

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

CAROLE BASKIN as CEO of  
BIG CAT RESCUE, a Florida  
non-profit organization,

Plaintiff,

v.

CASE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

MAHAMAYAVI BHAGAVAN ANTLE,  
an individual,

Defendant.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**COMPLAINT**

The Plaintiff, CAROLE BASKIN as CEO of BIG CAT RESCUE, a Florida non-profit organization (“Plaintiff”), sues the Defendant, MAHAMAYAVI BHAGAVAN ANTLE (“Defendant” or “Antle”), for a declaration that Plaintiff’s registration and/or use of the Internet domain DOCANTLE.COM is not unlawful pursuant to the Anti-Cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act (“ACPA”), and states as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

**Plaintiff**

1. Carole Baskin is the founder and CEO of Big Cat Rescue, a Florida non-profit organization. Big Cat Rescue is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating exotic cats. Baskin resides in, and Big Cat Rescue operates out of, the Tampa Bay Florida area.

2. Plaintiff is the registrant for the subject DOCANTLE.COM Internet domain name (the “Subject Domain”), which Plaintiff registered with Wild West Domains on November 9, 2008.

**Defendant**

3. Defendant Antle purports to be a conservationist, animal trainer, author and media personality. He resides in South Carolina.

4. Defendant serves as director of The Institute of Greatly Endangered Species (T.I.G.E.R.S) in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This is a declaratory suit under the ACPA, particularly 15 U.S.C. §1114(2)(D)(v).

6. This court has original jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. §1114(2)(D)(v) and 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1338(a), as the Subject Domain has been ordered transferred through a Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (“UDRP”) proceeding through the World Intellectual Property Organization (“WIPO”) and the registrar has provided notice of intent to transfer the Subject Domain.

7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Antle because Antle consented to personal jurisdiction in this Court pursuant to the Policy by bringing the UDRP action against Plaintiff.

8. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) and (c) as Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in the District and a substantial part of the events giving rise to these claims occurred in this District.

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

**Plaintiff and its DOCANTLE.COM**

9. To fulfill its mission of rescuing and rehabilitating exotic cats, Big Cat Rescue provides the best possible home it can for the animals in its care. Big Cat Rescue also aims to

reduce the number of cats that suffer physical abuse, abandonment and premature death by teaching others about the plight of the cats, both in the wild and in captivity.

10. Towards this end, Big Cat Rescue exposes people like Defendant who purport to act in the best interests of animals in their care while taking actions that show otherwise.

11. Big Cat Rescue publicizes evidence and opinions regarding what it and others see as blatant exploitation of animals at its [www.911AnimalAbuse.com](http://www.911AnimalAbuse.com) internet website. Through this website, Big Cat Rescue also solicits information from the public regarding animal abuse so Big Cat Rescue can take action.

12. Plaintiff registered its DOCANTLE.COM domain on November 9, 2008. (*See* Ex. A).

13. Plaintiff registered and uses the Subject Domain name in a legitimate, noncommercial, fair-use manner to bring attention to the unethical manner in which Defendant and his organization T.I.G.E.R.S. handle and breed exotic cats.

14. The Subject Domain forwards to a page on Plaintiff's [www.911AnimalAbuse.com](http://www.911AnimalAbuse.com) internet website through which information is available regarding the unethical nature in which Defendant and his organization T.I.G.E.R.S. handle and breed exotic cats.

15. This website page contains facts, quotes from other sources, and opinions by Plaintiff regarding Defendant and his T.I.G.E.R.S. institute. These allegations against Defendant are not new or unique. Both Defendant and T.I.G.E.R.S. are frequent targets of government agencies entrusted with protecting animals and more generally supporters of animal rights.

**Defendant and his Alleged "DOC ANTLE" Trademark**

16. Defendant has never had any registered trademark in the name "DOC ANTLE."

17. Instead, Defendant asserts common law trademark rights to the service mark “DOC ANTLE,” which he claims to have used in association with his business and media appearances relating to animal training, big-cat conservation, books and T.I.G.E.R.S.

18. Defendant has always held himself out under many names including Bhagavan Antle, Doc, Doc Bhagavan Antle, and Kevin Doc Bhagavan Antle.

19. Defendant is not and has never been a doctor, whether medical or otherwise.

20. Defendant does not hold and has never held any doctoral degree.

21. In 2014, Defendant identified himself at his [www.tigerfriends.com](http://www.tigerfriends.com) website as “The Director of T.I.G.E.R.S., Bhagavan Antle.”

22. As of the time Plaintiff registered the Subject Domain, Defendant had not established secondary meaning for trademark purposes in the name DOC ANTLE with respect to any particular goods or services.

23. For example, all books authored by Defendant prior to the date that Plaintiff registered the Subject Domain name identify Defendant as “Bhagavan Antle.”

24. As of the time Plaintiff registered the Subject Domain, no relevant segment of the population would recognize DOC ANTLE as a mark that distinguished any goods or services of Defendant from that of any other provider.

25. Even to this day, Defendant had not established secondary meaning for trademark purposes in the name “DOC ANTLE” with respect to any particular goods or services.

26. Even today, no relevant segment of the population would recognize DOC ANTLE as a mark that distinguishes any goods or services of Defendant from that of any other provider.

**The UDRP Action**

27. On or about October 14, 2014, Defendant filed a complaint against Plaintiff in a UDRP action with WIPO.

28. WIPO is an international organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

29. Upon information and belief, Defendant knew about Plaintiff's registration and use of the DOCANTLE.COM domain since 2008 or early 2009, but failed to take any legal action for over five (5) years. This is evidenced by the fact that Defendant registered the domain DOCANTLE.NET on January 14, 2009.

30. On or about October 22, 2014, Defendant filed an Amended Complaint. Therein, Defendant alleged, among other things, that Defendant had registered the Subject Domain in bad faith as a vehicle for making false statements about Defendant to tarnish his alleged DOC ANTLE mark.

31. At no time has Plaintiff used the Subject Domain to make statements against Defendant known or believed to be false. To the contrary, at all times, Plaintiff has used the subject domain to make truthful statements and/or to report believed truthful statements about Plaintiff regarding his unethical practices.

32. In its response, filed November 16, 2014, Plaintiff pointed out, among other things, that Plaintiff had not established any trademark rights in the name DOC ANTLE as of the date of registration of the Subject Domain, that Plaintiff had not utilized DOC ANTLE as a trademark during the relevant time period, and that Plaintiff used the Subject Domain for purposes of free speech that negated any possible finding of bad faith.

33. On December 18, 2014, a single WIPO panelist issued a UDRP ordering the DOCANTLE.COM domain transferred.

34. The UDRP decision has no precedential value with respect to this Court's judicial review. This Court reviews all issues *de novo* under the particular standards of the ACPA.

**COUNT I: DECLARATION THAT REGISTRATION/USE OF  
THE SUBJECT DOMAIN IS NOT UNLAWFUL UNDER THE ACPA**

35. Paragraphs 1 through 34 are incorporated and realleged hereto as if set forth fully herein.

36. This is an action for a declaration that Plaintiff's registration/use of the Subject Domain is not unlawful under the ACPA, *e.g.*, 15 U.S.C. §§1114(2)(D)(v) and 1125(d).

37. As of the date of Plaintiff's registration of the Subject Domain, Defendant had no trademark rights in the domain name with respect to any particular good or service.

38. Defendant currently has no trademark rights in the domain name with respect to any particular good or service.

39. Plaintiff has never acted in bad faith in registering or using the Subject Domain.

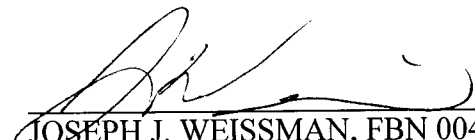
40. Plaintiff uses of the Subject Domain for purposes of criticism is proper and protected noncommercial free speech.

41. Plaintiff has always made fair use of the Subject Domain.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for a declaration that its registration/use of the Subject Domain is not unlawful under the ACPA.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2015.



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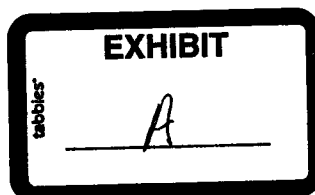
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**WHOIS search results for:**

**DOCANTLE.COM**

(Registered)

Domain Name: DOCANTLE.COM  
Registry Domain ID: 1527738959\_DOMAIN\_COM-VRSN  
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.wildwestdomains.com  
Registrar URL: http://www.wildwestdomains.com  
Update Date: 2014-12-21T08:00:32Z  
Creation Date: 2008-11-09T12:08:37Z  
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2015-12-21T04:59:59Z  
Registrar: Wild West Domains, LLC  
Registrar IANA ID: 440  
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: abuse@wildwestdomains.com  
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.480-624-2505  
Reseller: Shop A City, Inc.  
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited http://www.icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited  
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited http://www.icann.org/epp#clientUpdateProhibited  
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited http://www.icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited  
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited http://www.icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited  
Registry Registrant ID:  
Registrant Name: Carole Baskin  
Registrant Organization: Big Cat Rescue  
Registrant Street: 12802 Easy Street  
Registrant City: Tampa  
Registrant State/Province: Florida  
Registrant Postal Code: 33625  
Registrant Country: United States  
Registrant Phone: (813) 920-4130  
Registrant Phone Ext:  
Registrant Fax: (813) 885-4457  
Registrant Fax Ext:  
Registrant Email: Carole.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org  
Registry Admin ID:  
Admin Name: Carole Baskin  
Admin Organization: Big Cat Rescue  
Admin Street: 12802 Easy Street  
Admin City: Tampa  
Admin State/Province: Florida  
Admin Postal Code: 33625







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