know what animals he brought with him, except for the badger, because his animals were set up in a different area than her animals which were on exhibit. She said she never agreed to a loan for a fisher and doesn't even know what it looks like or what one is as the species is not indigenous to Texas. As you can tell, Tyler is a pathological liar, a fact which I think his attorney here in NYS Supreme Court is learning the hard way despite my warning him.

I currently have a lawsuit against Tyler in New York State Supreme Court with the Index Number 2017-1668 and is managed by Judge James P. McClusky. I've been granted an Order for injunctive relief for the badger's immediate return. I will add the fisher to the Order by October 18th when there is another hearing. I've attached the Order to this email.

I have an amazing amount of evidence that is now public information and even have more than what I submitted in Court. Tyler is a smooth talker and as a result very charismatic and wins people easily to his side. However, he is involved in the illegal moving, transferring, possession and exhibition of wild and exotic animals. He gloats to other exotic animal owners about getting free animals as donations from others. However, come to find out, those animals weren't given to him. They were animals he stole when the term of the loan for the animal to his facility was over and he refused to return them. There are at least two other exotic animal owners who have lost their animals to Tyler but will not come forward as I have. He chooses very expensive animals such as mustelids, lemurs, endangered cats, etc.

I have been able to track Tyler to the address of 1909 W. Acadia Street in Harlingen, which is a small house on a small lot in a residential area hence I highly doubt any animals are stored there. I found another profile on LinkedIn or Twitter where he stated he works in Brownsville. One guess is the Gladys Porter Zoo? Tyler will have most, if not all of his animals, at an USDA-licensed facility and have an arrangement in which he keeps his animals on his USDA License and as such, remain separate from the collection residing at the facility to which he moves to. However, what I learned from Courtney Lee Frenchak is that he does not put any animals on his USDA license as again, he doesn't want anyone, like me, to track the animals. He tells one person one thing and does the complete opposite so no questions are raised. His licenses are never checked by the facility owners so they have no idea that he is up to committing a scam. His USDA License still is registered for his New York address of Alexandria Bay, where

he has a federally and state-protected indigenous red-tailed hawk completely unlicensed and in the care of someone, his father, who has no credentials to be caring for such an animal. That is why the Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires a certain number of hours a potential licensee needs to have working with each avian species the applicant intends to - to keep the animals in capable hands. However, this is not enforced with Tyler and the bird remains unexhibited (which is illegal as indigenous species (if born in the wild and determined to be nonreleasable after a stint in a rehabilitation center) can only be possessed for educational, exhibitory or scientific reasons. Likewise, he is taking animals out on educational visits to public places like libraries without any of those animals being properly licensed by the state or USDA for exhibition. This can be proven by his announcements of visits on social media and website. He has taken down quite a bit of incriminating material since the lawsuit began; however, I have screenshots of them. Examples of unlicensed exhibition is his presentation at a library in the Town of Allen on August 2, 2017 (<https://www.cityofallen.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=4888>) and another presentation at Huntsville Public Library on March 14, 2018 at 3 p.m. (screenshot attached). Again, licensing standards were first put into place in order to prevent this exact thing from happening. Following is a list of Tyler's past moves.

Residence until May-June 2017:

Tyler C. Thomas
44678 Bailey Settlement Rd
Alexandria Bay NY 13606
United States
DOB: April 12, 1987
SSN: 093-74-2942

From May / June 2017 - June 2018:

1701 Robinson Lane
Madisonville, TX 77864

From June/July 2018 - present:

1909 W Acadia Street

Harlingen, TX 78552

It is also known that Tyler charges for presentations he makes with animals, even if it's a non-profit organization. I would not be surprised, however, if this income is not being reported to the appropriate state and federal agencies allowing him to evade paying taxes as he did in New York State when he earned a lot of money from presentations and the sale of exotic animals.

If you need any other information, please let me know and I will provide what you need. This guy needs to be stopped. Most people don't think that stolen animals are a big deal; however, it is no different than a dairy farmer having his herd of cattle taken from him. Like the farmer, I lost the way I was planning on supporting myself and family by

losing possession of exotic animals already slated for breeding projects thereby giving my business sorely needed income. This is reprehensible.

Are there any more reports I should make to other agencies? I contacted the Madisonville PD on August 20, 2017 and attached a police report from Officer Bohan. I made a complaint to the Animal Health Commission to no avail as well as the Better Business Bureau both for New York State and Texas, again, to no avail.

Thank you,
Carrie Leo
315.310.5376 / 315.538.8316

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3 attachments



Huntsville Public Library Announcement About FPWC Visit March 2018.jpg
171K

 **Order Signed for Preliminary Injunction.pdf**
28K

 **Bohan.pdf**
6K

Christopher Maldonado
<Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov>
To: Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 9:45
AM

Dear Ms. Leo:

Thank you very much for emailing your concerns. At this time, the TPWD Wildlife Division's Permitting Office does not show a history of issuing any permit authority to Tyler Thomas, Nicholas Stacey, or the anyone under the organization Fragile Planet Wildlife Center. My guidance would be to consider reporting it to [Operation Game Thief](#).

Operation Game Thief



Operation Game Thief is Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program, offering rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction for a wildlife crime. Begun in 1981 as a result of laws passed by the 67th Legislature to help curtail poaching, the program, a function of the Law Enforcement division of The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is highly successful, having been responsible for the payment of over \$195,000 in rewards. Privately funded, the program is dependent on financial support from the public through the purchase of OGT merchandise and memberships, donations, sponsorships, and gifts.

[Operation Game Thief Website](#)

[Learn More About Reporting Violations](#)

Thank you for all you do.

Chris Maldonado

Wildlife Permitting Specialist

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

[4200 Smith School Road](#)

[Austin, Texas 78744](#)

From: Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 6:35 PM
To: Christopher Maldonado <Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Licensee

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Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>
To: Christopher.maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 3:24 AM

Mr. Maldonado,

Is there another person or department that might be able to assist with this concern as the "game thief" attempt didn't seem like it rattled anyone's cage?

Thank you,
Carrie Leo

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Christopher Maldonado
<Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov>
To: Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 9:52
AM

Dear Ms. Leo:

Thank you for your email. Your concerns are absolutely important; there is a strong possibility TPWD Law Enforcement is processing a number of them that require additional time to address appropriately. Please feel free reaching out to OGT after a few weeks and express your apprehensions; I'm positive they will be able to offer better guidance than I can.

Sincerely,

Chris Maldonado
Wildlife Permitting Specialist

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

4200 Smith School Road

Austin, Texas 78744

From: Carrie Leo <carrieleo15@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 2:24 AM

To: Christopher Maldonado <Christopher.Maldonado@tpwd.texas.gov>

Subject: Re: Licensee

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