



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT			
Complaint No. AC20-112	Date Entered: 24-Jan-20	Processed By: AVB	
Referred To: White-Shim		Reply Due: 25-Feb-20	
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against			
Name: Alpha Genesis Inc		Customer No.: 905	License No.: 56-R-0105
Address: 95 Castle Hall Rd		Email Address:	
City: Yemassee	State: SC	Phone No.: (843) 589-5190	
Complainant Information			
Name: Nathan Herschler		Organization: NEAVS	
Address:		Email Address: epeterson.contractor@neavs.org	
City:	State:	Phone No.:	
How was the Complaint received? Email			
Details of Complaint: <u>SEE ATTACHED</u>			
Results: On Wednesday, February 19th, a USDA Veterinary Medical Officer conducted an unannounced complaint inspection, accompanied by a USDA Nonhuman Primate Specialist. Upon inspection, the facility met the criteria for an incentive, and the incentive was granted. No noncompliant items were documented on the Inspection Report. We will continue to monitor and inspect this facility for compliance through unannounced inspections to ensure the AWA-regulated animals are wholly protected by Federal Law.			
Application Kit Provided: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Inspector: Carla Thomas, VMO		Date: 24-Feb-20	
Reviewed By: David Sabala SACS		Date: 25-Feb-20	



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Animal Care
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

January 24, 2020

Nathan Herschler
Executive Director
New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS)
in c/o: epeterson.contractor@neavs.org

Dear Complainant:

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24-Jan-20. We are reviewing your concerns and assigned tracking number AC20-112. Please allow us enough time (30 to 60 days) to thoroughly look into your concerns. You may submit a request to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office to obtain any publically available information regarding our review.

FOIA requests can be submitted three ways:

1. Web Request Form: <https://efoia-pal.usda.gov/App/Home.aspx>
2. Fax: (301) 734-5941
3. U.S. Mail:
USDA-APHIS-FOIA
4700 River Road, Unit 50
Riverdale, MD 20737

Should you have any questions regarding the APHIS FOIA process or need assistance using the Web Request Form **please contact the APHIS FOIA office at 301-851-4102.**

Animal Care is a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that directs activities to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Animal Care establishes standards of humane treatment for regulated animals and monitors and achieves compliance through inspections, enforcement, education, and cooperative efforts under the Acts.

Please be assured that we will look into your concern(s) and take appropriate action(s).

Thank you for your interest into the humane treatment of these animals.

Sincerely,

Betty Goldentyer
Deputy Administrator
Animal Care

Benson, Amy V - APHIS

From: Emily Peterson <epeterson.contractor@neavs.org>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Benson, Amy V - APHIS; APHIS-AnimalCare; Goldentyer, Betty J - APHIS
Subject: Alpha Genesis Inc. - Complaint
Attachments: USDA Complaint 2020.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dr. Goldentyer,

Please see the attached letter (also pasted below) from Nathan Herschler, the Executive Director of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

January 24, 2020

Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.
Associate Deputy Administrator
Animal Care USDA/APHIS/Animal Care (AC)
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606-5210

Sent via email: amy.v.benson@usda.gov, animalcare@usda.gov

Dear Dr. Goldentyer,

On behalf of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), I am writing to file an Official Complaint against Alpha Genesis Inc. [56-R-0105, 56-B-0120], a privately-held research corporation located in Yemassee, South Carolina for a severe and recent violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In short, staff negligence resulted in the painful and unnecessary death of three monkeys and the suffering of a fourth monkey.

The documents we reviewed were created between August 15, 2019 - August 27, 2019 by Alpha Genesis and the National Institute of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (NIH-OLAW). NEAVS obtained these documents in response to a Freedom of Information Act Request on December 20, 2019.

The documents reveal that in 2019, the water supply to a cage that housed at least four primates was not working properly, nor checked appropriately, and consequently resulted in the death of three monkeys and left another monkey severely dehydrated. Alpha Genesis Staff neglected to perform the necessary water system checks for three days. As you may know, this is not Alpha Genesis's first offense in failing to provide adequate water to the primates in their care. In 2015 one monkey died from dehydration and five others were treated after their water line was accidentally switched off for a week. In 2017, seven monkeys were treated for dehydration after the water line to their cage was disconnected. Additionally, Alpha Genesis has self-reported to OLAW 12 non-human primate deaths due to negligence within the last three years alone.

Monkeys are dying of dehydration

A recently uncovered letter, dated August 22, 2019, from Brent C. Morse, DVM, Animal Welfare Program Specialist, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare to Dr. Greg Westergaard, President and CEO of Alpha Genesis, Inc., documents the following:

“From the information provided OLAW understands that on August 10, 2019 two rhesus macaques were found dead and another was found dehydrated. That animal was treated for dehydration and suspected diarrhea and is recovering. Two days later another rhesus was found dehydrated and treated but subsequently died. At that time an investigation of the animals' housing was performed finding the water supply to the caging was not functioning properly.”

In an earlier correspondence from August 15, 2019, Dr. Westergaard explained that the staff failed to check the water system:

“However, in this circumstance, the supervisor, the animal care technician and the veterinary care technician from 8/9/2019-8/11/2019 did not perform one of their main job functions of checking the luxits.”

Request for the Maximum Fine

NEAVS hereby files an Official Complaint against the Alpha Genesis Inc. [56-R-0105] for a serious violation of the AWA. Given Alpha Genesis' history of repeated AWA violations, we respectfully request your office conduct an immediate investigation into Alpha Genesis Inc.'s chronic misconduct. Moreover, given that these abuses are not contested and Alpha Genesis Inc. has admitted these failures in signed documents, we request Alpha Genesis Inc. be fined the maximum penalty of \$11,390 per violation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nathan Herschler
Executive Director
New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS)

--

Emily Peterson, Policy Fellow

NEAVS frees animals from suffering in labs

NEAVS.ORG

Sign up for breaking NEAVS news [here](#).



January 24, 2020

Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.
Associate Deputy Administrator
Animal Care USDA/APHIS/Animal Care (AC)
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606-5210

Sent via email: amy.v.benson@usda.gov, animalcare@usda.gov

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Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Herschler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathan Herschler
Executive Director
New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS)



Inspection Report

Alpha Genesis Inc
95 Castle Hall Rd
Yemassee, SC 29945

Customer ID: **905**
Certificate: **56-B-0120**
Site: 001
ALPHA GENESIS INC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 19-FEB-2020

No non-compliant items documented on this inspection report.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the attending veterinarian and facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors

Maginnis Gwendalyn, Veterinary Medical Officer

Prepared By: **CARLA THOMAS**
THOMAS CARLA, D V M
THOMAS
Date: 2020.02.24 10:31:59 -05'00'
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
24-FEB-2020

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6133

Received By: 35_000008

KIM SCHMIDT

Obtained by Rise for Animals. Uploaded 08/19/2020

Retrieved from Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO)

Date:



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
905	56-B-0120	001	ALPHA GENESIS INC	19-FEB-20

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
003234	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
002070	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000017	<i>Sapajus appella</i>	BROWN CAPUCHIN / TUFTED CAPUCHIN
005321	Total	



Inspection Report

Alpha Genesis Inc
95 Castle Hall Rd
Yemassee, SC 29945

Customer ID: 905
Certificate: 56-R-0105
Site: 001
ALPHA GENESIS INC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 19-FEB-2020

No non-compliant items identified during this inspection.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the attending veterinarian and facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors

Maginnis Gwendalyn, Veterinary Medical Officer

Prepared By:

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

THOMAS CARLA, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
21-FEB-2020

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6133

Received By:

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

KIM SCHMIDT

Date:
21-FEB-2020

Title: ATTENDING VETERINARIAN



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
905	56-R-0105	001	ALPHA GENESIS INC	19-FEB-20

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000015	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
000238	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000253	Total	

Research Facility Protocol Selection Worksheet^{*}

Legal Name: Alpha Genesis Inc.

Customer Number: 905

Certificate Number: 56-R-0105

Site Number: 001

Inspection Date: 19 February 2020

Inspection Type: Routine ☒ Focused ☐ (list areas inspected) _____

Inspector: Carla Thomas, VMO

Reasons Protocols Were Selected for Review :	How Many Protocols Were Selected
1. Protocols identified during inspection of concern (select all)	0
2. Column E protocols (select all)	0
3. Protocols with IACUC-approved exemptions/exceptions (select all)	10
4. Protocols cited as noncompliant and not corrected during the last inspection (select all)	0
5. Additional Protocols Selected: a. If <5 remaining protocols, select all remaining: b. If >5 remaining protocols, select 5 additional protocols: 1) Protocol for each regulated species and/or, 2) Protocols involving high risk procedures (see Chapter 7, Animal Welfare Inspection Guide for guidance):	5
Total Protocols Selected and Reviewed	15

*Note: Protocol selection guidance applies to protocols which have been initially approved, or have had significant changes approved, since the last inspection. For protocols reviewed by an Animal Care Veterinary Medical Officer within the last year, professional judgment should be used in determining whether another review is necessary.

Version 2/11/19

From: [REDACTED]@alphagenesisinc.com
To: Thomas, Carla R - APHIS
Subject: RE: USDA Inspection Report
Date: February 24, 2020 10:38:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Dear Dr. Thomas,

I have received the inspection report.

Thank you,

Kim Schmidt

Dr. Kimberly Schmidt
Attending Veterinarian

866.789.MONK (6665)
843-589-5190 (office)
843-589-5290 (fax)
www.AlphaGenesisInc.com



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

This message contains confidential information. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not copy, use, or distribute this information. If you have received this message in error, please advise Dr. Kimberly Schmidt immediately at the telephone listed above.

From: Thomas, Carla R - APHIS <Carla.Thomas@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:34 AM
To: [REDACTED]@alphagenesisinc.com <[REDACTED]@alphagenesisinc.com>
Subject: USDA Inspection Report

Hi Dr. Schmidt,

Attached to this e-mail message is a copy of the recent USDA inspection report in PDF format. Please make sure you can open and read the file before responding. Please reply by indicating that you have received the inspection report.

Make sure to include your full name and or business/facility name if your e-mail address does not identify you. Do not include any other information or questions, as this e-mail will be included in your file as your official receipt signature, and will be available to the public through FOIA (Freedom of Information Act).

Thanks,

Carla Thomas, DVM
Veterinary Medical Officer
USDA APHIS Animal Care (AC)
(706)-765-8827
Carla.Thomas@usda.gov

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