



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

20-06560_000003



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT			
Complaint No. AC20-401	Date Entered: 21-Aug-20	Processed By: ERF	
Referred To: Program Support		Reply Due: 22-Sep-20	
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against			
Name: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center		Customer No.: 1179	License No.: 93-R-0032
Address: 8700 Beverly Blvd., North Tower, Rm. 2015		Email Address: iacuc@cshs.org	
City: Los Angeles	State: CA	Phone No.: (310) 423-5000	
Complainant Information			
Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)		Organization: SAEN	
Address: 1081-B State Route 28 #280		Email Address: (b) (6), (b) (7) @cinci.rr.com	
City: Milford	State: OH	Phone No.: (513) 575-5517	
How was the Complaint received? Email			
Details of Complaint: SEE ATTACHED			
Results: This complaint refers to citations on a prior inspection report. Animal Care inspectors conduct unannounced inspections for all USDA registered and licensed facilities. Our authority is to ensure that they meet the standards required by Federal regulations. We also perform inspections in response to valid concerns and complaints received from the public to ensure the well-being of the animals and compliance with Federal law. When non-compliant items are found, these noncompliances are cited on the inspection report under the most accurate regulation based on the circumstances of the issue. Multiple noncompliances for the same issue are only cited when appropriate. With the exception of focused inspections, our inspectors evaluate the facility for compliance with all applicable regulations. Although all regulatory requirements are assessed, only noncompliant items are listed on the inspection report. We will continue to inspect this facility to make sure that past noncompliances are corrected and that AWA-regulated animals are protected to the fullest extent of Federal law.			
Application Kit Provided: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Inspector: Program Support		Date: 21-Aug-20	
Reviewed By: Dr. Gibbens		Date: 21-Aug-20	



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

August 21, 2020

Animal Care
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)
1081-B State Route 28 #280
Milford, OH 45150

Dear Complainant,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11-Aug-20. We are reviewing your concerns and assigned tracking number AC20-401. 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. US 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
Associate Deputy Administrator
Animal Care

Fausch, Emily R - APHIS

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) @cinci.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:30 AM
To: Gibbens, Robert - APHIS
Cc: APHIS-AnimalCare
Subject: Federal Complaint -- Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Categories: Valid Complaints



Robert M. Gibbens, D.V.M., Director,
 8/10/20
 Animal Welfare Operations. USDA-APHIS-Animal Care.
 Via e-mail: robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov
 animalcare@usda.gov

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you today to file an Official Complaint against Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (93-R-0032) for Animal Welfare Act violations which are connected to an animal fatality which occurred as part of a study involving pigs.

A Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (93-R-0032) report dated 4/28/20 states:

"On February 12, 2020, a pig underwent a surgical procedure to evaluate how infusion of cool saline around the heart via catheter may mitigate detrimental effects of myocardial infarction. Approximately 15 minutes after beginning the cooling stage, the pig died under anesthesia. . . . Although the cause of death could not be determined conclusively, the most likely contributing factors were the cooling procedure and/or the MI. It was also determined that the individual who primarily performed the cooling procedure was 'in training' for this procedure and not directly supervised by the lead surgeon who was occupied by a separate surgery in an adjacent operating room."

It is clear that the inexperience of the primary surgeon for this procedure was very likely a contributing factor to the death of this animal, if not the primary cause of death. This procedure should not have been performed by an "in training" surgeon without supervision. Therefore this unnecessary animal death violates **Sec. 2.32 Personnel Qualifications (a) It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties.**

I know that your office considers major violations of the Animal Welfare Act to be very serious in nature, especially when these violations are connected to animal deaths. The death of this pig in a botched surgical

procedure was entirely unnecessary and likely could have been prevented either by proper supervision of a surgeon who was in training, or by procedure performance by a qualified surgeon.

Therefore, we are filing an Official Complaint against Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (93-R-0032), and I must insist that this facility receive the maximum in penalties for these non-compliances, especially since these incidents are directly relevant to the death and potential suffering of an animal -- \$10.000 per infraction/per animal.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

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

Attachments: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (93-R-0032) Report

1081-B State Route 28 #280	Milford, OH 45150	513-575-5517	<i>www.SAENonline.org</i>
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